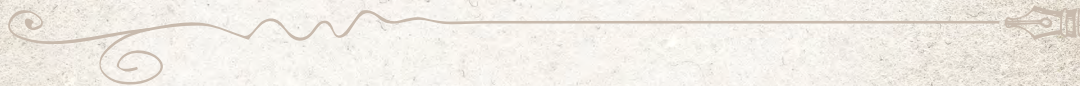


Library and Information Service
ANNUAL REPORT
2023

LENBOSSE HEEMKRING
UD.
78/1132
J.S. de Jager Mazelstr. 9. St/8
18 FEB '80
CONTENTS
I Meter
26 FEB '85
15 MAR '85
Heenstede MAR '85

1	Introduction	2
2	Highlights	6
3	OUR SERVICES – responsive, both digital and physical	10
4	OUR COLLECTIONS – beyond boundaries	18
5	OUR TECHNOLOGY – the digital-first experience	28
6	SCHOLARSHIP – shaping the future of academic exploration	32
7	PARTNERSHIPS – connecting threads	44
8	OUR PEOPLE – competence in a diverse workforce	48
9	Other activities	54
10	Closing remarks	60

You have to know the past to understand the present



"Bronze bust of Afrikaans author C Louis Leipoldt"

Introduction



"Letter stamp used by former SU Rector, HB Thom"

Introduction

In 2023, the Library and Information Service (LIS, “the Library” in the rest of this report) once again tried to reflect the dynamic nature of education, technology and information dissemination. We did this by continuing to be a multifaceted hub that integrates digital technologies, collaborative spaces and innovative services. Our librarians utilised their expertise in information literacy, digital literacy and research data management in guiding students and researchers through the complex information landscape.

The year showed the familiar pattern of students thronging the SU Library entrance during exams and other peak times. This is a testament to the continued relevance of the Library’s physical spaces for learning and research.

This year, we concluded the third year of Strategic Directions 2021-2025, our plan in support of SU’s Vision 2040 to be Africa’s leading research-intensive university, globally recognised as excellent, inclusive and innovative where we advance knowledge in service of society. Every year, we take the opportunity to assess and evaluate our strategic directions and priorities critically.

Notable accomplishments of the Library in 2023 include the following:

We hosted the Open Repositories Conference from 12 to 15 June – the first time that it was held in Africa! It was an opportunity to explore and reflect on the ways that repositories enable discoverability and interoperability of information and data within the structured web.

Another university library first-in-Africa was the certification of our institutional data repository, SUNScholarData, by CoreTrustSeal. Now, SU researchers can be assured that their data is deposited in a certified, trustworthy repository that conforms to international standards of data collection, appraisal and preservation.

The Library achieved a remarkable feat at the annual Marketing, Advancement and Communication in Education (MACE) Excellence Awards, securing a silver award among SU’s total of 33 accolades for our TikTok activities. Through our social media activities, the Library aims to bridge the knowledge gap and to ease ‘library anxiety’ among students while alleviating concerns about navigating library spaces and increasing usage of library resources.

In confirmation of our alignment with the University’s core strategic theme of being an employer of choice and the Library’s own strategic objective to develop and sustain competent,

diverse and agile staff, our Senior Director, Ms Ellen Tise, was bestowed a prestigious honour: In recognition of her outstanding contribution to the library profession and her unwavering commitment to serving communities, she received a Lifetime Achievement Award from the South African Library and Information (SALI) Trust and the Library and Information Association of South Africa (LIASA).

We continued to enhance and consolidate achievements of previous years. In May, we hosted a very successful Library Research Week with a record number of attendees. Participants were empowered by means of #SmartResearcher and #SmartStudent programmes: workshops that seek to provide clients with a seamless and positive library experience. As part of our quest to develop staff and to ensure internal transfer and retention of knowledge, a #SmartStaff programme was introduced as a platform for staff to empower each other regarding various aspects. Where we have no internal expertise, we call on external facilitators to share their knowledge.

Open access remains one of the cornerstones of our research support agenda. Through our Senior Director – especially in her capacity as chair of the South African National Library and Information Consortium (SANLiC) board – the Library played a pivotal role in negotiations with publishers for favourable terms regarding open access publishing. These transformational agreements (also called ‘read-and-publish agreements’) were high on the agenda in 2023. The result was that some publishers waived article processing charges (APCs), either in full or in part, for researchers at academic institutions in South Africa – without the researchers having to relinquish their copyright. SANLiC, of which SU is a member, has negotiated multi-year transformational agreements with 11 publishers, including the American Chemical Society, Cambridge University Press and the Royal Society. These and other open access activities demonstrate our unwavering commitment to open access to academic information.

We remain committed to inclusiveness and transformation at SU. Our contribution to visual redress continued in 2023, when the Library implemented two projects related to this undertaking: the refurbishing of the meeting room at Special Collections and the installation of a book mural in the Learning Commons. These projects are meaningful in that they create an inclusive environment where people meet and share ideas; they also enhance the aesthetics of the SU Library space.



Figure 1: Special Collections staff at the SU Library (from left) Patricia Khati, Marieta Buys, Busiswa Mofu and Pakama Ncume





Highlights



Highlights

Open Repositories 2023

The 18th International Open Repositories Conference (OR2023) was the first one to be held in Africa. It took place from 12 to 15 June at the Lord Charles Hotel in Somerset West and attracted close to 300 experts from 41 countries. Speakers from a wide variety of sectors engaged about cutting-edge technologies, innovations and best practice for data repositories. The conference yielded fascinating insights and potential solutions to some of the most pressing information management problems of our time.

The theme of OR2023 was 'Repositories unlocked for discovery and interoperability'. Among the various subthemes, two are particularly significant in the African context: 'Unbiased discovery of knowledge: Open repositories facilitating the unbiased discovery of indigenous knowledge' and 'Sustainable development: Linking open repositories content to the UNESCO Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)'.

After two days of academic discussions and workshops, the delegates were treated to a reception in the Endler Hall on 13 June. Prof Wim de Villiers gave a welcoming speech and the South African Youth Choir performed. The gala OR2023 dinner was held at Neethlingshof Wine Farm on 14 June.

MACE awards

The Library's innovative TikTok campaign, managed by Faculty Librarians, remained popular in 2023: we concluded the year with 2 273 followers and over 87 000 likes. The annual Marketing, Advancement and Communication in Education (MACE) Excellence Awards recognise the

achievements of specialists and practitioners in marketing, advancement and communication in the higher education sector across Southern Africa. Our TikTok campaign scooped a silver award with the entry 'Why does the library need a TikTok anyway?'

The videos uploaded to the account typically contain tips for successful research, showcasing spaces and collections and 'how-to' videos (e.g. finding a book or booking a space at the SU Library). The approach is light-hearted and typically follows social media trends that are relatable to a young audience.

One of our most liked videos depicts the life of a book in the SU Library, showing all the staff members that are involved in the book's journey as it makes its way from the shelf to the student, then finding its way back to its home address. The video received many comments, with students expressing their love for the page and the work that we do. This shows that we are connecting with our audience, creating a safe and inviting environment and space at the Library for students and thus contributing to a transformative student experience and a thriving SU.

Library Research Week

The Library's flagship programme, Library Research Week, was presented in May with its overarching theme 'Power up your research pathway'. We judge this occasion to have been our most successful yet, with overall attendance of the various sessions totalling 1 597. Once again, we covered aspects of the research lifecycle and the presentations remained popular on the [Library's YouTube channel](#) after the event, garnering 970 views towards the end of the year.



Library Research Week

Visual redress

The Library focused on two visual redress projects in 2023. In June, a smaller version of a book mural installed in the courtyard of the Wimbledon Cluster student community was installed in the Learning Commons at the SU Library. Over 100 book titles had been submitted for the project, which a committee reviewed before voting on the final selection. The second project was the refurbishment of a room in Special Collections, focusing on works that had resulted from a Visual Communication Design project for second-year students in 2018. Students had to research or investigate a person or event in South African history that was not included in the main canon of our country's history or that had been erased or misrepresented. Then, they had to design an imaginative poster or illustration of the event or person, incorporating both images and text. Those posters now feature in the section's vibrant meeting room.

Manuscripts Section Lecture

The 13th Manuscripts Section Lecture was presented during the Woordfees in October. The theme, '*Woorde WAT groei*' ("*Words that grow*"), focused on the JJ Smith manuscript collection. Smith (1883-1949) was the first editor of the Afrikaans dictionary *Woordeboek van die Afrikaanse Taal* (WAT). The lecture coincided with the WAT publishing its section on the letter 'T'. The speakers, Ms Mimi Seyffert-Wirth (LIS Director: Scholarly Communication and Marketing), Dr Willem Botha (retired WAT editor-in-chief) and Dr Gerda Odendaal (co-editor, WAT) did an overview of the Smith collection, highlighting documents that focus on the history, orthography and spelling of the Afrikaans language. An exhibition featuring items from the collection was on display in our Special Collections section.

CoreTrustSeal certification



In 2023, the members of the ilifu consortium (i.e., Cape Peninsula University of Technology, University of Cape Town, Stellenbosch University, and University of the Western Cape) continued to work towards its last objective – having their respective institutional research data repositories certified by CoreTrustSeal. This 'seal' endorses the quality of the organisational infrastructure, digital object management and technology associated with data repositories.

The CoreTrustSeal Standards and Certification Board has certified SU's institutional data repository, SUNScholarData, as a trustworthy data repository for the next two years. Only 107 such repositories worldwide have received this stamp of approval, and only 3 of them are in South Africa. What is more, SU is the first university library in Africa to obtain this highly sought-after certification for data repositories.

16th Berlin Open Access Conference

National-level delegations representing research communities from 38 countries across 6 continents, including scientists, funders, university and research leadership, their libraries and library consortia, gathered at the 16th Berlin Open Access Conference. Ms Ellen Tise formed part of the South African national delegation. The event was an opportunity for the world's research community to come together to address the major subscription publishers at eye level, in a setting of scientific debate, to voice their expectations with regard to an open system of dissemination fitting the needs of research in the 21st century.



Figure 2: The South African delegation at the 16th Berlin Open Access Conference

OUR SERVICES

responsive, both digital and physical



"Two-dimensional photograph viewer, circa 1890"



Our Services

This section relates to our strategic objective 1:

"To provide responsive, transformative and inclusive services across digital and physical environments to support and advance research, teaching and learning".

The Library supports student success; therefore, we continue to meet the evolving needs of our clients. In the ever-changing landscape of education and information accessibility, our dedication to supporting student success remains steadfast. Shifting conditions have necessitated continuous evaluations and adjustments to position the Library as a crucial hub that connects clients seamlessly with information resources and services, both virtually and physically.

The shift towards a hybrid environment has been decisive in showcasing our adaptability and our commitment to delivering library services that are aligned with the changing needs of our student community. Ask a Librarian is one of various features that demonstrates this hybrid approach. This online, on-demand assistance available on our website ensures that users can receive immediate help, regardless of their location. We also have LibChat, which facilitates real-time online chats, providing an interactive and responsive channel for handling queries and offering support.

The coexistence of digital and physical libraries is the foundation of our approach.

While the digital transformation has redefined the landscape of information services, physical library spaces remain of significant value. Beyond the virtual realm, our libraries serve as a physical haven for both individual and group study. The Library creates environments conducive to academic pursuits, equipped with internet and Wi-Fi access. In acknowledging the enduring importance of physical spaces we underscore our commitment to accommodating diverse learning preferences.

As we navigate the future, the cornerstone of our approach clearly will be coexisting digital and physical libraries. In a rapidly changing educational landscape, our commitment to facilitating knowledge acquisition and

academic excellence remains firm. Thus we ensure that we will remain an integral part of our students' educational journey in a hybrid world.

3.1 Digital and information skills

3.1.1 Module-specific training

We can see from training statistics that we are on an upward trend after the dip in 2022. In 2020, training was expanded to accommodate the shift in teaching, learning and research to a completely online environment. In 2021 and 2022, training materials developed in 2020 were being reused. The first academic year since the Covid-19 pandemic to start without any lockdown restrictions was 2023, and we can expect training statistics to stabilise and start showing trends from that point onwards. Figure 3 presents the total number of clients trained by Faculty Librarians across SU.



Figure 3: Number of clients trained 2020-2023 (module specific)



Figure 4: Faculty Librarians of the SU Library are (from left) Lusanda Nyoka, Judy Williams, Elizabeth Moll-Willard, Pieter du Plessis, Sarie Wilbers, Hendra Pretorius, Hanlie Strydom, Marleen Hendriksz and Lucinda Raath

Figures 5 and 6 show that the number of undergraduate trainees increased in 2023, while the number for postgraduates decreased. This could be ascribed to a focus on undergraduate training to prepare them for postgraduate studies, and to the larger number of online training resources that have become available.

