

# COST OF INFORMATION: An Academic Librarian's Perspective



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*University of Stellenbosch Conference*

Thursday, 30 October , 2003

Who pays the Ferryman and who  
benefits from the investment?  
What are the tangibles expected?

STUDENTS THROUGHPUT  
and  
RESEARCH OUTPUT

# FLOW OF PRESENTATION

- Introduction
- A decade of Transformation
- Basic principles of transformation
- Redress and DoE/EU Libraries Programme
- Purpose of Transformation
- HE Libraries' Structures
- HE and Consortial Approach
- What is Information: Its Role in HE
- Current reality at HE Libraries
- Recommendations and Conclusion

# INTRODUCTION

- Public HE Institutions funded by the government (DoE), students fees, and own generated funds
- There were approximately 707 600 students during 2002
- 38 100 total staff members in 2002
- Projected expenditure of R8 billion

South African HE institutions are expected to play a critical role in contributing towards the development of an Information Society in terms of :

HR Development

High level Skills training and  
the Acquisition, production and application of new  
knowledge .....

to consolidate the *new democracy and social justice*, and  
the growth and development of the economy

# A DECADE OF TRANSFORMATION

- NCHE - A Framework for Transformation
- GREEN PAPER
- DRAFT WHITE PAPER
- WHITE PAPER (3) - A Programme [Policy]
- HE ACT 101,1997 & Amendments
- CHE- Size and Shape Report
- NPHE - Implementation
- Restructuring of HE - Mergers and Incorporations.....+ Strategic Partnerships
- Change of Institutional Culture(s)

# BASIC PRINCIPLES OF TRANSFORMATION

- Equity
- Redress
- Democratization
- Diversity
- Accelerated Development
- Quality
- Efficiency and Effectiveness
- Academic Freedom and Institutional Autonomy
- Public Accountability

# **HDI's REDRESS PROJECT**

## **DoE/EU HE LIBRARIES PROGRAMME**

● **One of the First Major Redress Project**

**- INFORMATION RESOURCES**

**- SCIENCES**

**- MANAGEMENT, ACCOUNTING AND ECONOMICS**

**- INFORMATION STUDIES**



- **Electronic and Online databases**
- **CD-ROM database**
- **SABINET (block searches) up to March 2003**
- **EBSCOHOST for 2000-2001**
- **Subsidised copyright licence from 1999-2001 /  
60%,30%10%**

# VISION GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

## ESTABLISHMENT OF A SINGLE NATIONAL CO-ORDINATED SYSTEM TO:

- INCREASE ACCESS AND GRADUANTS WITH SKILLS AND COMPETENCIES .....HR NEEDS
- PROMOTE EQUITY, OUTCOME & REDRESS
- ENSURE DIVERSITY IN INSTITUTIONAL LANDSCAPE...PROGRAM DIFFERENTIATION FOR REGIONAL & NATIONAL SKILLS NEEDS
- BUILD HIGH-LEVEL RESEARCH CAPACITY
- BUILD NEW INSTITUTIONAL IDENTITIES & ORGANIZATIONAL FORMS .....RESTRUCTURE

