



LIBRARY AND  
INFORMATION SERVICE  
**ANNUAL REPORT**  
**2018**

100





# CONTENTS

1	INTRODUCTION	4
2	HIGHLIGHTS OF 2018	8
3	OUR STRATEGIC PRIORITIES	
	3.1 State-of-the-art spaces and technologies	10
	3.2 Skilled, diverse, adaptable and engaged staff	13
	3.3 Availability, sustainability and discoverability of information resources	14
	3.4 World-class, diverse, innovative and client-orientated services	18
	3.5 Collaborative relationships with stakeholders	27
4	OTHER ACTIVITIES	28
5	CLOSING REMARKS	32



# 01

## INTRODUCTION

The year 2018 was a significant one in the history of Stellenbosch University (SU), as the institution celebrated its Centenary. As the University reflected on 100 years of learning, growing and moving forward together, so did its Library and Information Service.

A century ago, when Victoria College officially became SU, the institution already had a well-developed library service, which was situated in the CL Marais building. The library of 1918, which started out as a reading room in 1895, had a formal set of regulations, an officially appointed librarian, and a library advisory committee that consisted of five distinguished professors.



CL Marais Library

Ten years later, in 1928, a university commission praised the library for being a role model and inspiration to other institutions. At this stage, the library also appointed a qualified head librarian, who went on to become the first South African to obtain a library degree in the United States.

In the decades that followed, the library continued to grow and serve the academic community, and to respond to the needs of the time. By the 1970s, the library, then situated in the Carnegie building, featured a wide range of services and collections. These included special collections, a restoration laboratory, an interlibrary loans service, reference services and an impressive journal collection complete with important contemporary journal indexes to help researchers find new information.



Carnegie Library

By the time the library moved to its current location in the 1980s, the introduction of personal computers had triggered rapid change in the academic world. Again the library kept pace with developments and became one of the first adopters of library automation in South Africa.

Clearly, therefore, 2018 was an equally significant year for SU's Library and Information Service ("the Library"), as it offered us the opportunity to celebrate more than a century's achievements as the "engine room" of the University. We welcomed the chance to look back on over 100 years' continuous efforts not only to serve our academic community, but also have an impact on the broader library and information science landscape. Here are some of the achievements we reflected on:



Stellenbosch University Library

### REPURPOSING LIBRARY SPACES

We have had quite a number of exciting milestones in this regard through which we have helped support learning, teaching and research at SU, broadened the knowledge base and enhanced student success.

In 2010, for instance, our Learning Commons – a flagship initiative of the HOPE Project – opened its doors. Its interactive learning spaces, equipment and facilities have since been supporting information literacy skills training for undergraduates. Master's and doctoral students, academics and researchers also received a dedicated space of their own when we opened the state-of-the-art Carnegie Research Commons a year later. The facility encourages scholarly dialogue, quiet personal study and research support.

We launched a vibrant new library space for Engineering and Forestry students at the Faculty of Engineering in July 2012. This supports the University's goal to accommodate more Engineering students and offer them a modern, high-tech learning space.

In 2017, we started planning phase 2 of the upgrade of the SU Library. Work will include the creation of a new entrance, circulation and security areas, offices, student computer work areas, a collaborative learning space, a coffee breakaway area, and improvements to the area outside the entrance. The upgrade, which will commence in 2019, will turn us into a full-fledged 21<sup>st</sup>-century higher education library.

In 2018, the newly upgraded Medicine and Health Sciences Library (MHSL) welcomed back its patrons, who now enjoy access to state-of-the-art technology, a research commons, a central service point, individual learning environments, various seating options and social spaces. Also in 2018, we completed the repurposed, upgraded Bellville Park Campus Library. With two new faculty librarian offices, a new staff room, mobile shelves, study pods and various soft seating options, the upgrade has enhanced research support and postgraduate student success on this SU satellite campus.

### DIGITAL SCHOLARSHIP

Since 2008, we have been at the forefront of embracing digital scholarship and have implemented several open-access initiatives. These include the institutional repository (SUNScholar) (2008), an open-access hosting platform for electronic journals (SUNJournals) (2011), and an open-access digital heritage repository (SUNDigital Collections) (2013). In 2014, the SU Council also adopted a self-archiving policy for the University, which the Library has implemented to further encourage open access.

We also were the first university in South Africa to implement the electronic submission of theses and dissertations, in collaboration with the Registrar and the division for Information Technology, in 2008. Since then, all SU theses and dissertations are submitted in electronic format only.

Further proof of our commitment to open access included the establishment of the Open Access Publication Fund in 2009, as well as the open-access seminar we hosted in 2010. At the latter event, SU became the first African university to sign the Berlin Declaration on Open Access to Knowledge in the Sciences and Humanities. In 2012, we also hosted the Berlin Open Access Conference, which put the developing world, and particularly Africa, at the epicentre of global knowledge production and the sharing of scholarly content.

Our digital scholarship offering has evolved even further since then: In 2018, the implementation of our research data services and a research data repository was well under way. We have also started to explore our potential role within the digital humanities.



**1 274 096**  
VISITS IN  
2018



INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY (ICT)

Over the past 30 years, the evolution in technology has transformed the Library. This has included the digitisation of scholarly information, making library spaces more technology-friendly, and creating value-adding ICT-based services for staff and students.

Between 1986 and 1997, SU was a leader in the joint development of a MARC-based ("machine-readable cataloguing") academic library system for South Africa to help automate certain library functions. In time, we converted the library catalogue to electronic format and, along with paper-based resources, also started purchasing information resources on CD-ROM. In addition, we introduced the first commercially available computer terminals into our library spaces, which enabled patrons to search online databases.

The period 1998–2007 saw the rapid introduction of digital features into our services. The dawn of the worldwide web offered us the opportunity to create a first website for the Library, which was also a first for SU at the time. We replaced the terminal-based library system with a fully integrated graphical user interface system that we purchased from an international vendor. Moreover, we led the way in implementing an integrated library management system, which we shared with other Western Cape academic institutions. Shortly after the system went live in January 2000, we started implementing meta-search and article-linking functions. This enabled patrons to search across multiple full-text databases in real time by means of our website and search portals.

We implemented a service to make online scholarly databases accessible to students from home. This not only met the needs of a growing student body, but also ensured that users had access to the digital library collection from outside our buildings and campus networks. The Library also automated various of its functions, including self-checkout systems for book circulation, and installed its first wireless networks to serve students who were using mobile devices. This meant that, for the first time, students could use their personal devices anywhere and anytime to access the Library's entire book and journal collections, a large portion of which was available in digital format only.

We again modernised the library management system in 2017, when we migrated to a cloud system – another first for SU. This prepared us to extend our bibliographic catalogue into the semantic web with linked data and persistent identifiers.

INFORMATION LITERACY AND E-LEARNING

Through the years, our contribution to SU students' information literacy skills has grown tremendously. We helped draft the *Revised guidelines for the integration of information literacy in all undergraduate learning and teaching programmes*, which SU's Academic Planning Committee approved in 2004.

Since then, our information literacy offering has gone from providing library instruction only, to group demonstrations of how to search databases. We soon realised the value of group instruction for specific subjects or assignments. As a result, we convinced lecturers to set aside one class period for this purpose, which all registered students in a module would attend. In 2006, we started out by training 5 771 students in 226 groups.

To ensure that this work is sustainable in the long run, we have since expanded our offering to curriculum-integrated information literacy skills training. Since 2014, first-years in all faculties have had the option to enrol for credit-bearing modules that integrate and assess information literacy as part of the curriculum. In this way, we managed to train 20 491 students in 343 groups in 2018.

COLLECTIONS

A key contributor to the University's research output and reputation as an institution of research excellence, both locally and internationally, is the access to quality resources the Library provides. From occupying a small bookcase in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century, our collection grew to 95 167 in 1945, and today comprises some 1,2 million physical volumes. In the past 20 years, electronic resources have become a primary focus, and currently account for 90% of our information resources budget. At present, we provide full-text access to 258 125 electronic journals, which dwarfs our 6 500 journal subscriptions of 1995.

PARTNERSHIPS

In 2010, SU management signed an agreement with Elsevier Publishers. This afforded the University access to resources and expertise to support young researchers, increase international collaboration and expand access to resources. At the time, the only other institution that had entered into a similar agreement with Elsevier was the University of Aberdeen, United Kingdom. The SU/Elsevier partnership offered us access to the backfiles of

Elsevier journals, which put us on a par with leading universities globally. We also received access to all Elsevier electronic books for one year, which represented \$1,3 million in value at the time. The various local training and capacity-building workshops we hosted through the partnership in 2011 empowered the University with support and skills development in the areas of information literacy, research and authorship.

SU also benefited from a 36-month grant of \$2 500 000 from the Carnegie Corporation of New York in 2010. The funding was for the second phase of a project to establish a new model for academic libraries in South Africa to provide research support to their respective academic communities. SU participated along with the universities of Cape Town, KwaZulu-Natal, Witwatersrand, Rhodes and Pretoria. The project consisted of three components, namely "Building a research commons", "Developing library skills to support researchers" and "The research portal: a suite of recovery tools". Our participation has significantly boosted our efforts to help turn SU into a world-class research university.



