



FROM THE DESK OF THE EDITOR:

Welcome to the first edition of *Infomania* for 2025. We hope you'll find the newsletter informative.

This issue features an item on integrating artificial intelligence (AI) into library services and academic support. We welcome new personnel, and as always, something on Mandela Day and interesting events that our staff participated in.

The Jotello F Soga Library took part in Research, Teaching, and Learning Week, presenting an "Amazing Race" aimed at increasing awareness of different library services and products. We also had a very enjoyable easter egg run in April before Easter Weekend.

We hope you will enjoy this issue of *Infomania*, keeping you up-to-date on the latest happenings at the Jotello F Soga Library.

Tertia Coetsee (Editor)

Integrating Artificial intelligence (AI) into library services and academic support by Myleen Oosthuizen

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is rapidly transforming Higher Education, including the role of academic libraries in supporting teaching, learning, and research. Libraries must adapt to meet the growing needs and support the responsible use across UP.

Libraries, including Jotello F Soga Library, have to spread awareness of the use of AI in assignments, theses, and dissertations. Information sessions on ethical writing include library sessions on plagiarism and Turnitin. Turnitin is the tool for plagiarism detection used by the University of Pretoria (UP), which includes an AI detection feature available to lecturers. Jotello F Soga Library arranged a Plagiarism and Turnitin webinar for the Faculty of Veterinary Science on 15 May 2025, in collaboration with presenter Gerda Ehlers, from the Library Learning Center. AI features are integrated into the new version of EndNote (EndNote 2025), the reference manager program UP has a subscription for, and which is part of library information sessions.

To support AI integration effectively, library personnel must receive targeted training in the use of AI tools and large language models (LLMs). Information specialists have to familiarize themselves and attend training opportunities with AI tools embedded in databases such as Scopus and Web of Science. Many databases sell the AI tool as a separate feature to enhance the searching experience, which has implications for resource budgets. The Department of Library Science (DLS) at UP is looking into the future addition of AI layers to some of its databases to secure a personal experience for its users. The DLS scheduled hybrid sessions on different uses of AI that are available to all library staff. Jotello F Soga Library personnel attended webinars on the use of AI in academia, research, and publishing, and an AI workshop at our Faculty of Education at the Groenkloof campus, presented by Kirsten Krauss from WWIS.

UP drafted a guideline on AI and is in the process of creating a policy document. Student assessment remains a controversial topic of discussion

when it comes to the use of AI in academic documents and papers. Students have to be able to critique the use of AI in their academic work.

AI tools and LLMs are accepted by institutions as part of the future landscape that we have to embrace and see as a welcome addition to the variety of tools to make life easier. This is a new journey that the Jotello F Soga Library will tackle with enthusiasm.

Related links:

Dept for Education Innovation, UP. Student's Guide: Leveraging Generative Artificial Intelligence for Teaching and Learning Enhancement at the University of Pretoria, 2023
https://www.up.ac.za/media/shared/391/pdfs/up-student-guide_-_leveraging-generative-artificial-intelligence-for-learning.zp242396.pdf

University of Pretoria. Guide for ChatGTP for teaching and learning, 2023.
<https://www.up.ac.za/media/shared/391/pdfs/up-guide-for-chatgtp-for-teaching-and-learning.zp233629.pdf>

Accommodating African Traditional Religion and Practices in South African Tertiary Institutions (28-29 May 2025 colloquium) By **Mathuloe Moshidi**

The University of Pretoria's Transformation Office, in collaboration with the Faculty of Theology, hosted a two-day colloquium focused on accommodating African Traditional Religion (ATR) in South African tertiary institutions. This event highlighted the university's commitment to addressing the challenges and opportunities associated with integrating ATR into its academic and social environment, with the aim of strengthening and supporting an inclusive culture.

The colloquium, titled "Accommodating African Traditional Religion and Practices in South African Tertiary Institutions," recognized the importance of creating an inclusive environment for all faiths and belief systems, particularly ATR, which has historically been marginalized in South Africa. The event took place at the Future Africa venue.

Among the speakers were esteemed theology lecturers, traditional healers, spiritual leaders, and members of the UP-Transformation Committee.

