# Capturing & harvesting our heritage on the world wide web

Hettie Groenewald and Elsabé Olivier e-Learning Africa Conference Nairobi, Kenya, May 28-30, 2007



#### Introduction



- University of Pretoria
- Teaching, learning and research
- Access to information
- Library's responsibility to provide

### SA cultural diversity and heritage

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- African heritage contributions
  - Mapungubwe
  - Pretoriana
  - South African Architects
    - Gerard Moerdyk
    - Sir Herbert Baker
- Scholarly contributions
  - OpenUP
- Popular material
  - Jonathan Jansen collection

## Library e-strategy

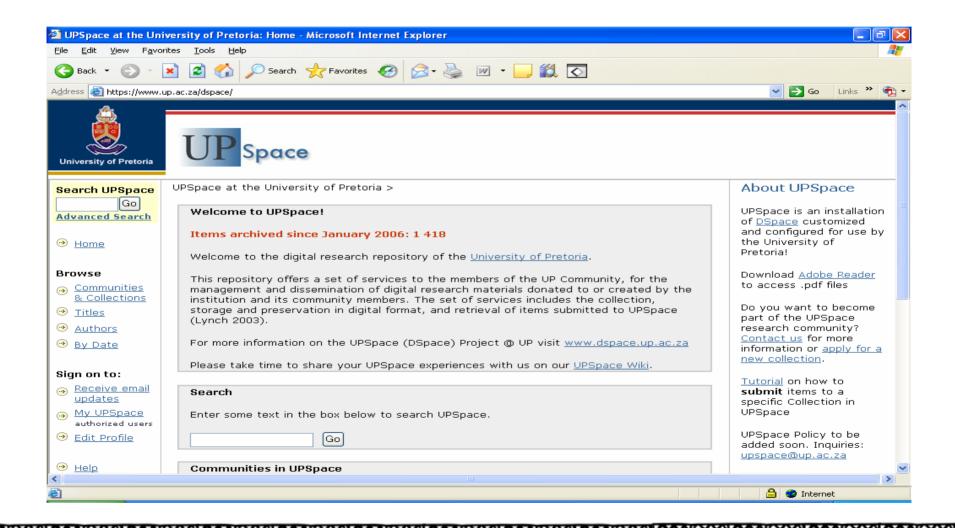
- Formulated to support UP Strategic plan :
  - coordinate initiatives
  - digitise rare sources
  - archive research data
  - support education and research at UP
  - strategic resource
  - management of knowledge
- Deliver on the web
  - open access
- Institutional repository
  - Dspace software

# What is an institutional research repository?

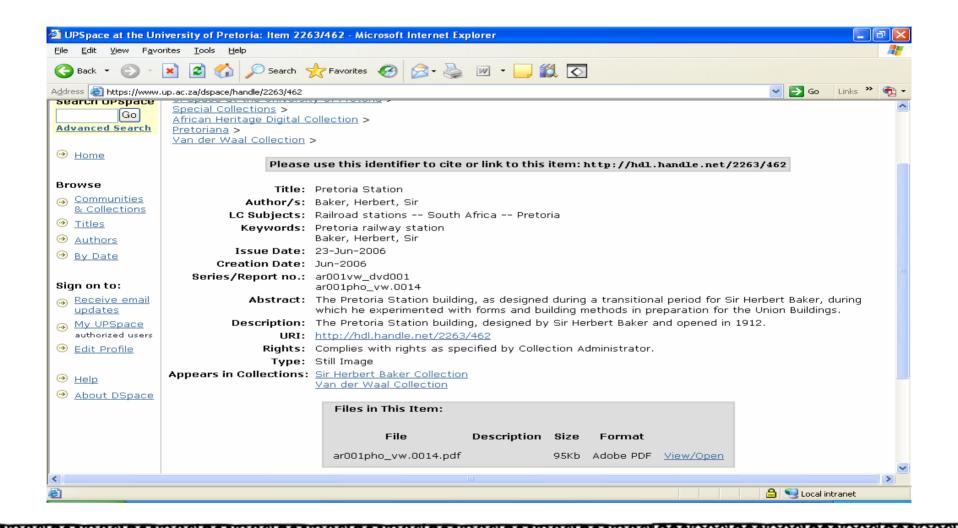
According to a definition by Lynch (2003) an institutional repository is :