20 491  
STUDENTS  
TRAINED, IN  
343 GROUPS





# 02 HIGHLIGHTS OF 2018

- As our contribution to the Centenary celebrations, we launched our **Centenary exhibition** in the SU Library on 27 July, and hosted 95 of our current and retired staff at a cocktail reception that same day. The exhibition offered a pictorial glimpse of SU's past and present, and addressed the themes "Library Service – then and now", "Student life – the spirit of the times" and "Maties sport – champions then, champions now". We sourced the photographs from various collections and publications.
- The opening of the refurbished **Medicine and Health Sciences Library (MHSL)** on Tygerberg campus was cause for great excitement. The complete refurbishment formed part of the SU Campus Renewal Plan. On 22 May, Rector and Vice-Chancellor Prof Wim de Villiers officially opened the facility, which is now contemporary, inviting and conducive to learning and research. The new-look MHSL includes:
  - » 68 computers with up-to-date software on a high-speed network, dispersed throughout the library;
  - » a self-checkout system so that users can issue and return books themselves;
  - » a state-of-the-art Digital Commons and e-classroom with 38 computers for both group and individual learning;
  - » six study booths with comfortable benches and electrical sockets;
  - » nine seminar rooms with appropriate equipment;
  - » a Research Commons exclusively for postgraduate students and staff;
  - » a novel videoconferencing room;
  - » various informal seating areas; and
  - » laptop user areas to support study and learning on Tygerberg campus.

The MHSL courtyard features an Outeniqua yellowwood tree, which serves as a metaphor for the various branches of human knowledge. In medieval times already, scholars used a tree diagram to visualise and organise information and concepts in philosophy, medicine and other areas of learning. That tradition continues to this day.

- The Library presented its **annual Documentation Centre lecture** during the Woordfees on 2 March. This year, well-known SU historian Prof Albert Grundlingh spoke on the theme of "A century in perspective". He highlighted decisive moments and historical events in the University's first 100 years.
- The **sixth Library Research Week**, with the theme "Research in action", took place from 30 July to 3 August. Prof Eugene Cloete, Vice-Rector: Research, Innovation and Postgraduate Studies, officially opened proceedings. The guest speaker at the launch, Prof Jonathan Jansen, gave a thought-provoking lecture on "Research as an intellectual activity – the ethics and politics of chasing research outputs". He also led a panel discussion on the highs and lows of 100 years of research at SU.
- We used the platform of Research Week to formally **launch our Marloth digital collection**. Rudolf Marloth is best known for his magnum opus, *The Flora of South Africa*, which he compiled between 1912 and 1932 along with botanical illustrators such as Ethel May Dixie and Esther Smith. The Marloth family donated the original illustrations and plates, with handwritten notes, to the University. We have now included this precious collection in our SUNDigital Collections. Speakers at the launch included botanist Dr Piet Vorster, botanical artist Vicki Thomas and evolutionary ecologist Prof Anton Pauw.



- We welcomed more than 160 delegates from seven countries to our **15<sup>th</sup> SU Library Symposium** at the Stellenbosch Institute for Advanced Study (STIAS) from 15 to 16 November. Rector and Vice-Chancellor Prof Wim de Villiers opened the event, which examined the theme "Smarter libraries: User experience (UX) in action". The UX notion promotes the idea that the user should be the central consideration in product and service design.
- A special project between the Library and SU's Department of Visual Arts culminated in ***Africa Imagined | Africa Explored***, a hand-bound volume of maps from the Hugh Solomon historical Africana map collection in our Special Collections Division. The publication celebrates both the research value and aesthetic beauty of the maps. The two parts of the book respectively contain information about the Hugh Solomon map collection, and detailed images and descriptions of 20 of the most important maps.
- Our special collections continued to serve as a **valuable resource for research**. In 2018, the various collections of the Manuscripts Section and the Documentation Centre for Music (DOMUS) informed 15 research outputs. These included the following:

## Books

- » Dreyer, Léanne et al. *A particular frame of mind: Faculty of Science, Stellenbosch University 1918-2018*.
- » Giliomee, Hermann. *Always been here: the story of a Stellenbosch community*.
- » Grundlingh, AM, Oosthuizen, Hans & Delpont, Marietjie (eds.). *Stellenbosch University 100: 1918-2018*.
- » Verwoerd, Wilhelm J. *Verwoerd aan die woord II: die laaste vier jaar*.
- » Roos, Hilde. *The La Traviata affair: opera in the age of apartheid*.

## Theses and dissertations

- » Stofberg, Rolene. *Anton Goosen se bydrae tot die Afrikaanse luisterliedjie*.
- » Van Tonder, Ernst. *A case study of orchestration techniques in Primavera by Arnold van Wyk*.
- » Walters, Handri. *Tracing objects of measurement: locating intersections of race, science and politics at Stellenbosch University*.





# 03 OUR STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

## 3.1 STATE-OF-THE-ART SPACES AND TECHNOLOGIES

One of our strategic objectives is to provide and sustain state-of-the-art spaces and technologies that allow diverse users to discover and create knowledge.

In this respect, we have been working closely with Facilities Management and the appointed architects to plan and design **the refurbishment of the SU Library**. Work will include the creation of a new entrance, circulation and security areas, student computer work areas, a collaborative learning space as well as a coffee breakaway area. By the end of 2018, we had made sufficient progress to continue with high-level budgeting. Construction will start in 2019.

Following an extensive refurbishment as part of the SU Campus Renewal Plan, we were finally able to open a new look **Medicine and Health Sciences Library (MHSL)** on Tygerberg campus in the first semester of 2018. The MHSL concourse is now an attractive, vibrant space, and a ramp provides easy access to the library. The facility boasts 68 computers with up-to-date software on a high-speed network, dispersed throughout the library, with eight computers in the lounge area. With the innovative new self-checkout system, users can issue and return books themselves. Various areas with informal seating as well as laptop user areas support study and learning on Tygerberg campus.

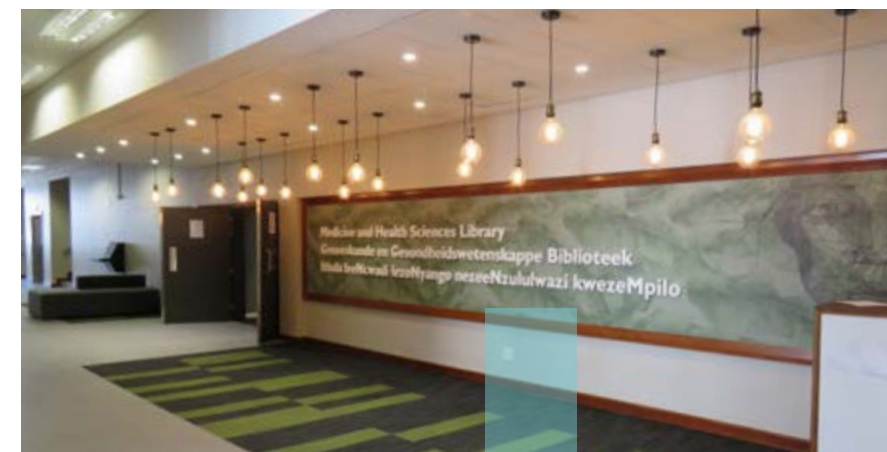
The state-of-the-art Digital Commons and e-classroom offer students a group or individual learning space with 38 computers. Nine well-appointed seminar rooms of various sizes are ideal for group discussions, meetings, group learning or collaborative sessions. The equipment in these rooms ranges from power docks to screens and whiteboards, all of which promote student collaboration, discussion and engagement as part of learning.

The Research Commons, in turn, is postgraduate students and staff members' dedicated space. Facilities here include a seminar room and a specialised videoconferencing room. The latter is particularly popular with researchers, students on the Ukwanda rural training platform, and SU centres such as the African Cancer Institute and the Desmond Tutu TB Centre.

