



Info Forum

Newsletter of the Potchefstroom Campus Libraries
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NORTH-WEST UNIVERSITY
YUNIBESITI YA BOKONE-BOPHIRIMA
NOORDWES-UNIVERSITEIT
POTCHEFSTROOM CAMPUS

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"A university is just a group of buildings gathered around a library."
- Shelby Foote

Library building – finally!

It became clear in 2010 that the needs of library users are changing. A laborious yet exciting reflection and planning process was initiated to determine what it will take to change the library into the proverbial heart of the campus. This included wide consultation, research and visits to local and overseas libraries. Finally an architect with extensive experience of libraries and contemporary needs was consulted. Plans were drafted, of course within the boundaries of affordability, and we got the green light.

In the beginning of May 2013 the planned refurbishment and upgrading of the Ferdinand Postma Library finally started. It will take place in three phases that will be completed within the next two and a half years. The planned changes are consumer driven and will take service delivery to the next level.

Phase 1 is establishing and equipping an exclusive Research Commons where post-graduate students and other researchers will be able to work in very special and supportive environment. Plans include the latest hardware and software; training in research methods for beginners; a quiet study environment with sufficient facilities to scan documents or perform other technical processes; as well as an area where you can relax and stretch your legs after a long and hard immobile concentration session.

The following activities must precede the establishment of the Research Commons:

- ✓ Evacuation of the Ossewa-Brandwag museum on the third floor
 - Consulting with the subject group History, Campus Management, Institutional Management and the Heritage Foundation
 - Decision to move the museum to the Heritage Foundation
 - Arrangements to pack up and transport the contents
 - Obtaining the necessary funding
 - Assistance with photographing of museum artefacts
 - Planning the process of digitalising the Ossewa-Brandwag archives

- ✓ Screening of obsolete printed journal titles and bound journals
 - Follow the thorough control system
 - Perform data adjustment if necessary
 - Remove earmarked bound journals and titles
 - Moving the shelves to make space for the 900 book collection
- ✓ Evacuation of the 900 book collection on the third floor
 - Pre-selection of sources which must be stored in the basement
 - Shelving the 900 books (on the shelves left open in the now journal archive after the removal of the earmarked journals)
- ✓ Moving the computer labs out of the basement to somewhere else on campus
 - Investigate the possibilities of any unutilised space on campus
 - The Time Table Committee assigns and selects a classroom on the third floor of the Library building
 - Obtaining permission to convert the selected room into a computer lab
 - Obtaining the funds and a design for new computer labs
 - Begin work in June 2013
 - Evacuation and alterations mean that the Library will be without any computer labs for two to three months
- ✓ Refurbishing of basement
 - Cleaning of space
 - Installing the shelves
 - Moving the 900 book collection that must be stored
 - Refurbishing of Nashua-space and moving the service



After most of the above is completed the work on the Research Commons can start in earnest and hopefully it will be completed by 2014!

Phase 2 and 3 (planned for 2014-2015) entail the refurbishment of the ground floor as an Information Commons for undergraduate students (about 90 computer stations), equipping an interactive training venue with 40 computers, moving Nashua to the basement, consolidation of the library collection on floors 1 and 2 and the concentration of consumer services on the ground floor.

In spite of all the disruption and hard work that lies ahead, we look forward to the “new library” and what it will be able to offer our students.

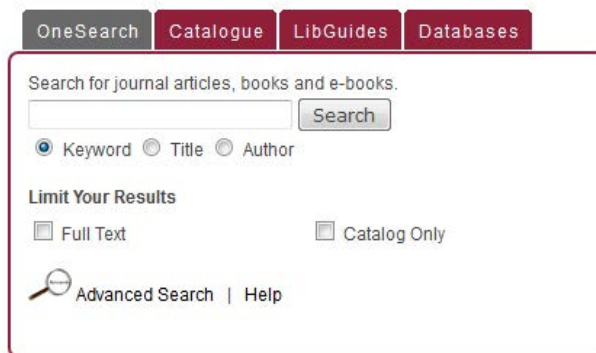


OneSearch - Ebsco Discovery Service (EDS)

The Library recently subscribed to [Ebsco Discovery Service](#). This product provides a single search window that enables the user to easily search a large variety of electronic products.