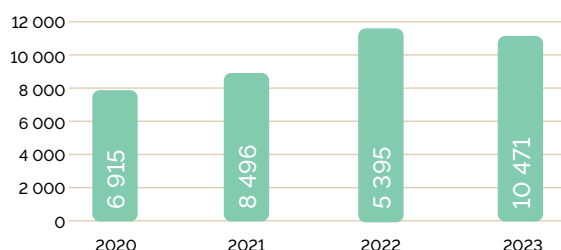


Figure 5: Number of undergraduate students trained 2020-2023 (module specific)

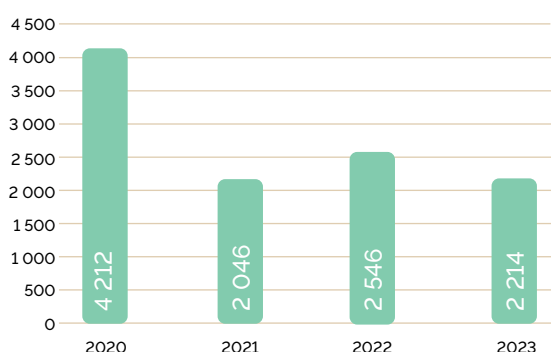


Figure 6: Number of postgraduate students trained 2020-2023 (module specific)

3.1.2 Generic training: #SmartStudent

Table 1 shows that attendance of the generic #SmartStudent workshops in 2023 was similar to that of 2021. Interestingly, training for module-specific sessions grew significantly (see above), while attendance of generic sessions went down. This could be attributed to larger numbers of students being trained in module-specific sessions.

163
attendees of #SmartStudent
workshops (generic training)

Table 1: Attendees at #SmartStudent sessions (generic)

SESSIONS	ATTENDEES 2021	ATTENDEES 2022	ATTENDEES 2023
Create & manage course reading lists in SUNLearn (for lecturers)	29	48	23
E-books workshop	8	29	12
Find books or articles using the library search engine or subject-specific databases	11	69	22
Find trustworthy information on Google and Google Scholar	18	54	18
Improving your literature search strategy	23	64	30
Introduction to the Library	13	49	19
Introduction to Stellenbosch University Library Makerspace	7	24	10
Off-campus access to the Library's E-resources	25	48	9
Referencing 101	30	76	20
	164	461	163

3.1.3 Library guides

Our library guides ("LibGuides") have seen a significant increase in the utilisation of library guides, emphasising their effectiveness and indispensability for uptake, which confirms that students and researchers find them effective – in fact, indispensable. These guides, meticulously curated by expert librarians, have emerged as invaluable resources, streamlining information access and enhancing research efficiency. As a cornerstone of professional academic support, LibGuides continue to empower scholars, thus fostering a culture of knowledge dissemination and research excellence among the academic community.

Figure 7 illustrates the continued popularity of our LibGuides, total views having surpassed 400 000 for the first time in 2023.

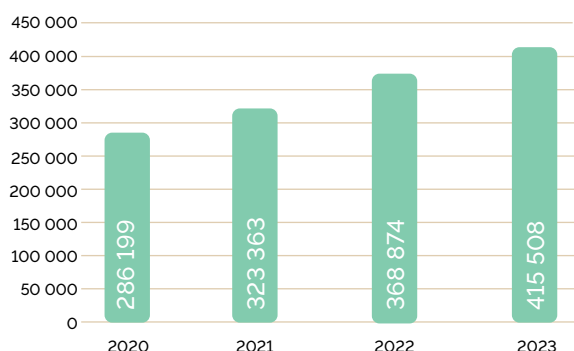


Figure 7: Annual library guide views 2020-2023

Table 2: The 20 most popular LibGuides by topic – 2023

	LIBRARY GUIDE	VIEWS
1	Find, access and use information effectively: a step-by-step guide	103 226
2	Law	93 590
3	Library hours	24 231
4	Referencing	17 033
5	Off-campus access	14 778
6	Research process	11 751
7	Mendeley	10 975
8	Political Science	8 328
9	Theology	6 985
10	Psychology	6 546
11	Makerspace	5 182
12	Economics	4 816
13	E-books	4 769
14	Medicine & Health Sciences	4 705
15	Open access publishing	4 585
16	Directory of South African music collections	4 543
17	Physiological Sciences	3 817
18	History	3 382
19	Science in context	3 266
20	Where to publish your research article	2 938

The most popular guides in 2023 were those on research and library-related themes. 'Find, access and use information effectively: a step-by-step guide' was the first to reach 100 000 annual views. Other popular

research-related titles include 'Law and Government Publications', 'Referencing', 'Mendeley' and 'Research Process'.

Subject-related guide views also increased in 2023. Faculty librarians continue to utilise these guides to promote applicable information sources to their clients. We compile our module-specific LibGuides in collaboration with lecturers and have them assessed.

415 508
Library guides viewed

12% increase
in views of library guides

3.2 Makerspace

The SU Library Makerspace is a collaborative hub for technology enthusiasts where we foster a culture of digital innovation and knowledge exchange. Our Makerspace proudly hosts a variety of workshops, including dedicated sessions for staff on robotics and the Internet of Things (IoT), that provide participants with valuable hands-on experience and cutting-edge skills. In 2023, we offered 80 training sessions, which attracted over 300 participants. Noteworthy achievements include a 60% increase in training sessions and a substantial (50%) increase in participant numbers compared to 2022.

Table 3: Makerspace access – monthly averages 2021-2023

	2021	2022	2023
Gate count	463	457	488
Unique visitors	192	76	80

Table 4: Makerspace access 2023

MONTH	TOTAL GATE COUNT	TOTAL UNIQUE VISITORS
Jan	284	32
Feb	453	81
Mar	960	119
Apr	496	92
May	574	114
Jun	353	64
Jul	557	71
Aug	617	129
Sep	438	87
Oct	618	99
Nov	491	61
Dec*	11	5
Total	5 852	954

The Makerspace is actively involved in diverse research projects, showcasing our commitment to interdisciplinary collaboration. Collaborative efforts range from a virtual reality study in partnership with the SU Faculty of Engineering and Chemnitz University of Technology (Germany), to supporting ecological studies through 3D scanning of lizards in collaboration with the Department of Botany and Zoology. Other collaborations involve practical demonstrations of reverse engineering to students from the Department of Industrial Engineering and employing advanced scanning techniques on artifacts for research purposes in collaboration with the Department of Ancient Studies.

Our Makerspace serves as a nexus for interdisciplinary collaboration, thus contributing to the advancement of research, technological literacy and innovation at SU.

*Gate Count software only displaying 20-22 Dec



Figure 8: Representatives from the Tanzanian Institute of Finance Management visited our Makerspace

3.3 Leganto course reading lists

With the Leganto course reading list system, lecturers can create and manage course reading lists directly from within the SU learning management system. Leganto is integrated with the Moodle environment and connected to the Library's management and discovery systems. This tool saves lecturers time in the long term, and students benefit by having all their learning resources in one place.

In 2023, the Library continued to engage with faculties and the Centre for Learning Technologies (CLT) to improve lecturer end-to-end course reading workflows in SUNLearn and to meet the adoption targets set in our Leganto Outreach Plan 2021-2023. Individual and group training sessions were offered to drive awareness. By December, 180 reading lists had been implemented across 39 of the 78 academic departments at SU. Departments that had Leganto reading lists last year included Accountancy, Business Management, Conservation Ecology and Entomology, Philosophy and Visual Arts.

Leganto's reach and impact were expanded also by integrating the system in yet another Moodle instance: the Learning Hub at the Stellenbosch Business School. Now, lecturers from this SU environment also can employ Leganto to add value to their courses and instruction. As SU lecturer and Leganto user Dr Lize Weich (Department of Psychiatry) commented, "The course reading lists have really improved our lives!"

3.4 Virtual information services

Clients made good use of our virtual information service, Ask a Librarian. The frequently-asked-questions (FAQ) pages allow clients to find answers to their questions without having to submit a new question, reducing duplication and effort all around.

13 861 views

of Ask a Librarian
FAQ webpages



Figure 9 shows that the number of views of the FAQ pages decreased from 14 276 in 2022 to 13 861 in 2023 (2,91%).

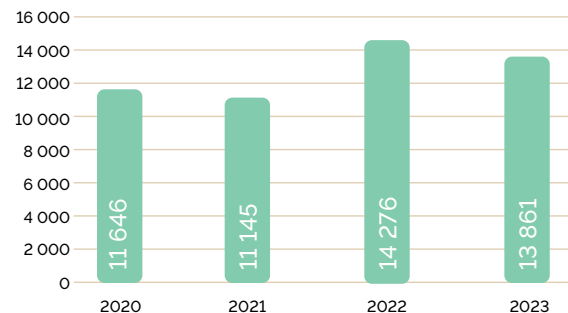


Figure 9: Number of views of Ask a Librarian FAQ pages 2020-2023

3.5 Library usage

The number of clients accessing our physical libraries increased from 916 228 in 2022 to 1 470 303 in 2023. This figure is consistent with pre Covid-19 usage statistics which was 1 286 904 in 2018 and 1 330 811 in 2019. Learning Commons access increased from 28 534 in 2022 to 45 527 in 2023.

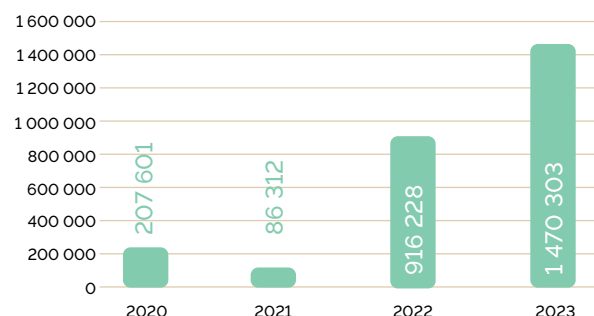


Figure 10: Library access 2020- 2023 (including branch libraries)



Wijkema A. Albertus
De invloed van Ned.
op ontstaan en on-
derwijs
E. WIJ.
JSG
Africana
MAY 14 72
MAY 17 72
20.2
1.07

E. KASS BER



by
HENRY BERTHOUD
swiss missionary
VALDEZIA SPELONKEN

ENGRAVED BY H. KÜMMERLY & FREY, BERNE, SWITZERLAND.

OUR COLLECTIONS

beyond boundaries



Our Collections

This section relates to our strategic objective 2:

"To accelerate scholarship and learning through the provision of optimal access to and use of format-neutral, responsive collections".

Despite financial challenges, we are committed to providing and maintaining high-quality information resources that are essential to the University's teaching, learning and research activities.



1.2 million
physical volumes

123

Subscriptions to databases
and journal packages



328 423
Full-text access to
journal titles

4.1 Materials budget

The University's allocation for library material for 2023 was R119 074 522. This amount included R98 604 624 from the Institutional Budget, an increase of 6% on the 2022 allocation of R93 023 230, and R20 469 898 from the University's investment pool funds to cover the shortfall due to higher foreign exchange rates.

4.2 Electronic journals and databases

The In 2023, we provided our patrons with full-text access to 328 423 academic journal titles while managing to sustain our subscription to 123 databases and journal packages. Table 5 shows the continuous high demand for our electronic resources, with a 24% increase in full-text downloads (from 5 286 002 to 6 560 501) from the top 25 databases. PressReader, which provides online access to more than 7 771 South African and international newspapers and magazines, was once again the most popular resource, with a 2% increase in full-text downloads.

Table 5: Top 25 databases according to full-text downloads – 2023

DATABASE/ JOURNAL PACKAGE	FACULTY	FULL-TEXT DOWNLOADS
PressReader	General	1 589 349
HeinOnline	Law	952 103
ScienceDirect (Elsevier)	General	911 277
Web of Science	General	746 994
Scopus	General	712 773
Springer Nature journal package	General	268 706
Wiley Online Library	General	235 427
JSTOR	General	175 543
LexisNexis Law Data-base South Africa	Law	136 990
Taylor and Francis SSH and S&T journals	General	129 428
UpToDate	Medicine and Health Sciences	90 917
Sage Premier Journal Collection	General	86 295
Sabinet African Journals	General	68 684
IEEE	Engineering	67 620
Knovel	Engineering	65 565
ACS (American Chemical Society) publications	Science	58 705
Gale Research Complete	General	47 107
Clinical Key	Medicine and Health Sciences	45 468
Emerald e-journals	Economic and Management Sciences	36 952
Lippincott, Williams & Wilkins (LW/W) total access collection	Medicine and Health Sciences	36 625
Jutastat Online	Law	24 304
Cambridge University Press online journals	General	20 111
Academic Search Premier (EBSCO)	General	19 997
IRESS	Economic and Management Sciences	18 016
RSC Journals Online	Science	15 545
Total		6 560 501

4.3 Books

The Library is dedicated to expanding our collection of both print and electronic books to support the University's approach of blended teaching and learning. We evaluate our collection regularly to ensure its relevance to blended learning, resulting in our weeding 4 854 print items from the collection in 2023. Only 2 022 print resources were purchased and added in 2023 – 15% less than the previous year. We also added 1 015 donated print items. The overall result was that the print collection decreased by 0,22%. Due to a 16% increase in the average price of e-books, we had to reduce the number of e-book purchases by 20%. In the end, we added 615 e-books to our collection at an average cost of R2 956 per book, totalling R1 818 170 in value.