## STUDENTS HAD THE FOLLOWING TO SAY ABOUT THE NEW MEDICINE AND HEALTH SCIENCES LIBRARY:

*“When I first heard that the library was going to be renovated, I thought it would just get a fresh coat of paint and some new chairs ... but when I walked into this new space for the first time, it felt like I was in a whole new world! I couldn't believe it.”*

*“The new library doesn't only look modern, but feels like a space full of success stories waiting to happen. Thank you to everyone who helped create this place for us.”*

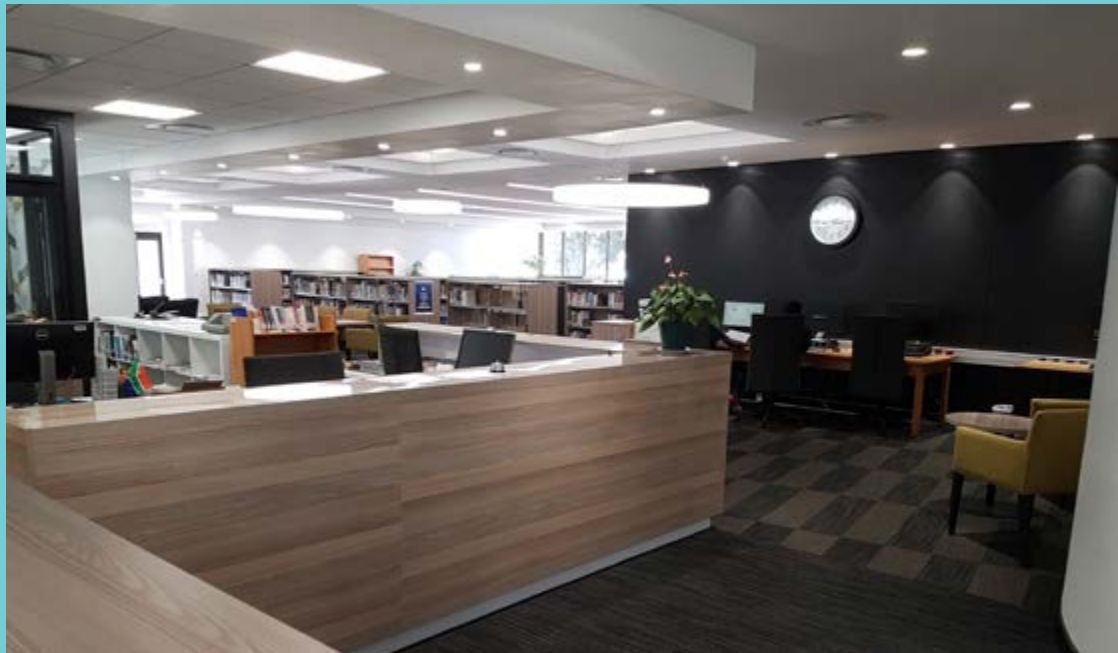


Medicine and Health Sciences Library in pictures





Since December 2018, the refurbished **Bellville Park Campus Library** is also more welcoming, spacious and bright. Work on the facility included new signage, a redesigned reception/information desk, two offices for the faculty librarians and a new staff room. All the bookshelves are mobile to allow flexible use of the available space. Various comfortable seating options and study pods facilitate research, study and collaboration.



Next in line for an upgrade is the **Theology Library**, and planning is under way. The aim will be to create a modern, future-focused space that includes and represents all disciplines in the Faculty of Theology, and has the technology to ensure seamless online access to high-quality resources. We hope to create attractive yet practical spaces and to upgrade the library's technology so as to support student success, increase Theology's research output and promote social networking.

### 3.2 SKILLED, DIVERSE, ADAPTABLE AND ENGAGED STAFF

At the end of 2018, the Library had 100 staff members, of whom 95 were full-time and five part-time permanent appointments, along with 44 student assistants.

#### TRAINING AND DEVELOPING OUR STAFF

Our staff members are a key asset to help us achieve the strategic goals of the Library and the University. To ensure that we keep pace with the ever-changing needs of the academic community, further skills training and professional development were major priorities in 2018. Staff upskilled through formal studies, courses, training programmes, events, and industry participation.

In terms of **formal studies**, various staff members worked towards:

- a PhD;
- master's degrees in Information Technology (MIT) and Library and Information Science (MLIS);
- an MSc in Computer Information Systems;
- postgraduate diplomas in Knowledge and Information Systems Management, and Library and Information Science respectively;
- honours and bachelor's degrees in Information Science;
- the Higher Certificate in Archives and Records Management; and
- the Professional Learnership (PLUS) programme at level 3 of the National Qualifications Framework.

Cape Higher Education Consortium (CHEC) **courses** enhanced our staff members' knowledge of project management, resilience, labour law, conflict management, negotiations and leadership. Library employees also attended SU's own information technology (IT) **training programmes** to ensure proficiency in MS Word, MS Excel, MS PowerPoint and MS Outlook.

A wide range of **events** kept staff abreast of the latest developments in the library and information science field. These included:

- SU's Scholarship of Teaching and Learning conference;
- the conference of the Library and Information Association of South Africa (LIASA) in Cape Town;
- the 14<sup>th</sup> Southern African Online Information Meeting in Pretoria;
- the international data week hosted by the Committee on Data of the International Council for Science (CODATA) in Gaborone, Botswana;
- the Open Repositories conference in Montana, United States;
- a data carpentry conference in Dublin, Ireland;
- the Sabinet client conference in Durban;
- the 13<sup>th</sup> conference of the International Group of Ex Libris Users (IGeLU) in Prague, Czech Republic;
- the Centre for High Performance Computing's national conference in Cape Town;
- the SU Library and Information Service symposium;
- the conference of the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA) in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia;
- the South Africa workshop of Open Researcher and Contributor Identification (ORCID) in Benoni;
- the CarpentryConnect workshop in Johannesburg;
- the short course on blended learning offered by SU's Centre for Learning Technologies;
- the Train the Trainer advanced communication workshop held at SU's Centre for Teaching and Learning; and
- the national data workshop of the Data Intensive Research



100  
STAFF  
MEMBERS

Initiative of South Africa (DIRISA) at the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), Pretoria.

In addition, staff members **actively participated in the national and international library and information science industry** by serving on:

- the Online Computer Library Center (OCLC) board of trustees and the University of the People's library advisory board (both in the United States); the IFLA digital unification working group and the Sabinet board (Ellen Tise);
- the IFLA big-data special interest group (Wouter Klapwijk);
- the LIASA representative council (Lizel Johnson); and
- the Sabinet advisory board (Lorenda Boyd, Philip de Villiers and Delene Pretorius).

#### PROMOTING SCHOLARSHIP THROUGH STAFF PUBLICATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

**Staff research outputs** in 2018 included the following:

- Boshoff, N, Basaza-Ejiri, HAD & Tise ER. 2018. *Internationally linked authors in Uganda, East Africa: an example of author-level bibliometrics for a developing country*. Science and Technology Indicators (STI) Conference Proceedings, p. 1008–1017. Published by Centre for Science and Technology Studies (CWTS).
- Klapwijk, Wouter. 2018. *An investigation into emerging practices for managing big data in research repository infrastructures*. Part of a shared presentation by the Research Data Management (RDM) Project of ilifu during the SciDataCon session "Multidisciplinary data infrastructure for South African research" at the CODATA international data week, Gaborone, Botswana, 5–8 November.
- Malherbe, Natassja. 2018. *Alma & Primo UX: an AX (African Experience)*. Presentation at the 13<sup>th</sup> IGeLU conference, Prague, Czech Republic, 20–23 August.
- Seyffert, Mimi, Dietrich, Keith & Liebenberg, Elri (compilers). 2017. *Africa imagined | Africa explored: a selection of maps from the Hugh Solomon Collection, Stellenbosch University Library*, designed by Keith Dietrich, Heléne van Aswegen and Neil le Roux; printed and bound by Heléne van Aswegen. Stellenbosch: Stellenbosch University.

#### NURTURING A CARING AND CARED-FOR STAFF CORPS THROUGH COMMUNITY OUTREACH, STAFF WELLNESS AND DEVELOPMENT

To commemorate **Mandela Day** in June, our staff knitted 234 bears, which we subsequently donated to the TygerBear Foundation for Traumatized Children and Families. Other ways in which the Library made a social impact were through:

- an R800 donation to, and assistance with making sandwiches for, the **Toasties for Tummies** drive, also as part of the Mandela Day celebrations;
- participation in the **SU Casual Day** activities in aid of people with disabilities; and
- the collection of 10 000 bread tags in aid of the **Bread Tags for Wheelchairs** initiative.

Staff also attended six **development sessions** in the course of 2018 to enhance their wellness and development. These included sessions on transformation, the SU Library's history as part of the University's Centenary celebrations, as well as SU students' diverse learning needs and disabilities, and how we can support them. We also joined in the annual SU Fun Walk, and the SU Staff Sports Day.

### 3.3 AVAILABILITY, SUSTAINABILITY AND DISCOVERABILITY OF INFORMATION RESOURCES

#### PROVIDING RELEVANT ELECTRONIC AND PRINTED RESOURCES

Our materials budget remains under pressure. Due to insufficient annual increases in the budgetary provision for library resources, we have increasingly had to sacrifice book allocations to be able to meet our subscription obligations. In 2018, our available resources budget not only shrunk by a further 10%, but also had to absorb the 1% VAT increase.

Other factors that have had a negative impact on our materials budget are the weak exchange rate, as well as the 14% VAT payable on electronic resources since 2015. The latter has had a particularly significant effect, considering that electronic resources account for approximately 90% of our materials budget.

To try to stay within budget, we have cancelled a significant number of our journal and database subscriptions since 2014 based on thorough assessments of our subscription offering. In 2018, the extremely tight budget called for an additional measure, namely the cancellation of the comprehensive Wiley journal package, which provided full-text access to 1 451 journals. This cancellation will continue to affect researchers in years to come, and may even have a negative impact on SU's research output.

Figures 1 and 2 respectively show the annual budget increase and the value of the rand against the three major currencies, in both instances for the period 2011–2018.



