

# InfoMania



Nov 2022

## FROM THE DESK OF THE EDITOR:

Welcome to the last edition of *Infomania* for 2022. We hope you'll find the newsletter informative.

In this edition, we touch on upholding integrity in the workplace and research. Also, more information on the recently subscribed database "Altmetric Explorer".

Something on conferences attended by staff and global rankings.

We sadly, said goodbye to Susan Marsh who retired in October. She will be greatly missed. We also welcomed a new afterhours student staff member.

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)**

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## Upholding integrity in the workplace, in research... By Susan Marsh

The phrase "value system" is often heard of in organisations and integrity is most often part thereof.

A simple definition of integrity given by Shonna Waters on Betterup's blog, a company occupied with transforming performance and growth in organisations, reads as follows:

"Integrity means being honest and having strong moral principles. A person with integrity behaves ethically and does the right thing, even behind closed doors."

<https://www.betterup.com/blog/integrity-in-the-workplace>

Applying integrity to research is a topic of our time. The danger of unethical research practice may increase as scholars and researchers are faced with continuous pressure to publish and succeed in their careers.

The challenge for the scientific community is to identify unethical research in time, as it will result in communities losing their trust in scientific research and research results.

Dr Julia T Vilstrup Mouatt, Head of the Web of Science Academy recently announced free courses offered by the [Web of Science Academy](#) on their [blog](#) to create awareness of and improve research integrity.

Courses in the Web of Science Academy are free to access after registering on the platform. All courses consist of short modules that can be completed at one's own pace. Real world examples are used, and tips are shared from editors and industry experts. At the end of the course is a short quiz, after which learners can download a certificate of completion.

The course 'An introduction to ethical publishing behavior' covers the various ethical practices one should be aware of while conducting research as a peer reviewer or editor.

When misleading research and data discrepancies are picked up, research output is immediately retracted from a database. This not only waste resources, but result in widespread confusion and distrust amongst communities.

Dr Vilstrup Mouatt also pointed out that, even after a publication had been retracted from the database, many publications may continue to reference the article. This causes the problem to snowball.

Web of Science started to identify retracted publications with the document type: "Retracted publication". By limiting search results to this document type, unethical research results can be eliminated. The functionality "retraction alert" can be used to be informed about retracted publications in the database.

Awareness of and training in ethical and unethical research is crucial to uphold scientific excellence.



## 2022 Globally rankings : the 8 best universities in South Africa


















By Tertia Coetsee

The Shanghai Ranking Consultancy has published its 2022 Academic Ranking of World Universities (ARWU) highlighting what it deems to be the best 1,000 universities in the world – including nine located in South Africa.

For South Africa, the rankings have a familiar look, led by the University of Cape Town, which places inside the top 300 institutions globally. The University of the Witwatersrand is second locally, ahead of Stellenbosch, the University of Johannesburg, and the University of Pretoria.

The biggest jump among local universities is seen by UJ, which climbed into the top 401-500 institutions globally in 2022, from the 601 – 700 list.

The University of KwaZulu-Natal also climbed from the 601 – 700 list to the 501-600 list.

201-300		University of Cape Town		1
301-400		University of the Witwatersrand		2
401-500		Stellenbosch University		3-5
401-500		University of Johannesburg		3-5
401-500		University of Pretoria		3-5
501-600		University of KwaZulu-Natal		6
601-700		North-West University		7
901-1000		University of South Africa		8-9
901-1000		University of The Free State		8-9

## A new database: Altmetric Explorer

By Susan Marsh



The library recently subscribed to the database “Altmetric Explorer” that allows researchers and institutions to track the attention their scholarly and scientific research output receives in the social realm.

Compared to the well-known “bibliometrics”, altmetrics are non-traditional bibliometrics proposed as an alternative or complement to more traditional citation impact metrics, such as impact factor and h-index.

Altmetric Explorer is listed with all the other databases the library subscribe to and can be found on the library web page under the Search tab, Databases – Altmetric Explorer. As with the SciVal database where clients can find bibliometric data, one needs to “Sign-in” to make use of the database. The institutional e-mail address is used to sign-in, with a password of choice.

The content of Altmetric Explorer is harvested from open social sources such as open access institutional repositories, social media such as Twitter, Facebook (only public pages are tracked), You Tube, News, Blogs, Wikipedia, Policy documents etc. The processed content then provides the researcher with a collated visual view of the attention his research output receives.

The “My Institution” search option in the database where UP authors and departments can be searched, is based on the layout of faculties and departments in the UPSpace repository. Results can be found for UP as a whole, a specific Faculty or Department or an individual. The “Full database” search option will let you search all other institutions nationally and internationally that is part of the Altmetric Explorer database.

The Altmetric attention score is presented as a colourful donut where the different colours represent the different types of social media where a work is mentioned. The score is derived from an automated algorithm based on the volume and source of attention.

- Volume – how often your research is mentioned
- Sources – Where your research is mentioned. Each source is weighted. News receives a weight of 8, Blogs 5, Wikipedia 3, Policy documents 3, Patents 3, Twitter 1 and Facebook and YouTube 0.25.

The colour blue in the donut represents social media, red represents news and blogs, purple represents policy documents and patents and orange represents Wikipedia and videos.

Hyperlinks within the database will take you into different tabs as well as to the original content where a research output received attention, e.g. a tweet in Twitter. The database also supplies a geographic and demographic breakdown of the attention research outputs receive. Attention over time can be visualised as well. An “Alert me” functionality is available to alert a researcher of new attention received.

Searches can be saved for future reference or can be shared with a colleague via a link. Updates of saved searches can be sent daily, weekly or monthly.

