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Embedding in a VLE for undergraduate Engineers: An experiment in next generation enablement

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Contents

- University of Pretoria context
- Background on embedded librarianship
- Research findings
- Pilot study overview
- Way forward

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University of Pretoria context

- 9 Faculties
 - Engineering, Built Environment and Information Technology (EBIT)
- Hybrid/ blended learning environment
- Blackboard as LMS/VLE
- Initial study: 3rd & 4th year engineering students

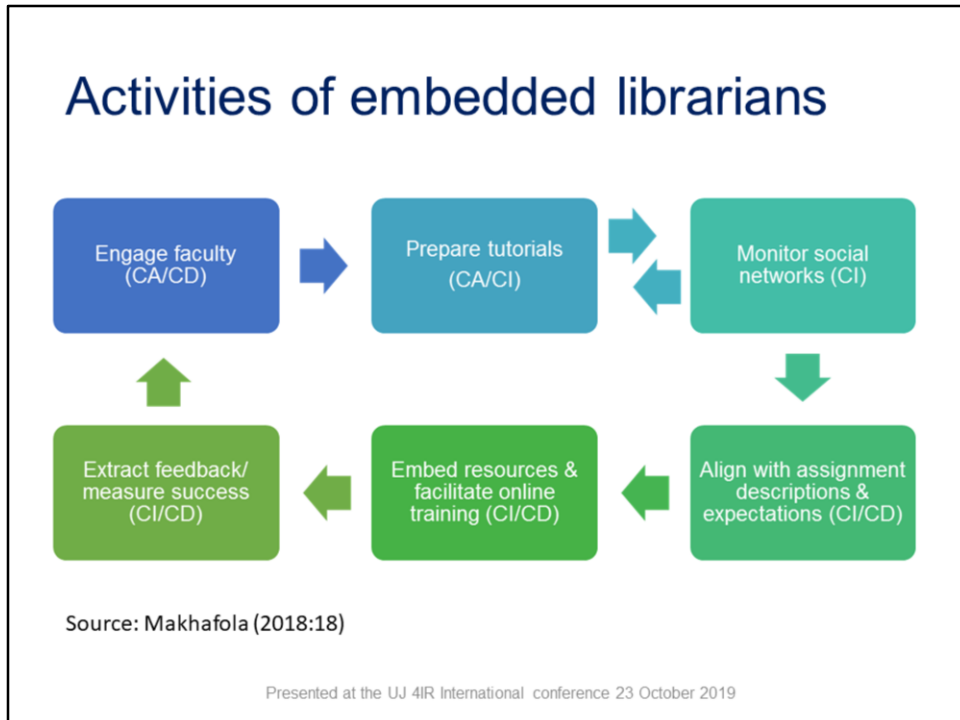
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The University of Pretoria has 9 faculties. The School of Engineering is within the EBIT faculty, which was the focus of the study and experiment. The university has adopted the hybrid/blended model of teaching and learning and we use Blackboard as the official LMS/VLE. The initial study focused on 3rd and 4th year engineering students.

Embedded librarian definition

- a librarian that moves away from the physical confines of a library, builds relationships, becomes a member of a user community and does not stand apart from it (Shumaker, 2009:240)
- a librarian that actively participates in a 'CMS classroom' regardless of it being fully online or blended (York & Vance, 2009:199)
- “distinctive innovation that moves the librarians out of libraries and creates a new model of library and information work” (Shumaker, 2012:4)

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Embedded librarian activities take place continuously and librarians can be embedded at different levels.

The faculty (lecturer) and librarian relationship is a factor that influences the level of embeddedness that a librarian can achieve.

Course Admin (CA), a link to the library can be requested and librarian contact information can be added; as Course Instructor (CI), tutorials and assessments can be created and uploaded by the librarian to an existing online course; and as Course Designer (CD), collaboration with faculty can take place using the librarian's expertise to create or redesign a course that integrates library resources (York & Vance, 2009:202-207; Bezet, 2013:197-203; Allen, 2017:252-253; Makhafola, 2018:26).

In essence: as course designer, the librarian can use and integrate new technologies and types of content into the course that are not already in use or available, and make the course more interactive for the students. This may include ask/chat to a librarian, FAQs, videos, and games.

Librarian skills & Knowledge

- Interpersonal communication skills
- research, referencing, information organization and IT skills
- Knowledge of the subject area of users
- Marketing, entrepreneurial & innovative skills

(Shumaker & Tyler, 2007:18; Senge, 2007:5; Shumaker, 2009: 240, 2012: 5; Carlson & Kneale, 2011:18).