**FULL-TEXT ACCESS TO  
258 125  
JOURNAL TITLES**



**122  
DATABASES &  
JOURNAL PACKAGES**

#### MATERIALS BUDGET SUMMARY (RAND)

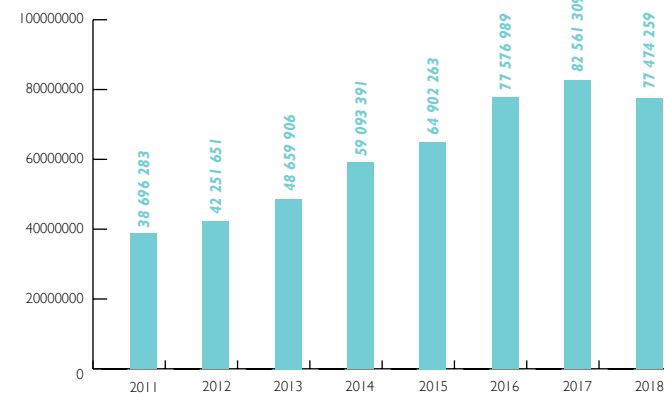


Figure 1: Library materials budget, 2011–2018

#### AVERAGE RAND EXCHANGE RATE

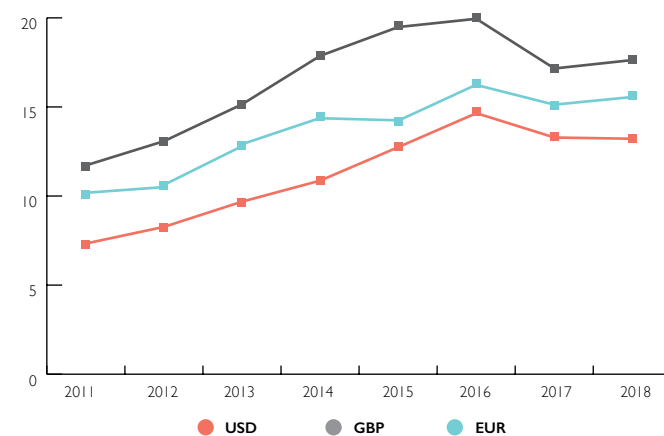


Figure 2: Value of the rand against the three major currencies, 2011–2018

Nevertheless, we successfully sustained our subscription to 122 other databases and journal packages, which provided our patrons with full-text access to approximately 258 125 academic journal titles.

Our electronic resources remained popular in the reporting year. As table 1 shows, users downloaded 1 819 282 full-text articles from the top 25 databases alone.

TABLE 1: TOP 25 DATABASES ACCORDING TO FULL-TEXT DOWNLOADS IN 2018

Databases/journal package	Faculty	Full-text downloads
ScienceDirect (Elsevier)	General	749 506
Taylor and Francis SSH and S&T journals	General	141 990
SpringerNature journal package	General	132 746
UpToDate	Medicine and Health Sciences (MHS)	98 005
ProQuest business package	Economic and Management Sciences (EMS)	70 260
Sage Premier journal collection	General	59 829
HeinOnline	Law	56 070
Wiley custom collection (94 journals, from 2018 onwards)	General	54 441
IEEE/IET journals and conferences	Engineering	48 201
Juta's South African Law Reports	Law	43 775
LexisNexis Law Database South Africa	Law	38 821
Academic Search Premier (Ebsco)	General	37 553
ACS (American Chemical Society) Publications	Science	37 283
Clinical Key	MHS	37 195
Lippincott Williams & Wilkins (LWW) total access collection	MHS	35 457
Emerald Management 120 package	General	29 304
IRESS	EMS	28 159
Business Source Premier (Ebsco)	EMS	23 430
Juta's SA Statutes & Regulations	Law	19 410
Cambridge University Press Online journals	General	15 225
Juta's Civil Procedure Library	Law	14 786
ASM (American Society of Microbiology) online journal package	Science	14 522
Juta e-journals	Law	11 420
SA Media	General	11 064
Royal Society of Chemistry (RSC) Gold	Science	10 830
Total		1 819 282

These top 25 resources cost us R41 489 167 in total, meaning that each download cost R22,81 on average. Table 1 does not include the JSTOR journal package, which all libraries in Africa receive free of charge. This digital, multidisciplinary package of top peer-reviewed journals is also very popular and recorded 213 115 full-text downloads in 2018.

Despite the age of fast information, books continue to be an important resource for many faculties. And although we have had to reduce our book allocation in favour of journal subscriptions, we still managed to grow our book collections in the past year, as figures 3 and 4 show. Both figures include donated books.



**798 508  
PRINTED BOOKS**



**15 141  
E-BOOKS**

#### GROWTH IN PRINTED BOOK COLLECTION

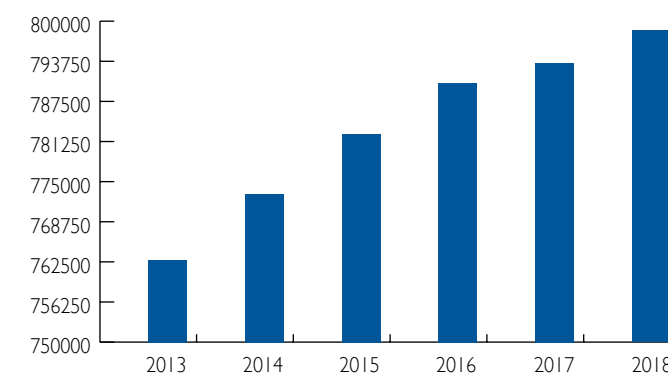


Figure 3: Growth in printed book collection, 2013–2018

#### GROWTH IN E-BOOK COLLECTION

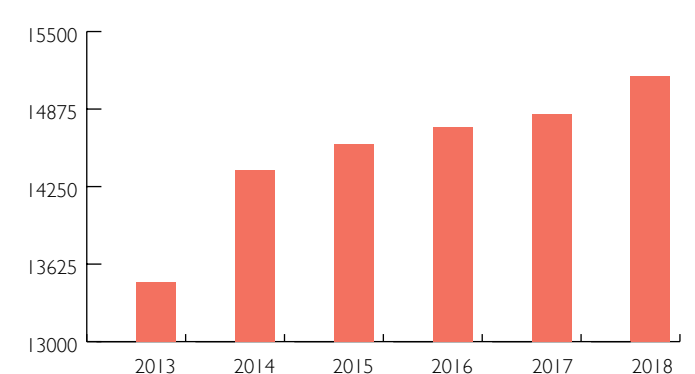


Figure 4: Growth in the e-book collection, 2013–2018





## IMPROVING THE DISCOVERABILITY AND ACCESSIBILITY OF OUR RESOURCES

We **continued to enhance our systems** to ensure that our patrons are able to effectively discover and access information sources. Students collaborated with us to test access to electronic resources from mobile devices, which helped us put in place improved measures to report access problems. We also overhauled our electronic resources access system to improve system stability and cybersecurity. Moreover, we added further information resources to the Library catalogue so that patrons can search directly on open-access databases from a single familiar interface.

Of course, the ongoing increase in the number of SU Library visitors with mobile devices has meant an increase in the demand for greater, more stable **wireless access**. Therefore, in 2018, we prepared to upgrade the wireless network. To minimise disruption and network instability, the upgrade will take place along with the refurbishment of the SU Library.

## USING AND EXPANDING SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

Our Special Collections Division (Manuscripts, Rare Books and Africana sections) and DOMUS provide valuable information for all levels of research. In 2018, the use of these collections again resulted in **multiple research outputs**, including the following:

### Books

- Dreyer, Léanne et al. 2018. *A particular frame of mind: Faculty of Science, Stellenbosch University 1918-2018*. Stellenbosch: Stellenbosch University, Faculty of Science. (This book also appeared in Afrikaans.)
- Giliomee, Hermann. 2018. *Always been here: the story of a Stellenbosch community*. Pinelands: Africana Publishers.
- Grundlingh, AM, Oosthuizen, Hans & Delpont, Marietjie (eds.). 2018. *Stellenbosch University 100: 1918-2018*. Stellenbosch: Stellenbosch University. (This book also appeared in Afrikaans.)
- Roos, Hilde. 2018. *The La Traviata affair: opera in the age of apartheid*. Oakland, California: University of California Press.
- Verwoerd, Wilhelm J. 2018. *Verwoerd aan die woord II: die laaste vier jaar*. Pretoria: Protea Boekhuis.