What is EDS?

EDS is an online product that brings together almost all the Library's electronic products by making use of a single search window. In other words, users no longer have to search in different databases to find information, for example in the catalogue for books, in EbscoHost for articles, etc. By means of an EDS search, results from different databases can be viewed on one screen. With the use of EDS the value and usability of the Library collection is greatly increased.



EDS is a type of “super database” that throws out a wide search net to give the user a broad scope of his/her subject field. Results can also be easily refined by making use of different categories and

other filters.

We haven't yet explored EDS optimally, therefore users can expect that small changes will be made over time. If there are any problems or suggestions, please contact Carine Basson (carine.basson@nwu.ac.za).



NWU-PUK Open Day 4 May 2013

The Library has been involved with the annual NWU-PUK Open Day held on campus since 2012. On 4 May the campus was bursting at the seams when thousands of prospective first year students and their parents came to see what the campus offers. The Library erected a stall that displayed all the newest technology and the emphasis was placed on academic eBooks that can be downloaded, printed and e-mailed almost effortlessly.

Personnel escorted visitors through the Library and focused on the new facilities now available in the Library. Ferdi's and the new group study room impressed visitors especially. Parents who graduated at the PUK could not believe how much the Library has changed. This was an important opportunity for us to showcase how the Library has kept up with new technology as well as the changing needs in terms of social learning spaces. Colourful bookmarks, cold juice and note books were handed out to prospective first years. Visitors were full of praise for the friendly and hospital manner in which they were received at the Library and on campus.

BA Seobi Secondary School

In the past six years the Library has been involved with several community projects and has focussed on the BA Seobi Secondary School in Ikageng since 2012.

During 2012 the room that will serve as the library at the school has been upgraded and equipped with computers, DVD's and computer software.

Our Catalogue Section prepared 1 351 books for shelving and catalogue cards. On 29 April 2013 four Library staff members arranged the books according to the different categories on the shelves at the school. We plan to add several new books and more computer software to the library's collection in the year to come.

The school is truly thankful for what they have received thus far.



PPS cheque presentation ceremony



Library Services are currently furnishing a brand new Research Commons. This particular space is for the exclusive use of post-graduate students and researchers to underline the Library's commitment to the support of research. The best and most up-to-date technology will be made available here. A cheque to the amount of R300 000 was donated by PPS on 31 May which will be used for this purpose.

The Library is very privileged because representatives of PPS (all alumni of the NWU) asked the Library whether there wasn't a project that they could donate money to. Needless to say we jumped at the opportunity and compiled a presentation to request funding. PPS feels positive that we can also request further funding to complete phase 2 of the Research Commons.

The Rector of the Potchefstroom Campus, Prof Herman van Schalkwyk and Elsa Esterhuizen, Director Library Services receive the PPS cheque. The presentation was handled by Barry Pretorius, PPS Regional Manager. On his left is JC Vorster, Marketing Manager of the Youth market at PPS.

Report: Journal Project

A large scale and grand cleaning-up project is currently the highest priority in the Journal Section. In part it resorts under the project to make more space available in the Library for upgrading and renewal; on the other hand it also forms part of the natural thinning out process to optimize the utilisation of space, electronic resources and overall neatness.

The move took thorough and precise planning, but now it is up and running!

In order to clean up the third floor, the journals on the second floor had to be compacted so that the 900 history book collection from the third floor could be stored there temporarily.

Sydney Vos has been appointed to help with this task and he is making fast and furious progress!

In the thinning out process, journals are considered according to different categories like how frequently it is used, relevance, electronic availability, whether it is available at other universities, accreditation and indexing. A list of the journals being considered for elimination will be submitted to lecturers for final approval.

This activity is but one in the Library that forms part of the new and exiting prospect of upgrading the Library to keep up with the new challenges and expectations with which libraries must keep abreast of these days!