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Interpersonal communication skills- must be a **team player** & be able to **build trusted relationships** with clients and other stakeholders

Library research, referencing, information organization and IT skills – have to know how to do searches to find information, referencing techniques used in the department, organize information logically so it makes sense to the user and be able to utilize different technologies to deliver the best service to clients

Knowledge of the subject area of users- **accept risk, move outside own comfort zone and think and act outside the box**

Marketing, entrepreneurial & innovative skills-**entrepreneurial mindset**

knowledge entrepreneurship is “the ability to recognize or create an opportunity and take action aimed at realizing the innovative knowledge practice or product” (Senge, 2007: 5).

Challenges to expect

- The library is not considered part of the foundation for online learning
- Librarians are not involved in curriculum planning
- Difficult to influence course design as lecturers are regarded as being independent
- The library is seen as a support department

(Allen, 2017:252)

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Research findings

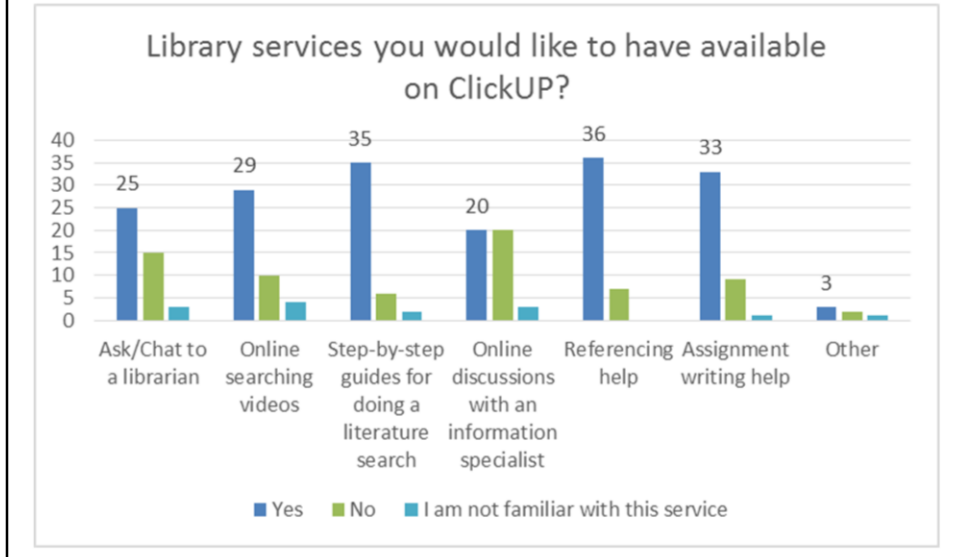
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Library products requested

- Subject-specific databases
- Relevant electronic journals
- Relevant electronic books
- Subject guides
- Style guides and writing resources
- Book and article searching training material
- An email or chat-to-a-librarian feature

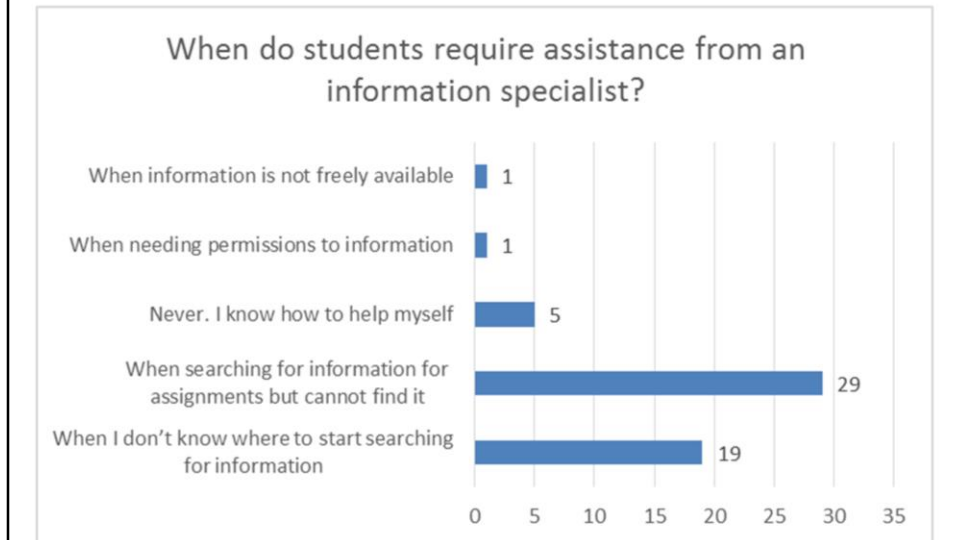
“The subject guide can be designed in such a way that it incorporates some of the products listed above such as: the electronic journals and books, style guides and writing resources, and email/ chat-to-a-librarian. This will make it easier for the IS to change the content in one place, without having to interfere much with the ClickUP module content (Makhafola, 2018:97).