### Articles

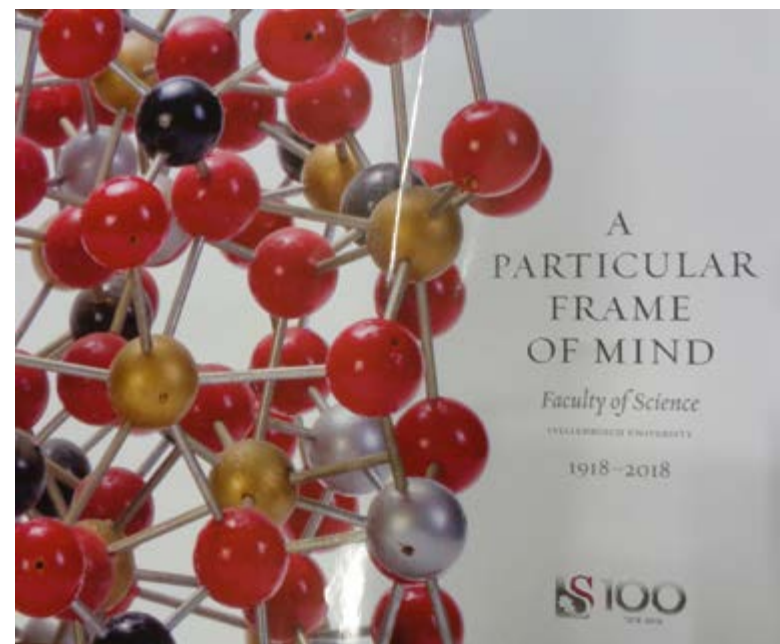
- Brukman, Jeffrey. 2018. Bernard Smith van der Linde (1935-2015): a life in musicology. *South African Music Studies*, 36–37(1):21–51.
- Pistorius, Juliana M. 2018. Eoan, assimilation, and the charge of 'coloured culture'. *South African Music Studies*, 36–37(1):389–415.

### Conference papers

- Lambrechts, Lizabé. *Music and memory: singing at the free peoples concerts (1970-1992)*. 12<sup>th</sup> annual South African Society for Research in Music (SASRIM) congress, Department of Music, University of KwaZulu-Natal, Durban, 29 August–1 September.
- Pistorius, Juliana M. *Rites of reversal: Rigoletto at the Republic Festival of 1971*. 12<sup>th</sup> annual SASRIM congress, Department of Music, University of KwaZulu-Natal, Durban, 29 August – 1 September.
- Roos, Hilde. *Protesting for and against those who didn't: the case of Eoan and the Nico Malan Theatre*. 12<sup>th</sup> annual SASRIM congress, Department of Music, University of KwaZulu-Natal, Durban, 29 August–1 September.

### Theses and dissertations

- Stofberg, Rolene. 2018. *Anton Goosen se bydrae tot die Afrikaanse luisterliedjie*. Unpublished master's thesis. Stellenbosch: Stellenbosch University.
- Van Tonder, Ernst D. 2018. *A case study of orchestration techniques in Primavera by Arnold van Wyk*. Unpublished master's thesis. Stellenbosch: Stellenbosch University.
- Walters, Handri. 2018. *Tracing objects of measurement: locating intersections of race, science and politics at Stellenbosch University*. Unpublished doctoral dissertation. Stellenbosch: Stellenbosch University.

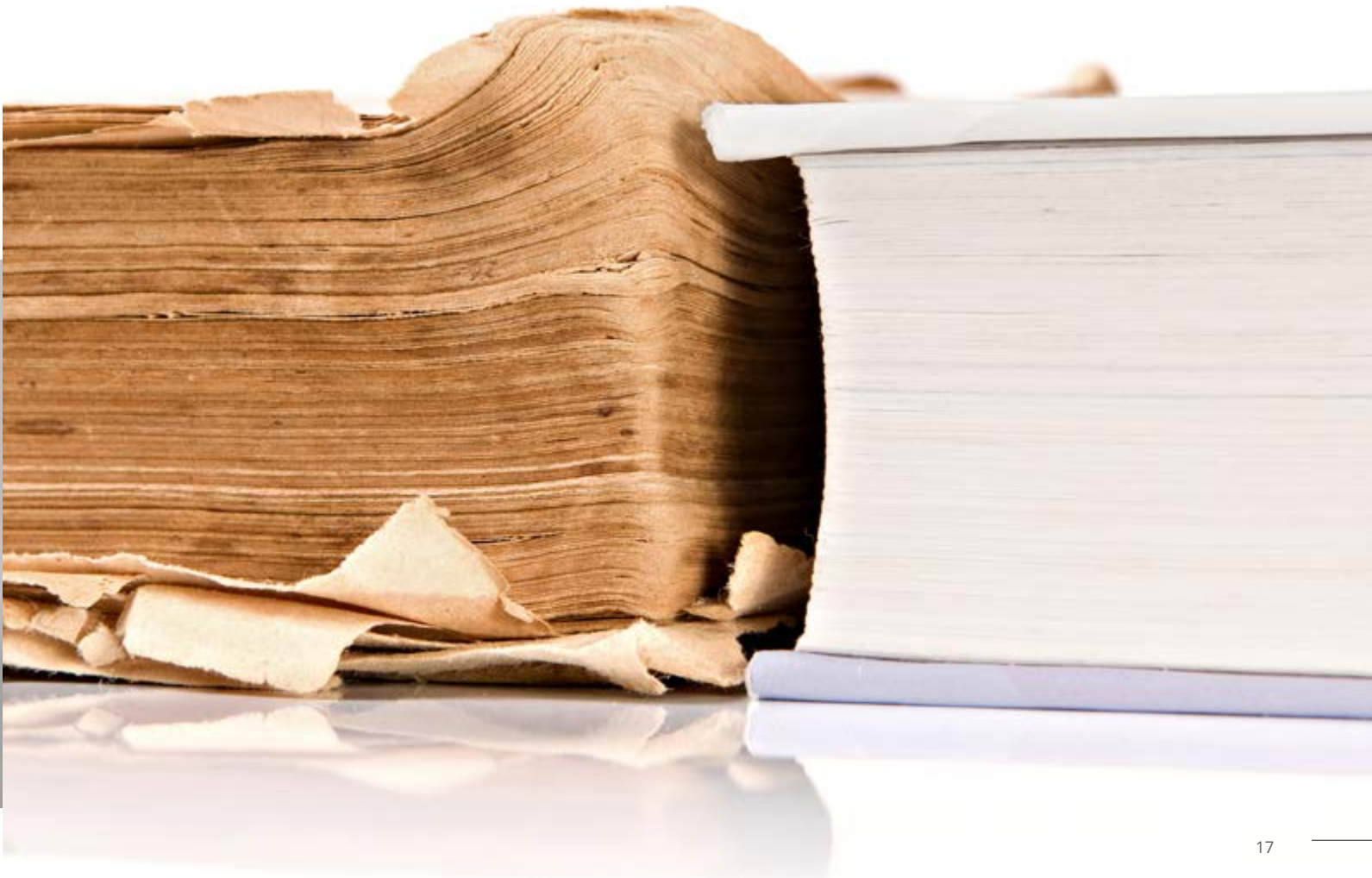


We used **events and exhibitions** to shine the spotlight on our rare materials and special collections. On 25 January, we held an exhibition on the life and work of South African composer Graham Newcater in the Music Library Foyer. The exhibition, with Santie de Jongh as curator, coincided with the Africa Open Institute's recital, film and lecture entitled *Sapphires and serpents, Piano music by Graham Newcater*. In addition, well-known SU historian Prof Albert Grundlingh delivered our annual Documentation Centre lecture on 2 March at the Woordfees, where he spoke on the theme of "Century in perspective". For his overview of decisive moments and historical events in the University's first 100 years he had drawn heavily on information in our collections.

Finally, our exhibition of original plates and drawings from the Marloth collection on the flora of South Africa from July to September received an appreciative audience when we hosted a meeting of Cape Town's Society of Bibliophiles, rather appropriately on Spring Day.



**1,2 MILLION  
PHYSICAL  
VOLUMES**





### 3.4 WORLD-CLASS, DIVERSE, INNOVATIVE AND CLIENT- ORIENTATED SERVICES

#### VISITS AND DOCUMENT DELIVERY

Students, staff and the general public made good use of the SU Library and the five branch libraries on the three SU campuses. The total number of visits increased from 1 059 487 in 2017 to 1 274 096 in 2018. At the same time, the occupation rate of seminar and discussion rooms in all libraries increased from 46% in 2016 to 57% in 2018. The popularity of the newly upgraded MHSL specifically contributed to this increase in overall visits, which confirms the worldwide trend that repurposed, refurbished academic libraries are sought-after collaborative learning spaces.

The number of items issued decreased from 222 642 in 2015 to 153 836 in 2018. This demonstrates another key trend, namely the gradual move towards the use of electronic resources.

#### CURRICULUM-INTEGRATED E-LEARNING

##### Library guides

Library guides are electronic subject guides that pull together various types of information about a particular subject. Our library guides attracted 202 609 views in 2018. Faculty librarians continued to utilise e-learning technologies to enlarge our online teaching footprint. Examples include Camtasia and iSprings videos, the latter with quizzes included, for Business Management 142 and Constitutional Law 271, which our librarians published on YouTube and made available through the corresponding library guide.

