

HALLO ALL!



From survivors to an  
amazing race team

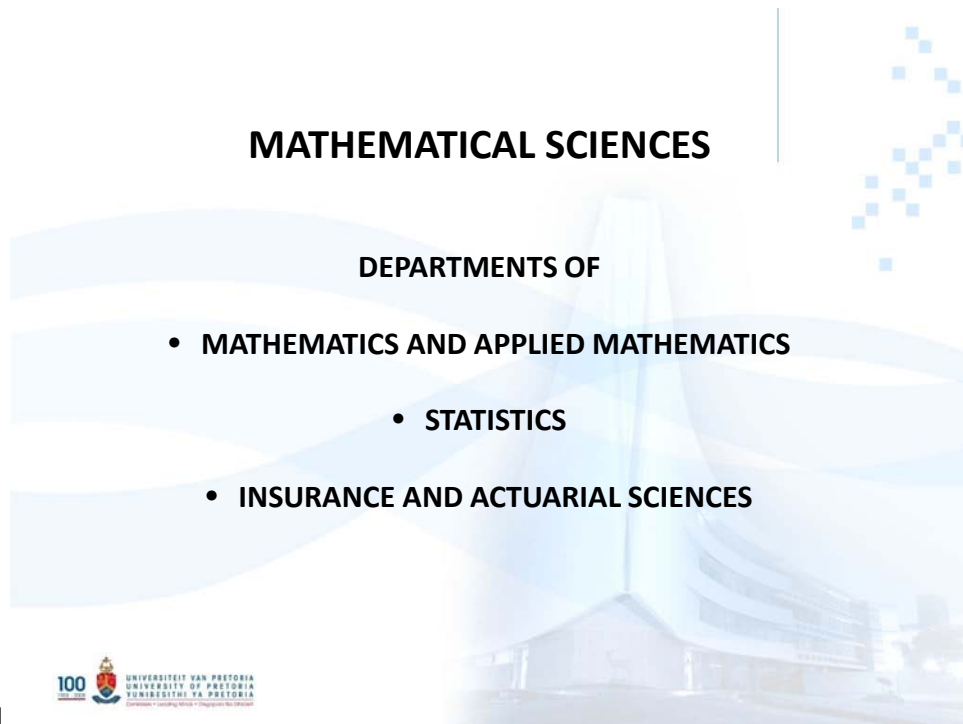
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Southern African Online User Group  
(SAOUG)  
Training Tips Talk  
8 October 2009

100  
1919 - 2019  
UNIVERSITEIT VAN PRETORIA  
UNIVERSITY OF PRETORIA  
YUNIBESITHI YA PRETORIA  
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[OPENING SLIDE]

I AM THE INFORMATION SPECIALIST FOR WHAT USED TO BE THE SCHOOL OF  
MATHEMATICAL SCIENCES.



**MATHEMATICAL SCIENCES**

DEPARTMENTS OF

- MATHEMATICS AND APPLIED MATHEMATICS
- STATISTICS
- INSURANCE AND ACTUARIAL SCIENCES

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[SLIDE 2]

THE SCHOOL OF MATHEMATICAL SCIENCES USED TO CONSIST OF THE DEPARTMENTS OF

- MATHEMATICS AND APPLIED MATHEMATICS,
- STATISTICS, AND
- INSURANCE AND ACTUARIAL SCIENCES.

**EXCELLENT CONTACT PERSONS IN THE DEPARTMENTS**

**“HOW MUCH MONEY DO YOU HAVE AVAILABLE?”**

**TO**

**“PLEASE ORDER THE FOLLOWING BOOKS”**

**PRINCIPLE: ALWAYS OBTAIN MORE BOOKS THAN WHAT ARE  
REQUIRED TO PROVIDE IN THE IMMEDIATE NEED. IN THIS WAY  
RESEARCH NEEDS ARE ALSO ADDRESSED.**

**LIBRARY MANAGEMENT NEED TO ENSURE AVAILABILITY OF  
ADEQUATE BOOK FUNDS.**

**[SLIDE 3]**

I AM NOT A MATHEMATICIAN, BUT FORTUNATELY MY CONTACT PERSONS IN THE THREE DEPARTMENTS ARE WELL-QUALIFIED MEMBERS OF THE TEACHING STAFF.

IT TOOK ME SOME TIME TO TURN THEIR WAY OF THINKING FROM “HOW MUCH MONEY DO YOU HAVE AVAILABLE FOR BOOKS” TO “PLEASE ORDER THE FOLLOWING BOOKS FOR THE LIBRARY”.

THE PROVISION OF BOOKS FOR RESEARCH PURPOSES IS OF PARAMOUNT IMPORTANCE.

