Virtually all E(xtinct)?

As the year draws to a close, the UKZN Library undertakes the annual task of evaluating online electronic resources before committing large sums of money to continue having access to such resources. The past five years have seen major investment by this University in online electronic journal databases that increasingly provide full text access to articles, both current and in some instances, forthcoming. No discipline has been left behind in the demand for quick and flexible access to a vast store of information from the desktop. New journals and new journal databases continue to be launched. Whilst the electronic route is now considered the norm in terms of academic information procurement, it is a route that is neither straightforward nor cheap and does not yet presume the demise of print.

A recent study\(^1\) of some 400 academic publishers indicates some trends in electronic publishing that reflect how far this process has come in recent years and some of the challenges and problems faced by libraries in particular. With regard to availability, 90% of academic journal content is now available online as compared with 75% in 2003. 84% of humanities and social sciences titles and 93% of science, technical and medical titles are now published in online versions. 91% of publishers now make back issues available online although many publishers have yet to make pre-1990 content available and many charge extra for this access. Many provide retrospective content from particular dates such as 2000, indicating the use of a ‘moving wall’ of access.

One of the major issues for librarians is the archiving of material and although access to back issues appears to increasingly form an integral part of online products, this critical process is far from assured. Facilities such as JSTOR (to which the Library has access), specialize in procuring the rights to full text back issues. Only 42% of publishers are reckoned to have established formal arrangements for the preservation of their journal back runs. Mergers and takeovers of publishing companies make licensing agreements and contracts to electronic material particularly vulnerable to change so stable access is never guaranteed. Instances of the removal of titles or articles from databases by legal and scientific publishers amongst others for dubious reasons have been recorded.\(^2\) Copyright concerns pervade all aspects of the electronic environment.

The nature of pricing for electronic subscriptions is changing rapidly as is the kind of access. Failure of the electronic format to lead to lower prices continues to be a cause for concern. Whilst many prices are still linked to print subscriptions, many publishers now use institutional populations or classification and usage to determine price. The 1990s saw the development of consortia of libraries to negotiate with publishers in the face of financial constraints. The South African Site Licenses Initiative (SASLI) negotiates for consortia deals that UKZN benefits from.

The high cost of journals and the large profits derived therein\(^3\) have spawned the open access and institutional repository initiatives and it is predicted that this momentum will not be lost in the
near future. Legislative measures such as the United States Public Access to Science Act which intends forcing the results of government funded research into the public domain, reflect the level of frustration at the high cost of journals.\textsuperscript{4} Electronic access as we know it will continue to be an expensive option, and it is access not ownership that is paid for. Many publishers now offer pay-per-view options and bundles of journals, usually their own, or reflecting specific subject-based content. Often there is inflexibility in the package that can be purchased and overlap does occur. Of course, the mushrooming of a range of packages is confusing for the users of databases who may not know where to go for what. The UKZN Library currently subscribes to over 100 database packages, a daunting list for the novice information seeker.

Whilst publishers and libraries grapple with the complexities of a full transition to an electronic environment, libraries will experience a “print shrink” but not a “print extinction” in the immediate future, a future in which virtually anything is possible.

\textsuperscript{3} C Steele. The library’s perspective on scholarly publishing in the 21\textsuperscript{st} century. In: G E Gorman and F Rowland. Scholarly publishing in an electronic era. London: Facet, 2005, 37: Elsevier’s gross profit margin in 2003 was 34\%. (070.594 GOR
Cecil Renaud Library Pmb Campus)
\textsuperscript{4} ibid, 50

**Staffing News**

**Nozie Makalima**

It is with sadness that the Library records the death, early this month, of Tembakazi Makalima (Nozie) from the Victor Daitz library, Medical School. Nozie had worked for the library for almost 18 months.

**Sam Thomas retires**

Sam Thomas assumed duty in the Library on the Durban campus over 36 years ago on 24\textsuperscript{th} June 1970. He has worked under four university librarians and has spent his entire career in the Library working with equipment – photocopiers, microfiche and microfilm readers and printers, and audio-visual equipment. “Things have changed” says Sam. “In the old days, photocopiers were equipped with heaters to dry the toner and on a few occasions machines caught fire when there were paper jams! Smoke would pour out and I would have to rush to remove the offending sheet of paper.” He also remembers the slide projectors used in the days before PCs and data projectors had been invented as well as the old roneo machine used for printing catalogue cards off stencils.