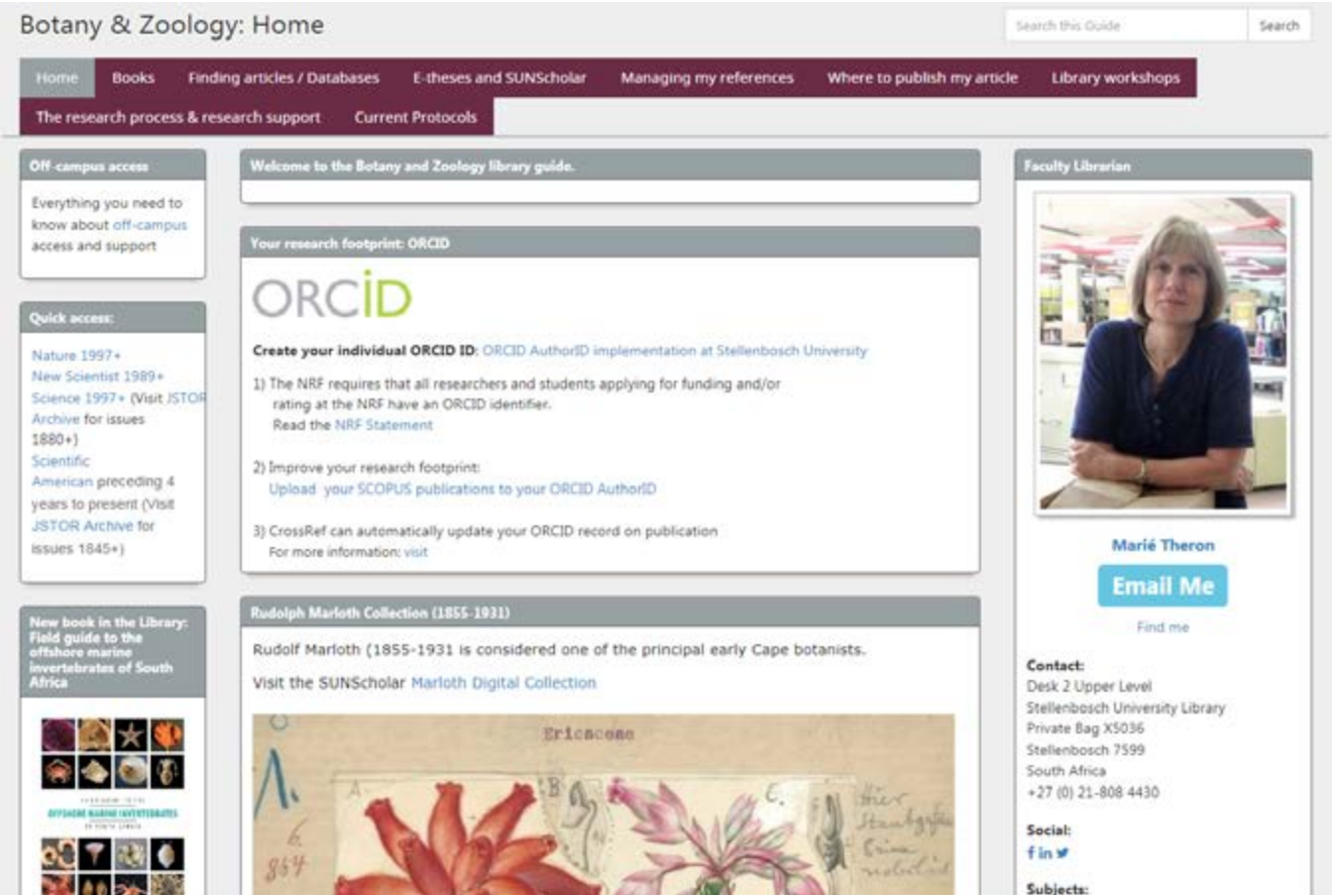


**202 609**  
**LIBRARY**  
**GUIDE VIEWS**

TABLE 2: NUMBER OF VIEWS FOR THE 20 MOST POPULAR  
LIBRARY GUIDES, 2018

POSITION	TITLE OF LIBRARY GUIDE	VIEWS
1	Find, access and use information effectively: a step-by-step guide	54 188
2	Law and government publications	27 043
3	Off-campus access for Stellenbosch registered users	18 921
4	Postgraduate and researcher guide	11 732
5	Referencing	11 407
6	Psychology	5 020
7	Education	3 949
8	Chemistry and Polymer Science	3 815
9	Theology	3 652
10	The research process	3 570
11	Physiological Sciences	3 262
12	Science in context – BSc first-year modules	3 130
13	Economics	2 836
14	Mendeley	2 780
15	Political Science	2 705
16	CREST: Centre for Research on Evaluation, Science and Technology	2 425
17	Social Work	2 232
18	Business Management	2 209
19	Afrikaans and Dutch	1 966
20	Medicine and Health Sciences	1 946
	<b>Total</b>	<b>168 788</b>

Interestingly, subject-specific guides proved more popular in 2018. For the first time, the top ten library guides featured five subject-related guides (Law, Psychology, Education, Chemistry and Polymer Science, and Theology), while another four subject-related guides made their appearance in the top 20 (CREST, Social Work, Afrikaans and Dutch, and Medicine and Health Sciences).





Undergraduates

It is full steam ahead with efforts to develop e-learning support for the University's roll-out of Mode 2 (i.e. online distance learning) now that six faculties have partnered with us to provide e-learning support for undergraduates. To support this, faculty librarians prepared curriculum-integrated information literacy e-guides for:

- Information Skills 172 and 174;
- Political Science 114;
- Language and Thinking Skills 114;
- Professional Communication 113;
- Roman Law 271;
- Science in Context 178; and
- Archaeology of the Ancient World ONT 324, 114 and 144.

The number of undergraduates who completed assessments on the information literacy skills they had gained through our assignment-specific guides increased by 163 to 4 016. And by growing the number of library guides linked to specific modules on SUNLearn, we managed to attract 12 945 views – 51% more than in 2017.

TABLE 3: MODULE-SPECIFIC UNDERGRADUATE E-LEARNING IN PARTNERSHIP WITH FACULTIES

PARTNER FACULTY	Module	2018			2017		
		Students enrolled	Views	Students assessed (curriculum-integrated library training)	Students enrolled	Views	Students assessed (curriculum-integrated library training)
AgriSciences	Viticulture and Oenology literature research tips				275	67	67
Arts and Social Sciences	Information Skills 172 & 174	1 504	95	1 504	2 130	264	1 855
	Psychology 144	1 118	1 337				
	Political Science 114	390	264	390			
Economic and Management Sciences	Economics 244, 348 & 318	1 006	930				
	Economics 214	697	266		676	687	
	Language and Thinking Skills EMS 114	112	106	112	115	230	115
	Public and Development Management 314				78	45	
	Logistics 354	158	59				
	Industrial Psychology Essays 224	309	22				
	Business Management 113	1 550	343		1 800	1 272	
	Business Management 142		235		250	142	
	Business Management 244	600	888				
Engineering	Professional Communication 113	920	910	920	890	820	890
Law	Roman Law 271	80	335	80	120	167	
	Constitutional Law 271	250	1 265				
Science	Science in Context LibGuides 178	807	2 963	807			
	Scientific Communication Skills 172				800	3 918	800
	Science Communication Skills 116	106	1 067		126	691	126
	Eerste River project for the module "University Practices"				128	153	
	Computer Skills 272				100	130	
	Chemistry Reference LibGuide for PIC	106	1 304				
Theology	Archaeology of the Ancient World ONT 324, 114 & 144	203	556	203			
Total		9 916	12 945	4 016	7 488	8 586	3 853





Postgraduates and researchers

We provided online training and an extensive programme of workshops and classes throughout the year to help postgraduates and researchers develop vital research skills.

Faculty librarians continued to collaborate with the Faculty of Theology, and also established new partnerships with the faculties of Arts and Social Sciences, Economic and Management Sciences, Education, and Medicine and Health Sciences, to create 12 module-specific library guides. Linking these guides on SUNLearn made them accessible to 1 004 postgraduates via existing faculty or departmental guides.

TABLE 4: MODULE-SPECIFIC POSTGRADUATE E-LEARNING IN PARTNERSHIP WITH FACULTIES

PARTNER FACULTY	Module	Students enrolled	Views	Students assessed (curriculum-integrated library training)
Arts and Social Sciences	Applied Ethics Postgraduate Diploma 788	33	40	
	Sociology 778 & Social Anthropology 778	46	14	
	Social Work 778, 978 & 879	100	108	
Economic and Management Sciences	Industrial Psychology 899, 778 & 779	57	43	
	Statistics & Actuarial Science 791	50	47	
	School of Public Leadership Postgraduate Diploma in Environmental Management 778	35	101	
	School of Public Leadership Postgraduate Diploma in Sustainable Development 771	60	101	
	Business Management 778	60	32	
	Management Accounting (CIMA) Honours	60	237	
Education	Education generic postgraduate guide	105	112	
Medicine and Health Sciences	Medicine generic postgraduate guide	101	43	
Theology	Theology guide for postgraduates	297	343	297
Total		1 004	1 221	297

Our collaboration with the Faculty of Theology culminated in the first curriculum-integrated information literacy skills e-guide. All 297 Theology postgraduates completed assessments on the information literacy skills they had acquired as a result. Supervisors also reported positive results for students who had used the Theology research collection in the e-research guide for postgraduates.