 **810 873**
printed books

18 640
e-books 

Figures 11 and 12 illustrate the growth in our print and e-book collections, respectively.

Once again, these figures illustrate the immense pressure on our budget for library materials. Academic libraries still emphasise having access to e-textbooks and proper licensing, but the use of textbooks has declined, and e-book prices remain high, nationally and internationally.

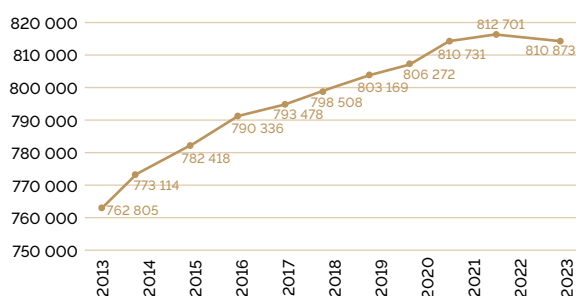


Figure 11: Growth of print book collection 2013-2023

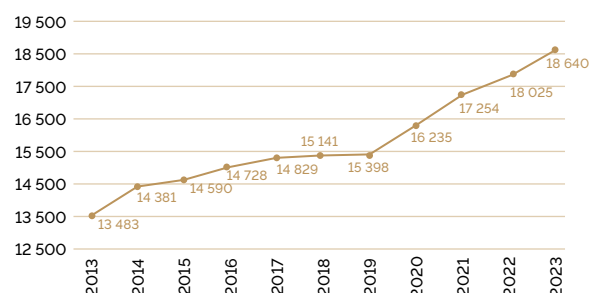


Figure 12: Growth of e-book collection 2013-2023

4.4 Special Collections

Inspiring captivating outputs

4.4.1 Research outputs

Outputs resulting from research done on material in our Special Collections division (Manuscripts, Rare Books, and Africana sections) and the Documentation Centre for Music (DOMUS) during 2023 are listed below.

Book

Coetzer, N. 2023. *An architecture of care in South Africa: From arts and crafts to other progeny*. London: Routledge.

Articles

- Daries, A & Swart, S. 2023. The body politic and the political body in nationalist science: Physical education at Stellenbosch University in the 1930s. *Yesterday and Today*, 30(1):104-135.
- Hendrich, G. 2023. Theal's lasting bequest. *Cape Librarian*, January/February:6-11.
- Joseph, D, Lamprecht, DJ & Van Niekerk, C. 2023. 'Suddenly I was with my people': Two South African choirs contributing to community development [Online]. *Community Development Journal*. Available: <https://doi.org/10.1093/cdj/bsad022> [2024, 4 March].
- Lamprecht, DJ & Van Niekerk, C. 2023. A life for a lifetime: Hendrik D Loock and the Tygerberg

Children's Choir [Online]. *Journal of Historical Research in Music Education*. Available: <https://doi.org/10.1177/15366006231185499> [2024, 4 March].

Conference presentations

- Buys, M & Ncume, PS. 2023. Special library collections as a form of archival material: Gems of the Library. DRC (Dutch Reformed Church) Archive Conference, 20 June.
- Khathi, P, Mofu, B & De Jongh, S. 2023. Discover indigenous knowledge at Stellenbosch University Library and Information Service [poster presentation]. 18th International Conference on Open Repositories, Lord Charles Hotel, Somerset West, 12-15 June.
- Ncume, PS. 2023. 'Digging in and digging it': Reflections on alternative popular music performances of the Market Theatre Café, 1976-1980. Seventeenth annual SASRIM conference, Centre for Humanities Research, University of the Western Cape, 25-27 August.

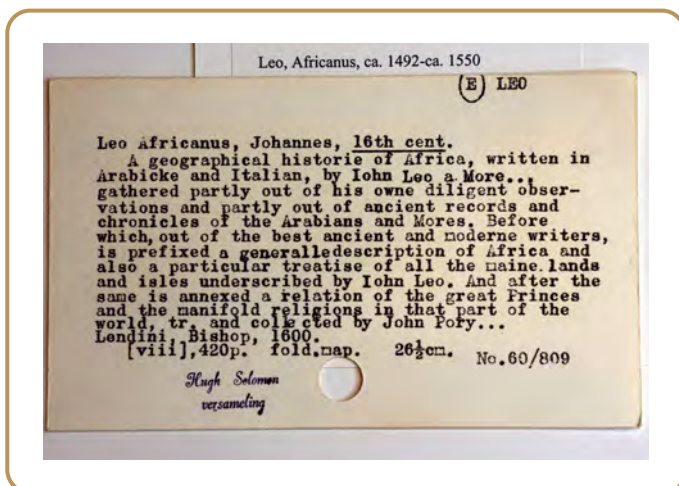
Theses and dissertations

- Daries, A. 2023. The history of physical education at Stellenbosch University, 1937-2019 [Online]. Unpublished doctoral dissertation. Stellenbosch: Stellenbosch University. Available: <http://hdl.handle.net/10019.1/126784> [2024, 4 March].
- Gollom, I. 2023. South African concert pianists: An overview, 1900-1989. Unpublished doctoral dissertation. Stellenbosch: Stellenbosch University.

- Hörstmann, L. 2023. (Trans)Nationalism and "Indigenisation": Ambivalences in South African settler primitivism between the 1920s and 1960s [Online]. Unpublished doctoral dissertation. Berlin: Freie Universität Berlin. Available: <https://refubium.fu-berlin.de/handle/fub188/39046> [2024, 4 March].
- Ncume, PS. 2023. Being public: Musicians and the Market Theatre Café, 1976. Unpublished master's thesis. Stellenbosch: Stellenbosch University.
- Rommelspacher, A. 2022. Work, wedlock, and widows: Comparing the lives of coloured and white women in Cape Town, 1900-1960 [Online]. Unpublished doctoral dissertation. Stellenbosch: Stellenbosch University. Available: <http://hdl.handle.net/10019.1/126155> [2024, 4 March].

4.4.2 New collections and additions

- The collection South African Elections consists of political campaign posters, 1990-1999, party and individual posters, newspaper articles and supplements, voting educational materials and other election paraphernalia. Available: <https://digital.lib.sun.ac.za/handle/10019.2/20598>.
- The collection Unity Movement contains materials of the Non-European Unity Movement (NEUM), established in 1943, as well as documents of societies affiliated to NEUM (e.g. Anti-CAD, All-African Convention, Anti-Segregation Council, Teachers League of South Africa, Cape African Teachers Association, Federation of Cape Civics – FCCA, and the African Peoples Democratic Union of Southern Africa – APDUSA). The documents include bulletins, newsletters, and literature (books, pamphlets, and newspapers such as *The Torch*).
- The collection of Dr Denis Worrall consists of personal and official documents, such as correspondence with South African government ministers, speeches, and reports on the Constitutional Committee from 1981-2002.
- Additions to existing collections include correspondence, articles and reviews about South African 20th-century authors to the collection of Dutch poet Hans Ester.
- Additions to DOMUS collections include digital recordings of interviews with musicians on censorship, DVDs of SAJMC-related events, correspondence, lecture notes, and sheet music to the Fay Singer South African Jewish Music Centre (SAJMC) collection and the autographed manuscript of *Like a Rainbow You Shone Out* by composer Christopher James, donated by Prof Christopher Ballantine.



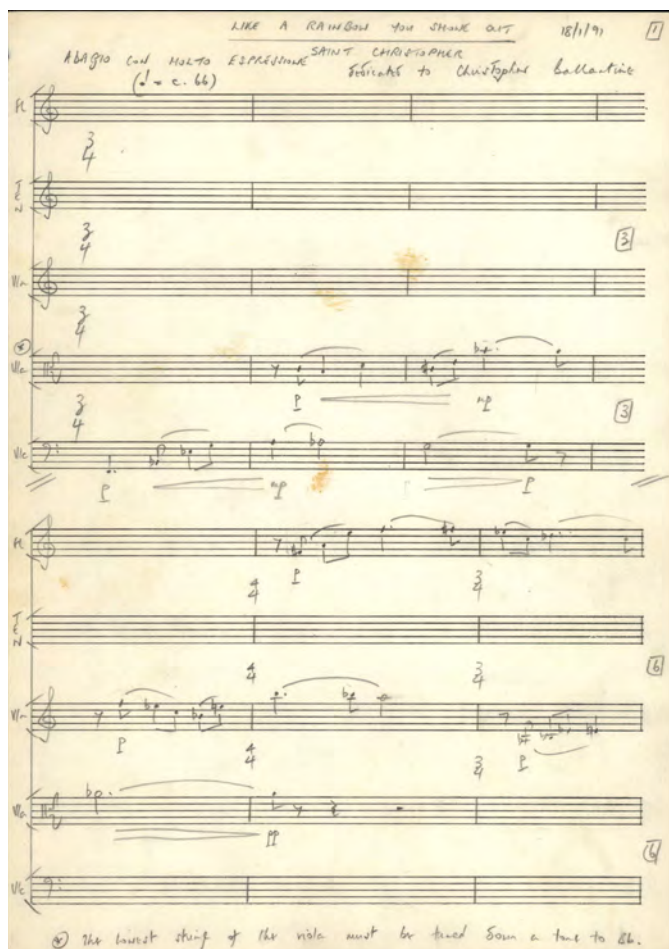


Figure 13: Some new collections acquired by the Special Collections Division in 2023



ADDRESS TO THE RAND AFRIKAANS UNIVERSITY'S
REPUBLIC CELEBRATION ON 25 MAY 1981

Dr Denis Worrall
Chairman: Constitutional Committee
President's Council

1. Introduction - honour English speaker - but more particularly an academic audience - intend using the occasion.
2. The celebration of the 20th Anniversary of the Republic has several facets - land, people, language and culture - but essentially an expression of national identification - of nationhood - of community.
3. In this respect I can understand that, given the plural character of our society and the structure of our government, that there will be persons who will be indifferent to this event. Also understandable - but less excusable - are those who, for political reasons, have declared their opposition to the Celebration. This is not the celebration of a particular government and its policies. But I wish briefly to address myself to those normally responsible bodies and persons (and in particular Church leaders and churches) who have urged those in their spiritual care not to participate in the activities surrounding the celebration.

What they ignore is the presumption which there is in favour of order and stability - for, as a great American scholar (Clinton Rossiter) eloquently puts it - "No happiness without liberty; no liberty without self-government; no self-government without constitutionalism; no constitutionalism without morality - and none of these great goods without stability and order". The constitutional order in South Africa, whatever reservations one may have about it, is fundamentally a creative one; and nobody could surely dispute the fact that, measured in terms of political

Figure 14: Some new collections acquired by the Special Collections Division in 2023

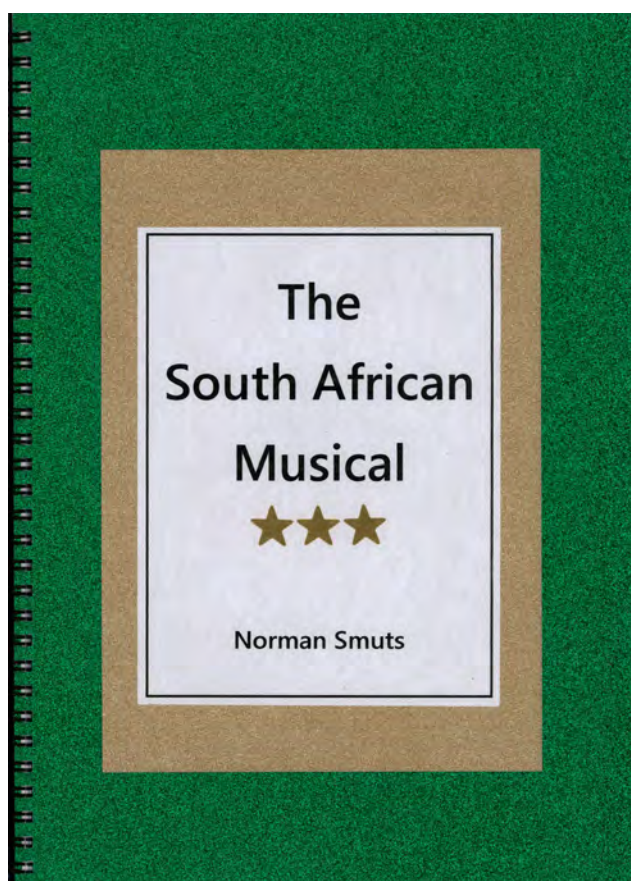


Figure 15: New items of composers like Christopher James and Norman Smuts were added to the DOMUS collection

4.4.3 Events and exhibitions

The activities below were undertaken to create awareness of materials in our Special Collections.