# ORGANIZATION OF HE LIBRARIES

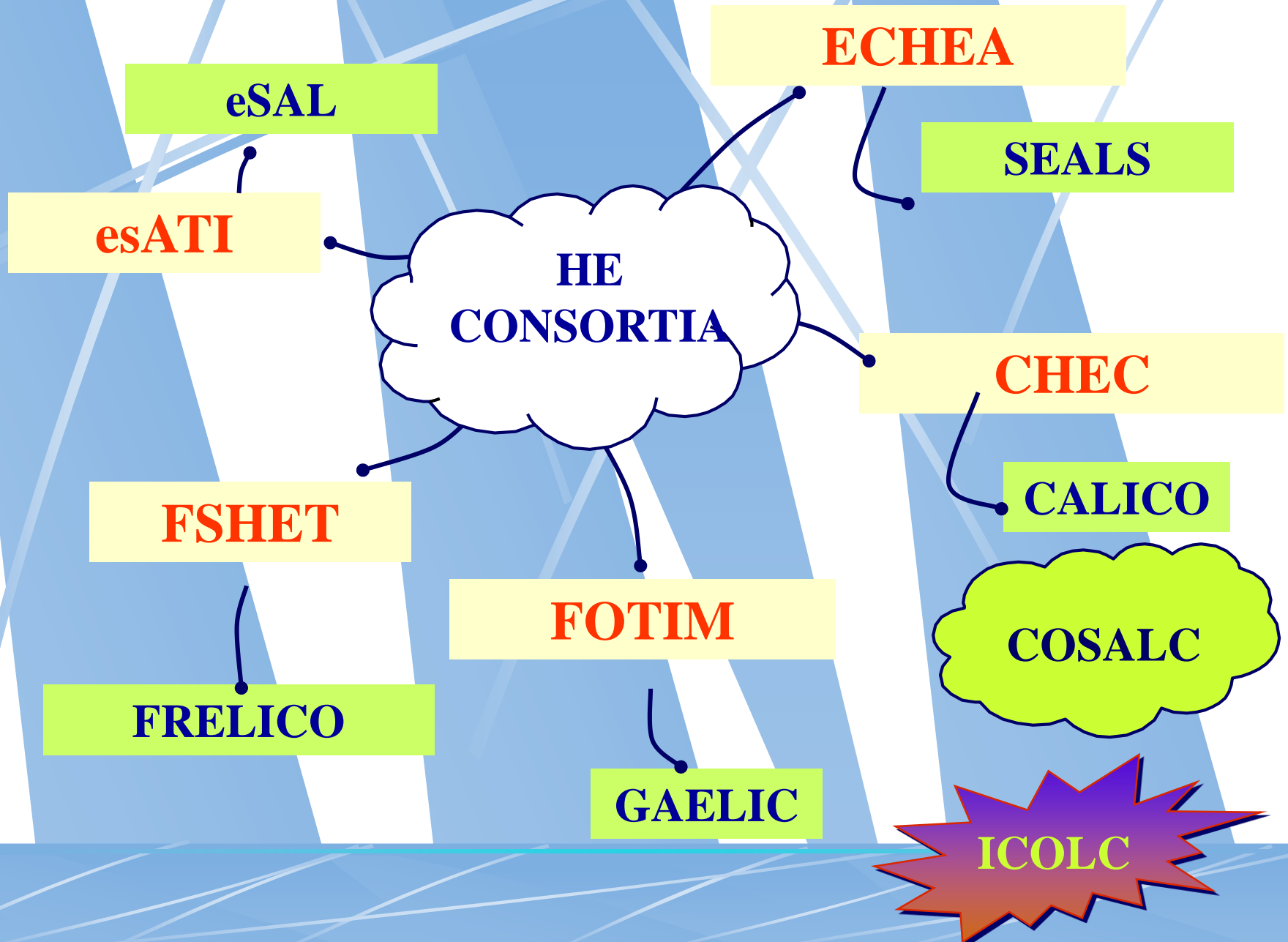
- Forum of University Librarians in South Africa (FULSA) working jointly with the
- Inter-Technikon Library Committee (ITLC)

Strategic leadership and policy provided by the South African Universities Vice Chancellors Association (SAUVCA) and Committee of Technikons Principals (CTP) both planning to form a Single National Body.