IT IS THE TASK OF LIBRARY MANAGEMENT TO ENSURE FUNDS FOR THE PURCHASE OF ENOUGH BOOKS FOR RESEARCH PURPOSES. WITHOUT THE SUPPORT OF MANAGEMENT LITTLE MAY BE ACHIEVED.

## **MARKETING OF SELF AND SERVICES**

**NEED FOR VISIBILITY**

**NEED TO BE ONE OF THE TEAM TO AN EXTENT**

**NEED TO RENDER HELP**



### **[SLIDE 4]**

MARKETING MYSELF WAS AND STILL IS VERY IMPORTANT IN ORDER TO BE SUCCESSFUL.

BEING VISIBLE WITHIN THE CORRIDORS OF THE DEPARTMENTS HELPS A LOT.

I THEREFORE VISIT ALL MY DEPARTMENTS ONCE A WEEK, DRINK TEA OR COFFEE WITH THEM, TAKE PART IN THEIR TEA ROOM DISCUSSIONS, BE THOSE SERIOUS OR LIGHT-HEARTED, AND TAKE EVERY REASONABLE OPPORTUNITY PRESENTED TO ME TO PHYSICALLY GO TO THE DEPARTMENTS, EVEN IF IT IS ONLY TO DELIVER A BOOK OR DEMONSTRATE SOME PROCEDURE.

I USE OPPORTUNITIES TO TRAIN LECTURERS AND RESEARCHERS IN THEIR OFFICES INSTEAD OF IN MY OWN OFFICE.

I HELP WITH DEPARTMENTAL PROJECTS THAT ARE BORDERLINE AS IN THE CASE OF THE BOOKS LEFT BEHIND BY A DECEASED PROFESSOR WHERE I COMPILED A LIST OF THE BOOKS, FOUND WHERE THESE WERE AVAILABLE IN SOUTH AFRICA AND PROVIDED AN ANTIQUARIAN VALUE FOR EACH.

I PROVIDE IN MY CLIENTS' "HOW TO" AND "PLEASE HELP" NEEDS. I AM VERY CAREFUL NOT TO BECOME A RESEARCH ASSISTANT FOR ANY OF THEM, AND I HAVE TOLD INDIVIDUALS IN THE PAST WHEN A RESEARCH ASSISTANT IS CALLED FOR.

I ALSO NEED TO TAKE PART IN THEIR ACTIVITIES AFTER HOURS. I SELECT THOSE EVENTS THAT I ATTEND. SOMETIMES I AM SPECIFICALLY INVITED TO ATTEND, AND THEN I NORMALLY OBLIGE.

## **COLLECTION OF BOOKS**

**SMALL COLLECTION  
(9 500 BOOKS FOR THE THREE DEPARTMENTS)**

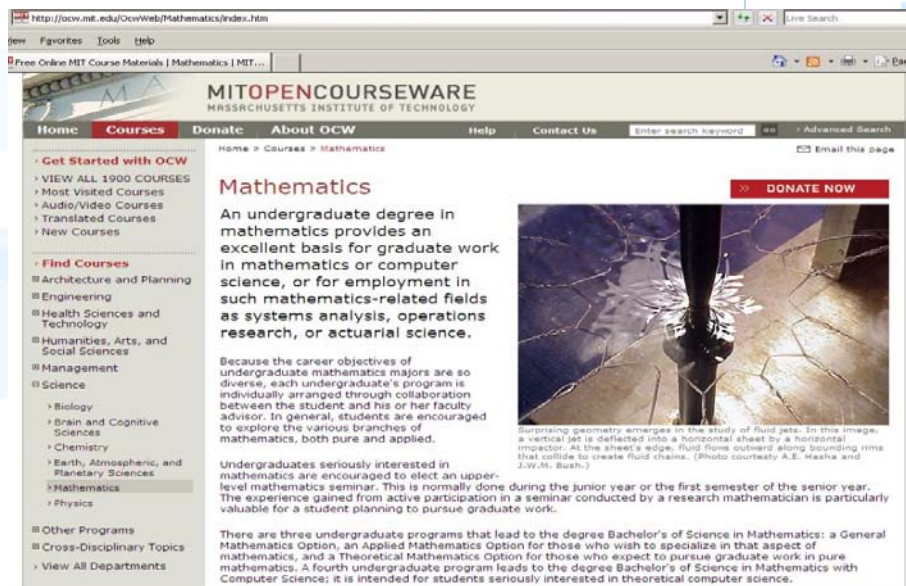
**GOOD QUALITY OF BOOKS ON UNDERGRADUATE LEVEL  
(BENCHMARKING AGAINST "MIT")**



### **[SLIDE 5]**

WHEN I TOOK OVER AS INFORMATION SPECIALIST FOR THE NOW DEFUNCT SCHOOL OF MATHEMATICS THE SMALL BOOK COLLECTION (APPROXIMATELY 9 500 BOOKS) HAD SHORTLY PREVIOUSLY BEEN WEEDED, SO, I KNEW THAT THE UNWANTED MATERIAL HAD BEEN GOTTEN RID OF AND THAT THE COLLECTION HAD BEEN WELL LOOKED AFTER. I COULD SEE THAT THE COLLECTION WAS FAIRLY OLD SINCE THERE WERE ONLY A SMALL PERCENTAGE OF WHITE BOOK ENDS. THOSE ARE FAIRLY NEW BOOKS ON THE SHELVES.

