

InfoMania



20 YEARS CELEBRATION EDITION!!

October 2007

FROM THE DESK OF THE EDITOR :

This issue commemorates the 20 years since the Veterinary Science Library moved into the Arnold Theiler building!

Read about the humble beginnings, the growth and changes that have taken place. See if you still remember the ex-staff. Relive the development in technology, allowing libraries to move from paper collections to a virtual information environment. Where we once were limited to a journal collection of 300 titles, we can now access almost 33 000!! The virtual world of electronic books has brought 130 000 titles to our screens.

We are reminded in this issue of our close connection with the faculty through our role to create digital collections for them in UPspace. These include publications of UP staff and sources of historical importance such as the Theiler collection.

Enjoy our 20 year trip down memory lane.

Tertia Coetsee (Editor)



***This newsletter is also available electronically at
<http://www.ais.up.ac.za/vet/infomania/infomani.htm>***

THE VETERINARY SCIENCE LIBRARY QUILT

Barbara Kellermann

In August 2006 an invitation was posted on *the Library listserv* for interested staff members at the main campus library to become involved in the making of a group quilt for the library. Erica van der Westhuizen, head of the Veterinary Science Library, was very taken with this idea and suggested that the Vet Library staff also undertake such a project.

The design chosen for the Vet Library quilt was based on a quilt shown in Joan Wolfrom's book "The visual dance", with animal silhouettes based on pen sketches by the artist Ralph Thompson (from the book "An artist's safari") appliquéd onto the background.

Amelia Breytenbach, Antoinette Lourens, Marguerite Nel and Barbara Kellermann all contributed fabrics for the quilt. Each of these four staff members together with Tertia Coetsee made a number of the strip-pieced diamond-shaped blocks for the background, which were then stitched together to form a stylized landscape with mountains, veld and greenery, and a sky with a setting sun.

The animal silhouettes appliquéd in black onto the background include a number of buck, three ostriches, a rhino and two trees.

Barbara did the final quilting by machine, and Antoinette machine-embroidered the names of the participants and the date 2006 onto a piece of fabric which was sewn to the lower right-hand corner. The size of the quilt is 1,80 m by 1,30 m, and it was completed in early December 2006.

It hangs in the Vet Library and will be unveiled on 18 October 2007 by the Dean, Prof. Gerry Swan, and Mr Robert Moropa, Director of the Department of Library Services (AIS), as part of the celebration of the 20 years since the Library moved to the Sir Arnold Theiler building.

JOURNALS – THEY JUST GET BETTER EVERY DAY!

Marguerite Nel

The history of scientific journals dates from 1665, when the French *Journal des Sçavans* and the English *Transactions of the Royal Society*, first began systematically published research results. The number of journals increased rapidly in the decades to follow and today millions of such journals in every thinkable subject field are being published.

Being the only veterinary science faculty in South Africa, our journal collection has always been unique and specialised. Most core journal resources to support the teaching, learning and research needs of the Faculty of Veterinary Science, are held by the library. Through interlibrary loans, we are also able to help the rest of the southern African region.

With the arrival of electronic journals in the late 1990's, we were enthusiastic about adapting to this new environment. Our mission in 1999 was to convert 80% of our paper subscriptions to electronic journals in the following five years. Fortunately our users responded very positively to this movement from paper to electronic.

Tyds@Tuks, the electronic journal gateway of the University of Pretoria, was developed in 1998, under the leadership of Monica Hammes, to promote easy access to e-journals. At that stage, we introduced the first e-journal platforms, namely ScienceDirect, Journals@Ovid, General Business File and Emerald as well as ABI and Infotract.