Library services requested



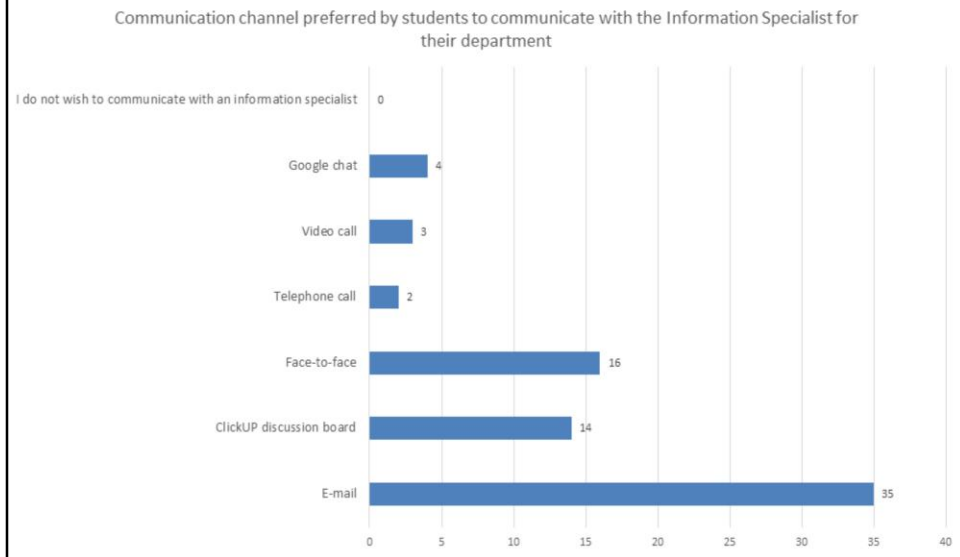
In the 'other' field, respondents could specify what else that was not mentioned could be embedded into their clickUP modules. 3 respondents chose yes, 2 said no and 1 said not familiar with this service. The one that said 'yes' to other mentioned having access to information from other universities while the others did not specify.

Assignments trigger the need for assistance



Point out the bottom 2

E-Mail - preferred communication channel



If you add a heading such as this you can present the slide very quickly

Noted. Thank you.

Implementing the pilot study

Presented at the UJ 4IR International conference 23-25
October 2019

Overview

- Consultations
- 90+ 3rd year Chemical engineering students
- Module planning and layout: 4 months
- Formats & tools: PDFs, Videos, quizzes, discussion board, assignments.
- Testing with Information Specialists
- Study guide outcomes
- Students' participation @ 50%
- Library resources and librarian are prominent

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Navigating from the ClickUP portal

The screenshot displays the ClickUP portal interface. At the top, there is a navigation menu with options like 'clickUP Home', 'System Admin', 'Organisations', 'Teaching and Learning', 'clickUP Help', and 'clickUP Help'. Below this, there are tabs for 'My clickUP', 'Notifications Dashboard', 'News Feeds', and 'UP Calendar'. The main content area is divided into two columns. The left column, titled 'clickUP Courses', lists various courses under two categories: 'Courses where you are: Instructor' and 'Courses where you are: Student'. The 'Library Undergraduate (UG) 2019' course is highlighted with a red arrow. The right column, titled 'Instructor News', contains a news article about 'ANTI-DISCRIMINATION AND SOCIAL JUSTICE WEEK 2018 (30 SEPTEMBER-4 OCTOBER 2019)'. The article text discusses the University's decision to rename its annual Anti-Discrimination Week and mentions the Vice-Principal Academic's message to staff and students. At the bottom of the screenshot, it is noted that the content was 'Presented at the UJ 4IR International conference 23-25 October 2019'.

Indicate that the portal authenticates and authorises rights for students and instructors. All students will have this as a course option. Also again explain that ClickUP is the LMS/VLE.

Library Undergraduate (UG) 2019

Instructor Info

Study guide

Lectures & Activities

ClickUP module focus group

Tips and Resources

Conversations

Stay on Track

Tools

My Grades

Help

Contacts

Miss Lesego Makhafola

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 Office Location Merensky 2 Library, Level 5, Office 5-28
 Office Hours Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday: 07:30 - 15:00 Tuesday: 09:00 - 15:00
 Notes
 Online office hours: TBA

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The study guide is a downloadable .pdf.