<http://ocw.mit.edu/OcwWeb/Mathematics/index.htm>



[SLIDE 6]

I BENCHMARKED OUR BOOK COLLECTION AGAINST THE BOOKS THAT MIT (MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY) EITHER PRESCRIBED OR RECOMMENDED FOR THEIR COURSES IN MATHEMATICS AND STATISTICS. I FOUND THAT WE POSSESSED A GOOD PROPORTION OF THOSE BOOKS. I TRIED TO OBTAIN THOSE BOOKS THAT WE DID NOT POSSESS. FORTUNATELY VERY FEW OF THE BOOKS WERE OUT OF PRINT. I CAN THEREFORE SAY THAT FOR TRAINING PURPOSES OUR BOOK COLLECTION IS UP TO THE STANDARD OF MIT.

## **COLLECTION OF BOOKS (CONTINUED)**

**FEW NEW BOOKS – MANY MORE BOOKS FOR RESEARCH  
PURPOSES REQUIRED**

**HEAD OF THE PREVIOUS SCHOOL'S HELP CALLED IN**

**MONEY FROM FACULTY OF NATURAL AND AGRICULTURAL  
SCIENCES**

**THAT IS**

**MONEY OVER AND ABOVE ALLOCATION FROM THE LIBRARY**

### **[SLIDE 7]**

MY PREDECESSOR SPOKE TO THE HEAD OF THE SCHOOL ABOUT THE QUALITY OF THE RESEARCH COLLECTION, AND HE IN TURN SPOKE TO THE DEAN OF THE FACULTY OF NATURAL AND AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES, WHO HAPPENED TO BE THE PREVIOUS HEAD OF THE SCHOOL. THE HEAD OF THE SCHOOL'S ARGUMENT WAS THAT MATHEMATICIANS' "LABORATORY" WAS IN THE FORM OF LIBRARY BOOKS AND THAT MONEY WAS NEEDED TO AUGMENT THE EXISTING COLLECTION OF RESEARCH LEVEL BOOKS IN THE LIBRARY. THE FIRST YEAR MY PREDECESSOR RECEIVED R6 000, THE SECOND YEAR I RECEIVED R12 000, THE THIRD YEAR R20 000 AND THE FOURTH YEAR R40 000 AND THE FIFTH YEAR R83 000 FROM FACULTY. THESE MONIES WERE OVER AND ABOVE ANY MONIES ALLOCATED BY THE LIBRARY. IN PRACTICE THIS HAS LEAD TO A SUBSTANTIAL UPGRADE IN THE QUALITY OF THE RESEARCH COLLECTION, THOUGH IT WILL STILL REQUIRE A GREAT INVESTMENT DURING THE COMING YEARS.

SHORTLY AFTER THIS THE SCHOOL WENT THROUGH AN INTERNATIONAL ACCREDITATION PROCESS AND WHILE THE REQUIREMENT FOR JOURNAL SUBSCRIPTIONS IS THAT YOU NEED TO BE SUBSCRIBED TO AT LEAST THE TOP TEN JOURNALS IN THE FIELD I CHECKED THE TOP 40 IDENTIFIED BY MEANS OF ISI. WE WERE SUBSCRIBED TO 38 OF THESE TITLES.