"A university-based institutional repository is a set of services that a university offers to the members of its community for the management and dissemination of digital materials created by the institution and its community members. It is most essentially an organizational commitment to the stewardship of these digital materials, including long-term preservation where appropriate, as well as organization and access or distribution"

## https://www.ais.up.ac.za/dspace

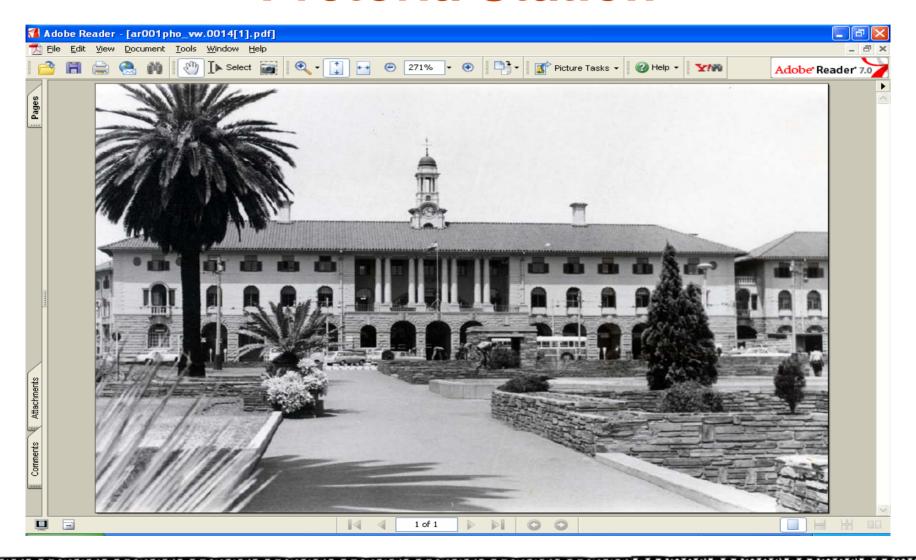


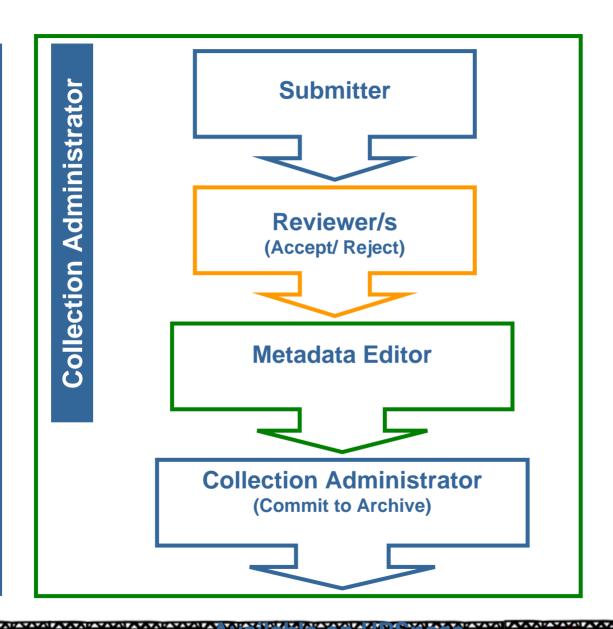
## **UP Space record**



### **Pretoria Station**

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# African Heritage: Mapungubwe Collection



