BEGINNINGS AND ENDS

With the advent of the new University the Libraries are in the process of coming together under one structure. From the second semester we will jointly be producing a single library newsletter across all five campus libraries. It therefore seems opportune to look back at the Pietermaritzburg Library Bulletin that commenced publication in 1962. Initially the Library Bulletin was exactly that: a list of numbered points that, for example, tracked the building of the new Library, detailed new acquisitions, noted library services and staff news. Over time notes became lengthier and book reviews became a regular feature. In 1974 a line drawing of the then new (now replaced) façade of the Library building was added below the masthead of the Bulletin.

Reported in the Bulletin in 1981, a pilot project for the computerization of holdings commenced in the Life Sciences Library via a dataline to the University of Durban-Westville. In 1982 converting the card catalogue to machine-readable format began with the installation of the Library’s own computer. Users accessed the database by means of microfiche. The retrospective cataloguing was completed on target in November 1985 with over 150 000 records in the database. The card catalogue was no more.

1985 saw the introduction of editorial-type comment. Serious warnings about cuts in library budgets were sounded. The imposition of sales tax on books and the devaluing Rand worsened matters. Crisis Issue emblazoned in red across the front page (February 1986) highlighted both the freezing of staff posts and a decline of 25% in library purchasing power. Some good news in 1986: the announcement of document delivery by “telefacsimile” – the now taken-for-granted fax machine. Another red letter Crisis Update in July 1986 warned again of the materials crisis. In February 1988 a 25% cut in the government subsidy to universities was reported. Rationalisation of journal became an ongoing project (March 1989).

In 1991 the Bulletin introduced its present familiar format. And in that year another funding crisis was announced as the central computer required more disk space which was later obtained. In the same year a random survey of 1000 items indicated that stock shrinkage was in the region of 2.6%. Good news was the commencement of the Theological Cluster and the sharing the now upgraded computer. Declining Library funds remained an ongoing issue. Other topics taken up in the 1990s included user education, censorship, computerisation, vandalism of library materials, regional co-operation, the Internet and restructuring.

Space does not permit a systematic overview but I think it is clear that the Library Bulletin has performed a valuable role in engaging with important issues as well as informing the University community of services and developments. We would welcome any feedback from readers which we will report on in the next and final issue of the Pietermaritzburg Library Bulletin. In particular we would be interested to know if the editorial content and book reviews were of interest and if you’d like to see them retained in the new Library newsletter.

Please see overleaf so you can indicate your preferred format for the new newsletter.

Carol Brammage
MAIN LIBRARY DISPLAYS

- Library Orientation
- Who’s Who in the Library
- Library Week
- Time of the Writer
- AIDS Update

NEW JOURNALS

International studies in educational administration
Vol. 31, no.1+ no.2, 2003
Main Library

Journal for the study of the Old Testament
Vol.28, no.2, 2003
Main Library

Journal of Pentecostal theology
Vol.12, no.1, 2003
Main Library

NEW REFERENCE WORKS

R 330 BLA

R 338.70968 BUT

R 305.8 CAS

R 809.896 GIK

R 320 HAW

R 658.0711 KAG

R 338 LAN

R 030 GUI

R 341.23 OSM

R 300.72 SCH

R 683.8 WEB

USER INSTRUCTION 2004

The first two figures are for general and introductory sessions and the remainder are for training sessions tailored for specific subjects or disciplines.

Orientation days 530
Basic Intro or OPAC 125
1st years 238
2nd years 150
3rd years 48
post. graduates 460
TOTAL 1551

In addition Subject Librarians ran two course-work modules:
AGRI 220 and Legal Methods 2. For each of these courses approximately 200 students registered.
UKZN Libraries and all tertiary institution libraries belonging to the eastern seaboard Association of Libraries (ESAL) undertook an intensive evaluation process to select a new integrated Library system. This process concluded when task teams met on 3rd of March 2004 and selected Unicorn, a web-based integrated system supported and distributed by SIRSI. It is anticipated that implementation of the new system will commence during 2005.

The Unicorn OPAC (iLink) offers excellent advanced searching features. The user interface can be configured to suit the needs of the individual library. In addition to the traditional OPAC functionality, Sirsi offers content enrichment such as book jackets, table of contents and content summaries or abstracts which are integrated with the catalogue record. Users will also have the facility to personalize search profiles and lists.

The Libraries will also be purchasing the metasearching facility. This outstanding feature includes Single Search, Sirsi Resolver and Sirsi Rooms. Sirsi Single Search is an enabling technology that allows users to access multiple information resources from one request. Results could come from various sources including the library catalogue, popular search engines, subscription databases, and other free web based or licensed information services, merged into one result set.