The Eoan (1933-2023)

Documents from the former District Six Eoan opera group, housed at the Documentation Centre for Music (DOMUS), were exhibited in the Music Library foyer to commemorate the 90th anniversary of the group.

Remembering Willie Adams: Remembering SACOS Symposium, 3 March 2023

The SU Museum, in partnership with the Division of Sport Science (headed by Dr F Cleophas), organised a symposium, Remembering Willie Adams: Remembering SACOS, as part of SACOS celebrations during 2023. Special Collections presented items from the Willie Adams personal archive that also illuminated the history of SACOS.

Frederik Van Zyl Slabbert Honorary Lecture, STIAS, 14 August 2023

During the annual Frederik Van Zyl Slabbert Honorary Lecture, a Special Collections display shined the spotlight on the Frederik Van Zyl Slabbert collection and the finding aid on SUNDigital. The event was organised by the Frederik van Zyl Slabbert Institute for Student Leadership Development.

Manuscripts Section Lecture at Woordfees, 9 October 2023

The thirteenth Manuscripts Section Lecture was presented as part of the Woordfees discourse series From the Library Archives. The title of the lecture, 'Woorde WAT groei' ("Words that grow"), focused on the collection of JJ Smith (1883-1949). He was the first editor of the Afrikaans dictionary *Woordeboek van die Afrikaanse Taal (WAT)*, the first professor in Afrikaans and Dutch at SU in 1919 and first editor of the Afrikaans weekly *Die Huisgenoot*.

The speakers – Ms Mimi Seyffert-Wirth, Dr Willem Botha and Dr Gerda Odendaal – gave an overview of the JJ Smith collection (Ms 333) in which they highlighted documents in the collection that focus on the history, orthography and spelling of the Afrikaans language. They also gave an overview of the WAT's history (which included the move to a digital platform), growth and marketing, and focused on the expansion and inclusion of the variants of Afrikaans.

Jewish music collections at the SU Music Library, 28 November 2023

By invitation from Geraldine Auerbach MBE, Santie de Jongh's presentation 'Preservation with a passion: Jewish music collections at the Music Library, Stellenbosch University' was included in a seminar series organised by Community History Online (CHOL). Collections featured in the presentation included those of Aviva Pelham, Sybil Lessing, Steven Kahanovitz, Rosa Kolevson, Alain Shmaryahu and the Fay Singer SAJMC collection.

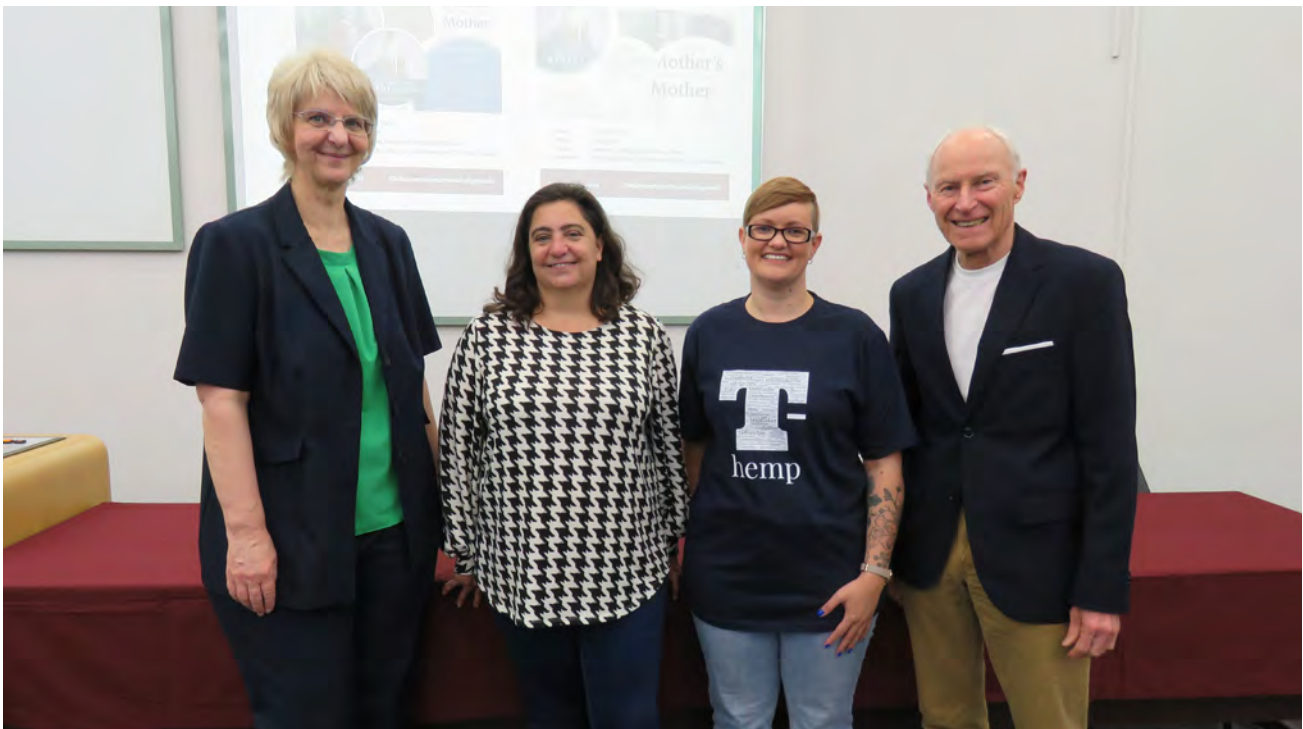


Figure16: Host and speakers at the Manuscripts Section Lecture were (from left) Ms Marieta Buys, Ms Mimi Seyffert-Wirth, Dr Gerda Odendaal and Dr Willem Botha

VERSAMELING



ael Scott
82-7848

Isleob

Isobel Keith Jolly

Feb. 1861

OUR TECHNOLOGY

the digital-first experience



"Mbira (traditional African musical instrument)"

aldig en als men den
glen over Gijten is



toont de Caas de goede Look als men op de reeden ten anker Light benckend de woon plaats de
in het kasteel onder het gesag van de neder Landt voot Juoid: ou pangenie



Our Technology

This section relates to our strategic objective 3:

"To innovatively use smart technologies to enable a digital-first library service and experience".

The Information Technology Services department helps to manage the Library's technology-intensive systems across all its divisions to enable the Library to achieve its strategic goals and objectives. It assists in giving direction and execution to the Library's digital strategy to ensure it remains in step with the latest technological developments in managing and providing access to information and data, administering computer and network infrastructure, and planning and implementing new digital services.

We pursue this digital-first experience in the physical library setting by means of self-assistance technologies and innovation spaces; in the online library environment, we offer automated and direct client services. These strategic interventions are implemented across the Library's various strategic objectives to ensure that we remain in step with the latest technological developments in service of our patrons and staff. Likewise, the Library's technology strategy enables the broader SU strategic themes of transforming the student experience, creating a networked and collaborative teaching and learning environment, and furthering research for impact.

To further the self-enablement of library users through innovative technologies, the Library made navigational improvements to its website that allows users to find information more intuitively. The changes primarily involved adding navigation pages and removing all dropdown menus as part of a logical, index-based browsing approach. In addition to these structural changes, the website content was reviewed to prepare the website to be reimplemented on SU's new website management platform in 2024. We also assessed different large language model (LLM) platforms to prepare for the implementation a chatbot to complement the Library's current website as well as future versions. Selecting a suitable LLM system is key in designing a next-technology platform on which reference, search and discovery services can be built. Similarly, the Library remains in step with cutting-edge technologies and launched an investigation into the

benefits of artificial intelligence (AI) technologies towards streamlining library operations further, improving search functions and creating new automation possibilities for patrons.

To optimise innovation spaces for the digital-centric and entrepreneurial user, the Library finalised the design of a data visualisation room and took proactive steps in seeking funding for its installation. A service of this kind will provide an immersive 3D experience for large-scale visualisation that integrates with research software and the latest virtual reality technologies.

5.1 Resources: discoverability and access

In 2023, the Library continued to enhance the process for students and lecturers to gain access to academic resources by means of our library management and course management systems, Alma and Leganto. This was achieved by making full use of the services of the South African Identity Federation (SAFIRE), which allowed us to initiate a process of systematically replacing location-based access to electronic resources by user-based access. Thus the Library is modernising its systems to provide access to electronic resources and is safeguarding them against cyberattacks and identity theft. For academic information resources that are not yet compatible with the SAFIRE standard, the Library still maintains its off-campus Ezproxy system.

Efforts to make the Library's resources more discoverable continued in 2023 by readying our catalogue for the linked data format in the semantic web. This project aims to eventually embed the Library's bibliographic data directly into the structured web of data, making discovery and retrieval a semantic-enabled process rather than a process tied to keyword-based search and find only.





SCHOLARSHIP

shaping the future of academic exploration



"Selection of postcards and stamps from the Manuscripts Section"

Scholarship

This section relates to our strategic objective 4:

"To increase our leadership role in digital scholarship and research support at the institution". This is aligned with the University's strategic theme of furthering research for impact.

Sharing research outcomes and engaging with the academic community

An important change in 2023 was the renaming of our Digital Scholarship division to Scholarly Communication. As we all know, information technology and the internet have changed the face of scholarly communication and paved the way for the evolution of Open Scholarship. The Library has responded to these changes by adapting and augmenting our services; we branched out to digital services and, later, digital scholarship. 'Digital scholarship' and 'scholarly communication' are related concepts in academia and academic libraries, and are sometimes used interchangeably. However, scholarly communication has a broader scope, related to the process of sharing research outcomes and engaging with the academic community. This division has developed and grown to include functions that are reflected more accurately by its new name.

6.1 Scholarly Communication

The Library's institutional repository, SUNScholar, has been making research at SU openly available since 2008. It underwent a crucial software migration to DSpace 7, the open-source repository software on which the system runs.

In 2023, 1 190 theses and dissertations and 368 research articles by SU authors were added to SUNScholar. Statistics show that the repository was used slightly less than in previous years, with 364 926 visits and 142 476 downloads. More than 55% of the visitors came from Africa (Figure 21).

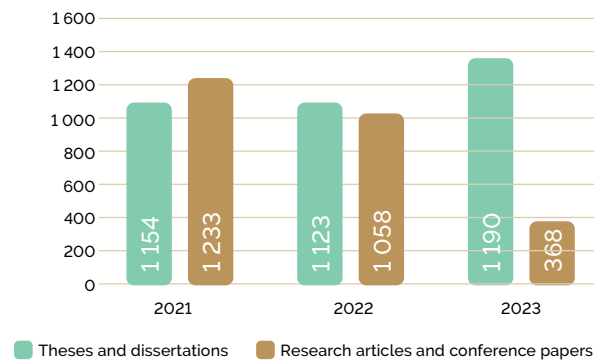


Figure 17: Research outputs added to SUNScholar 2021-2023

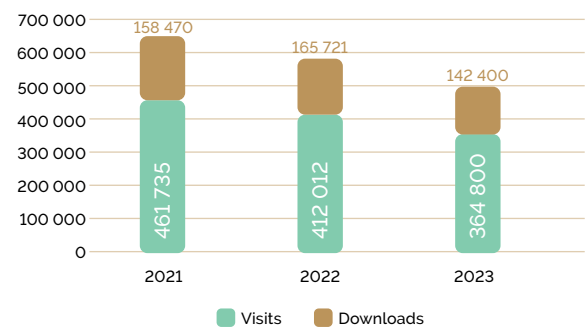


Figure 18: SUNScholar usage 2021-2023





Figure 19: Scholarly Communication staff (back, from left) Sakhile Mngomezulu, Msimelelo Dingiswayo, Songezo Mpikashé, (front, from left) Paulette Talliard, Mimi Seyffert-Wirth, Gabriela Brandao and Cathrin Baadjies



Figure 20: At the welcome reception of OR2023 were (from left) Ms Ellen Tise, Prof Wim de Villiers, Ms Claire Knowles, Prof Sibusiso Moyo and Dr Torsten Reimer

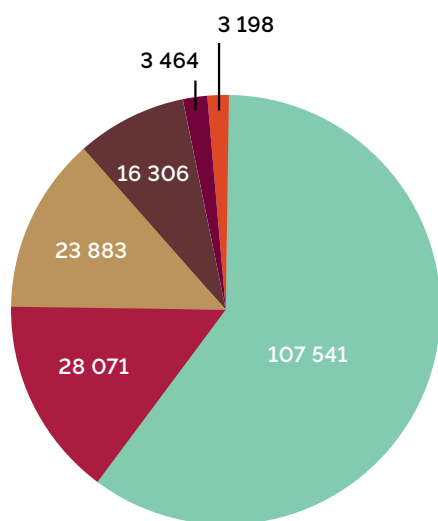


Figure 21: SUNScholar visits 2023, per continent

We added 1 336 new items to our digital heritage repository, SUNDigital Collections, in 2023, bringing the total number to 18 494. The number of collections has grown, too – from 44 to 50. Figure 22 depicts the steady growth of the repository since its inception in 2013. Usage of the repository remains stable; we had 43 090 views and 19 685 downloads. Almost half of the visitors came from North America (Figure 24).