To support the University's roll-out of Mode 2, our focus in 2019 will be on creating more e-learning material for postgraduates who cannot attend face-to-face training.

ENHANCING BIBLIOMETRIC SERVICES

Our Division of Research Impact and Research Commons collaborated with faculty librarians to launch a more proactive bibliometric service, both per department and per individual researcher. The Department of Industrial Engineering served as the pilot site.

Bibliometric services have a number of benefits. The delivery of bibliometric reports and the analysis of publication and citation profiles enable us to advise researchers where to publish and how to maximise their and their departments' research impact.

TRAINING FOR POSTGRADUATE STUDENTS AND RESEARCHERS

We presented 20 workshops to postgraduate students and researchers, and took care to cover the entire research lifecycle. A total of 677 postgraduates and researchers took part. The most popular workshops were "Improving your literature search strategy", "Mendeley for referencing and academic networking", "Tips on how to format your thesis" and "Finding government statistics".

Forever looking to innovate, we also introduced our first online workshop using a Sharable Content Object Reference Model (SCORM) package on SUNLearn. For one week in March, this afforded students access to the online version of the popular "Improving your search strategy" workshop, and 39 participants

enrolled. The three YouTube videos that formed part of the SCORM package received 216 views and were available to students both on and off campus. Participant feedback was excellent and the intervention seems to have had the desired effect. This makes interactive online workshops a feasible option to pursue in future, in conjunction with Camtasia recordings of the various training workshops for postgraduates and researchers.

UNIQUE AUTHOR IDENTIFICATION (ORCID)

In 2018, SU upgraded to ORCID API 2.0. Early in the year, ORCID also launched a task group to make recommendations on how to support ORCID integration with repositories. Their proposals will guide our efforts to integrate ORCID with SU's institutional repository, which will receive priority in 2019.

By October 2018, a total of 1 610 SU staff and students had linked up with the ORCID ID system. Figures 5 and 6 break this figure down by client type and faculty respectively.

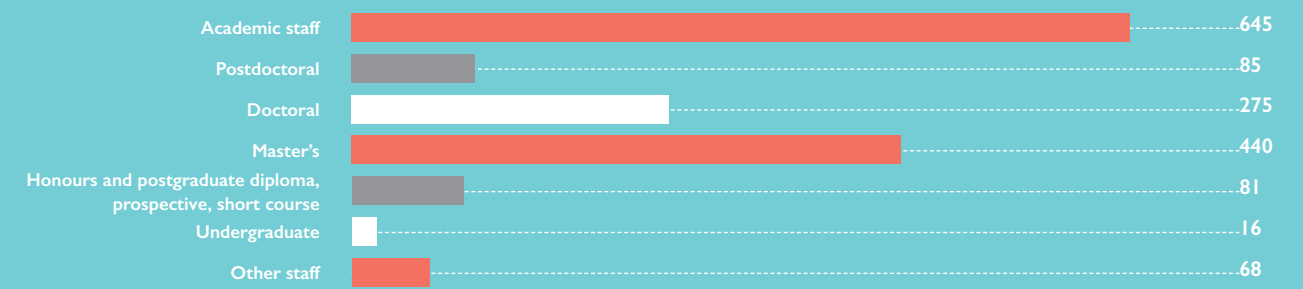


Figure 5: Number of SU-connected ORCID identities by client type, 2018

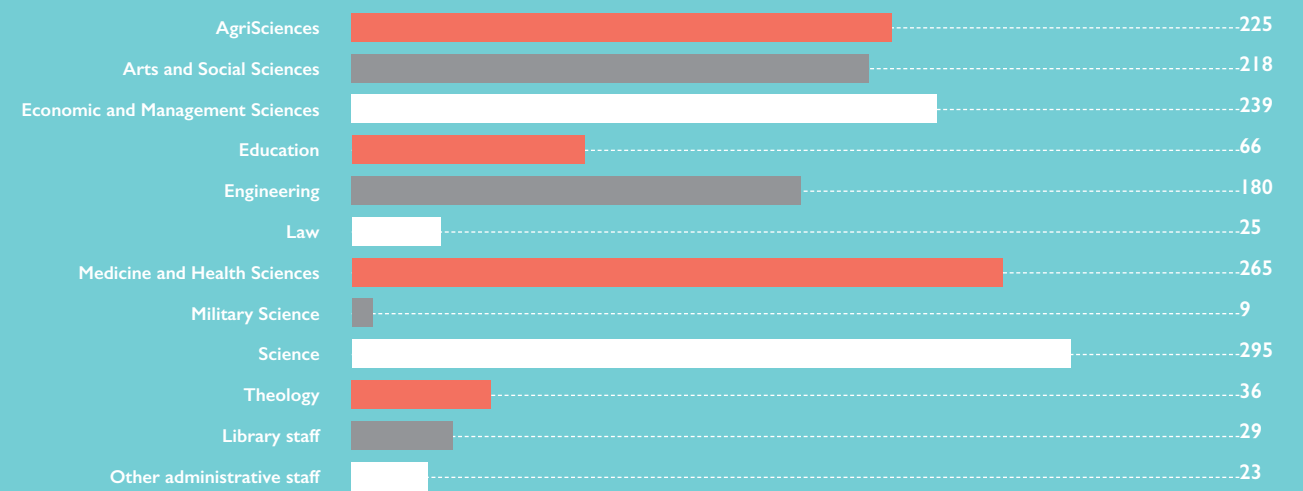


Figure 6: Number of SU-connected ORCID identities by faculty, 2018



We attended the annual ORCID workshop – an initiative of ORCID and TENET (the body that administers the ORCID South Africa Consortium) – where we were pleased to hear that SU had the highest number of researchers with an ORCID ID in South Africa (figure 7). This is thanks to our direct e-mail marketing of the ORCID integration on campus since 2015, awareness talks at faculty board meetings, and personal assistance by our staff.

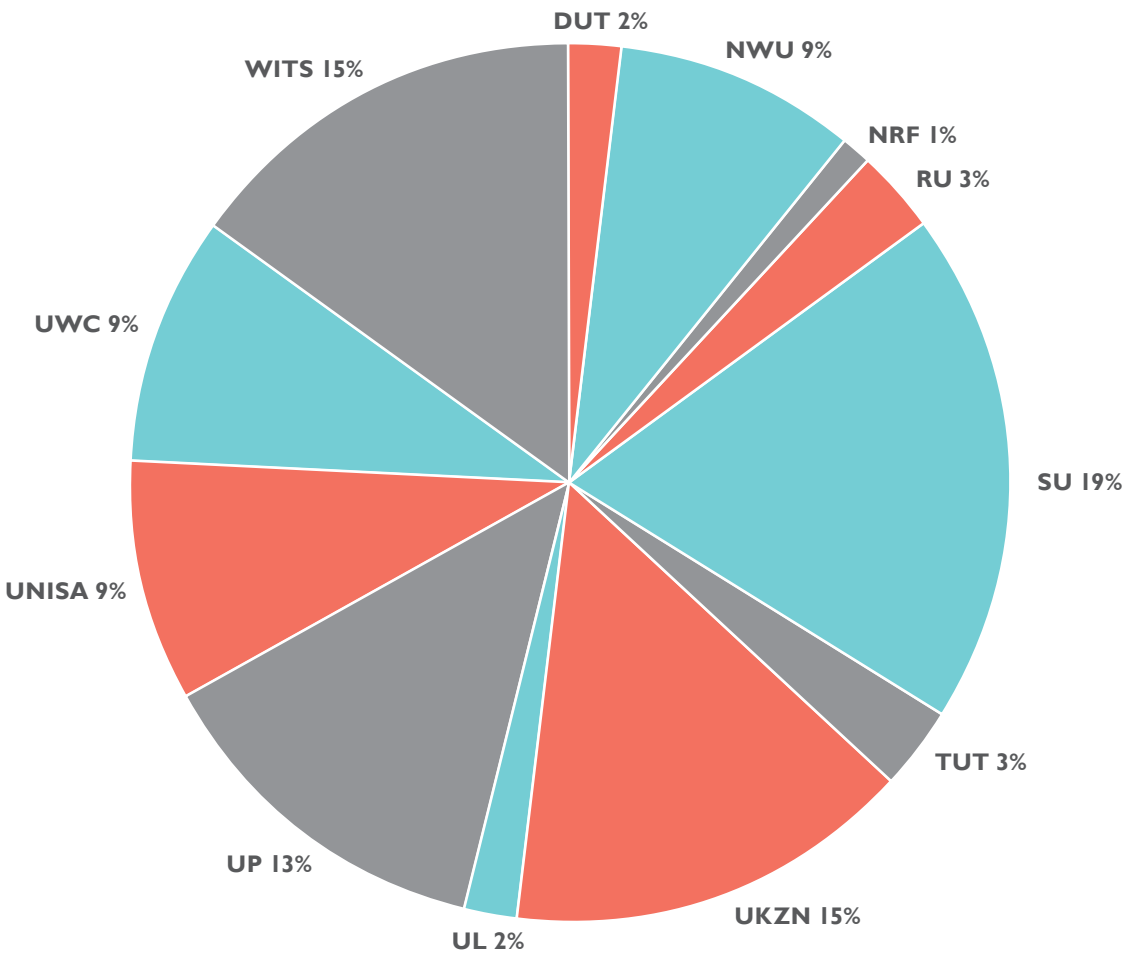


Figure 7: Percentage of ORCID IDs created in South Africa per university/research institution with ORCID South Africa Consortium membership (data courtesy of TENET and the ORCID South Africa Consortium)

LIBRARY RESEARCH WEEK

Our sixth Library Research Week, which took place from 30 July to 3 August, targeted emerging SU researchers and postgraduate students, who joined us in examining the theme “**Research in action**”. Participants were provided with practical knowledge on research essentials, including their literature search strategy, writing a research proposal, copyright issues and managing research data. Sessions included:

- “Managing your references with Mendeley”;
- “Enhance your online identity and impact as a researcher: ORCID and beyond”;
- “Data dissemination through an institutional repository”;
- “When is copyright copywrong?”;
- “Wellness during the research process”; and
- a hands-on session on data cleaning with OpenRefine.

