UKZN LIBRARIES IN 2006

The UKZN libraries entered 2006 fully immersed in merger related matters such as the impending movement of materials between the various campus libraries to mirror the movement of disciplines; the approaching implementation of the new library system Unicorn; and, still without a library director.

The strike action during the beginning of the first semester resulted in the closure of the libraries at various points in time over the two week period of the strike. Whilst this impacted on services most regular library instruction and database training was carried out and library orientation took place during the first few weeks of term as usual. Several thousand students across all campuses received an orientation to the library and/or training in the use of its resources at various levels. Instruction in usage of the new ‘i-Link’ catalogue will be on offer during the first few weeks of the second semester.

The movement of materials to the Edgewood campus is now almost complete and the major exchange of books and journals between Howard College and Westville will probably begin in November. Collections to move are sciences and management studies to Westville and engineering, human, social and development sciences to Howard College.

The ‘go-live’ date for the new Integrated Library Management System, Unicorn, was delayed slightly due to problems beyond the Library’s control but was rescheduled for 1 August. The past six months have seen intensive configuration of policies, training and testing of both system and data and ironing out problems ready for the final changeover. The end user will see a web-based OPAC called ‘iLink’ with links to the Library’s website, and other features, a somewhat superficial reflection of the vast amount of work that has gone into making the system workable and ensuing changes to work routines. 1 August will not see the final version of iLink as features will be added and refined over a period of time. Subject Librarians will be running training sessions in iLink early in the second semester. Concomitant changes to the websites of the campus libraries and the umbrella site will be taking place.

There is now finality over the status of the Library’s budget. Whilst the continuation of journal and database subscriptions this year is assured, monies available for book purchases is less than last year. The Library’s budget is approximately 13% less than what was allocated in 2005. Reconsideration of the manner in which book monies are distributed will be a task for the new library director.

Despite no Library director, the five campus librarians continue to operate as a team in moving the Library forward with all the changes that are occurring. At this point in time the subject librarian units are fully staffed after long periods of vacancies, thus creating stability in the provision of user services.
iLink - The New Web Based Library Catalogue (OPAC)

The Library's new web based catalogue is finally available. For the time being the catalogue will be the default page with links from the catalogue to the various campus library websites. In order to create a desktop short cut to iLink type in the following address: http://libraries.ukzn.ac.za Right click, choose short cut and an icon will appear on your desk top.

Some of the features of the new system are the ability to search for items across all campus libraries or within a particular library; access your own 'account' whereby you are able to view items out on loan to you and renew items. This will require you to establish a user login and PIN. Staff or student number is the user ID. Prompts for doing this are clearly indicated on the first screen. Please contact your subject librarian if you need help. The Libraries will offer training in iLink over the next few weeks. These will be advertised.

Library System Statistics August 2006

- Number of databases merged: 3 (from 3 different versions of Urica)
- Number of items in total on the new Library system: 1,471,137
- Number of borrowers registered on the new library system: 42,398
- Number of items loaned since system go-live on 1 August: 6,749

User Education

The main thrust of user education during the first term was orientation for new students. Statistics indicate that several thousand students across all campuses received at least a tour of a library; with many receiving hands on instruction in catalogue usage either during Orientation Week or during the first few weeks of term. Some programmes such as that at Medical School were more indepth covering databases as well. Beyond first year, much library instruction has been given to subject specific groups from second year up to Masters level. At these levels the focus is on search strategy; journal literature and the use of online academic databases in particular.

UKZN/LIASA KZN Merger Mini-conference, April 10-12 2006.

An interesting, lively and well-run conference was held in April to discuss experiences of mergers in (mainly) higher education libraries. It came about as a result of collaboration between librarians from the university and the Library and Information Association of South Africa (LIASA).

The conference was opened by Professor Ahmed Bawa, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Research, Production and Partnerships of the University of KwaZulu-Natal, who asked: how the university could go beyond outreach to enable communities to access African scholarship. The keynote speaker, Mr Tommy Matthee, President of LIASA, spoke eloquently of the need for change in South Africa and that the transformation of the South African higher education landscape provided the opportunity to change in a meaningful way, so as to move away from the baggage of the past. Mr Matthee outlined various stereotypical attitudes to change.