Events and webinars hosted by Jotello F Soga Library during the 1st semester of 2025 By Myleen Oosthuizen

The DLS aligns its focus areas to support the UP vision. The mandate of the DLS is to support teaching, learning, and research and activities that focus on enhancing student success, awareness of resources and services, and increasing the international profile and impact of UP research.

The Veterinary Library advocates awareness of services and resources by participating and hosting events. The *Amazing Race*, targeting undergraduates, took the form of a quest through the library, introducing different resources and services in the fun-filled adventure. This event (*covered in this issue*), was held as part of the Teaching and Learning Week during April.

Turnitin is an anti-plagiarism program that compares the similarity of a document or student assignment with resources in the database. Students have to submit their assignments or research on Turnitin to generate a similarity report that forms part of the assignment. Many requests for assistance with Turnitin reports and the analysis thereof led to the hosting of a webinar, *Plagiarism and the role of Turnitin*, for Faculty on 15 May in collaboration with the DLS Learning Center, with Gerda Ehlers as presenter.

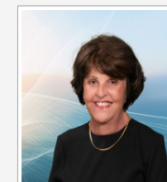
Plagiarism and the role of Turnitin Online



Understanding plagiarism and the ethical use of resources in academia, including the role of Turnitin at UP.

Date: Thursday 15 May 2025
Time: 13:00 - 14:00
Time Zone: Central Africa Time ([change](#))
Campus: Onderstepoort
Online: Event URL will be sent via registration email.
Audience: Academic Staff Postgraduates Students Undergraduates
Categories: Information Session

Event Organiser and/or Presenter



Research Data Management (RDM) is becoming a prominent searchable entity as part of research information, and the re-use of data by other research projects decreases research costs. The Open Access (OA) principle becomes applicable to research data, and at UP, open data sets get uploaded to the UP Research Data Repository(FigShare). Many requests from students, especially postgraduates, on the management of their research data, led to the hosting of another webinar for the Faculty, *The role of Research Data Management in the Open Science Landscape*. The webinar was held on 20 February 2025 in collaboration with presenters Tlou Madiba, Senior

Coordinator of the Open Scholarship Unit, and Rosina Ramokgola, Data Curation Officer at the DLS.

The role of Research Data Management in the Open Science Landscape

Online

Open research data refers to the *data* underpinning scientific research results that can be freely accessed, especially for research and academic purposes. Where does research data fit into the Open Science initiative and how is research data managed at the University of Pretoria?

Related LibGuide: [Research Data Management \(RDM\) by Mankaleme Rosina Ramokgola](#)

Date: Thursday 20 February 2025
Time: 13:00 - 14:00
Time Zone: Central Africa Time (change)
Location: Online Event
Campus: This is an online event
Online: Event URL will be sent via registration email.
Audience: Academic Staff Doctoral Masters Post-Doctoral Postgraduates Professional Staff Researchers
Categories: Seminar

closed.

In support of the internationalization of research and increasing the reach of research output, a webinar was arranged by the Jotello F Soga Library addressing open access publishing and the role of transformative agreements

with publishers. On 29 July, the webinar, *Boosting Open Access Publishing with Transformative Agreements*, took place in collaboration with the DLS Open Scholarship Unit, with Khawulile Radebe, Manager of the Scholarly Communication and Repositories, as presenter.

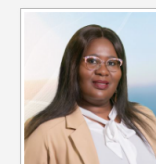
Boosting Open Access Publishing with Transformative Agreements



Open access publishing significantly increases the visibility and impact of your research, making it freely available to a global audience. While publishing open access can be costly—often requiring researchers to cover copyright fees—transformative agreements between institutions and publishers help reduce or eliminate author publishing charges. Join us to learn how you can take advantage of these opportunities and boost your research.

Date: Tuesday 29 July 2025
Time: 13:00 - 14:00
Time Zone: Central Africa Time (change)
Campus: Onderstepoort
Online: Event URL will be sent via registration email.
Audience: Academic Staff Doctoral Masters Post-Doctoral Postgraduates Professional Staff Researchers
Categories: Information Session

Event Organiser and/or Presenter



Khawulile Radebe
[Click here for contact details](#)

The library has a responsibility in advocating awareness of its services and resources to support staff and students to succeed across teaching, learning and research disciplines.

