The Library renewal: a research and honours commons on the third floor!

Where and why?
The North-West University aspires to rendering focused, high quality research. The establishment of an exclusive research and honours commons in the Ferdinand Postma Library building is the contribution of the Library Services toward realising this aim. The Research Commons is being equipped in the north-western wing on the third floor of the existing library building and next-door to the Honours Commons.

What is on offer at the postgraduate commons?
Exciting prospects are anticipated, among which exclusive admission to all honours, master’s and doctoral degree students, postdoctoral associates as well as academic and research staff; the latest computer technology and appropriate software; luxury conference facilities and a leisure area.

Exciting opportunities with world class products, techniques and methods will be regularly offered. Researchers in different study fields will have the opportunity of rubbing shoulders and thus ensure interaction among disciplines.

What will it look like?
Plush carpeting covers the floor and the furniture is in light-coloured wood. Glass screens are used to create an impression of transparency and space. The ergonomic desk and visitors’ chairs are in modern upholstery and a comfortable leisure area is equipped for resting weary legs and minds over a cup of coffee. Our unique Africana collection is exhibited alongside and may be viewed through a glass wall.

Which facilities are available?
- Exclusive access to the Research Commons for master’s and doctoral students, postdoctoral associates, academic and research staff
- The Honours Commons offers admission to honours students only
- Spacious computer workstations
- Individual laptop stations
- Single person study cubicles
• Group seminar rooms for group discussions
• Printing, copying and scanning facilities
• A modern technologically equipped conference venue with interactive white board, sound and lighting facilities for the Research Commons
• Experienced information staff is available to assist researchers and to refer them to subject librarians if necessary. After hours the facility will be run by postgraduate students
• A core collection of reference works on research methods
• A comfortable leisure area with DStv (limited channels, no audio)
• The Research Commons also boasts with a coffee machine

OPAC computers
On every floor in the Ferdinand Postma Library computers are placed where students can search for books on the catalogue. Users will no longer have to descend to the ground floor when looking for a book. Internet connectivity is via the WiFi network on campus.
NWU App now available!

With the introduction of the North-West University’s (NWU) first application (app) one now has access to NWU information in the palm of one’s hand. Download the app and read your students’ newspaper and official NWU news or see your latest academic results via your mobile device.

Other functions that are also available via the app include a buy-aid for purchasing airtime and a chat aid. To get access to this and other functions, download your app now!

The app is available for iPhone, Samsung and BlackBerry devices. It is also available via the Web at http://mobile.nwu.ac.za.

(Article obtained from NWU website.)

Group discussion rooms

Nine rooms in the Ferdinand Postma Library may be reserved by students and staff for group discussions. The rooms are equipped with plasma screens and white boards, and can accommodate between 6 and 16 persons. They may be booked via Innovative’s room bookings module.
Training @ Your Library

Training sessions may be arranged for individuals or groups and can take place in Tarentaal and Besembos (the Library’s electronic classrooms) or in any classroom on campus. Group training on finding sources on the Library website is scheduled with the specific information librarian or training librarian and the lecturer.

Research training sessions may be scheduled among the training librarian and the postgraduate students, lecturers and researchers on the following:

- Bibliographic management resources
- Reference techniques
- Evaluation of research impact
- Publication in peer-assessed journals

Library staff also adds content to the Information Literacy Study Unit that forms part of the compulsory Academic Literacy Module (AGLE121).

Writing assignments

Do have a look at the Writing assignments guide that was placed on our website. It gives an overview of the entire process of writing a paper: from collecting relevant information and its logical organisation up to a neat end product that will benefit your participation mark. It is important for you to master the art of writing clearly, logically and effectively. This skill is particularly developed during the undergraduate years by writing assignments.

You will also gain valuable experience of the research process that will be of great value at postgraduate level. This manual should be especially useful to undergraduate students.

The training venues: Tarentaal (left) and Besembos (below)

The new calendar (left) used for booking training sessions
Construction in the Ferdinand Postma Library

Construction on the third floor is progressing well. The worst hammering and clamour to remove the old and outdated structure is over. The next step is to equip a new venue for the Africana collection.

On completion of the venue, the Africana books and furniture can then be moved there – only three days have been scheduled to do so. The old Africana space on the north side of the building will be used for the Honours Common that will be adjacent to the Research Common. If everything goes according to plan, the entire space will be completed by the end of January 2014.

New Acquisitions and RSS Feeds

The Acquisition and Processing Section at the Ferdinand Postma Library is responsible for ordering, receiving and cataloguing of all forms of library material for the Potchefstoom Campus as well as for that of the Vaal Triangle Campus.

The LibGuide for new acquisitions endeavours to keep students and staff informed of the latest material available at all three of the campus libraries.

The Library now makes available the latest book acquisitions in every subject group by a RSS feed. The different feeds are updated daily to ensure that library users stay up to date with the latest available acquisitions. The feeds may be viewed online via Millennium or by registering it on your favourite RSS reader.

Materials acquired in the last month

- A dictionary of intellectual property law / Peter Groves.
- Verslag van Taelkongres en samenkomst, gehouden aan de Paar, op 27 tot 31 Januari, 1897 [electronic resource].
- Phrases and dialogues with translations in Cape Dutch, preceded by short grammatical notes on the latter language [electronic resource] / by J.F. van Oudt.
- The Englishman’s guide to the speedy and easy acquisition of Cape Dutch [electronic resource] : grammar, useful information, conversation : for the use of travellers, seafarers and military men.
- Is het Afrikaans de zuivere ontwikkeling van een Nederlands dialect [electronic resource].
- An easy Anglo-Afrikaans slang guide, with an Anglo-Dutch vocabulary [electronic resource].

The space where the 900 used to be will accommodate the Africana books in future.
Submission and binding hard copies

Binding done for M and D students can be printed at Nashua or anywhere else. The printed copies must be submitted at the M and D office, Building F1, office 222. This office checks the printing for accuracy. Students complete an instruction form with the required binding instructions. This form, along with the proof of payment and printed copies are dispatched to the Ferdinand Postma Library in a sealed bag. Mrs Adri Smit receives and signs for the receipt.

Once the binding has been done the copies are returned to the M and D office. This office signs for the receipt. Dispatching of books to the sections concerned, as agreed with the student, is dealt with from this office.

The contact person for binding is Mr Eric Swanepoel, telephone +27 (0)18 285 2364.

MS Word template

IT Services created a number of Microsoft Word templates for convenient use by students and staff. The templates may be used to facilitate the creation of a thesis or dissertation. The templates may also be applied to existing documents.

The cover page, table of contents and page numbers have already been created; you only need to add the contents!

(Article obtained from NWU website.)