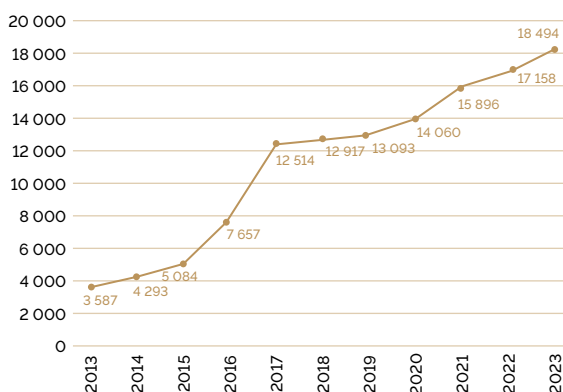


Figure 22: Items in SUNDigital Collections 2013-2023

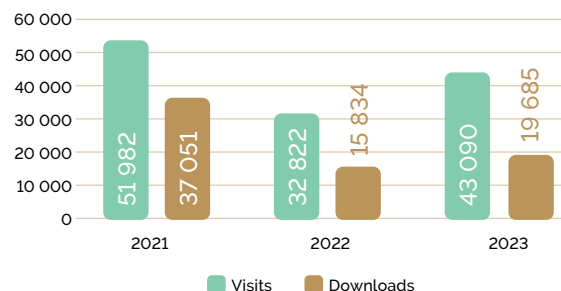


Figure 23: SUNDigital Collections usage 2021-2023

SUNJournals, the Library's service hosting open access journals, currently includes 25 journals, 17 of which published issues in 2023. In total, 75 research outputs by SU authors were published in these journals last year, which was similar to the number for 2022 (70).

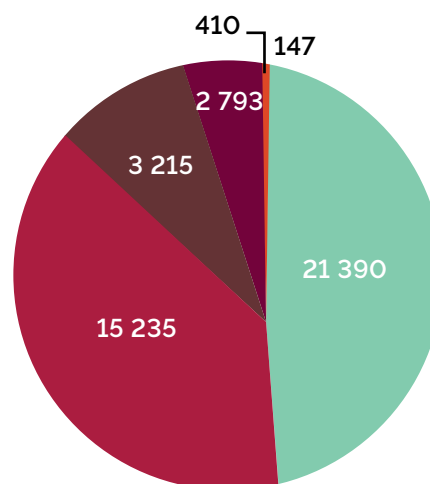


Figure 24: SUNDigital Collections visits 2023, per continent

6.2 Digital humanities

Digital humanities – an area of scholarly activity at the intersection of computing or digital technologies and the humanities – is an area that academic libraries have been supporting over the past few years.



BL - BOZ

DUB - EV

F

BR - BY

G - GREY

GRI - HAY

At the Library, digital humanities projects such as the Hardekraaltjie visual redress project – hosted on SUNDigital Collections – continue. We will investigate using the open-source software OMEKA S in 2024, because it is suitable for showcasing digital humanities projects.

6.3 Open Repositories Conference 2023

The Library hosted the 18th International Open Repositories Conference (OR2023) from 12 to 15 June at the Lord Charles Hotel in Somerset West. It was the first time that this event was held in Africa, and only the second time in the Southern Hemisphere; usually, it takes place in North America or Europe. OR2023 was an in-person event, with 290 attendees from 41 countries.

The conference theme was 'Repositories unlocked for discovery and interoperability', which provided an opportunity to explore and reflect on the ways in which repositories enable discoverability and interoperability of information and data within the structured data web. The complete programme was divided into four parallel sessions, each with six different tracks – presentations, panels, 24/7 presentations (7-minute presentations), posters, developer tracks and workshops.

The opening keynote address was done by a panel chaired by Claire Knowles from the University of Leeds (UK). The panellists discussed how repositories could improve data equity worldwide and how they could be used more efficiently to share data with both humans and machines. The panellists were Dr Tshiamo Motshegwa, (Director: African Open Science Platform), Prof Willem Fourie (founder: South African SDG Hub), Ms Joy Owango (founding Director: Training Centre in Communication – TCC Africa) and Ms Ellen Tise (LIS Senior Director: Library and Information Services). The rest of the week's parallel sessions comprised 8 panels, 11 workshops, 16 24/7 presentations, 59 presentations, 15 posters and 9 developer track sessions. The closing keynote address by Prof Hussein Suleman was very popular, judging from the number of positive tweets and conference feedback about his presentation.

The host organising committee distributed a feedback survey among the delegates afterwards. According to the feedback from the 80 respondents who completed

the survey, and feedback in general, the conference was a huge success.

6.4 Research support

6.4.1 Marketing of Library research services

Early in 2023, we launched our newsletter, *Library Research News*. It has proved a success, assisting the Library in distributing research-related news directly to staff and postgraduate students according to a Sympa mailing list. The articles link to the *Library Research News blog*, which has been functioning since 2018.

6.4.2 Researcher impact reports

A new template for researcher impact reports was developed at the end of 2022 and implemented in 2023. We advertised it in the second half of the year, and about ten researchers contacted librarians to get the full report. It comprises data from five different databases – Google Scholar, Web of Science, Scopus, Dimensions and Altmetric.com. We also retrieve data from the SciVal platform, to which SU has had access since May 2023. A Microsoft PowerBI report forms one section, providing more detailed information about the researchers' output and metrics related to their publications.

Faculty librarians responded to about 230 bibliometric requests from researchers and faculties during 2023 by providing SciVal reports, H-index requests, journal indicators to help them decide where to publish, an overview of metrics for a whole faculty and much more.



6.4.3 Unique author identification with Open Researcher and Contributor ID (ORCID)

By December 2023, 6 880 SU staff and students using an SU email address had registered ORCID IDs. Of these, 2 116 (31%) had connected their IDs to their SU identities through the University's integration with ORCID (Figure 25). After a new ORCID integration with our institutional repository, SUNScholar, 45 IDs have been connected.

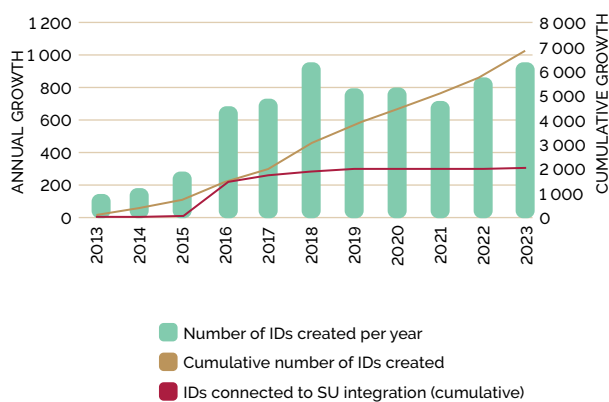


Figure 25: ORCID IDs created by SU researchers 2013-2023

6.4.4 #SmartResearcher

The #SmartResearcher training series offers practical and theoretical workshops aimed at postgraduate students and early-career researchers. Training is structured according to the research process; the idea being that clients could follow the training as they progress along their research journey. The decrease in real-time attendance and accompanying increase in views of the recorded sessions continued, as had been the case in 2022. Out of 2 569 registrations, 1 403 were real-time attendees, compared to 1 788 in 2022. Views of the recordings increased from 858 in 2022 to 1 065 in 2023.



Table 6: #SmartResearcher training statistics 2023

WORKSHOP	ATTENDEES	VIEWS
Library induction for postgraduate students and academic staff	90	45
Finding government statistics	18	6
How to conduct a literature review	164	213
Systematic reviews	45	53
Useful tools and applications for research	36	30
Introduction to Special Collections: Dealing with primary collections	13	2
Data management planning	32	14
RDM tools, resources and training	19	11
Data sharing and dissemination	17	7
Copyright issues in thesis and dissertation writing	21	15
Mendeley for reference management and academic networking	282	319
Tips on how to format your thesis (MS Word)	54	67
Overview of software for effective data analysis and data visualisation	30	15
Principles of data visualisation	60	41
Introduction to Tableau Public and RAWGraphs for data visualisation	84	59
Data visualisation with Power BI	157	57
An overview of research data repositories	18	9
Submitting your thesis/dissertation to SUNScholar	91	31
Enhancing the visibility of your research output through self-archiving	9	6
Managing your unique author ID with ORCID	40	22
Making important decisions about publishing your research	60	15
Maximising your research impact	63	28
	1 403	1 065



#SmartResearcher Feedback

Feedback was overwhelmingly positive, the majority of respondents indicating that they agreed or strongly agreed that the training had a positive impact. Figures 26 to 28 represent some of the indicators used to obtain feedback.

I have a better understanding of what was presented

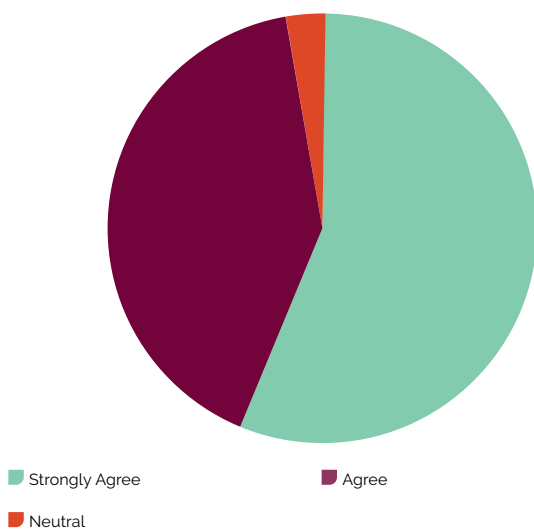


Figure 26: Feedback indicator

The content was well organised and easy to follow

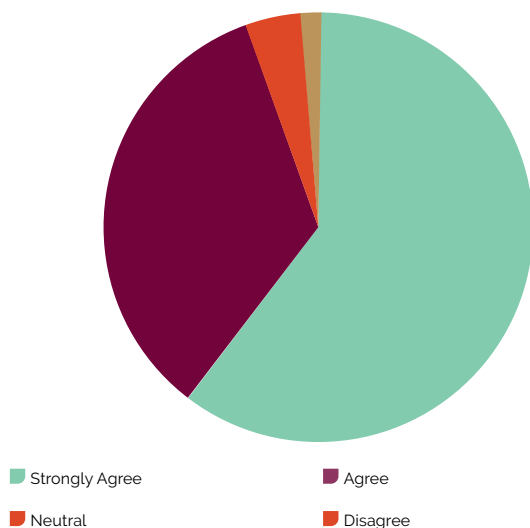


Figure 27: Feedback indicator 2

How do you rate the session overall?

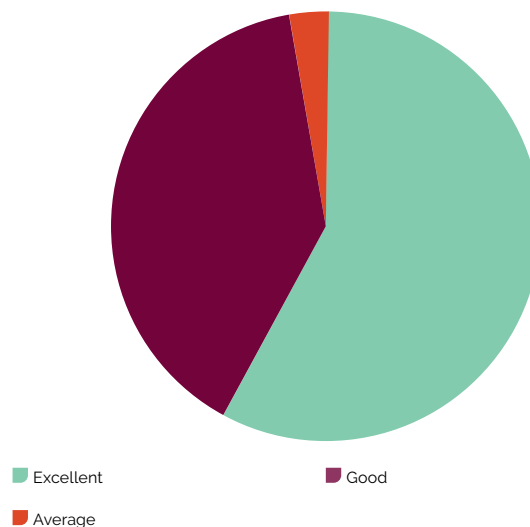


Figure 28: Feedback indicator 3

Written feedback from participants include the following:

"This was a very informative session and was very well done. I did not know how to compile a Table of Contents using a multilevel list before, I usually just use the template and fill it in myself. Thank you so much, this will help a lot when it comes to formatting my thesis this year."

"Thank you very much for this presentation. I really needed to learn about online referencing available, because I still did it the old school way."

"The session was insightful and helped me get a general overview of the library website and critical services available – especially considering the students' faculty."

6.5 Research data management

To provide guidance and ensure efficiency in developing research data management plans (DMPs), the University decided to subscribe to a DMP tool. Deploying an institutional research DMP software platform at SU had been in the pipeline for several years. The progress achieved in

2023 followed a decision taken in 2022 to adopt Data Stewardship Wizard as the institutional DMP solution. It was decided to recommend FAIR Wizard (the commercial variant of Data Stewardship Wizard). The implementation project itself was divided into two phases – basic and advanced. The basic implementation phase took place during the last quarter of 2023, and the advanced phase will be implemented in 2024. When the DMP software platform is finally launched, our researchers will be able to manage their research data better.

The statistics below represent the usage of SUNScholarData, the institutional research data repository.