Researchers are encouraged to make their research output visible on social media and through informal scientific networks to improve their altmetric attention scores.

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## LIASA-SCECSAL Conference

By Maria Mtsweni

I recently had the privilege to attend the 22nd LIASA-SCECSAL Conference held at the Radisson Hotel and Convention Centre, Gauteng, from 4 – 7 October 2022.

The theme of the conference was “*Against all odds: Resilience of libraries in a post-truth world*”. Attendance was in person as well as virtual.

The LIASA conference gives us the opportunity to share our experiences, best practices, challenges and innovative solutions towards improving the Library and information service sector.

Library interior design was one of the interesting topics at the conference. According to papers presented at the conference, the library entrance should be functional, calm and a transitional space where users can pause, absorb new visual information, and then process this information before moving to the next space.

Students want space where they can work quietly, but still be surrounded by other people. Students need colourful spaces with light and where they have an outside view. They want a place with nice furniture where they can be safe and feel comfortable. For them group engagement is still important.

Creating a reading culture was also one of the interesting topics at the conference. Papers presented about creating a culture of reading encouraged us to start reading books for children in order for them to see what their talents are. Through reading, children learn interesting things and they can even become librarians, writers, authors etc. We need to allow children to choose books that they like and understand and books that can touch their lives, so that they can grow up with entrepreneurial business minds, and not wait for companies to employ them.

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### New e-books in our collection

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Diseases at the Wildlife - Livestock Interface Research and Perspectives in a Changing World	Editors: Joaquín Vicente, Kurt C. Vercauteren, Christian Gortázar <a href="https://UnivofPretoria.on.worldcat.org/oclc/1249492506">https://UnivofPretoria.on.worldcat.org/oclc/1249492506</a>
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Viral Vectors in Veterinary Vaccine Development A Textbook	Thiru Vanniasinkam, Suresh K. Tikoo, Siba K. Samal <a href="https://UnivofPretoria.on.worldcat.org/oclc/1228842637">https://UnivofPretoria.on.worldcat.org/oclc/1228842637</a>
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Fowler's Zoo and Wild Animal Medicine Current Therapy, Volume 10 - E-Book	Eric R Miller <a href="https://UnivofPretoria.on.worldcat.org/oclc/28722401">https://UnivofPretoria.on.worldcat.org/oclc/28722401</a>
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Veterinary Clinical	By (author) Anne M. Zajac, By (author) Gary A. Conboy, By
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Parasitology	(author) Susan E. Little, By (author) Mason V. Reichard <a href="https://UnivofPretoria.on.worldcat.org/oclc/1249496734">https://UnivofPretoria.on.worldcat.org/oclc/1249496734</a>
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Textbook of Zoonoses	Jasbir Singh Bedi <a href="https://UnivofPretoria.on.worldcat.org/oclc/1306218140">https://UnivofPretoria.on.worldcat.org/oclc/1306218140</a>
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Demystifying Dog Behaviour for the Veterinarian	By (author) Kendal Shepherd <a href="https://UnivofPretoria.on.worldcat.org/oclc/1239962440">https://UnivofPretoria.on.worldcat.org/oclc/1239962440</a>
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Veterinary Vaccines	Edited by Samia Metwally, Edited by Gerrit Viljoen, Edited by Ahmed El Idrissi <a href="https://UnivofPretoria.on.worldcat.org/oclc/1178868794">https://UnivofPretoria.on.worldcat.org/oclc/1178868794</a>
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### Saying Goodbye

By Susan Marsh

After more than forty years at the University of Pretoria, it is both sad and about time to say goodbye.

I started as a fresh graduate in the Merensky Library's Cataloguing and Classification department in 1981, became an information specialist for the Faculties of Dentistry and Education, the manager of the Faculty libraries "Theology, Education and Social Sciences" and later the "Basic Medical Sciences and Dentistry" library. My last stop was Onderstepoort in 2009, as manager of the JF Soga library and information specialist for a few departments of the Faculty of Veterinary Science.

The dash in between these dates represented a satisfying career with a sense of belonging to an excellent institution, colleagues and leaders that supported and encouraged, challenges, learning and development opportunities, lasting friendships and wonderful work relations.

From searching for relevant information in a card catalogue, print subject indexes and microfiche to up-to-date electronic catalogues, databases and loads of other scientific products, the journey was never dull. Staying current with new developments in our field as well as technology in general, was never negotiable and always rewarding.

A highlight of the last part of my career was participating in the preservation of the history of the Faculty of Veterinary Science and veterinary science in general. Our team at the JF Soga library undertook various digitisation projects. Our collections in the UP's institutional repository UPSpace, initiated by our esteemed colleagues, Erica van der Westhuizen, Amelia Breytenbach, Ria Groenewald and Antoinette Lourens, grew substantially and will still be expanded in future.

Open access as part of open science is undeniably a passion of mine and leaving the University at a time where there is a dramatic growth in open access in the world as well as at UP, is very rewarding.

I will miss the Onderstepoort campus and its people, but am looking forward to a new phase in my life. I am wishing you all and especially my team, all the best for the future.



## Welcoming a new staff member

By Tertia Coetsee

Marieta Burger joined us on the 1st of September to take up her position at the issue desk for the after-hours shift from 16:00 – 18:00 on weekdays and 08:30 – 12:30 on Saturdays.

Marieta is currently registered as a second year Veterinary Science student at University of Pretoria. She previously obtained a BSc Hons degree in Environmental Science from the North West University, Potchefstroom Campus. Her previous work experiences stem from her background in the environmental sciences. She also was a research Intern at Nelson Mandela University: George Campus.

We are looking forward to working with Marieta and wish her a pleasant stay with us.