South African Library Week 2013

The theme of this year's South African Library Week was "Educate yourself @ your library". The library provided training and activities (cross-word puzzle and geocaching) that broadened students' knowledge of how to obtain and process information. Members of staff at the NWU and Potchefstroom community members were encouraged to attend book discussions to broaden their knowledge and primary school learners and the elderly were invited come and have a look at the technology available and how a university library functions.

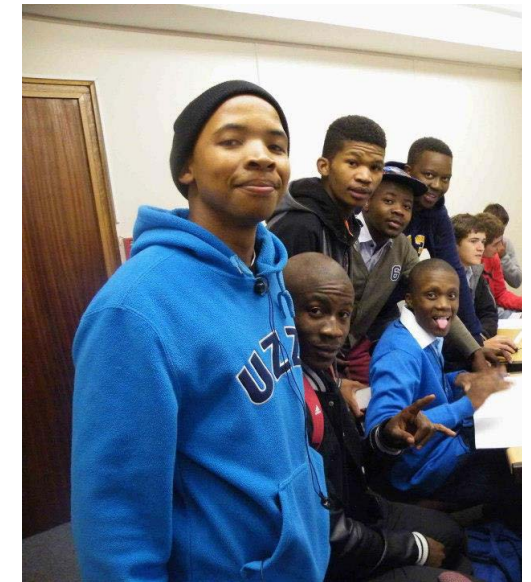
Library Week was also a good opportunity to market electronic books. The entire aim was to showcase the Library profession as well as the particular services that a university library can provide.



The Legal Amazing Race

During the week of 6-10 May 2013 the Law Faculty staged their Amazing Race for first year IURI 171 students. They were divided into teams and each team was provided with a subject they had to find a piece of legislation, a court case, an article and an internet source on.

There was a time limit within which the tasks had to be completed and the students had to get two stamps. They teams were in high spirits and also dressed the part. One student posted the following on the Law Faculty's Facebook page: "This was the most awesome-LEST moment in my academic history !!!!!"



Two Confabulatia discussions came and went in Ferdi's during the first part of 2013

27 February 2013: How to bring about transformation on a multi-cultural campus?

The first of the SRC Academic Council's quarterly Confabulatia (Academic Discussions) covered a very interesting and controversial topic. The broad topic of "Transformation" was discussed and reviewed in terms of its application on the NWU-PUK Campus.

Besides the about forty students that met in the Library's coffee chop, Ferdi's, it was also attended by Prof Rikus Fick (Dean of Students), the SRC Chairperson Janco Jordaan, several SRC members, EC (Executive Committee) members and members of other student committees.

The guest speakers were Andrea Viviers, a forensic accounting honours student and previous SRC:Current Affairs Vice-chairperson and current member of the Reception & Introduction (O&B) Committee, EC member with the portfolio Transformation, as well as Charté Pretorius, a Sociology lecturer.

Based on her own experience Andrea argued that students (but the also the University's management) must go the extra mile to promote transformation on campus. She propagated a "colour-blindness" that is blind to race and cultural differences so that mutual understanding and respect can be accomplished.

Charté Pretorius was very critical about the NWU-PUK's attempts in tackling transformation thus far and feels that there has been almost no progress in this regard. In her opinion it is possible for Afrikaans culture (please note, not "White culture") to help

transformation be achieved without its own culture being threatened. The best way to get the process going is by means of dialogue, according to her, so that all parties involved can state their point of view and actual steps, that take all parties into consideration, can be taken.

The refreshments sponsored by the Ferdinand Postma Library was not only a welcome but also greatly appreciated.

After the presentations by the speakers there was a question-and-answer session and several spontaneous reactions rounded off the debate.

10 April 2013: Youth Unemployment

The second Confabulatia meeting on Wednesday 10 April 2013 in the Library's coffee shop led to a lively discourse, just like before. This time it was on the very current subject of "Youth Unemployment". It was presented by the SRC Academic Council and attended by amongst others, library staff members and several members of the SRC, the EC, the Academic Student Society, committees and other students.

The evening's introductory speaker was the young and dynamic Carike Claassen from the School for Economy. She highlighted the critical factors regarding youth unemployment, discussed tendencies and suggested solutions. Despite of the initially dark picture she concluded on a high note by pointing out to the audience that the statistics for unemployed university graduates are not always very reliable.