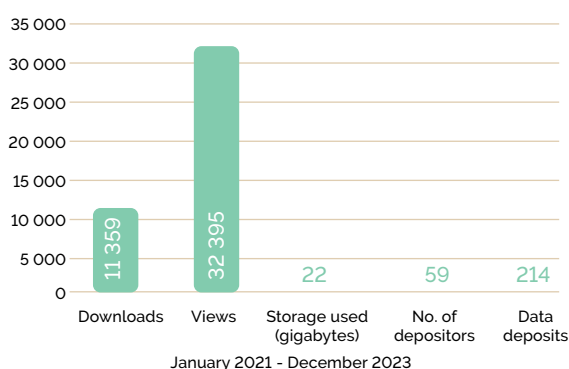


Figure 29: SUNScholarData statistics

Our LibGuide on RDM (research data management) was developed to provide guidance and information support to clients about the data repository. The guide covers an array of topics, from SUNScholarData regulations to the graphical documentation on how to use the repository. Figure 30 illustrates the statistics for usage of the RDM LibGuide.

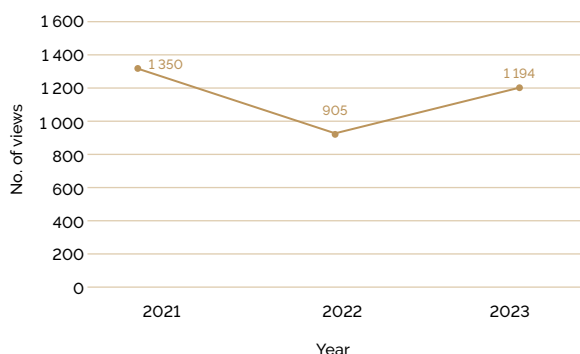


Figure 30: RDM LibGuide usage

6.6 Library Research Week

Library Research Week is one of our flagship programmes by which we seek to contribute to the University's strategic theme of furthering research for impact. Library Research Week 2023 was held from 15 to 19 May under the overarching theme 'Power up your research pathway'. It followed the by now established format of a subtheme for each day, presented in sessions aiming to cover the full research lifecycle.

The week was opened by Prof Sibusiso Moyo, Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Research, Innovation and Postgraduate Studies, who pointed out that the Library plays a crucial role in positioning SU as a leading research university and that "the resources at the Library helps [the University] to be more inclusive and to break down barriers". This was followed by a panel discussion titled 'A saviour or monster in our midst? Artificial Intelligence in higher education'. The panel discussion included Prof Michael Daramola, who heads the Department of Chemical Engineering at UP, and SU colleagues Prof Dion Forster (Department of Systematic Theology and Ecclesiology), Lennox Olivier (advisor, Higher Education Learning Technologies and Programme Renewal, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences) and Wouter Klapwijk (LIS Director: Information Technology Services).

The sessions touched on research proposal writing, grant proposal writing, RDM, literature and scoping reviews, research approaches, and research analysis using Atlas.ti, data visualisation, Turnitin and much more. The presentations were well received, as attested by the high attendance figures.

As regards attendance figures, Library Research Week 2023 has been the most successful yet. The overall attendance for the various sessions was 1 597. This dwarfs the 2021 number of 972 attendees, which had been the highest among previous years. All presentations were uploaded on the [Library's YouTube channel](#) and towards the end of 2023 we have had 970 views – significantly more than the 550 views accumulated by the same time for Library Research Week 2022.



Figure 31: Speakers at the opening of Library Research Week were (from left) Prof Dion Forster, Dr Siviwe Bangani, Mr Wouter Klapwijk, Prof Sibusiso Moyo, Mr Lennox Olivier and Ms Ellen Tise

6.7 Open access publication support

Since 2021, the South African National Library and Information Consortium (SANLiC), of which SU is a member, has negotiated multi-year transformational agreements with 11 publishers: Association for Computing Machinery, American Chemical Society, Cambridge University Press, Emerald, Institute of Physics, Oxford University Press, Royal Society, SAGE (including IMechE), Elsevier, Springer and Wiley. An agreement with Taylor & Francis will come into effect in 2024.

Transformational agreements (also called read-and-publish agreements) allow researchers from participating institutions to publish in open access format in hybrid journals without having to pay article processing charges (APCs) and without having to relinquish their copyright. According to some agreements, this benefit applies to fully gold open access journals as well. Furthermore, these agreements provide read access to most (if not all) of the publishers' titles.

In 2023, SU's participation in these agreements saved the institution \$1 053 761 (±R19 734 000) in article processing charges for 349 articles.

The Library continues to administrate the University's deposit account with Springer Nature, which allows SU researchers to submit articles to fully open access Springer Nature journals without having to pay author fees before publication, and which affords researchers 15% discount on the APCs. In 2023, 24 SU researchers benefitted from this service.

6.8 Open Access Week

'Community over Commercialization' was the theme for International Open Access Week 2023, held from 23 to 29 October. The theme encouraged a candid conversation about approaches to open scholarship that prioritise the best interests of the public and the academic community, and those that do not.

The Library hosted a hybrid panel discussion on 23 October 2023 about open access advocacy, transformational agreements, barriers to open access, and decolonisation of knowledge. The invited panellists were Ms Ellen Tise (Senior Director: Library and Information Services), Prof Lorette Jacobs (chair, Department of Information Science, UNISA) and Dr Lena Nyahodza (librarian, Scholarly Communication and Publishing, UCT). Twenty participants attended in person and 32 participated online. A video recording of the event was subsequently uploaded to the Library's YouTube channel, where it has been viewed 42 times since November 2023.



PARTNERSHIPS

connecting threads



"Items from the HYMAP collection, DOMUS"

88

coro pp



Partnerships

This section relates to our strategic objective 5:

"To foster internal and external partnerships and inclusive networks".

Continuous collaboration with partners

Recognising the need for and the benefits of partnerships, the Library is committed to fostering internal and external partnerships and inclusive networks. This aligns with the University's core strategic theme of fostering internal and external partnerships and inclusive networks.

In pursuit of this commitment, the Library played a critical role in 2023 in negotiations involving publishers and South African university libraries to waive or lower article processing charges (APCs) for South African researchers to publish in hybrid journals. The ultimate goal was to have most research published at South African public universities freely available on open access platforms for the benefit of scholarship and society. Those negotiations have started to bear fruit, as attested by several multi-year transformational agreements signed between SANLiC and various publishers.

Besides being a SANLiC member, the Library continued to participate in reciprocal partnerships with other public universities in the Western Cape through CHELiN (Cape Higher Education Library Network) and the ilifu consortium. The van service continued to deliver valuable study and research material from SU libraries to partner libraries and vice versa. Regarding ilifu, the Library has completed its final deliverable for the project – applying for CoreTrustSeal certification for its research data repository, SUNScholarData. We finally received the stamp of approval from the Trust's board in December 2023. This is no mean achievement; to our knowledge, this makes SU the first university in Africa to have attained it. Internally, we continued to collaborate and partner with faculties, including the School for Data Science and Computational Thinking.

7.1 South African National Library and Information Consortium

This The Library is a member of SANLiC (South African National Library and Information Consortium), a non-profit organisation for higher education institutions, that negotiates prices and facilitates affordable access to electronic scholarly resources. SANLiC's membership comprises not only higher education institutions, but also other research entities, such as the National Research Foundation, the Medical Research Council and Mintek.

Ms Ellen Tise (our Senior Director: Library and Information Services) is the current chair of the SANLiC board of directors. This is an affirmation of the high esteem for the Library among higher education libraries in South Africa.

In 2023, over 4 400 hybrid journals and 550 fully open access journals were added to the list of journals where SU authors can publish in fully open access format without paying APCs. This brings the total number of such journals to 7 300 since transformational agreements have been concluded with publishers.

Our SANLiC affiliation has saved us R266 770 593 in subscription fees in 2023 by enabling the Library to sign five multi-year read-and-publish agreements for 2023 to 2025: with the American Chemical Society, IOP Science Extra, Oxford Journals, Science Direct and Springer Nature. Previously, we signed other transformational agreements with the Association for Computing Machinery, Cambridge University Press, Emerald, The Royal Society of Chemistry, SAGE and Wiley. These are pivotal in promoting and accelerating open-access publishing and enhancing the visibility of scholarly research at SU.

Library staff members also attended the 2023 SANLiC Conference, held in Johannesburg from 23 to 25 May, with the theme 'Breaking the mould: change, disruption, reflection'. The conference's main objective was to assist knowledge workers in assessing their progress, sharing their ideas for excellence, exploring new ways to collaborate, and finding inspiration and motivation as they transition towards open access.

The transition to open science has brought about significant changes and disruptions for libraries. To adapt, we must embrace new models such as transformational agreements,

read-and-publish workflows and researcher support. It is still unclear how these changes will impact human resources, skills and time. Therefore, it is necessary to rethink the roles that libraries and research offices fulfil in this space.



R 266 million
saved through membership
of SANLIC

7.2 Cape Higher Education Library Network

The Cape Higher Education Library Network (CHELiN) is a project of the Cape Higher Education Consortium (CHEC) and consists of the four higher education libraries in the Western Cape. The Library hosts and maintains the [CHELiN website](#) on behalf of all the institutions concerned. An ad hoc working group, consisting of a member from each CHELiN institution, updates the site content regularly. News on events, services and projects of interest to all parties are shared via this website. Annual borrowing statistics across the institutions are uploaded, too. From 1 January to 30 November 2023, the site drew 704 visits.

7.3 CoreTrustSeal Certification

In 2023, the ilifu Consortium (i.e., Cape Peninsula University of Technology, University of Cape Town, Stellenbosch University, and University of the Western Cape) continued to work towards having the members' respective institutional research data repositories certified by CoreTrustSeal. CoreTrustSeal is an international community-based, non-governmental and non-profit organisation that promotes sustainable and trustworthy data infrastructures. Certification by them serves as hallmark of the quality of the organisational infrastructure, digital object management and technology associated with data repositories, which benefits researchers as well as funders.

The CoreTrustSeal Standards and Certification Board has certified SU's institutional data repository, [SUNScholarData](#), as a trustworthy data repository for the next two years. Thus we became one of 107 data repositories worldwide to receive this stamp of approval; one of only 3 in all of Africa (all three of them in South Africa). SU is the first university library in Africa to achieve this sought-after certification for its data repository!

Thus, we now can declare proudly to researchers that SUNScholarData is certified by a neutral, international agency as a trustworthy repository. Previously, many researchers expressed reservations about sharing their research data because they feared for the safety of their datasets. In a world beset with appalling stories of data manipulation and thievery, verbal assurances do not always suffice. However, this certification proves the Library's commitment to the University's value of excellence.

7.4 School for Data Science and Computational Thinking

As part of its strategic actions, the Library continuously looks for opportunities to collaborate and partner with the School for Data Science and Computational Thinking. In 2023, this culminated in three training sessions facilitated by a representative of the School, including a one of which was Introduction of Arduino. In addition, we invited Prof Bruce Watson – the chair for Computational Thinking at the School – to facilitate a session during Library Research Week. That served to confirm the stature of the event and demonstrated Library Research Week's potential as a platform for researchers to discuss new developments in higher education.

7.5 SU Museum

In preparation for the celebration of 30 years of democracy in South Africa in 2024, the Library has been working closely with the SU Museum in planning an exhibition. To this end, 460 images from the IDASA collection, held in the Manuscripts Section of our Special Collections division have been digitised, uploaded and described on SUNDigital Collections. We collaborate with the Museum on other projects, too, and SUNDigital currently hosts 739 digital images from their collections.

With a view to further strengthening relationships with cultural institutions, Special Collections staff paid visits to the Dutch Reformed Church Archives, Stellenbosch University Museum, Stellenbosch Village Museum Library, the collection of the Beyers Naudé Institute (Faculty of Theology), the Rupert Art Museum and the Oude Leeskamer Library at the Jannie Mouton Foundation.

THE
CAPE TOWN
GAZETTE,
AND
AFRICAN
ADVERTISER
1807

1807

1818.1



OUR PEOPLE

competence in a diverse workforce



"Figurine carved from soap by Sheila Cussons"

Our People

This section discusses the Library's strategic objective 6:

"To develop and sustain skilled, diverse, adaptable and engaged staff", which links to SU's strategic themes of being an employer of choice and fostering a thriving Stellenbosch University.

The following strategic actions were developed to pursue this objective meaningfully:

- Continue to promote awareness of and support for the SU Health and Wellness Policy and other resources by providing sessions that focus on diversity, gender equality and mental, emotional and physical health.
- Create and implement a customised mentorship programme for new and current staff members to provide career and academic support.
- Develop a comprehensive and customised staff training and development programme, called #SmartStaff Programme, to include all types of training available to close gaps and to develop new and emerging skills.
- Propose and plan for a new round of the Library's StEP Programme (staff enrichment programme) for 2023-2024.

8.1 Staff statistics

By the end of 2023, the Library staff complement comprised 102 members, of whom 98 were full-time permanent employees, 2 were part-time permanent employees and 2 were paid from external funding. The after-hours services at our branch libraries were provided by 14 student assistants. The Library also welcomed an SU graduate who worked for 6 months as intern at Special Collections as part of the Presidential Youth Empowerment Programme.