“How computers have changed our work!” chuckles Sam. “Borrowers used to have cardboard “borrower pockets” and the Library had to print new ones every year. I was responsible for distributing thousands of these cards to the Main and branch libraries every year!”

Retirement for Sam is going to mean more time relaxing with his family. He started work in the Library before he married Gloria and they now have five grandsons - no granddaughters yet! A committed Christian and one-time manager of a gospel band, Sam intends spending more time in the ministry and listening to his favourite gospel music. Sam is a gentle, kindly person, always happy to help out and ready with a smile and a kind word. We are going to miss him but wish him a happy, fulfilling retirement.

**Carol Brammage leaves**

Carol Brammage resigned with effect from October. Carol was employed in the Pietermaritzburg campus library for nearly fifteen years. She started out in the subject librarian unit; later became deputy university librarian and was acting campus librarian for almost three years. For the past year she was deputy director: systems; responsible for the implementation of the new library system, Unicorn. She has joined UKS (Universal Knowledge Software) who are managing Unicorn in South Africa, so will still be associated with the Library.

**Jenny Aitchison retires**

The Library bids farewell to Jenny Aitchison, Subject Librarian on the Pietermaritzburg campus, who retires in December. Jenny has been with the Library for more than fifteen years, spending her first year, 1990, at the Life Sciences library. She moved across to the main library subject librarian unit at the height of the building
alterations a year later. The most notable thing for Jenny about the past 16 years, is the amount of change she has experienced in the library and information science environment. As she would probably be deemed too old, Jenny has abandoned her hopes of becoming a mounted police person in Pietermaritzburg. She hasn't decided whether to spend next year getting back in touch with her creative side by registering for a fine art course or whether to continue with some research she began into traditional dress in the Eastern Cape - or both. Her involvement with the Family Literacy Project and the journal *Innovation* will continue. The only thing she knows she will definitely do next year is the pilgrimage from France to Santiago de Compostela in Spain - a walk of nearly 800 kilometres.

Krish Pillay retires
Mr Krish Pillay assumed duty on the Westville Campus over 31 years ago (1975), first working as a Graduate Assistant at the Psychology Department. He has worked under an outstanding academic and researcher, Professor C. Ramfol. Krish thus took a keen interest in research, and after a few years at the Department he took up a position in the Library (1978), and worked in various sections. Krish spend many years in the Cataloguing Department, (where he was one of the few librarians that enjoyed cataloguing & classification) until the establishment of the Subject Librarian unit.

In 1998 Krish assumed the position of Principal Librarian, and Head of Information Services. His major tasks and managerial responsibilities included collection development, user education, supervision of the branch libraries, supervision of the Subject Librarians, the coordination of services and implementation of library programmes and projects. He worked in close cooperation with faculties and departments.

In his retirement, Krish is unlikely to be relaxing very much. He has various hobbies and interests, among his favourites being farming and fishing. We are going to miss him but wish him a happy, funfilled and exciting retirement.

RB & JA

Mrs G Naidoo retires
Mrs G. Naidoo, fondly known as Aunty Lilly is going to be missed by Westville library staff. She will be retiring at end of this year. Mrs Naidoo has worked as a General Assistant in the library since 1994. Her tasks were divided between tea room management, and office assistant. Aunty Lilly has played a leading role in library functions and special occasions. Her culinary skills will be missed by many staff. Over the years she been very kind, preparing sumptuous meals for many of the library staff, often at her own expense.

Mrs Naidoo is adored by members of staff - she knows each of us well, and makes each member of staff feel they are being treated as an individual. She also has a real talent for being a sympathetic ear to turn to - often giving up her own time outside work to do this. Indeed she is unique in that she will often be the person staff can turn to during difficult times. She treated everyone as if they were a member of her own family. Therefore, we wish to thank her, and wish her well in her retirement.

