Newsletter of the Jotello F Soga Library Faculty of Veterinary Science, University of Pretoria

InfoMania



May 2016

FROM THE DESK OF THE EDITOR:

Welcome to this first edition of Infomania for 2016. We really have lots of interesting news for you!

The main news of the day which will also have the biggest impact on our users, is the new OCLC Worldshare Library Management Service which is replacing the previous Millennium Library Management Service. Susan attended the official launch of the new system and gives a short overview of the festivities. The Department of Library Service also changed from the WAM table to EZProxy software as the authentication gateway to access the electronic resources.

A new trend on the teaching horizon, which is completely the opposite of the traditional way of teaching, is MOOC's (Massive Open Online Courses). A MOOC is an online course aimed at large numbers of students with learning material provided online to any person who wants to take the course.

You will meet our new staff member, Mathuloe Moshidi and digitally visit the OP Primary School across the road with a few of the photos from our visit at the end of 2015.

After all the good and interesting news there must be something less spectacular and this is the budget of the library. Times are tough and the library is feeling the effect of it.

We hope you will enjoy this issue of *Infomania*, keeping you up-to-date on the latest happenings in your information world.

Tertia Coetsee (Editor)

This newsletter is also available electronically at http://www.library.up.ac.za/vet/infomania.htm

Launch of the new OCLC Worldshare Management Services

Susan Marsh

On Monday, 18 April 2016 the Department of Library Services of the University of Pretoria together with Sabinet, officially launched its new library management system, OCLC WorldShare Management Services. UP staff and other invited guests were addressed by UP's Vice-Principal for Research and Postgraduate Studies, Prof Stephanie Burton, Sabinet's Director of Client Services, Pierre Malan and their Managing Director, Rosalind Hattingh who is also an alumna of UP.



Susan Marsh (Jotello F Soga Library), Susan Scheepers (Medical Library) & Christelle Steyn (DLS – IT)

Prof Burton said that there was a direct and close link between effective research and the library because the latter was also responsible for storing and sharing information for effective access. She congratulated UP's Director of Library Services, Mr Robert Moropa and his staff on the implementation of the system and taking the Department of Library Services into the future. She said, 'The role of academic libraries and librarians has changed and their task is difficult as they and their universities need to empower their users in new ways and need to reposition themselves in revolutionary ways.'

Mr Pierre Malan explained that WorldShare Management Services was a cloud-based system already adopted by 500 institutions worldwide, with UP being the second academic library in Africa to implement. 'It is a brand new system with brand new technology. Having this new management system as a foundation, UP will be able to continue to excel in offering information to their clients.'

Ms Rosalind Hattingh thanked UP's IT team, the Department of Library Services and her Sabinet team for their exceptional teamwork, commitment and hard work during the implementation process, and stated that both UP and Sabinet had always been leaders in their respective fields, and this project was proof of it. Mr Moropa concluded by complimenting Sabinet on their support and reiterated that this was a collective effort by all involved.

Library experiences serious budget cuts

Susan Marsh

Due to the impact of price increases for information resources, combined with the continuous depreciation of the rand against other currencies and the compulsory 14% VAT to be paid on all e-resources such as e-books, e-journals and databases, the library is experiencing serious budget deficiencies.

Our book budget has been reduced by a large percentage for 2016. Since 2013 and 2014 when we received R 600 000 for book acquisitions (paper and/or electronic), the budget was cut to 20% of the amount for 2015 and 10% of the amount for 2016.

The university executive absorbed the library's capital budget deficit for 2016 but warned that it is not sustainable and the library will be obliged to look at drastically cutting current subscriptions to databases, e-journal and e-book packages and individual paper journal subscriptions.

This will lead to staff and students not having access to a large area of the scientific literature. The library will do its best to approach the cancellation process in a way that will have the least negative impact on its clients. We will focus on retaining core academic material and improve our service in obtaining material we do not have access to, through interlending. The quality of resources and usage data will play an important role in deciding which sources to cancel.