There were some irritations initially in using e-journals. A particular annoyance during the early years of Tyds@Tuks was passwords. Every title had its own password, and most titles were only accessible on campus. To some extent this barrier was solved by Internet Protocol (IP) control, however it was still limited to on-campus users only. Today users can access e-information through Innopac, by means of the rewrite proxy of Innopac and are only prompted once for a *Username* (surname), and *Student/Personnel nr* as well as a PIN. E-journals are now available at any time and place - much faster, simpler and more versatile. Users have now access to more than 32 900 electronic journal titles through Tyds@Tuks.

With new developments such as Web/Library 2.0 Tools, the use of journals has become more interactive. Features such as RSS and citation feeds, alerts, citation export, DOI-based document linking schemes, corresponding with authors, cited by options and federated searching are only some aspects of e-journals that facilitate research and learning in the new millennium.

When looking back at my ten years involvement with journals at the Veterinary Science Library, I can truly say that it was filled with excitement, new challenges and non-stop development. Even the way our subscriptions are managed has changed from little hand-written Cardex cards to sophisticated interactive systems.

Victor Hugo once said: *An invasion of armies can be resisted, but not an idea whose time has come.* With all the movements towards an electronic environment for information sources, we were ready and no one was able to stop us - just think what the future is going to be...

THE GREAT SHIFT: FROM PAPER TO THE DIGITAL AGE

Amelia Breytenbach

Remember the days when everybody was talking about the vanishing of paper, when with the push of a button, everything will appear on your computer screen? Well, we have reached that stage in the library environment - a lot of information is online, but a lot is still on paper.

Digitisation projects

Paper, slides and photos will be forever part of our lives but the crucial point is to preserve and give access to our rich and diverse heritage and learning resources beyond our borders through digitisation. As these resources can be widely used in the rest of Africa and worldwide it is of the utmost importance to safeguard these resources against deterioration and to capture tacit knowledge that will otherwise be lost forever. The library realised that it is vital for the Faculty to embark upon this digitisation initiative if it wants to deliver on the University's mission of being a leader in the field of higher education and to empower its staff and students. A project of this nature will deliver on key areas such as:

Providing access to valuable resources that are otherwise unavailable.

Enhancing public knowledge through the recognition and understanding of collections of original works

Creating resources that are suitable for use in learning and teaching which will support the technology enhanced learning initiatives at the University

Generating alternative streams of income for the University.

Capturing information about resources that could otherwise be lost (tacit knowledge).

Being a leader in the area of knowledge management systems

Being an important role player in delivering information to the rest of Africa.

The valuable collection of Arnold Theiler photos and memorabilia was the first collection to enter the new digital age for the Veterinary Library. Arnold Theiler and his colleagues became live on computer screens in 2006. The collection can be viewed in UPspace at <https://www.up.ac.za/dspace/handle/2263/80>.

Today, more than ever, libraries are extremely important for the preservation and improvement of information and therefore, the whole idea of digitisation of information is driven from the Library. Libraries can adapt to social and technological changes and librarians are the most suited professionals to guide users toward a better understanding of how to preserve and find valuable information online. The University therefore supports the Library's initiative to promote UPspace in the Faculty of Veterinary Science.

Digitisation projects can be complex to establish and oversee. They encompass a range of different activities with many interwoven layers of associated tasks. Since January 2006 the Veterinary Library's aim was to:

Develop a digital archiving environment for the veterinary collections of the Faculty of Veterinary Science

Identify and prioritise collection items to be digitised

Selection criteria: copyright status, significance of the collection, current and potential users, relationship to other digital collections, formats and funding.