Peet Roos, a consultant at the NWU Career Centre, was the second very enthusiastic and well-informed speaker. He concentrated on ways in which job applicants can first empower and then market themselves. He pointed out how important it is to acquire skills as well as demonstrating it to potential employers by means of a well drafted CV. Students were invited to make use of the Career Centre's services to help them with any job applications.

Both presenters answered questions from the audience afterwards and kept the discussion interesting and interactive throughout.

Ferdi's was yet again an excellent and highly appreciated host for this event!



Peet Roos (NWU Career Centre), Elsa Esterhuizen (Director Library Services), Carike Claassen (School of Economics), Janie Lamprecht, Pieter Pienaar (SRC) and De Wet Swart (AC)

LibGuides

In 2011 a group of Communication students evaluated the Library's Search according to subject pages based on a number of criteria. They looked specifically at the Law Faculty's subject page and compared it to similar pages at other universities in South Africa and abroad. Numerous suggestions were made and the Library started the search for a program that could fit the bill.

As a result the Library has subscribed to LibGuides, a product of Springshare. It is also used by several other university libraries, for example UCT and Stellenbosch.

The information librarians used [LibGuides](#) to compile information guides, each applicable to a specific subject field. On the pages of the guide there are databases available that supply the relevant information regarding the subject, for example Chemistry. Training material and information sessions are also advertised here. It was very important to the students that a picture as well as the contact details of the specific information librarian that will help them also be displayed here. They also wanted to be able to post comments on the page and that it should include a direct link to social media like Facebook and Twitter. It was also an important to the students that information should be divided into clear compartments with well-worded headings.

From January 2013 the different guides have been visited 16 980 times. The most popular guides are the A to Z List of Databases, Law, Chemistry, Pharmacy and Mechanical & Nuclear Engineering.

eBooks

In 2012 the Library decided to drastically expand the eBook collection and with the available funds more than 4 000 eBooks were purchased. eBook's biggest advantage is that it is available immediately and that the full text can be searched. You also don't have to carry a heavy tomb under your arm and it can be downloaded on most mobile devices.

There are several ways to access eBooks via the Library's web page:

Here the full text of eBooks is searched

eBook information can be accessed through searches on ScienceDirect & EbscoHost

Searches via the catalogue provides a direct link to the full text of eBooks

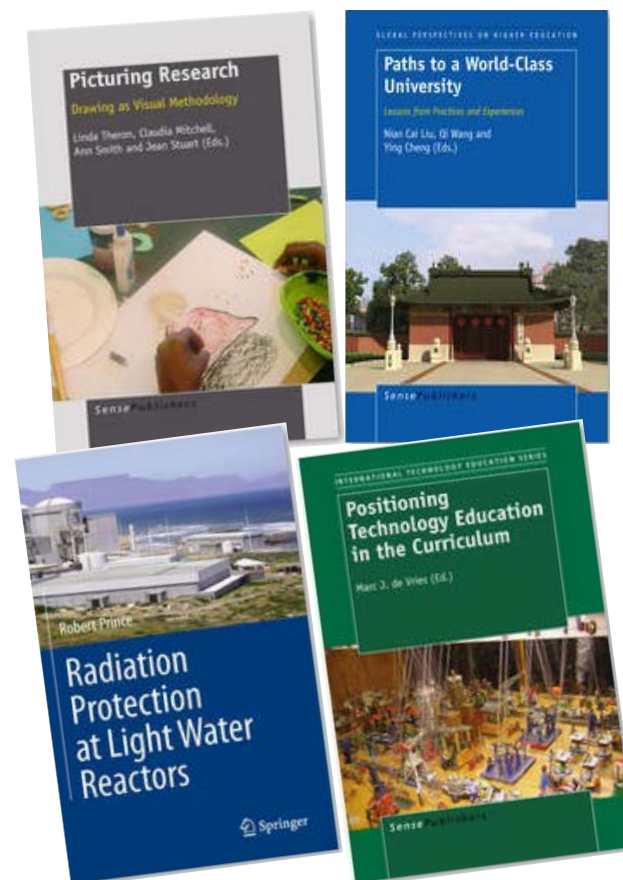
Keyword [] eBooks [] Submit Advanced Search