- Original archaeological material housed in museum on campus
- Reports, photographs, maps, site plans, newspaper clippings
- Valuable research and information resource
   "This on-line electronic resource is made available for the use of researchers, the general public, educators, learners and anyone interested in obtaining information about Mapungubwe. The digital collection is divided into an artefact (object), document, national and photograph collection"

https://www.up.ac.za/dspace/handle/2263/590

## African Heritage: Pretoriana Collection

- Van der Waal collection on the development of Pretoria, Mamelodi, Atteridgeville, Cullinan
- Constantly upgraded by personnel
- Consists of photographs, aerial photographs, newspaper clippings, articles
- "Dr. Gerhard-Mark van der Waal, interested in the interaction of people and their historical, built environment, started listing Victorian buildings in Parktown, Johannesburg in 1970." https://www.up.ac.za/dspace/handle/2263/94



## African Heritage SA Architects



- Gerard Moerdyk
  - Voortrekker Monument, Johannesburg Station,
  - various churches
  - campus buildings: Merensky Library
  - Chairman of University Council
- Sir Herbert Baker
  - colonial architect
  - Union Buildings, Pretoria Station

# Scholary material: OpenUP Collection

- Peer reviewed articles published by:
  - staff
  - students
  - affiliates
- UP research outputs visible on the Web
- Open Access
- Copyright



## Popular material: Prof Jonathan Jansen

- Dean of Faculty of Education
- Expert: general and higher education
- Social commentator
- Eminent scholar
- UP Space statistics: highest number of views
- With the resignation of prof Jansen in April 2007, the collection will not be expanded, but the information will still be available

### Feedback: prof Jansen (Education)

"This project has transformed my life as a Dean in three ways. First, it made me aware of the power of technology in managing the multiplicity of written tasks—media articles, media interviews, newspaper columns, intellectual pieces—that simply drift into spaces where I can never find these original writings. Second, it made me aware of the efficiency of dissemination of ideas in this information age if one simply took the time to create such a web space. Third, it made me aware of the power of collaboration between academic authors and the academic information services (library)—something that I had not explored until now. I am deeply grateful to the persistence of my academic library colleagues in opening up this new world in the life of a busy Dean"

## Outcomes: 1. Benefits for researchers

- Central archive of research
- Available on web to researchers world wide
- Preserving valuable material
- Persistent url for citations
- Dialogue between researchers:
  - e-mail
  - subscribe to collection
  - recommend an item
- Tacit knowledge contributed
- Free unrestricted access

#### **Outcomes: 2. Collaboration**

- Support from UP Management
- Electronic submission
- Teams: departments and library staff

"What this demonstrates to me is that where traditionally each of the activities of the different academic groupings would have been siloed into their own way of doing, this project has created an opportunity for a synergy where the whole is greater than the sum of its' parts, including an enthusiasm in the students they will only discover in use and not in invention"

### Lessons

- Dept of IT support on Campus
- Procedures/workflow
- Copyright
- Staff commitment and human resources
- Identify "champion collections"
- Digitization : equipment and expertise
- Metadata experts
- Support and communication

#### More ideas

- More audiovisual material: video clips, interviews
- Music collection accompanied by sound
- Inaugural addresses
- OpenUP(articles) and Open lectures linked to Annual Research Report
- Rare books
- Conference papers
- Trusted Repository
- Workshop at UP

### Conclusion

- Library's contribution in capturing and harvesting our heritage on the world wide web is proven successful
- Our rare resources are available on the web in digital format not only to:

UP researchers but also to the African continent

and supports e-learning!

### **Bibliography**

- Lynch, C.A. (2003). Institutional repositories: essential infrastructure for scholarship in the digital age. Retrieved August 15, 2005, from <a href="http://www.arl.org/newsltr/226/ir.html">http://www.arl.org/newsltr/226/ir.html</a>
- S A Artefacts: South African Architects Database <a href="http://www.artefacts.co.za./main/main.php">http://www.artefacts.co.za./main/main.php</a>

### Thank you!

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