Presentations were arranged around the lessons of the past, people in mergers, the key role played by management, merger challenges, the reactions of support staff to mergers, and mergers and ICT. Day three, which was mostly sponsored by Duncan Greaves and the DITCHE (Developing IT Capacity in Higher Education) project, consisted of presentations on the impact of mergers on ICT, and of panel discussions on the impact of mergers on the LIS sector and the ICT components of that sector.

A theme which came through strongly was the transforming effect of mergers and how we really see each other. Are we taking the opportunity of merging to transform staff? Putting people first empowers the transformation process. Resistance is probably the best indication that real transformation is taking place – if there is no resistance then transformation may be superficial. In a
nutshell: “Coming together is a beginning, working together is progress; staying together is success” (Hannie Sander, University of Johannesburg).

Details are available on the Conference website: http://www.ukzn.ac.za/conference2006

Carnegie Grant to University Libraries in South Africa

The libraries of the University of Cape Town (UCT), the University of KwaZulu-Natal (UKZN), and the University of the Witwatersrand (Wits), Africa’s three highest-ranked English-language institutions, together with the South African Site Licensing Initiative (SASLI), successfully submitted a proposal to the Carnegie Corporation of New York for a grant of up to $2.5 million, over three years. The grant proposal is intended to provide a framework of support for researchers as well as the overall research community at the three universities. Each of these universities has already received support from the Carnegie Corporation for transformation initiatives.

The libraries propose to develop and pilot a high-profile ‘Integrated Research Consortium’ for South African academic libraries which will include the following components:-

- A sophisticated, seamless, customizable and consortially-managed Web Portal for access to content and services;
- The provision of targeted, affordable and Africa-oriented digital content, to be negotiated and managed on behalf of the institutions by the South African Site Licensing Initiative (SASLI);
- Dedicated physical spaces – the ‘Research Commons’ – in the libraries of each institution (one Research Commons per institution);
- Support from a cadre of trained and qualified research librarians staffing the Research Commons;
- The building of a virtual reference service of expert librarians across the three institutions, who will share knowledge and capacity to support all researchers.

Once successful, such a consortium, made up of top research libraries, will act as a model for other higher education institutions in South Africa and on the African continent, and will be able to roll out both content and services, supported by SASLI.

An additional grant of $15,000 has also been made by the Corporation “to support the expansion and enrichment of [our] collections of African literature and other materials.” The letter goes on to state, “Andrew Carnegie said that there is no benefit that can be bestowed upon a community so great as the treasure stored up in books. Well, in this extraordinary time of transformation in your country, your cities, your townships and all your communities, we wanted to help you increase your treasure for the benefit of today’s students and those who will follow them in the generations to come.”

JSTOR: Electronic Scholarly Journal Archive

This useful full text archive of journal articles across a range of disciplines, containing some 900 titles is now available free to all academic and not-for-profit institutions throughout the continent of Africa. This is part of JSTOR’s mission to create an archive of scholarly literature and extended access to the archive as broadly as possible. Fees are being waived for a three year period initially. Access to JSTOR is available from library websites.

Msundusi Municipal Library (formerly Natal Society Library), Pietermaritzburg

The Msundusi Municipal Library is now part of the Provincial Library Services. Consequently their lending library holdings are being integrated into the Provincial Library Services database and this library is no longer a member of Catnip (Cataloguing Network in Pietermaritzburg). Thus their records are no longer reflected on the University Library database.
UKZN Subject Librarians by Campus: July 2006

**Edgewood:**

Nomonde Maqubela  tel. 2894,  maqubelan@ukzn.ac.za
Education

**Pietermaritzburg:**

Jenny Aitchison  tel. 5062,  aitchison@ukzn.ac.za
Classics, Drama, Gender Studies, Information Studies, Visual Arts

Margaret Bass  tel. 6026,  bassm@ukzn.ac.za
Afrikaans & Nederlands, English, French, German, History, Media & Communication

Renee Damonse  tel. 5056,  damonse@ukzn.ac.za
Educational Psychology, Psychology, Sociology

William Dansoh  tel. 5162,  dansoh@ukzn.ac.za
Agricultural Engineering & Hydrology, Agrometeorology, Centre for Environment & Development, Centre for Rural Development Systems, Geography, Microbiology, Plant Pathology, Soil Science, Virology

Bronwyn Jenkins  tel. 6068,  jenkinsb@ukzn.ac.za
Biochemistry, Biological Sciences, Botany, Centre for Plant Growth & Development, Entomology, Ethnobotany, Genetics, Grassland Science, Wildlife Science, Zoology