RB & JA

Qualifications
Congratulations to the following Library staff who graduate/d this year:

Reggie Raju: Law Library, Howard College Campus: PhD in Information Studies
Lindiwe Soyizwapi: Main Library, Pietermaritzburg campus: Masters in Information Studies
Jabu Sibisi; Law Library, Pietermaritzburg campus: Honours in Information Studies.
Nokulungla Zibuqu: Main library, Pietermaritzburg campus, Honours in Information Studies
Sagren Moodley: Medical School Library, Honours in Information Studies
Desmond Beharilal: Westville Campus Library: Masters in Social Policy; and Degree in Library and Information Studies
Sanjeeth Munshi: Westville Campus Library: Postgraduate Diploma in Information Studies
Sagren Naidoo: Westville Campus Library: Postgraduate Diploma in Information Studies

Library Website
The UKZN Library Webpage Working Group (WPGW) was formed in 2004. Its main task was to set up a joint website for the Library of the merged University of KwaZulu-Natal. As an interim measure, an 'umbrella' page was created, routing users to the five separate Library websites. This year the first task was to create web pages for shared resources, such as databases and electronic books, in a format similar to that of the new Library catalogue. These were made available at the same time as iLink was launched and can be found at [http://www.library.und.ac.za/ukzneResources.htm](http://www.library.und.ac.za/ukzneResources.htm).

The current task is to deconstruct the existing five websites and create a joint UKZN Library website which, it is hoped, will be launched at the beginning of 2007, in time for the new intake of students.

Vasu Nadupalli, one of the UKZN website managers, demonstrated the University's new website templates and the WPWG decided that one of these would be used for the Library website. This has been accepted by the Campus Librarians.

Thus far, the Group has decided on the basic structure of the new website and work on creating the necessary pages will begin soon.
Library Vacation Hours until 9 February 2007

All libraries close at noon on Friday 22 December and reopen on 2 January

**HOWARD COLLEGE** (No Saturday opening in December)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Library Name</th>
<th>Opening Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>E G MALHERBE LIBRARY</strong></td>
<td>Monday - Friday 08:30 - 17:30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Saturdays (on 13, 20 and 27 January) 08:30 - 12:00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>BARRIE BIERMANN ARCHITECTURE BRANCH LIBRARY</strong></td>
<td>Monday - Friday 08:30 - 16:45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Saturdays (on 13, 20 and 27 January) 08:30 - 12:00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>G M J SWEENEY LAW BRANCH LIBRARY</strong></td>
<td>Monday - Friday 08:30 - 16:30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Saturdays (on 13, 20 and 27 January) 08:30 - 12:00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>ELEANOR BONNAR MUSIC BRANCH LIBRARY</strong></td>
<td>Monday - Friday 08:30 - 13:00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>14:00 - 16:30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Saturdays (on 13, 20 and 27 January) 08:30 - 12:00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**EDGEWOOOD** (No Saturday opening in December)

(a) From 20 November – 22 December

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Library Name</th>
<th>Opening Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Monday - Friday 08:30 - 16:30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Saturday 25 November Closed</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(b) 2 January - 12 January

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Library Name</th>
<th>Opening Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Monday - Friday 08:30 - 21:00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Saturdays 09:00 - 15:00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(c) 16 January - 10 February

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Library Name</th>
<th>Opening Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Monday - Friday 08:30 - 16:30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Saturdays 09:00 – 15:00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**PIETERMARITZBURG** (No Saturday opening in December)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Library Name</th>
<th>Opening Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>CECIL RENAUD (MAIN) LIBRARY</strong></td>
<td>Monday – Friday 08:00 - 16:30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Saturdays (on 6, 13, 20 and 27 January) 09:00 - 12:00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>LAW and LIFE SCIENCE LIBRARIES</strong> (No Saturday opening in December or January)</td>
<td>Monday – Friday 08:00 - 16:30</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**WESTVILLE** (No Saturday opening in December or January)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Library Name</th>
<th>Opening Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Monday – Friday 08:00 - 16:30</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**MEDICAL LIBRARY**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Library Name</th>
<th>Opening Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>MEDICAL LIBRARY</strong></td>
<td>11 Dec 2006 - 12 Jan 2007</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Monday - Friday 08:30 - 17:30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Saturdays 09:00 - 12:30</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>