Create a National Veterinary Repository

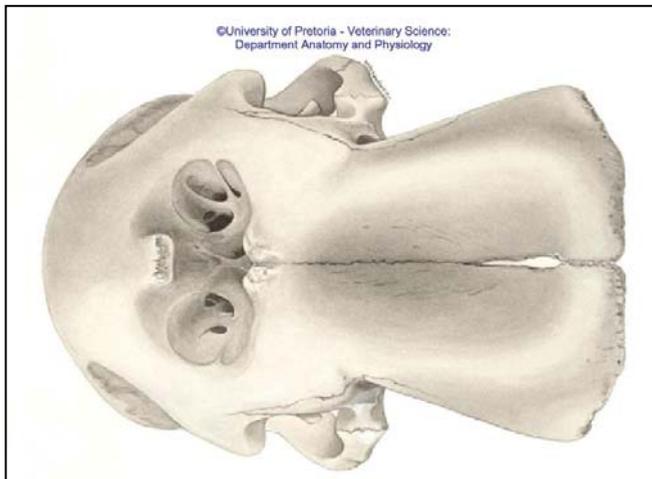
Digitise items

Add metadata to digitised information

Web delivery on UPSpace

Market digital content

Identify applications where digitised information can be utilised, e.g. e-learning opportunities



An example of the scanned illustrations

In 2007 the Department of Anatomy and Physiology decided to digitise the unique Christine Seegers biomedical illustrations. With the help of Prof. Herman Groenewald, who assigned the metadata, the elephant sketches near completion at the end of

this year. The collection can be viewed in UPspace at <https://www.up.ac.za/dspace/handle/2263/1971>. Basic preservation methods were applied to the sketches e.g. cleaning of canvas areas and wrapping of each canvas separately in acid free tissue paper.

Other digitised collections for the Faculty of Veterinary Science are:

- Arnold Theiler Memorial Lectures

<https://www.up.ac.za/dspace/handle/2263/900>

- Pasture collection <https://www.up.ac.za/dspace/handle/2263/478>

- OpenUp collection of journal articles:

<https://www.up.ac.za/dspace/handle/2263/78>

Articles were uploaded in the following departments: Anatomy and Physiology, Companion Animal Clinical Studies, Equine Research Centre, Paraclinical Sciences, Production Animal Studies, Veterinary Tropical Diseases and Veterinary Wildlife Unit.

The benefits derived from projects like the abovementioned are:

Technology enhanced learning (e-learning programmes)
Enhanced access to indigenous heritage / grey literature
Preservation / conservation of the collections
Accessibility to scarce and expensive collections and information
General awareness of the information uniqueness in Southern Africa
Marketing benefits: indigenous animal health
Research opportunities: educational staff; students; pharmaceutical companies
Creation of community knowledge centres.
Do you want to become part of this dynamic UPSpace research community in the digital age?

View information pamphlet:

<http://www.dspace.up.ac.za/upspacepamphletsubmitter.pdf>

Contact information: amelia.breytenbach@up.ac.za

E-books

The e-book project of the University of Pretoria started in 2003 when an official webpage was established to access our e-book collection. The Veterinary Science Library was actively involved in this project to expose their users to this new medium that will have an enormous impact on the information world. The question was - will e-books change the world? No, e-books cannot yet beat the readability and richness of traditional books but have characteristics that supersede those of traditional books. E-books are all about mobility and information flow. E-books can in principle be available anywhere through the Internet, accessed any hour of the day. All you need is an Internet connection, an e-book reading device and money. The Veterinary Library provides access to 103 individual e-book titles via UPEXplore. These e-books can be read online or downloaded to your personal computer in your office. Interesting titles in the collection are:

Case studies in small animal cardiovascular medicine / presented by Mark D. Kittleson, 2000-

Critical needs for research in veterinary science [electronic resource] / Committee on the National Needs for Research in Veterinary Science, Board on Agriculture and Natural Resources, Division on Earth and Life Studies, 2005

International aquatic animal health code / OIE, 2007, etc.

Access to e-book collections, with veterinary science as subject, is also accessible via the Ebooks@TUKS webpage:

IVIS

Big Five Veterinary Pharmaceuticals

OIE Publications

National Academies Press, etc.

To explore the world of e-books further please visit our Ebooks@TUKS webpage <http://www.ais.up.ac.za/ebooks/index.htm> and send us more e-book titles to include in our veterinary collection.