More about the bits that have been marked with red dots in the next slides.

8. Important dates

Date	Activity	Topics	Assessment	Due date
Week 1	Icebreaker	Orientation	Short quiz	At own pace
	Activity 1	Library overview	Discussion	At own pace
Subject guides		board posting		
Week 2	Activity 2	Brainstorming		At own pace
		Analysing an assignment & identifying keywords	Keyword identification exercise	At own pace

Lectures & Activities

Discussion Board

Week 1: Library overview

Basics on how to navigate the online library are provided as part of the overview.

In this folder, you will find information and videos on:

- How to use the library page for the first time
 - Where to find and how to use subject guides
-

Week 2: Preparing your assignment

Information on how to prepare for an assignment are provided in this activity.

In this folder, you will find information and videos on:

- Brainstorming for assignments
- Analysing an assignment
- Identifying keywords to use to search for information for assignments

Integrated video clips

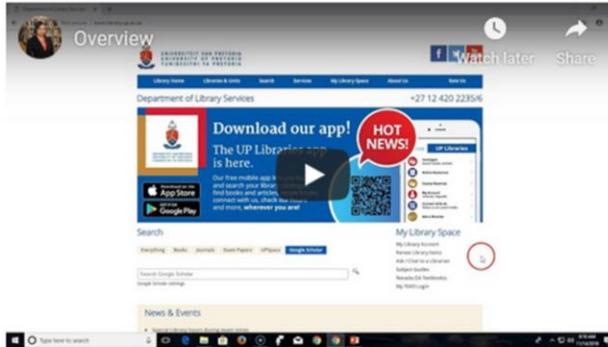
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- Icebreaker & Orientation survey
- Using the library for the first time**
- Using Subject Guides
- Library overview & subject guides
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Using the library for the first time

The video takes you step-by-step through the process of using the library web site for the first time



Downloadable .pdf documents

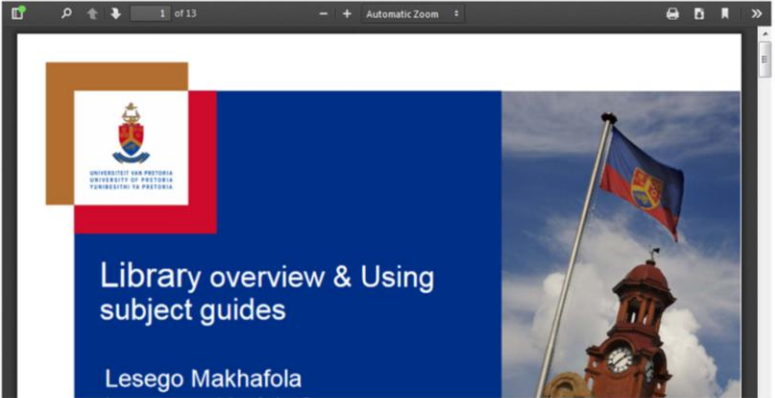
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Library overview & subject guides guide
If this item does not open automatically you can open [Library overview & subject guides guide here](#)

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Automatic Zoom

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Library overview & Using
subject guides

Lesego Makhafola

Tips and Resources

Subject guides

Short guides for using databases



Short guides for using databases

Google Scholar guide

Scopus guide

ClickUP user feedback

Please help me improve the ClickUP module

***Required**

What resources would you like to see on the library's undergraduate Information Literacy module? *

Your answer

What resources would you like to have removed from the library's undergraduate Information Literacy module? *

Your answer

Do you have any additional comments or suggestions? *

Your answer

Would you like to participate in the focus group session? *

Implementation challenges experienced

- Limited staff working on the pilot
- Demands from departments outside the programme – juggling act
- Limited time, increased workload
- Training on use of VLE took place post implementation of pilot – self learning, trial and error
- Technical hurdles also influence design constraints

When you are struggling to get the software under control (technical hurdle) you pay very little attention to the design requirements. In actual fact you need training in both of these.

Implementation successes

- Less general consultations and queries – students use online resources
- More focused consultations – complex queries
- Request for Whatsapp chat/assistance – on trial
- Less assignment writing questions – resources available online

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Way forward

- Focus groups (meetings) with students and staff
- More interactive content/ functions (Libby's chat function)
- Add more departments
- More links to actual assignments and course outcomes
- More Information Specialists involved

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Libby: UP Library's first service robot



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8FXfIRJ77bQ>

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Thank you!