South African Library Week: 11-21 March 2016

#libraries4lifelonglearning

Tertia Coetsee



The Library and Information
Association of South Africa (LIASA)
celebrated South African Library
Week 11-21 March 2016 with the
theme '#libraries4lifelonglearning'

The theme

'#libraries4lifelonglearning' frames the substantial contribution of libraries to the efforts that strive to address our country's educational, social, cultural and recreational needs and prevalent inequalities. It provides insight into the role of libraries in South Africa and demonstrates how this slots into the objective of ensuring equitable access to quality information and to social advancement opportunities.

This makes libraries complicit in the intention to realize the vision of an informed nation.

Libraries share in the responsibility for evolving further a knowledgeable, technological adept and prosperous society by harnessing its resources and redirecting these towards client and community services while providing physical and virtual spaces for lifelong learning.

Therefore libraries:

- provide learning resources in various formats
- advance literacy through intellectual and creative support

- provide access to global knowledge and information to advance research and create new knowledge
- foster a spirit of enquiry and curiosity
- create a desire for lifelong learning
- instil respect for diverse beliefs, opinions and views
- contribute towards the development of South Africans as an informed nation
- develop a digitally literate nation
- empower people for prosperity

The theme slots into South Africa's National Development Plan 2030 that seeks to eradicate poverty and inequality by 2030 with means such a robust economy among others. To reach this goal, many people – especially the youth – have to obtain skills that will allow entry to the job market. Libraries have a key support role to play in this drive to improve the country's living conditions being equipped with skilled staff that can innovate and adapt the physical library and its resources to these demands. In this way, libraries share in the responsibility for the development of a knowledgeable nation.

Staff matters

Susan Marsh



Mathuloe Moshidi started working at our library as senior information assistant on 1 December 2015.

She previously worked at the Medical Library on the Prinshof campus on a contract basis. We were very fortunate to welcome her in our midst as she was well trained and groomed by our colleagues at the Medical Library.

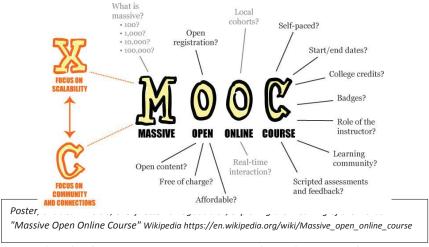
Apart from that she is also a very pleasant person with a wonderful sense of humour to work with and we trust that she will stay with us for years to come and wish her everything of the best for her future career.

She can be contacted at X 8116 and her email address is Mathuloe.moshidi@up.ac.za

Massive open online courses (MOOCs) – learning opportunities for all

Marguerite Nel

Recent developments in and emphasis on Open Educational Resources (OER) resulted in a number of opportunities and challenges in the educational environment. One such innovation enhancing and facilitating the efficient creation, distribution and use of knowledge and information for learning, is the massive open online course (MOOC) phenomenon (McGreal, Kinutha & Marshall, 2013).



Siemens (2013) defines a massive open online course (MOOC) as a model for delivering learning content online to any person who wants to take a course, with no limit on attendance. Most MOOCs are presented without any fees and are exclusively online, with reasonable structure and sequence in the presentation of the course content. *Coursera*

(<u>www.coursera.org</u>), *Udacity* (<u>www.udacity.com</u>) and *edX* (<u>www.edx.org</u>) are examples of MOOCs which rapidly developed into established course providers over the last few years.

As I recently completed a few courses on *Coursera*, I will focus this discussion on this course provider. According to their webpage, *Coursera* provides "universal access to the world's best education, partnering with top universities and organizations to offer courses online"

(www.coursera.org).



They claim to have 142 participating institutions, from across 28 countries, 1856 offering courses. Partnering institutions include among others the University of Toronto, Johns Hopkins University, National University of Singapore and the University of Edinburgh. The University of Cape Town is the only participating South African University, currently presenting two courses, namely "Understanding Clinical Research: Behind the Statistics" and "Climate Change Mitigation in Developing Countries".

Specialization courses are offered for a fee (approximately 79 US Dollars per course). Most other courses are free, but participants are offered the option of purchasing a certificate of completion after successfully completing the course requirements. Financial aid is also available. Each course is like an interactive textbook, featuring pre-recorded videos, quizzes, and projects.