Sirsi Resolver is a powerful OpenURL reference linking technology which allows the integration of all information resources provided by the library regardless who the resource provider is. For example, a user who finds a reference to a journal article on the OPAC could through Sirsi Resolver, link to the full text of the article, author information, or any other cited information to which the library has access.

Sirsi Rooms allows the library to present its collection into contexts that best serve users. Information resources can be arranged according to a topic, a purpose, or an audience. Sirsi Rooms includes access to the library resources such as free web and licensed databases. Sirsi Rooms uses the enabling technology of Sirsi Single Search and Sirsi Resolver to facilitate the gathering and linking of content.

For more information on Sirsi, please visit http://www.sirsi.co.uk.

UNIVERSITY OF NATAL ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

Using an award from the University of Natal Research Office, the University Archives in collaboration with the University Library and School of Human and Social Studies, last year undertook a series of interviews on videotape with past and present members of staff. The subjects were chosen on the basis of their contribution not just to the institution, but also to political life, social activism and community building beyond its walls. The aim was to build up a primary source of material that might be used for a number of purposes such as a definitive history of the University or various types of visual record.

Eight interviews were completed by interviewer Bill Guest. The subjects were Colin Gardner, John Aitchison, Gerry Mare, Jerry Coovadia, Fidela Fouche, Mary de Haas, Fatima Meer, and Ari Sitas, and interviews range between two and five hours. Tapes may be viewed at the University Archives and transcripts are (or will soon be) available. It is also planned to index the interviews to improve the accessibility of their contents, although only those with Colin Gardner and John Aitchison have been completed so far.

The technical assistance of staff of Audio Visual Centre has been much valued during the project.

For further information please contact Bronwyn Jenkins (x5622).

HOW WOULD YOU LIKE TO ACCESS/RECEIVE THE NEW LIBRARY NEWSLETTER?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Format</th>
<th>Reponses can be sent to Gita Ramdass, Library, University of KwaZulu-Natal, Private Bag X014, Scottsville, 3209, South Africa or email <a href="mailto:Ramdass@nu.ac.za">Ramdass@nu.ac.za</a></th>
</tr>
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<tr>
<td>Print copy by post</td>
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<tr>
<td>E-mail to your address</td>
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<tr>
<td>University Notice System</td>
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<td>Library Website</td>
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Countries and cities are in pursuit of investments for their economies. Sport is increasingly seen as a source of such investments. Many countries bid to host major sporting events as these are seen as a source for development, job creation, contributing to urban renewal and a big boost to one’s economy.

Sport in the city raises important questions in this regard. How can sport be used to regenerate urban economies? Can sport be used effectively in re-imaging declining cities? Sport has become a major industry as well as a major cultural preoccupation in the contemporary world. Cities are increasingly using major sporting events and activities to re-image themselves, promote urban development and fund economic growth and regeneration.

Gratton and Henry estimate that in economic terms sport represents 3 per cent of GDP in the OECD countries. In political terms it can be used as a policy tool by states, for example to boycott games against certain nations.

The construction of major sports facilities in a city is seen as an investment. It helps to create the capacity to host major events and attract people from out of the city to come to watch sport and spend money in that city. The authors caution the reader that there are no adequate research tools for the effective measurement of such benefits.

Prior to the 1980’s hosting of major sporting events such as the Olympics were thought of as a financial and administrative burden to the organizing city and country. The 1972 summer Olympics in Munich are said to have resulted in a loss of £178 million. The 1976 summer Olympics in Montreal a loss of £692 million. The 1984 Los Angeles Olympics are seen as the turning point. It changed the economics of major sports events with a surplus of £215 million.

An analysis of major sporting events that now form a significant part of Britain’s tourism industry such as the FA Cup Final and Wimbledon is given. An analysis of economic contributions of other major sports is given such as Euro ’96, World Masters Swimming Championships, World Badminton Championships, World Judo Championships, World Indoor Climbing Championships and European Short Course Swimming Championships are also outlined.

The authors caution that bidding to host major sporting events can either be a strategic investment or a complete lottery. The evidence provided in this book seems to suggest that the bidding process is sometimes characterized by personal ambition, rather than rational management. They feel that there are many power games at play as well.

A number of international case studies are included, from the Sydney Olympics to urban school sports, this book looks closely at how sport has been used in contemporary cities across the world, and evaluates policies, strategies and management. This book is a worthwhile read for those interested in sport and the economic issues that surround it.

Related readings:


Cantelon, H and R. Gruneau. 1982. Sport, culture and the modern state. Toronto, Ont.:University of Toronto Press. 796 CAN


Levinson, D and R. Christensen (eds.) 1996. Encyclopedia of world sport: from ancient times to the present. Santa Barbara: ABC-CLIO. R796 LEV


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