FULL-TEXT DEPENDENCY

The UNP library’s electronic resources are tools making information more accessible to the university community. Students and staff members may choose remote access to search the catalogue for books. They may also choose remote access to search for journal literature, using electronic abstracts and indexes (CD-ROM or online). Only a few databases need to be accessed via a dedicated terminal due to licensing agreements. Increasingly, it is possible to find scholarly, full-text articles from some of the databases we subscribe to and from the e-journals.

Absence of full-text articles on a particular subject from such sources does not mean there is nothing published in that subject area. It means the researcher must explore other pathways in order to find information. “Other pathways” refers to the use of abstracts and indexes and finding items on the shelf from a list of journals that we subscribe to. It may also entail requesting articles from other libraries using the interlibrary loans (ILL) facility.

The idea of obtaining information from other libraries may seem such an obvious route to a seasoned researcher. For “researchers in training” who are used to the convenience of finding full-text articles online, this may not be so obvious a route. Finding the full-text articles from the shelf or finding it via ILL may be viewed as a time-consuming route. True, it is time consuming, and that is why research time should be budgeted for finding information.

The study conducted by McDonald and Dunkelberger (1998) investigated what they view as an increasing trend of full-text database dependency among the undergraduate library user. The survey conducted at the Bloomsbury University of Pennsylvania during 1998 revealed library users increasingly expect electronic access to the full article, whether it is from the World Wide Web or subscription-based, full-text online databases.

McDonald and Dunkelberger (1998:302) state that students showed a preference for using online sources with full-text access more readily than citation indexes. They found that “many students were limiting their search sets only to full-text availability and, in a few extreme cases, were altering their original research topics to be more closely supported by the full-text articles generated”. Some students were observed leaving the library after discovering that “computers with the articles on them” were unavailable due to heavy use or a temporary network failure”. It would be interesting to know if this is a trend at our campus.

Maximum use of full-text electronic databases among library users is a good thing. In order for our library to provide research tools giving access to full-text databases, exorbitant amounts have to be paid (for example EBSCOHost). Thanks to national cooperation amongst libraries and the national Department of Education subsidy we were able to afford EBSCOHost. Our usage statistics also reveal that EBSCOHost is one of the heavily used databases. It is important that such resources make life easier for our community.

Full-text resources are but one option where a range of information tools is available. Absence of full-text means other tools and avenues of information searching should be pursued. It does not mean an absence of published information on a particular topic!

LIBRARY MERGER TASK TEAMS

Senior members of the library staff from UND and UNP libraries held a joint think tank on Thursday 18 September. Such meetings are being coordinated by Professor Dave Walker from the Research Office. At this meeting the two libraries identified a list of procedures that, as a merged library, need to be in place at the beginning of the new year. These include synchronisation of all aspects of borrower loan procedures; investigation of the nature of new student cards and a single code of conduct. Other matters needing investigation include hours of opening and photocopy facilities. For 2004, it is anticipated the libraries will retain separate budgets. This group will meet again and with UDW counterparts before the end of September.

STAFF NEWS

Mrs Sashni Chetty has been appointed to the Main Library Issue desk and Mrs Shadia Alli has been appointed to the post of Senior Library Administrative Officer, Issue Desk, at the Law library.

Mrs Sherian Latif has been appointed to the Acquisitions Department.

Congratulations to Fiz Wotherspoon who celebrated her 60\textsuperscript{th} birthday on 24 September. Fiz will be retiring at the end of this year.

SPEND SPEND SPEND

Disciplines need to spend their library book votes as soon as possible. Such monies cannot be carried over to the new year and bottlenecks at year end could lead to orders not being placed. Deadline for orders: 14 November

DISPLAYS

August/September/October Main library:

- Reach for the stars (Astronomy and space flight); UDF 20\textsuperscript{th} Anniversary of launch: 25/8 – 5/9
- 40\textsuperscript{th} anniversary of Martin Luther King’s “I have a dream” speech: 28/8 – 18/9
- Tours of Pmb’s own brewery: the microbrewery of the School of Chemical and Physical Sciences: 5/9 – 19/9
- Zulu calabash artifacts: 22 /8 – 3/10
- Rugby World Cup: 6/10 – 19/10

ONLINE RESOURCES UPDATE

New Look CABDIRECT Online

A new version of CABDirect Online is now available. Go to our web site: www.library.unp.ac.za; click e-resources, online indexes and abstracts, CABDirect. The coverage is the Applied Life Sciences and the period is 1973 onwards. It incorporates CAB abstracts and Global Health. Our subscription limits 1-4 simultaneous users, so please be considerate.

Online version of Atla

ATLASerials provides some full-text. The American Theological Library Association (ATLA) Religion database covers Biblical studies, world religions, church history and religious perspectives on social issues from 1949 onwards.

You gain access via our Library’s web site: www.library.unp.ac.za, e-resources, online indexes and abstracts, ATLASerials.