NB: The formation of one organization for HE Libraries is at its final stage...and all members'

- Involvement in consortia is **a conditio sine qua non**

# ACADEMIC CONSORTIA



# **REPRESENTATION AT ACADEMIC CONSORTIA**

- **DVCs (or representatives) - Board members**
- **Technikon / University Librarians - Steering Committees / Governing Boards**
- **Senior Library Staff - members of Strategic Management Focus Teams**
- **Other institutional staff are members of relevant Focus Areas wherever appropriate**

# BENEFITS OF CONSORTIA

- **Sharing of information resources**
- **Capacity building**
- **Promotion of co-operation and collaboration**
- **Co-operative acquisitions of expensive electronic databases, eg. ( ScienceDirect, EbscoHost, Web of Science, etc.)**
- **Sharing ideas on cost reduction**

# **BENEFITS OF CONSORTIA**

- **Elimination of unnecessary duplication**
- **Improvement of ILL services**

- **Courier for books**
- **Electronic system for journals and**

**Overall joint development of strategies in developing balanced collections in respective 'niche' areas**

# INFORMATION

## ● WHAT IS INFORMATION?

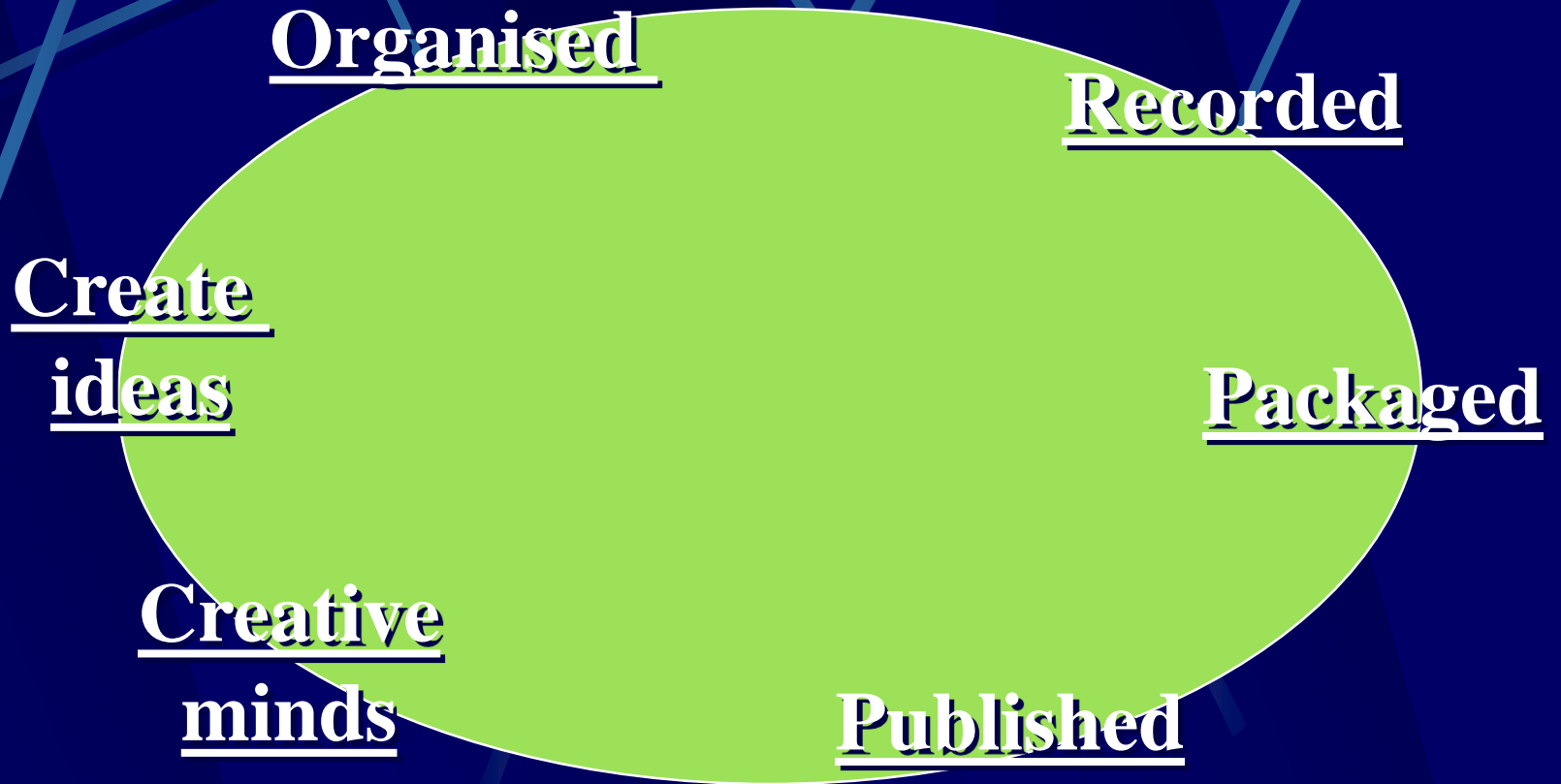
It is something THAT:

- “We did know before
- Provides more than what we know
- Affects what we already know
- Is useful to people receiving it
- Reduces uncertainty
- Is used in decision-making” *Anthony Debons*

It is therefore the building blocks of knowledge



# KNOWLEDGE CYCLE



# **INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY**

**Authors are the rightful owners of intellectual capital.**

**Packaging is done by technicians trained to do that work.**

**Publishing is a labour and capital intensive industry of its own.**

**WHO MUST PAY ?**

# INTERNATIONAL TREATIES

- SA is a member of Berne Convention
- WIPO (World Intellectual Property Organisation)
- WTO (World Trade Organisation)
- TRIPS (Trade Related Intellectual Property Rights) Agreement therefore
- We have a legal obligation to respect copy right and IP

# **CURRENT REALITY**

**Budget Cuts vs Increasing cost of Information**

**Foreign Currency rate exchanges**

**Less Purchases of Information Resources:  
cancellations of subscriptions and buying  
monographs or paying subscriptions and  
buying no monographs**

**Increasing lack of supporting the library by  
institutions thereby escalating the Poor  
Academic Information Environment**

**Some institutions are doing relatively well by  
recognising the centrality of the Library in HE**

# **RECOMMENDATIONS**

**Design a HELIS within HEMIS for regular and correct reporting**

**Support the consortia activities ACTIVELY**


**Practice Austerity management principles**

**Purchase Quality vs Quantity with emphasis on relevance**

**Try the Bibliometric technique in collection development**

**Forge Strategic Partnerships with Vendors to design mechanisms for cost cutting**

# CRITICAL ISSUES !

- Value & comprehensiveness of “Open Access”
  - Development of balanced collections
    - Internal funds and Fund raising campaigns
    - Positioning ourselves to jointly purchase MORE with LESS financial resources: Collective Bargaining
  - Paradigm shift from self/institutional interest to National interest
  - The role of academic information in both institutional and national initiatives, eg. Local Government, SADC, NEPAD, etc
- 

# AUSTERITY MANAGEMENT

**CURRENT  
SITUATION**

**DESIRED  
STATE**

**PRACTICAL  
MEANINGFUL  
ACTION**

**A  
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N**

**WHAT IS GOING ON  
NOW?**

**HOW DO WE CUT  
COST ?**

**WHAT DO WE NEED TO  
DO IN ORDER TO BUY  
MORE WITH LESS ?**

**ACTION LEADING TO DESIRED  
OUTCOMES !!!**

# CONCLUSION

- STRATEGIC APPROACH IN PRACTICING AUSTERITY MANAGEMENT
- CRITICAL QUESTIONS:
  - *Where are we now?*
  - *Where do we want to be?*
  - *What is possible and what is feasible ?*
  - *How are we going there?*
  - *Who is to do what and how?*
  - *How do we ensure that we have achieved ?*





# *MESSAGE TO AUTHORITY*

*A Good HE institution produces good graduates and excellent research results*

*A Good HE institution must have a good LIBRARY*

*A Good library must be adequately funded and fully supported*

# THANK YOU ALL

- PLEASE SEND MORE IDEAS ON THIS SUBJECT
- ENJOY THE CONFERENCE