HISTORY OF THE VETERINARY SCIENCE LIBRARY, UNIVERSITY OF PRETORIA – a brief summary

Erica van der Westhuizen

We celebrate the past 20 years of the library's existence, the years spent in the Sir Arnold Theiler building, in this issue of *Infomania*.

The library actually dates back to 1974 when it opened its doors in the building which today is part of the Department of Production Animal Studies, formerly the Ethology section. From 1920 when the Faculty of Veterinary Science was started under Sir Arnold as first dean, till 1973, students and staff used the library of the Onderstepoort Veterinary Institute. A room was put aside in the Onderstepoort Hostel to be used as a library and books and journals in the veterinary medicine/clinical field were purchased by the Merensky Library for their use.



Johannes at the journal collection in the old library.

The library building was expanded towards the end of 1981 when an upper level was added to house the journal collection. The books were shelved on the lower level. There were no computers.

Staff comprised the librarian, the library assistant and Johannes Moropotli whose duties were mainly to act as messenger.

By 1986 the library was very crammed as journal and book holdings increased and the need to provide computer facilities grew.



The Big Move !!!

We were delighted to be able to move into the new Sir Arnold Theiler building in April 1987. Although we were warned that there was only room for 10 years' growth, that seemed an awfully long time ahead! Johannes and I will never forget the Move! We had the help (a few hours per day) of 2 young men and the Faculty's lorries, normally used to transport feed to the production animals. Boxes of books and journals, neatly numbered, were transported from the old library to the new. It took us 3 months thereafter to have them arranged correctly on the shelves!



We were allowed 3 days, no more, to be closed to clients, thereafter we had to be open, issuing books from a makeshift counter, while the huge and clumsy lending desk was being assembled. We were finally able to replace this one with a more streamlined and functional desk earlier this year.

The amalgamation of the country's 2 veterinary faculties in 1999 led to an increase in the library's information sources collection as we were able to incorporate books and journals that the MEDUNSA library no longer needed.



Selecting information sources from MEDUNSA's shelves

The past 20 years have not only seen a growth in veterinary information sources but our staff component expanded too. A library planned for 4 staff had to accommodate eventually 8. These included 2 cataloguers when it was decided to decentralize certain tasks such as book and journal orders, cataloguing and classification. We welcomed these members as they could provide an on site service, sharing their expertise with us and hearing directly from clients about their information needs.

This has helped us to develop and adapt more easily in the electronic information environment. Today we find we are able to face challenges of providing more effective services to our clients and develop products for their specific needs, such as enhancing the use of their unique slide collections through metadata, or helping lecturers with web-based course material, of supporting their research output by means of reference collection management tools.



The Library committee is enjoying an end-of-the-year function

The Library Committee came into being in March 1997. It has been a great help with communication between the library and the departments of the Faculty as information about services and products is shared and faculty needs are communicated.

Our electronic library newsletter, *Infomania*, hit faculty computer screens in April 1998, another effective communication channel for us and our clients. (<http://www.ais.up.ac.za/vet/infomania/infomani.htm>)

Our project *Veterinary Books for Africa* enlisted the help of the student community since 1993 when we started it. In that year 2 students took books and journals by bakkie to the veterinary school libraries in Zimbabwe and Zambia. In the past decade it has grown to become a full component of the Students' Outreach Programme, with a trip undertaken every 2 years by a group of 6 – 8 students. They raise the funds and are responsible for all the logistics. In this way we are helping to improve the information collections of other veterinary libraries in Africa.



Delegates of the 1st Conference of African Animal Health Information Specialists

We have been very fortunate in having opportunities not only to attend and present at international veterinary librarian conferences, but also to host them. In 1995 we organized the 1st Conference of African Animal Health Information Specialists and in 2005 we

organized and hosted the 5th International Conference of Animal Health Information Specialists (5ICAHIS). We are active members of the veterinary librarian community worldwide, also through participation in the listserv, Vetlib-L.