NEW REFERENCE WORKS


ALAN PATON CENTRE NEWS

Information on Violence in KwaZulu-Natal

Researchers and students needing to find out about violence in KwaZulu-Natal during the decade from 1985 to 1995, will find information at the Alan Paton Centre (APC). During this decade, thousands of people died during violence in the Midlands region, and thousands more were injured, had their homes destroyed or became refugees. John Aitchison, in his thesis Numbering the dead: the course and pattern of political violence in the Natal Midlands: 1987-1989 (1993), and Anthea Jeffery, in her book The Natal Story: Sixteen years of conflict (1997), attempt to unravel the multitude of possible causes which have been put forward.

It is a complex picture, involving environmental factors such as housing shortages and the growth of shack settlements; poor social conditions; poor economic circumstances; political factors; faction fighting, especially in the Msinga region; and ease of availability of firearms (Jeffery 1997). Added to these factors were high transport costs, leading to bus-boycotts; the role of town councillors in black local authorities; conflict between Inkatha and the African National Congress (ANC), the United Democratic Front (UDF), and the trade union movement; school unrest and boycotts; the rise of vigilante groups and several other factors (Aitchison 1993). The IFP and ANC each accused each other of creating “no-go” areas in KZN - areas controlled by one group and out of bounds to the other. The IFP alleged that by May 1995, 84 areas were “no-go” to its supporters. The ANC claimed that the entire area north of the Tugela River (the old Zululand) had become out-of-bounds to their supporters (Jeffery 1997).

Further information on this complex and vexing issue can be found at the APC in the collections of the papers of John Aitchison; the Midlands Information Centre Resources Unit (MICRU); Peace in Natal (PIN); the Imbali Support Group and the Natal Room Collection. The Oral History Collection, “Recording the anti-apartheid struggle in KwaZulu-Natal” contains interviews with people who were involved with the crisis, such as Sam Mchunu, Michael Worsnip; Bongi Ntombela; Monika Wittenberg and Radley Keys.

Anyone needing access to this information is welcome to visit the APC between 08h30 and 13h00 or 14h00 and 16h30 on weekdays, or to contact staff at tel. (033)260-5926 or 260-6143, or by e-mail to koopmanj@nu.ac.za or liebbe@nu.ac.za

JK

ACQUISITIONS AT ARCHIVES

The Laudations spoken in presenting honorary graduates for their degrees at this year’s UNP and UND graduation ceremonies, are available for consultation at the University Archives:

- Ela R. Bhatt AR GRA2/1/62
- Edith Hildegard Raidt AR GRA2/1/63
- William Robert Bainbridge AR GRA2/1/64
- Alan Robert Lipman AR GRA2/2/92
- Trevor Andrew Manuel AR GRA2/2/93
- Keith Henry Cooper AR GRA2/2/94
- Zackie Achmat AR GRA2/2/95

Another very recent acquisition is an audio cassette and one-page synopsis of the recently delivered 2003 Colenso lecture:

Audio cassette: AR XT2003/1. One-page synopsis: AR LEC11/1/9

Thank you to Moira Bolton for the cassette and synopsis. All the above material has been catalogued on URICA. The University Archives is located on the Golf Road part of the UNP campus, behind the School of Psychology and the Hexagon Theatre. Hours of service are Monday to Friday, 8:15am to 1pm. The Archive’s telephone number is (033) 260-5622.

BJ
Was Anna Anderson the real long-lost Anastasia, grand duchess of the Russian empire? From her first claim in 1920 until a decade after her death in 1984, the uncertainty existed. With the origin of genetic fingerprinting, finally all doubts were put to rest in 1994. Anna was not related to Tsar Nicholas II nor to the Empress Alexandra. The details of this fascinating case can be read in the chapter on genetic fingerprinting, which I learned was discovered by Alec Jeffreys, a name I hadn’t come across before as a layman. Deftly woven into the chapter, is the first time genetic fingerprinting was applied, as well as other detailed cases. With all its twists and turns, the story of the first murderer identified by DNA fingerprinting relates like a Hollywood movie.

James Watson, the co-founder of the structure of DNA and Nobel prize-winner for Physiology or Medicine in 1962, has followed up “The Double Helix” with this collaborated work to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of his famous scientific paper published in Nature. Andrew Berry, co-author, was also brought on board the project to work on a detailed outline for the TV series. The anniversary project also includes a companion website, DNA Interactive (www.DNAi.org) which targets secondary school pupils and entry-level college students. Here you find movie clips of interviews with relevant scientists, a comprehensive Timeline and interactive webpages enhancing the underlying genetics.

Many of the current aspects of general interest to do with genetics are covered in depth by the various chapters. You can read about genetically modified agriculture, the lucrative biotechnology industry, the Human Genome Project and treating and preventing genetic disorders. This thorough book has 6 pages of references for further reading, grouped into their relevant chapters, with a short note next to each one, reflecting the reason it would be interesting to read.

**DNA: the secret of life** is an absorbing read, whether just dipping in or reading from cover to cover (all 405 pages). With its mixture of story and scientific facts, it will appeal to general audiences with an interest in such a topical subject. I highly recommend it and alert you to the humorous touches in some of the photo labels.

**Related reading**


**Vivien Langley**