We made use of only three large publishers, namely Springer, Elsevier and Ebsco

Subjects	Springerlink	Elsevier (ScienceDirect)	Ebsco
Aging & Gerontology			8
Agricultural & Biological Sciences		72	
Biochemistry, Genetics Molecular Biology		25	
Biomedical & Life Sciences	484		
Business & Economics	250		14
Chemistry & Material Science	228	54	
Computer Science	945		
Earth & Environmental Science	230	31	
Education			95
Engineering	650	21	34
Energy		34	
Humanities, Social Sciences & Law	470		
Language & Literature			16
Leadership & Management			22
Nursing			24
Mathematics & Statistics	432		
Media & Communication			6
Pharmacology, Toxicology & Pharmaceutrlical Science		16	
Philosophy			10
Physics & Astronomy	320		
Professional Computing & Web Design	124		
Psychology		43	
Sport Medicine & Physical Therapy			17
Theology			53
Textbooks		30	

Important research sources that were purchased:

- Encyclopedia of Adolescence
- Encyclopedia of Environmental Health
- Encyclopedia of Food Sciences and Nutrition
- Encyclopedia of Inland Waters
- Encyclopedia of Electrochemical Power Sources
- Encyclopedia of Language and Linguistics
- Encyclopedia of Microbiology
- International Encyclopedia of Education
- Treatise of Geochemistry Water Science





NORTH-WEST UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES

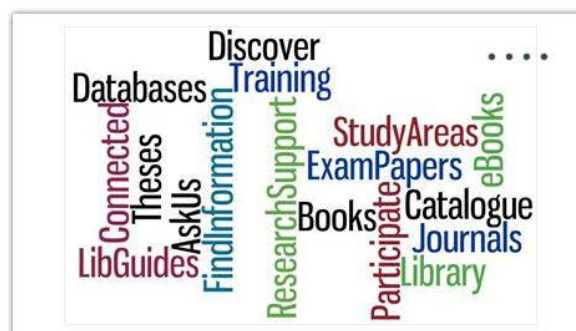
OneSearch Catalogue LibGuides Databases

Search the catalogue for books, e-books, digital records, and more.

Keyword ▾

Advanced Search | Search by Campus

eBooks | WorldCat Local | My Library Record



Find information

- LibGuides (Search by subject)
- eFundl
- Exam papers
- Course Reserves
- Theses
- E-reference works
- Newspaper articles
- New acquisitions

More →

Services

- Renew your books
- Loan services
- Interlibrary loans
- Ask us
- Training
- Study areas
- Room bookings
- Bindery

More →

Research support

- NWU Institutional Repository
- Postgraduate support guide
- Manual for postgraduate study
- Postgraduate MS Word template
- RefWorks & EndNote
- Accredited journals
- Impact factors (JCR)
- Proquest

More →

Guides

- NWU Referencing guide
- LibGuides
- Information retrieval guides
- Undergraduate survival guide
- Postgraduate support
- Guide for academic staff
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News

New homepage

The changes made by the Institutional Web Office at the end of January 2013 have forced the Library to adapt its own [homepage](#) slightly. Because of the new theme that has been implemented, more space is now available and can be used.

On the right-hand-side of the homepage there is a slider that displays the Library services more prominently and in colour. Keep your eye on this space for advertisements about new databases, training and information about the different services. By clicking on the picture it opens a direct link to more information.

An additional column has been placed in the middle of the page to help with research and allows for faster access to links like RefWorks, EndNote, accredited journals, impact factors and the NWU's Institutional collection. It is the Library's hope that post-graduate students will benefit from these changes.

Subject-specific information guides provide students with information about the use of the databases and library services.

Students can now search through most of the databases and catalogues by choosing the OneSearch option that will take them directly to the full text of the journal article and eBook, if available. After several requests from staff members and students the catalogue tab was brought back for those who only want to search the catalogue. The static Search according to subject webpages have been replaced with the more interactive LibGuides library program that is used by several university libraries across the country. We believe that these changes have made the Library webpage more user-friendly.

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