Course categories include the following: Arts and Humanities; Business; Computer Science; Data Science; Life Sciences, Math and Logic; Personal Development; Physical Science and Engineering; Social Sciences and Language Learning.

Some of the courses currently presented in the field of animals and Veterinary science, include: "Dog Emotion and Cognition"; "Animal Behaviour and Welfare"; "Dairy Production and Management"; "The Horse Course: Introduction to Basic Care and Management" and "EDIVET: Do you have what it takes to be a veterinarian?" Courses on research methodology, statistics and academic writing skills can also be useful to students and researchers. For more information on **Coursera** and to see the complete catalogue, go to: www.coursera.org

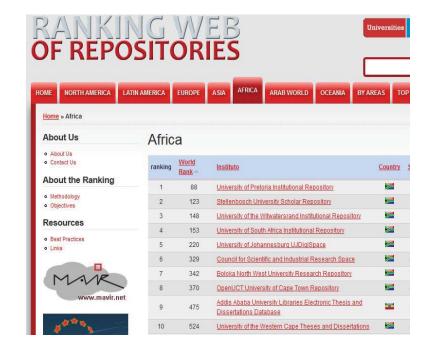
References

McGreal, R., Kinutha, W. & Marshall, S., 2013. *Perspectives on Open and Distance Learning: Open Educational Resources: Innovation, Research and Practice,* Vancouver: Commonwealth of Learning and Athabasca University

Siemens, G., 2013. Massive open online courses: Innovation in education. *Open educational resources: Innovation, research and practice*, 5, viewed on 30 March 2016 from http://web.iaincirebon.ac.id/ebook/Indrya/Bandura/inovasi/pub_PS_OER-IRP_web.pdf#page=31.

UPSpace ranked as Africa's number one Institutional Repository

Susan Marsh



The University of Pretoria's institutional repository UPSpace was once again appointed as the number one institutional repository in Africa by "The Ranking Web of Web Repositories" during the first semester of 2016.

"The Ranking Web of World Repositories" is an initiative of the Cybermetrics Lab, a research group belonging to the Spanish National Research Council.

The aim of the ranking is to promote open access initiatives and free access to scientific publications. Web indicators are used to measure global visibility and the impact of the scientific repository. It is strongly linked to the volume and quality of a repository's content originated by university staff.

Since 2004 the ranking is published twice a year, covering more than 24 000 higher education institutions worldwide.

Visit to the OP Primary School

Susan Marsh

On Monday 16 November 2015 a few library staff members once again paid a visit to the teachers and pupils of the OP Primary School down the road.



The personnel of the OP Primary School together with the Jotello Soga Library staff

We were surprised to see the increase in the number of staff members. Some much needed improvements to the physical facilities were also done. A separate brick building with toilet facilities was added and the playground was equipped with slides, swings and other apparatus.



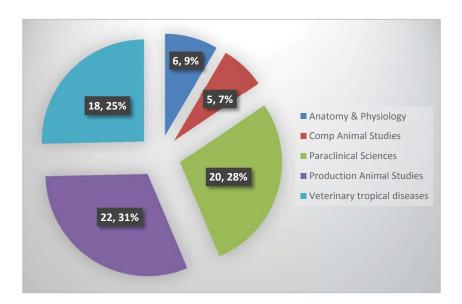
We handed out some chips and sweets for the children and spoiled the staff with cake. The kids, still in their classrooms when we visited, were very surprised and thankful and some groups entertained us with spontaneous songs. A number of duplicate copies of popular animal magazines which could be used for educational purposes were donated to the school.

The school is now also keeping a visitors book and after signing the visitors book, we greeted with a promise to see them again in 2016.

Current status of publications at the faculty

Antoinette Lourens

We are almost half way through 2016 and the number of publication outputs are increasing. This graph is a visual display of each department's contribution towards the total number of publications so far this year



EZProxy: New software for e-resources access authentication

Antoinette Lourens

On Monday 30 th May we changed from the old WAM table for database and electronic journal/book authentication to EZProxy. This means that in future when accessing online resources you will be presented with a portal login page and not the Millennium login page.