Special mention must be made of two unique murals created for the library by talented veterinary students. To record the 75th anniversary of the founding of the faculty, James Lockyear decorated the pillar at the entrance of the library with a scene of jumping springbuck, in 1995.



A few years later the wall at the entrance was painted by Romain Pizzi with a cheetah and cubs. It is interesting to note that the cheetah's gaze is determinedly fixed on the springbuck!

We have actively supported the creation of a virtual library environment where our clients and others can find relevant information via their computers. Our Virtual Veterinary Library, called The Library in your Office is a one-stop information centre that we introduced in 1999. (<http://www.ais.up.ac.za/vet/virtlib.htm>)

Encouraging more lecturers to provide Open Access of their journal publications by placing them on OpenUP (<http://openup.ais.up.ac.za/>), is another goal of ours, thereby making UP research output accessible to the rest of the world.

Our growing digital "Collections" in UPSpace are further examples of our involvement and participation in the electronic information environment. Sir Arnold Theiler is featured there, as well as the Theiler Memorial Lectures, Pastures, and Christine Seegers Biomedical Illustrations where we have started with her Elephant sketches. (<https://www.up.ac.za/dspace/handle/2263/78>)

Greater challenges lie ahead as we create the National Veterinary Repository, a joint endeavour with the Onderstepoort Veterinary Institute, preserving past information sources in digital format for the future.

LIBRARIAN MEMORIES

Tertia Coetsee

I joined the Academic Information Service in June 1994. During Staff Orientation we visited every branch library within the AIS. The moment I stepped into the Veterinary Library I knew I was home! In March 1997 I was transferred to this "farm haven" with its welcoming green gardens and friendly personnel.

The weekend before my starting date, disaster struck. Armed robbers broke into the Arnold Theiler building, took computers, video machines and worst of all, our servers. So the whole network and the reference databases (CDs) were lost. But this did not stop our service - that Monday we continued serving all students and staff, and that was a very important lesson for me since joining the staff at Onderstepoort. One must be creative, use initiative and innovation, no matter the circumstances. The show must go on.



Tertia in one of her many offices

During the last 10 years, I moved a few times to different locations within the Library, experienced 3 building projects, the resignation of a few colleagues and the appointment of others. At first I was the Information Specialist for Companion Animal Medicine, Pharmacology & Toxicology, Veterinary Tropical Diseases, and Veterinary Pathology. Later I passed Companion Animal Medicine to Erica and gained Paraclinical Sciences, Public Health and UPBRC.

In July 2000 Erica and I attended the 8th ICML (International Congress on Medical Librarianship) in London. I presented a paper at the session of the 3rd ICAHIS (International Conference of Animal Health Information Specialists) which was held at the same time. We also visited libraries and institutions in London and Edinburgh. Networking at the conference was important as I've met colleagues in veterinary libraries from all over the world. These colleagues proved to be a big asset in exchanging knowledge, information and friendship. I also attended and participated in the 5th ICAHIS hosted by ourselves in 2005, renewing our contact.

Throughout my years here at OP I gained friends, not only colleagues, and knowledge, not only information.

INTERLENDING: THEN AND NOW

Antoinette Lourens

The ordering of books and articles from other libraries was a long and slow process. It started with a search process using microfiches to decide on a suitable library to ask for the item. Then one had to complete a request form in triplicate (a blue, pink and white form). Two of these forms(white and pink) were then posted to the supplying library while the third copy(blue) was filed with the interlending person. If the other library could fill the request , the article or book was posted back to us with the white request form attached. On this form was the return date if it was a book as well as the costs involved for this transaction. In the case of an article this white form was then sent back immediately to the supplying library with coupons for payment attached. In the case of a book this form was returned with the book a month later with coupons attached. If the chosen library

could not help in supplying the item, the whole process had to start all over again. Once the transaction was completed, the blue copy could be retrieved from the "Requests in process" and filed under "Filled requests." Overseas requests were all requested from the British Library and it sometimes took up to a month to receive the articles.