At a retirement function on 14 December, we said goodbye to Niel Hendriksz, who completed 44 years of service at the Library, and Marié Theron, who served 9 years as Faculty Librarian for Science.

 **102**
staff members

8.2 Staff training and development

One of the Library's strategic actions is to develop a comprehensive and customised staff training and development programme. The #SmartStaff Programme includes various types of training and aims to close gaps and to develop new and emerging skills.

The following events were hosted in 2023: Investigating ChatGPT; Where the journey begins: The divisions Acquisitions and Metadata; Makerspace sessions for staff on 3D ecosystem; Conference feedback; What does it mean to be digitally savvy?; E-books: All(?) you need to know; Digital storytelling; Introduction to data visualisation services in the Library; Information session on the two-pot pension system; Information session on the activities of CIRCoRE; and Robotics 101: Learn about electronic kits and components to build robots in the Makerspace.

Natasja Malherbe, our Manager: Digital Library Systems, visited Lund University (LU, Sweden) in September as one of ten SU participants in the Lund-Stellenbosch Professional and Administrative Support Staff (PASS) Blended Mobility Programme. In November, nine participants from Lund visited SU, and for three days the Library hosted Linnéa Stenson, a scholarly communication librarian from LU. The programme aims to strengthen ties between universities and foster global collaborations and knowledge sharing.

Noni Makhathini attended the HERS-SA Academy for women in leadership from 3 – 7 September.

8.3 Staff publications and presentations

Book chapter

Bangani, S & Onyancha, OB. 2023. An altmetrics study of researchers at North-West University. In: Fombad, MC, Chisita, CT, Onyancha, OB & Minishi-Majanja, MK (eds). *Information Services for a sustainable society: Current developments in an era of information disorder*. Berlin, Boston: De Gruyter Saur. pp. 274-297. Journal articles.

- Bangani, S. 2023. Academic libraries' support for quality education through community engagement [Online]. *Information Development*. Available: <https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/full/10.1177/02666669231152862> (2024, 5 March).
- Bangani, S & Dube, L. 2023. Institutional commitment to community engagement in South African academic libraries. *The Journal of Academic Librarianship*, 49(2):102679.
- Bangani, S & Dube, L. 2023. Academic libraries and the actualisation of Sustainable Development Goals two, three and thirteen [Online]. *Journal of Librarianship and Information Science*. Available: <https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/full/10.1177/09610006231174650> (2024, 5 March).
- Bangani, S & Dube, L. 2023. South African academic libraries as contributors to social justice and ubuntu through community engagement [Online]. *IFLA Journal*, 49(3). Available: <https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/full/10.1177/03400352231166751> (2024, 5 March).
- Khati, P. 2023. Stellenbosch University Library launches the Edwin Cameron Collection and Reading Room. *Liassa-in-Touch*, 24(1):7.
- Moyo, M & Bangani, S. 2023. Data literacy training needs of researchers at South African universities [Online]. *Global Knowledge, Memory and Communication*. Available: <https://www.emerald.com/insight/content/doi/10.1108/GKMC-02-2023-0041/full/pdf?title=data-literacy-training-needs-of-researchers-at-south-african-universities> (2024, 5 March).
- Van Deventer, K. 2023. Everyone is a winner as Stellenbosch University students tell powerful stories. *Liassa-in-Touch*, 24(2):7.

Blog

Bangani, S. 2023. ARL's Hot Topics session to discuss the potential of AI to change the mission of academic and research libraries [Online]. IFLA Academic and Research Libraries Section Blog. Available: <https://blogs.ifla.org/arl/2023/08/10/arls-hot-topics-session-to-discuss-the-potential-of-ai-to-change-the-mission-of-academic-and-research-libraries/> (2024, 5 March).

Conference presentations

- Bangani, S. 2023. A framework for community-engaged academic libraries. 2023 LIASA Conference, 12 October, Somerset West.
- Bruton, B.E. 2023. To action! Turning recommendations of a peer review panel into an action plan. 15th International Conference on Performance Measurement in Libraries (LibPMC), 11-13 July (online).
- Buys, M & Ncume, P. 2023. Special library collections as a form of archival material: Gems of the library. DRC (Dutch Reformed Church) archive conference, 20 June.
- De Jongh, S. 2023. Preservation with a passion: Jewish music collections at the Music Library, Stellenbosch University. Community History Online (CHOL), 28 November. By invitation.
- Khati, P, Mofu, B & De Jongh, S. 2023. Discover indigenous knowledge at Stellenbosch University Library and Information Service [poster presentation]. 18th International Conference on Open Repositories, Lord Charles Hotel, Somerset West, 12-15 June.
- Klapwijk, W & Hebler, N. 2023. Enroute to an AI strategy by following practical use case markers. 3rd IFLA Symposium on Artificial Intelligence, 5 September, Potchefstroom.
- Ncume, PS. 2023. 'Digging in and digging it': Reflections on alternative popular music performances of the Market Theatre Café, 1976 -1980. 17th annual SASRIM conference, Centre for Humanities Research, University of the Western Cape, 25-27 August, Bellville.
- Roux, M. 2023. Introduction to data visualisation with Tableau Public. Presentation at the African Doctoral Academy Summer School, 28 January, Stellenbosch.
- Roux, M. 2023. ORCID and other author profiles. Webinar at the SU Postgraduate Office/CIRCOPAV Boosting your researcher profile course, 29 September (online).
- Simango, SM. 2023. From research data management to open access data. LIBSENSE-RUFORUM webinar 'Understanding Open Science and Research Data Management', 28 February (online).

- Simango, SM. 2023. ChatGPT-3 and the quest to determine the impact of Stellenbosch University's research data. Research with Artificial Intelligence Online Symposium (online).
- Simango, SM. 2023. Trustworthy machine information behaviour and open research repositories. Open Repositories 2023 Conference, 12-15 June, Stellenbosch.
- Simango, SM. Conceptualising and implementing research data management. LIASA Research, Education and Training Interest Group Research Data Management webinar, 20 June (online).
- Simango, SM. 2023. Autonomous artificial intelligence and machine ethics. 3rd IFLA Symposium on Artificial Intelligence, 5 September. Potchefstroom.
- Simango, SM. 2023. The roles of librarians in research data management. Mangosuthu University of Technology workshop 'Open Science and Research Data Management', 25-26 October (online).
- Tise, E. 2023. Open science in South Africa: Are we future ready? Keynote address at the Elsevier Roadshow 'The South African Research Ecosystem: Future Ready', 27 March, Cape Town.
- Tise, E. 2023. Reflections on progress in the open access transition and the challenges that remain. Panel discussion at the 16th Berlin Open Access Conference, 6-7 June, Berlin (Germany).
- Tise, E. 2023. IFLA's global role in open access. Panel discussion at the 88th IFLA World Library and Information Congress, 21 August, Rotterdam (Netherlands).
- Tise, E. 2023. Advancing open access globally and locally: Key insights from the 16th Berlin Open Access Conference. Public lecture at Durban University of Technology Open Access Week, 25 October (online).
- Tise, E. 2023. Research evaluation and recognition of diamond open access. Panel discussion at the 2nd Diamond Open Access Conference, 26 October (online).
- Tise, E. 2023. Global perspectives on open access in practice. Panel discussion at the Charleston Conference, 8 November (online).
- Tise, E. 2023. Opening keynote address for panel discussion at the Open Repositories 2023 Conference, 13 June, Somerset West.

8.4 Qualifications obtained

- Siviwe Bangani obtained his PhD in Information Science from UNISA. His dissertation is titled 'Towards a framework for community engagement in South African academic libraries'.
- Pakama Ncume obtained her Master of History degree. Her unpublished thesis is titled 'Being public: Musicians and the Market Theatre Cafe, 1976-1980'. Available: <http://hdl.handle.net/10019.1/127235> (2024, 5 March).

8.5 Staff achievements and awards

- **Bronwyn Bruton** served on the organising committee of the International Conference on Performance Measurement in Libraries. (LibPMC – Library Performance Measurement Conference – is registered as a community interest company [CIC] in the UK.)
- **Ivan Jacobs** received the University's 25 years long-service award at a gala event held at STIAS on 1 November. Ivan joined the Library as a permanent staff member in February 1998 and has proved himself to be a person of excellence through the years.
- **Ellen Tise** received the SALI-Trust/LIASA Lifetime Achievement Award on 12 October. This prestigious award honours librarians by acknowledging their contribution to the profession over a long period, encompassing the skills, ingenuity, dedication, commitment and service that persons in the library and information sector bring to their institutions and communities.

- **Ellen Tise** was elected to the ORCID board and will serve from 2024 to 2025.
- **Ellen Tise** was elected to the IFLA Open Science and Scholarship Advisory Committee from 2023 to 2025.
- **Siviwe Bangani's** paper 'A framework for community-engaged academic libraries' won the award for best paper at the 2023 LIASA conference.

8.6 Attendance of national and international events and conferences

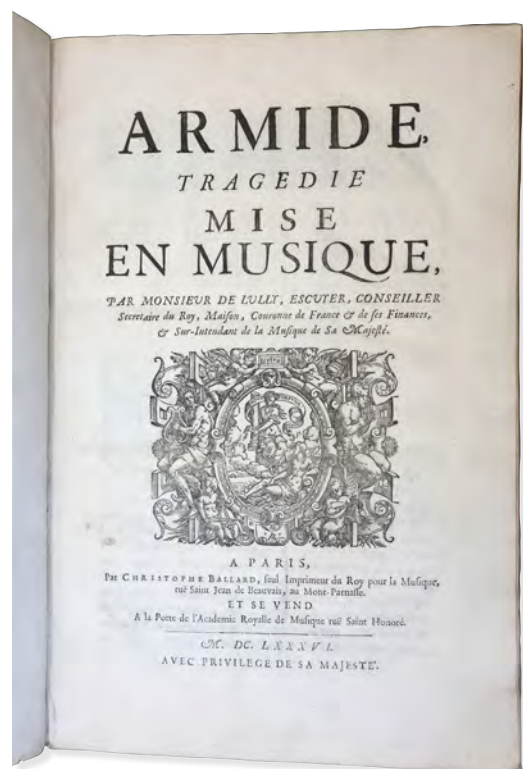
Staff attended various conferences and workshops during the year, including the SU Scholarship of Teaching and Learning (SoTL) Conference, the Library and Information Association of South Africa (LIASA) Conference, the South African National Library and Information Consortium (SANLIC) Conference, the IFLA World Library and Information Conference, the International Association of Music Libraries, Archives and Documentation (IAML) Congress 2023, the Open Repositories Conference (OR2023), the Artificial Intelligence Symposium 2023 and ZA-Ren Week 2023.

8.7 Community engagement, social impact and staff wellness

To promote awareness of and support for the SU Health and Wellness Policy, sessions that focus on diversity, gender equality and mental, emotional, and physical health were presented to Library staff. These included The smart staff member as student; Self-care and mental health; Healthy nutrition to prevent fatigue and burnout; Library services to visually impaired students (in collaboration with the Disability Unit); Substance use disorder; and Dewey to Dazzling: The art of remarkable client care.

Besides these sessions hosted at the SU Library, staff also benefitted from two offerings coordinated by the University's Staff Development Committee. More than 30 Library staff attended SU Sports Day on 24 February and 21 participated in the fun run for staff on 21 September.

The Library celebrated its top performers at a breakfast on 29 March at Coopmanhuijs Hotel in Stellenbosch.



Other Activities



"Items from the New Unity Movement collection, Manuscripts Section"



5
MONU-
MENTA
ETHNO-
GRAPHICA



I
BLACK
AFRICA
572
MON

Other Activities

9.1 Visual redress projects completed at SU Library

The Library has undertaken a visual redress journey in the context of the broader SU visual redress project, but also in the context of our mandate to preserve knowledge and provide access to information. Two major Library projects have coincided with the University's visual redress initiatives since 2015, namely the name change of the JS Gericke Library to Stellenbosch University Library and the Visual Arts student project described below.

- **Book mural in the Learning Commons**

This mural fits into the project of visually redressing of the SU landscape with a view to creating spaces that acknowledge and represent the multitude of stories and identities in our shared history. The main installation is housed in the courtyard of the Wimbledon Cluster. In June 2023, a smaller version was installed in the Learning Commons at the SU Library. Over 100 book titles had been submitted for the project, which a committee reviewed before voting on the final selection.

- **Special Collections**

Following the peer review of the Library in 2022, the external panellists recommended that we consider

the aesthetics of our Special Collections space. Their report pointed out the potential of that area to be more welcoming and inclusive, and that the process of exploration could draw on visual redress work.

The project has been completed and the Special Collections room is available for bookings by students and staff.

The theme of the installation is to serve as visualisation of the Africana collection in the Special Collections division at the SU Library. The works are the products of a Visual Communication Design project for second-year students in 2018 that required them to inter-react with the Africana collection. They had to research or investigate a person or event in South African history that was not included in the main canon of our country's history or that had been erased or misrepresented. Then, they had to design an imaginative poster or illustration of the event or person, incorporating both images and text. The project outcome was a hand-pulled screen-printed poster that could function as an informative work on a historical figure or event. The individual works can be seen [online here](#).