## INTERNATIONAL ACCREDITATION

### TOP 40 MATHEMATICAL AND STATISTICAL PERIODICALS:

ISI TOP 40 JOURNALS IN MATHEMATICS AND STATISTICS  
BY NUMBER OF CITATIONS

Item No.	Journal Title & (First Year of Publication)	UP Holdings	Format
1.	<i>Journal of the American Statistical Association</i> (1885)	Vol. 1 +	Paper
2.	<i>Journal of Mathematical Analysis and Applications</i> (1960)	Not in stock. Available through SABINET.	
3.	<i>Biometrics</i> (1947)	Vol. 1+	Paper & Electronic
4.	<i>Journal of Algebra</i> (c. 1965)	Vol. 5(1966)+	Paper & Electronic
5.	<i>Annals of Statistics</i> (1973)	Vol. 1+	Paper & Electronic
6.	<i>Proceedings of the American Mathematical Society</i> (1950)	Vol. 1+	Paper & Electronic
7.	<i>Comptes Rendus de l'Académie des Sciences (Paris). Serie I. Mathématique</i> (1835)	Vol. 298(1984)+	Paper & Electronic
8.	<i>Transactions of the American Mathematical Society</i> (1900)	Vol. 175(1973)+	Paper & Electronic
9.	<i>Journal of Differential Equations</i> (1965)	Vol. 39(1981)+	Paper & Electronic
10.	<i>SIAM Journal on numerical analysis</i> (1964)	Vol. 5(1968)+	Paper & Electronic
11.	<i>Journal of functional analysis</i> (1967)	Vol. 1+	Paper & Electronic
12.	<i>Nonlinear Analysis. Theory, Methods and Applications</i> (1976)	Vol. 1+	Paper & Electronic
13.	<i>Biometrika</i> (1901)	Vol. 1+	Paper & Electronic
14.	<i>Journal of Computational and Applied Mathematics</i> (1975)	Vol. 1+	Paper & Electronic
15.	<i>Linear Algebra and its Applications</i> (1968)	Not in stock. Available through SABINET.	

[SLIDE 8]

THE SLIDE SHOWS ONLY 15 OF THOSE 40 INCLUDING TWO TO WHICH WE WERE NOT SUBSCRIBED AT THE TIME. IN THE MEAN TIME SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR THOSE TWO TITLES HAVE BEEN ACTIVATED.

## FOCUS AREAS OF DIFFERENT DEPARTMENTS

### “BOOKS ONLINE”

#### SEARCH ACCORDING TO DEWEY FIELDS

LISTS SENT TO STAFF OF DEPARTMENTS EVERY SIX MONTH OR  
YEAR AS THEY PREFER

STAFF RECOMMEND BOOKS FROM THESE LISTS  
[THEY ARE THE EXPERTS]

[SLIDE 9]

THE NEXT THING I DID WAS TO SEND COPIES OF THOSE PAGES OF DEWEY COVERING THE FIELDS OF THE THREE DEPARTMENTS TO MY CONTACTS IN THE DEPARTMENTS WITH THE



REQUEST THAT THEY HIGHLIGHT THE FOCUS AREAS OF THE DEPARTMENTS. THIS GAVE THEM THE CHANCE TO SEE WHICH AREAS IN THEIR FIELDS THEY WERE NOT PAYING ATTENTION TO. IT ALSO GAVE ME BETTER INSIGHT INTO THEIR AREAS OF ACTIVITY.

The screenshot displays the Nielsen Books Online search interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links for 'Logout', 'Home', 'About Us', 'Contact Us', and 'Feedback'. A 'Quick Find' search bar is also present. Below this, a 'Product Search' section is visible, with tabs for 'Product Search', 'Bulk Search', and 'Supplier Search'. The 'Product Search' tab is active, showing options for 'Single Line Summary', 'Multi Line Summary', and 'Full Page View'. A 'Field to search' section lists various search criteria: ISBN / EAN, Keywords, Title, Author/Contributor, Publisher / Imprint, Auth-Titl Code, BIC Subject Keyword, and Dewey. Each criterion has a corresponding input field. A 'Search Now' button is located at the bottom of the search form. Below the search form, there is a 'Publication Date' section with 'From' and 'To' date pickers. At the bottom, a 'Publishing Status' section allows users to select 'Exclude Out of Print titles', 'Only find Out of Print titles', or 'Find all titles'. The University of Pretoria logo is visible in the bottom left corner.

[SLIDE 10]

WE USE “NIELSEN BOOKS ONLINE” TO FIND THE FULL BIBLIOGRAPHIC AND PUBLISHER INFORMATION ON BOOKS TO BE ACQUIRED. I ASLO USE IT TO KEEP THE LECTUTERS AND RESEARCHERS UP TO DATE ON WHAT IS BEING PUBLISHED. THE SYSTEM HAS A DEWEY OPTION THAT MAY BE ACTIVATED, AND SEARCHES MAY BE LIMITED TO A SPECIFIED PERIOD. [POINT THESE OUT ON SLIDE] I THEREFORE DO SEARCHES ON THE IDENTIFIED FOCUS AREAS FOR SPECIFIED PERIODS RANGING FROM SIX MONTHS TO A YEAR, DOWNLOAD THE INFORMATION IN PDF FORMAT AND SEND THESE FILES TO THE LECTURERS AND RESEARCHERS.



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THEY THEN USE THESE FILES TO KEEP ABREAST OF NEW BOOKS IN THEIR AREAS OF INTEREST AND ALSO TO IDENTIFY BOOKS THAT I MIGHT PURCHASE FOR THE COLLECTION. I RECENTLY DID A SURVEY OF THE WHITE TOPS IN THE COLLECTION – THE NEW BOOKS – AND FOUND THAT THE SPREAD WAS VERY GOOD OVER THE WHOLE EXTENT OF THE FIELD.

# THANK YOU!