In the mid 90's we started using the fax machine. A new form was designed for this purpose. The whole process was considerably faster because requests were now sent by fax although most of the articles were still posted.

Soon after the fax stage we moved on to a more streamlined process with the help of Sabinet. They provided us with a computerised system which could be used. Articles were now requested by computer and sent by fax or post. By the end of the 90's the Ariel system was implemented and articles could be sent and received by computer. The requesting process was also refined further and end users could start requesting articles themselves with the help of the Pre-Request module of Sabinet. The British Library(UK) and Library of Congress(USA) also implemented electronic systems for heir requests.

Today it is possible to request an article at 16:00 and have it on your desk when you arrive at work the next morning even if it is coming from overseas.

COMPUTERS AND DATABASES : THEN AND NOW.

Antoinette Lourens

Did we have computers in the library 20 years ago?

Yes, the library had three computers. Two of them were not really computers like today's , actually they were just terminals. A terminal was a monitor with a keyboard, physically connected to the main frame at the main library. The one terminal was used for circulation – checking out and returning of books. The other terminal was used to access the catalogue. The third computer had a stiffer disk drive which was used to access databases. The databases such as CAB Abstracts were sent to us by post on a monthly basis in a stiffer format. To do a literature search you had to put these stiffer in the computer and search them one by one. Later we received what we called a juke box. This was a CD ROM changer which housed 6 CD's. This made life a bit easier because it was now possible to search across 6 CD's simultaneously. But still this was only available within the library.

Personal Computers more like today's computers, started to appear on the scene and all the personnel got computers and were connected to the Local Area Network.

This led to the moving of the CD's to the LAN Server of the faculty which meant that more CD's could be made available for simultaneous use. When the library occupied too much of the available server it was decided to provide the library with its own server. We had to become IT specialists overnight to run this LINUX server. Several times a week we had to run to the "server room" and reboot the

tower or remount the CD's - very nerve-wracking for librarians to become IT fundi's. As the network connections became more stable it was fortunately decided to move these CD's to the main library's server from where everybody could access the databases.

In 1998 the number of computers in the library increased from 3 to 12. One of these was for the brand new system for the electronic sending and receiving of documents. The new computers had a processing speed of 200MHz, 32Mb RAM and a hard disk drive of 2,1 Gb . These days memory sticks are bigger than this.

The operating system of the computers changed from DOS to Windows and we have seen many editions of Windows since the first Windows days.

Today we can hardly imagine a work situation without computers. Without a moment's hesitation we will use the computer to

- do a literature search on databases situated on the Internet.
- retrieve an article
- type a document
- read our e-mail
- even read books

Computers are part of our lives and will be like that for many years to come.

A PHOTO GALLERY

One photo is worth more than a thousand words. It can tell a complete story.

We have had so many occasions where photos were taken and we would like to share some of these photos with you to refresh your memories or simply to remind you of how things used to be.

We survived a few building projects, we had murals and pillars painted, we received a new circulation desk and carpets after 20 years, we hosted 2 international conferences (1995 and 2005).



Books in the process to be moved from the southern side of level 5 to the northern side to make way for the new computer laboratory.

The Veterinary Science Library gets new carpets and a new circulation desk.



Amelia Breytenbach in her new Office



The unveiling of the painted pillar by Prof Coubrough and Prof Gerrits. The painting was done in 1995 by James Lockyear a veterinary student



PREVIOUS PERSONNEL OF THE VETERINARY SCIENCE LIBRARY

Krista Verster, Lourina de Beer ,



Ansie Earle



Ida Thompson



Hannetjie Boshoff



Annelien Schoeman



Corne Willemse



Happy Maisela



Yvonne
Bezuidenhout



Marietjie vd
Westhuizen



Obakeng
Matsomela