Books mural

This books mural was completed as part of SU's Project for Visual Redress. It represents voices that students and staff share among their libraries and most importantly, it means education. Book titles submitted by students and staff are featured on the mural.

A second wave of items for the student community are contributed to this project by submitting post-1994 the Wimbledon cluster and the International Studies, Communication and Management.

A larger version of this mural is displayed in the Wimbledon cluster. It features the following book titles:

Imizobo yeencwadi esetudongeni

Imizobo yeencwadi ezisetyenziselwe ukubonisa iziboniso ezithile ezikhethekileyo ezikhethekileyo. Eziziboniso ezithile ezikhethekileyo ezisetyenziselwe ukubonisa iziboniso ezithile ezikhethekileyo ezikhethekileyo. Eziziboniso ezithile ezikhethekileyo ezisetyenziselwe ukubonisa iziboniso ezithile ezikhethekileyo ezikhethekileyo.

Book-muralskildery

Imizobo yeencwadi ezisetyenziselwe ukubonisa iziboniso ezithile ezikhethekileyo ezikhethekileyo. Eziziboniso ezithile ezikhethekileyo ezisetyenziselwe ukubonisa iziboniso ezithile ezikhethekileyo ezikhethekileyo.

Imizobo yeencwadi ezisetyenziselwe ukubonisa iziboniso ezithile ezikhethekileyo ezikhethekileyo. Eziziboniso ezithile ezikhethekileyo ezisetyenziselwe ukubonisa iziboniso ezithile ezikhethekileyo ezikhethekileyo.





Figure 32: Visual redress in Special Collections

9.2 Visitors to the Library

The Library continues to serve as benchmark for many national and international libraries. Among others, we hosted Prof Ming-yueh Tsay – a pre-eminent scholar from the National Chengchi University in Taiwan – on 14 August. She visited to learn more about our institutional repositories, research support services, building design and space renovation, and learning environment services as well as special collections, archives and information technology services.



Figure 33: Mr Guan-Ting Luo, Ms Ellen Tise and Prof Ming-yueh Tsay

Several school groups, both learners and teachers, visited the Library, among others: 12 matriculants and 2 teachers from Generation School in Hermanus, who came on 17 February to experience SU campus life, be exposed to tertiary education pathways and galvanise their motivation; 15 learners (grades 10-12) accompanied by 2 educators from Simond Private School in May; 22 learners accompanied by 2 teachers from Albertinia

High School; and 30 learners who were participating in the Limbovane Outreach Project at SU's Centre for Invasion Biology. Other school visits included learners from Khayelitsha, Curro, Somerset West International School, Eikestad Primary and the Uniting Reformed Church of South Africa.

Visitors from other universities included 20 students and staff from SU, UCT and Sol Plaatje University, who were participating in a collaborative leadership and transformational experience (TransGariep Programme) on 6 July. They were given a tour of the SU Library before attending a session at Special Collections about the work we do to facilitate transformative experiences. On 27 October, 7 representatives from MANCOSA (Management College of South Africa) visited us to explore the SU Library's facilities, including Special Collections, our Makerspace and our Research Commons.

Other visits included 6 members of the Library Committee of the SU Faculty of Military Science, for a library benchmarking exercise on 19 May. The Faculty wanted to do fact-finding with a view to modernising and reorganising their library as well as adding an archive and rare books section, student support services, and collaboration and study rooms. On 25 October, we welcomed 6 representatives from the Tanzanian Institute of Finance Management. We introduced them to our Makerspace, and our Faculty Librarians for Economic and Management Sciences presented an informative session regarding the extensive online support that the Library offers.

From 14 to 16 November, we hosted Linnéa Stenson, a distinguished scholarly communication librarian from Lund University (Sweden) at the SU Library. Over three enriching days, we had profound discussions covering a wide array of subjects, including digitisation initiatives, effective e-resource administration and open science.

From 24 to 30 March, we hosted the CliMigHealth photo exhibition Strength and Resilience in the Western Cape at the SU Library. The exhibition and launch event were a joint initiative of the Ghent University and SU's School of Climate Studies.

9.3 SU Open Day

For the first time, SU Open Day was both a virtual and an on-campus event. The SU Open Day website went live on 1 April and remained accessible to prospective students throughout the year. The Library uploaded a video, brochure and FAQs to our page on the site. The page received 35 views on 1 and 2 April (2022: 173), which had increased to 268 by 12 December. The video, which gave a virtual tour of the SU Library, attracted 87 views (2022: 161). The on-campus event scheduled for 6 May was cancelled.



Figure 34: Material published on the Library's page on the 2023 SU Open Day website



Figure 35: Library staff volunteers for on-campus SU Open Day on Saturday 6 May

9.4 Library Week

In celebration of South African National Library Week, we held a competition related to the theme for 2023: 'Libraries: Telling powerful stories'. A poster was designed to promote the competition and it was widely marketed on social media, the SU and Library websites and via printed posters distributed among our libraries.

The winning entry was by Alek More, a student in BSc Bioinformatics and Computational Biology:

Growing up as an International Student in South Africa, I was sort of ostracized in primary and high school. I never really fitted in or belonged. Libraries became a place of solace for me, they provided a grand escape into a world of anything I wanted. From medieval or modern fantasy to historical tales with a twist and literal extraterrestrial romances. Anything is possible. I learned to dream, to think and to grow. I sincerely believe that books are and always will be, a safe space for me. The joy of reading and the peace in sitting in a library chair to do it, is an irreplaceable part of my life. I would not be who I was today, without libraries.



Figure 36: Library Week 2023 competition poster

The competition and its results were also featured in the June edition of Liasa-in-Touch.

Everyone is a winner as Stellenbosch University students tell powerful stories

In celebration of South African Library Week (SALW) 2023 and its theme Libraries: Telling powerful stories, Stellenbosch University's Library and Information Service held a competition where we asked our clients to share their powerful stories about libraries.

Seven entries were received. The students' stories touched on several themes including libraries as safe, democratic spaces for all; libraries as spaces for exploration; libraries as social justice institutions; and librarians as agents of change that connect users to information and contributors

Snippets from some of the students' stories

Growing up as an International Student in South Africa, I was sort of ostracized in primary and high school. I never really fitted in or belonged. Libraries became a place of solace for me, they provided a grand escape into a world of anything I wanted. Alek More (Science student)

Needless to say, I fell in love with the library and I now spend every single day of the week as well as Saturdays here. There's a place for everyone in the library, it just takes time. Halalisiwe Mathonsi (Economic and Management Sciences student)

Libraries have always been a source of peace and knowledge for me. Anne Fleischack-Thomson (Education student)

When I turned six years old, my parents took me to our local library and helped me to fill out the form for my first library card... Now I'm an almost twenty-one years old, in my third year at university, and I'm still reading, still dreaming. Kayla Marnitz (Arts and Social Sciences student)

Through books and other materials, libraries provide a window into different cultures, perspectives and experiences. Armand Knoetze (Economic and Management Sciences student)

to teaching, learning and research

The Library ensured that everyone who wrote a library story walked away with a prize. The student whose story was deemed to be the most interesting received a R500 Van Schaik voucher, followed by two students who each received a R300 Van Schaik voucher, and the remaining four received R150 coffee vouchers, all for sharing their powerful library stories.

The Library held a hand-over ceremony of the vouchers on 21 April 2023. Each student was thanked for sharing their stories and congratulated on being worthy winners.

KIRCHNER VAN DEVENTER, MANAGER;
CARNEGIE RESEARCH COMMONS

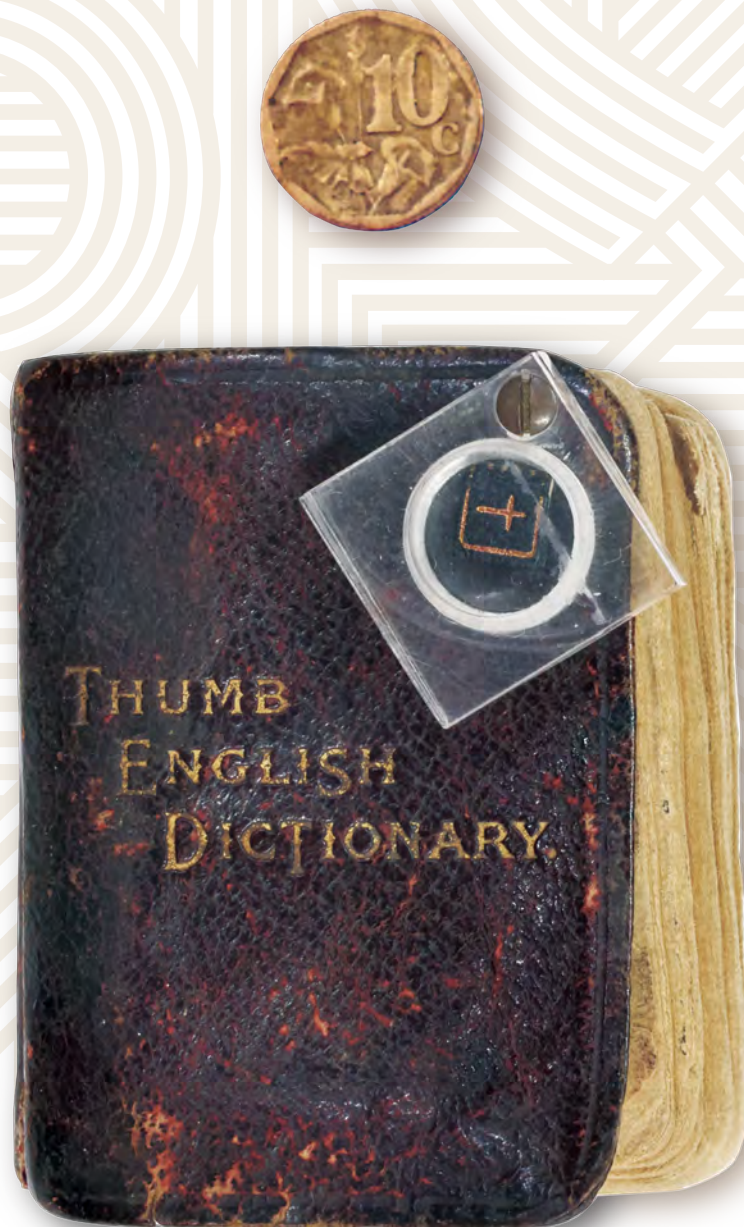
JUNE 2023

LIASA-IN-TOUCH • VOL 24 • ISSUE 2 7

Figure 37: Library Week competition reported in Liasa-in-Touch



Closing remarks



Closing Remarks

In this annual report, we reflected on the Library's many achievements and also pointed out some challenges. It is clear that, despite the obstacles, the Library has continued to play a crucial role in knowledge creation, learning and research at SU in fulfilment of the University's and our own strategic ambitions. In the process, we have achieved some firsts for a university library in Africa, thus contributing directly to the vision of SU as Africa's leading research-intensive university, globally recognised as excellent, inclusive and innovative in the advancement of knowledge and in service of society. We have faced many challenges because of budget constraints and staff turnover. However, we have leveraged our partnerships and collaborative networks at the University and beyond to deliver on our core mandate.

Every achievement was made possible by the unwavering commitment of the Library staff. It is through their ingenuity and dedication that we managed to deliver on so many of our commitments. Their passion for their job has been second to none as we continued to deliver quality services despite setbacks.

Going forward, we recognise the need to keep up with developments and change. We will assess and evaluate our services and resources continuously to ensure that we respond better to client needs and expectations. This will propel us towards achieving excellence and leaving a lasting impact on students and researchers. As part of our contribution to SU's internationalisation agenda, we are looking forward to hosting the International Association of Music Libraries, Archives and Documentation Centres Congress 2024 from 23 to 28 June.

Members of the Senate Library Committee in 2023

Prof S Moyo (Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Research, Innovation and Postgraduate Studies; chair)

Prof JE du Plessis (Distinguished Professor: Faculty of Law)

Prof N Gey van Pittius (Vice Dean: Research, Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences)

Dr D le Roux (Senior Lecturer: Dept of Information Science)

Dr C Makhetha (Senior Director: Student Affairs)

Prof P Meyer (Professor: Faculty of Engineering)

Prof S Muller (Professor: Africa Open Institute for Music Research and Innovation)

Prof D Ramjugernath (Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Learning & Teaching)

Prof G Sigge (Associate Professor: Food Science)

Prof M Smith (Director: Stellenbosch Business School)

Prof E Strauss (Professor: Biochemistry)

Ms E Tise (LIS Senior Director: Library and Information Services)

Mr W Sezoe (for the Students' Representative Council)

Ms H Swart (secretary)



Note on design:
Images used for chapter covers as well as images used
as fillers are from the Library's Special Collections and
DOMUS collections.