Related subject guides:

Plagiarism Prevention:

<https://library.up.ac.za/plagiarism>

Research Data Management (RDM):

<https://library.up.ac.za/c.php?g=356288>

Research Guide: Publishing

<https://library.up.ac.za/c.php?g=485435&p=3333259>

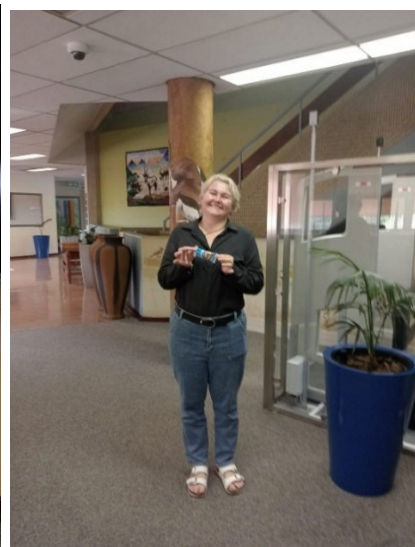
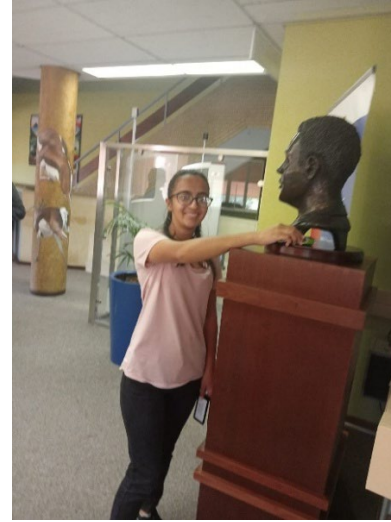
Easter egg hunt – 4 April 2025

By Tertia Coetsee



our Library can also be fun! All the eggs were found by the students.

An Easter egg hunt was held in the library on 4 April. Eggs were hidden in places where students normally move around and work. The idea was to combine the joy of Easter with the fun of a scavenger hunt, perfect to show the students that



Amazing Race

By Tertia Coetsee

AMAZING RACE
 Take a quiz and win !!

Prize Draw on Friday, 04 April

Students are invited to join a **FUN QUEST** in the Library during **Teaching & Learning Week: 31 March-04 April 2025**.
 Bring your enthusiasm and activate your participation in the **AMAZING RACE** at the **Library Circulation Desk**.
 After completing the **AMAZING RACE**, enter your participation card for a **Prize Draw** on **Friday, 04 April** at **14:00** in the Library.

During the week of 31 March – 04 April, a conquest of fun and games took place at the Jotello F Soga Library as part of the Teaching & Learning Week. The teaching and learning initiative attends to the needs of different student groups and aims to increase awareness of library services and products.

Undergraduates registered for the Amazing Race and embarked on academic challenges while discovering library services, products, and spaces.

The quests cover finding Arnold Theiler's antique suitcase, using the newly implemented room-booking system, loading money for printing, using the self-help book check-out machine, finding emergency exits in the library, getting to know your information specialists, finding books on the shelves, and finding the water fountain, to selfies with Jotello F Soga staff!

Completion of the race ensured an entry to the final Prize Draw at the end of the week. The prizes and vouchers received from our campus cafeteria were drawn and presented to the winners by Prof Melvyn Quan from the Department of Veterinary Tropical Diseases.



The prizes include vouchers received from CRISP campus cafeteria

At Onderstepoort, we will definitely repeat this fun learning initiative in the future.



The prize winners and runner-up students received their prizes from Prof Melvyn Quan.