Anita Kromberg  tel. 5060,  kromberg@ukzn.ac.za
Ethics, Philosophy, Religious Studies, Theology

Rose Kuhn  tel. 5904,  kuhn@ukzn.ac.za
Chemical Sciences, Government & Policy Studies, Law, Physics, Politics

Nthabiseng Mosala-Bryant  tel. 5608,  mosala@ukzn.ac.za
Adult Education, Computer Science, Education, Mathematics, Statistics & Biometry, isiZulu

Lynne Phipson  tel. 5164,  phipsonl@ukzn.ac.za

Lindwi Soyizwapi  tel. 5096,  soyizwapli@ukzn.ac.za
Applied Language Studies, Accountancy, Business Administration, Business Information Systems, Economics & Finance

Howard College:

Faith Bhengu  tel. 2061,  bhengu1@ukzn.ac.za
Academic Literacy, Afrikaans and Nederlands, Classics, Drama, English, French, German, isizulu, Linguistics, Psychology, Religion, Translation Studies

Hloni Dlamini  tel. 3472,  dlaminih@ukzn.ac.za
Biology, Chemistry, Computer Science, Environmental Science, Geology, Maths, Physics, Science Access, Statistics

Catherine Dubbeld  tel. 2318,  dubbeld@ukzn.ac.za
Adult and Higher Education, Nursing

Avenal Finlayson  tel. 2064,  finlaysona@ukzn.ac.za
Engineering: Agricultural, Chemical, Electrical, Electronic, Computer, Mechanical, UNITE

Heather Gale  tel. 3044,  galeh@ukzn.ac.za
Music Library

Omesh Jagarnath  tel. 2063,  jagarnat@ukzn.ac.za
Development Studies, Economics, Management Studies, IOLS, Social Work, Sociology

Rebecca Msoni  tel. 2061,  msonir@ukzn.ac.za
Anthropology, Culture & Heritage Tourism, Culture, Communications & Media Studies, Economic History, Gender Studies, History, Philosophy, Politics

Reggie Raju  tel. 1387,  rajur@ukzn.ac.za
Law Library

Tim Reddy  tel. 2692,  reddy@ukzn.ac.za
Architecture Library

Medical:

Sara Mitha  tel. 4260,  mithasa@ukzn.ac.za
Anaesthetics, Anatomical Pathology, Chemical Pathology, Community Health, Experimental & Clinical Pharmacology, Forensic Medicine, Human Anatomy, Medical Microbiology, Physiology, SUME, Virology

Rani Moodley  tel. 4372,  moodleyk@ukzn.ac.za
Cardiology, Dermatology, Endocrinology, ENT, Family Medicine, Haematology, Infectious Diseases, Medicine, Nephrology, Neurology, Optics & Imaging, Orthopaedic Surgery, Rheumatology, Skills Centre, Urology

Nonhlanhla Ngcobo  tel. 4373,  ngcobon15@ukzn.ac.za

Westville:

Richard Beharilal  tel. 7450,  beharilalr@ukzn.ac.za
Biology, Computer Science, Microbiology, Occupational Therapy, Optometry, Pharmacy, Pharmacology, Physiotherapy, Speech & Hearing Therapy

Pravin Laljeeth  tel. 7422,  laljeethp@ukzn.ac.za
Centre for SA Language & Language, Criminology, Language & Literature, Philosophy, Political Science, Religion

Phumla Luhabe  tel. 7453,  luhabe@ukzn.ac.za
Biochemistry, Botany, Chemistry, Chemical Engineering, Civil Engineering, Electrical Engineering, Geology, Mechanical Engineering, Zoology

Zenkosji Majola  tel. 7395,  majolanr@ukzn.ac.za
Graduate School of Business, Information Systems, Law Library, Public Administration

Ashika Pramlial  tel. 7451,  pramliala@ukzn.ac.za
Anatomy, Biomedical Resources, Dentistry, Electronic Microscope, Physiology, Maths, Physics, Statistics

Ashika Ramlakhana  tel. 7753,  ramlakhana@ukzn.ac.za
Accounting & Accounting, Business Administration, Business Economics, Cultural Heritage & Tourism, Economics, Industrial Psychology

Vacant (shared between Pravin Laljeeth and Krish Pillay (tel 7424, laljeethp@ukzn.ac.za, pillayki@ukzn.ac.za) Anthropology, Geography, History/Africana/Indiana, Psychology, Social Work, Sociology, Sports Science