Library orientation for our Veterinary Nurses

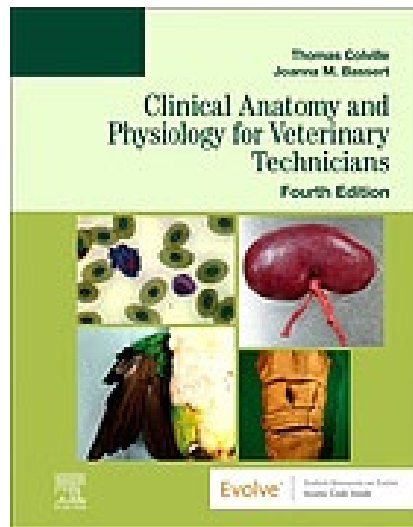
By Myleen Oosthuizen

At Jotello F Soga Library, our year kicked off with many information sessions for different groups in the Faculty. One was an induction session for the Bachelor of Veterinary Nursing (BVN) first-year students during Orientation Week in January.

In the past, Veterinary Nurses completed a diploma, but in 2020 the Bachelor in Veterinary Nursing (BVN) degree was introduced. The first cohort of veterinary nurses graduated in 2022 with a 100% pass rate. While we usually host a dedicated session for the 1st year BVN students later in the year, this was the first year that we were included in their Orientation Week.

The library received a generous donation of the textbook, *Clinical Anatomy and Physiology for Veterinary Technicians*, from Ceu Ward, Manager of Sky Information. This book was a prize for the first student to answer a question correctly, and the lucky winner was Farisai Mataruka.

We welcome any opportunity to support our students on their road to success.



Winner of textbook: Clinical anatomy and physiology for veterinary technicians

Welcoming new after-hours staff members

by Tertia Coetsee

Tshenolo Mbaba joined us in February as one of two Research Commons assistants in the Onderstepoort Research Commons. Tshenolo recently completed her MSc degree in Veterinary Tropical Diseases 'with distinction'. She is currently pursuing a PhD in Anatomy and Physiology, actively contributing to the Angora goat research project. She was also a member of the executive committee of the Onderstepoort Postgraduate Student Association, where she held the role of Transformation Officer, and currently serves as the Community Engagement Officer.

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



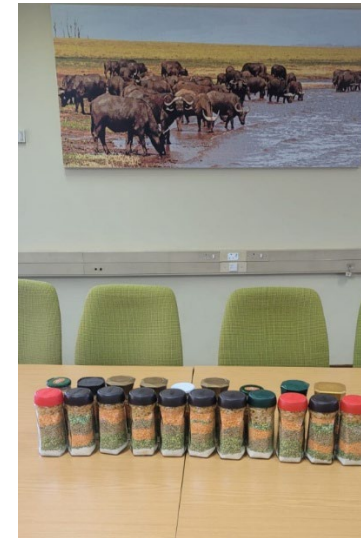
Tshenolo Mbaba

The DLS (Department of Library Services) offers internship programs for students pursuing degrees in library and information science. UP offers this opportunity to candidates who wish to gain practical work experience and exposure and have already completed their first degree. Interns get placed across the UP libraries

and the Jotello F Soga Library was fortunate to have Zandile Motsepe placed at our library.



Zandile Motsepe



“Soup in a Jar” project for Mandela Day

UP Giving Month 2025

By Tertia Coetsee

The University of Pretoria’s (UP) inaugural “UP Giving Month” culminated in a **Food Pack-a-Thon** on the Hatfield Campus on Wednesday 30 July, where hundreds of volunteers donated, sorted, and packed food parcels for distribution to students in need. The Vodacom Bulls also donated 500 tickets to the Vodacom Bulls vs Sharks game in Pretoria on 2 August 2025. The aim of all the donations was collective action against student hunger and financial crises.

This year the “Soup in a Jar” project for Mandela Day donations was part of the UP Giving Month! The Vet Library contributed to the collective effort of the Library Services. Personnel also took part as **volunteers** who participated in the Food Pack-a-Thon to help support students facing food insecurity and financial hardship.



Mathuloe Moshidi, Zandile Motsepe and Michael Makhubele at the Pack-a-Thon

Our staff is available online for support

<http://www.library.up.ac.za/vet>



Myleen Oosthuizen
Faculty Library Manager



Tertia Coetsee
Information Specialist



Mathuloe Moshidi
Information Assistant



Maria Mtsweni
Interlending Specialist