The guest speaker at the opening event was Prof Jonathan Jansen, distinguished professor in the Faculty of Education. His speech was titled, “Research as an intellectual activity – the ethics and politics of chasing research outputs”. He also led a panel discussion on the highs and lows of SU’s research over the past century.

The formal **launch of the Marloth digital collection** coincided with our Research Week. Rudolf Marloth earned acclaim for the masterpiece, *The Flora of South Africa*, which he compiled between 1912 and 1932 along with botanical artists such as Ethel May Dixie and Esther Smith. We were fortunate to receive the original illustrations and plates, with handwritten notes, from the Marloth family. This precious collection now forms part of our SUNDigital Collections. Speakers at the launch included botanist Dr Piet Vorster, botanical artist Vicki Thomas and evolutionary ecologist Prof Anton Pauw.

Finally, for the first time in the history of Library Research Week, the **Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences** hosted their very own version of the event in their renovated MHSL.

DIGITAL SCHOLARSHIP

In 2018, we made increasing use of scholarly open-access initiatives to preserve the University’s research output and grow its global visibility.

Our open-access institutional repository, **SUNScholar**, continued to grow. Staff and students uploaded 2 223 outputs, of which 1 142 were theses and dissertations, and the remainder mostly research articles by SU authors. Figure 8 shows the sustained growth of the repository over the past four years.

RESEARCH OUTPUTS ADDED TO SUNScholar

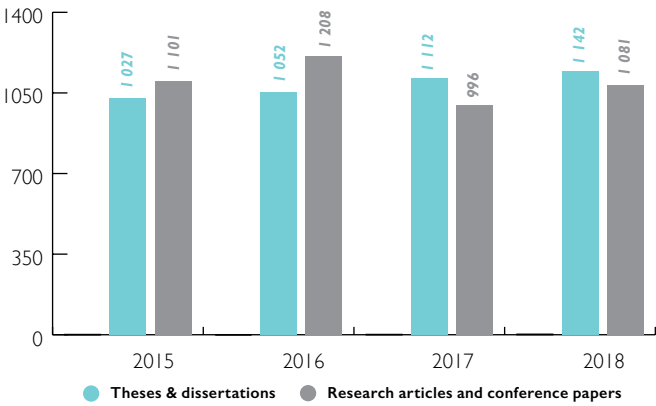


Figure 8: Research outputs added to SUNScholar, 2015-2018

Visitors to the repository were equally active. We recorded 594 000 visits and 259 000 unique downloads in 2018. Over 40% of these visits were from users on the African continent (figure 9).

VISITS TO SUNScholar BY CONTINENT

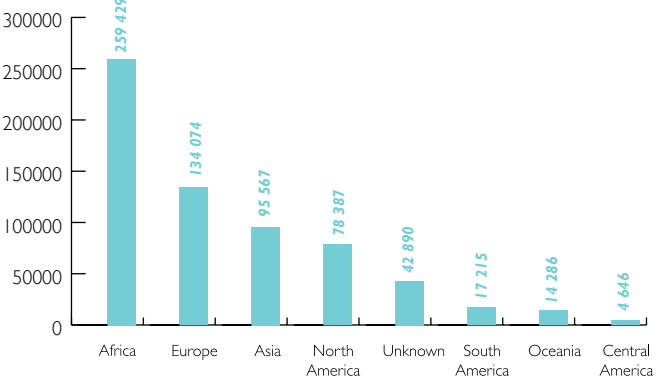


Figure 9: Visits to SUNScholar by continent, 2018

We further showcased our institutional research output by presenting 97 contributions by SU authors in the 25 open-access journals we currently host on our SUNJournals platform. **SUNJournals** also welcomed the new, SU-affiliated *Journal of Emerging African Scholarship*. The readership of these journals continues to expand: In 2018, the journal websites collectively recorded 384 613 visits, compared to 263 279 in 2017.

Our digital heritage repository, **SUNDigital Collections**, continued on its steady growth path (see figure 10), and currently hosts 12 917 items in 30 collections. This repository showcases and preserves unique library resources and special collections. In 2018, some of the significant collections we added were the Rudolf Marloth collection as well as digitised finding aids for several of our manuscript collections. The repository received 14 275 visits and 9 908 downloads for the year.

 **25**  
JOURNALS ON  
SUNJournals

 **384 613**  
VISITS TO  
SUNJournals

 **14 275**  
VISITS TO SUNDigital  
Collections



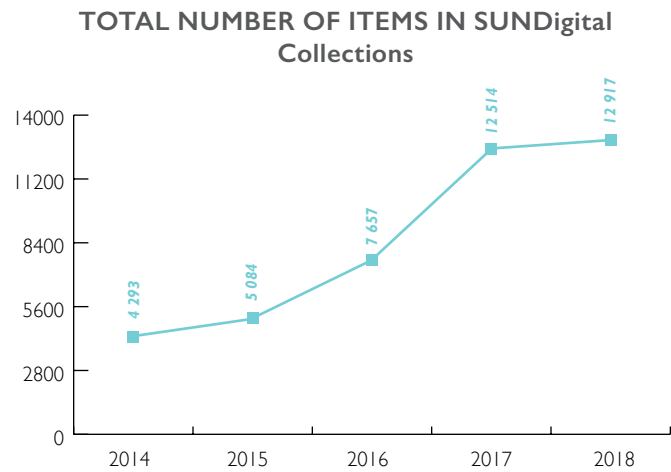
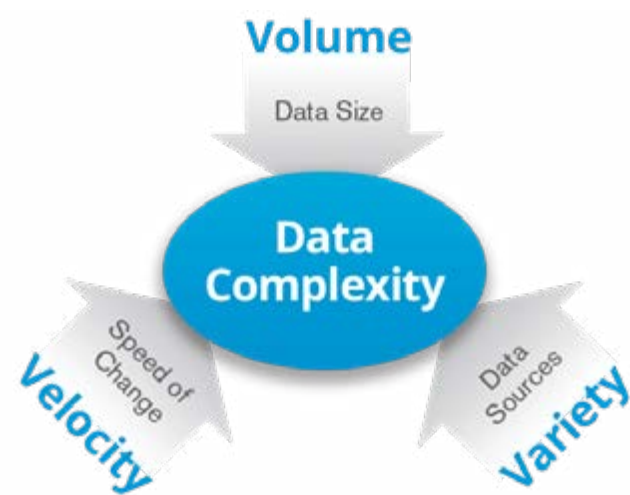
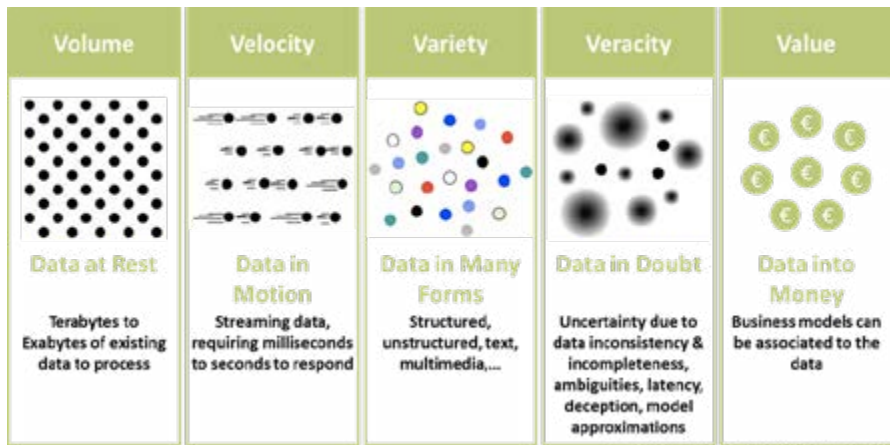


Figure 10: Total number of items in SUNDigital Collections, 2014-2018



### RESEARCH DATA MANAGEMENT (RDM)

RDM is the process of effectively organising, structuring, storing and caring for research data during and after a research project. In 2018, the Library made significant progress with regard to the implementation of an institutional research data repository, drafting guidelines for its use, and completing an IT security assessment. The SU Research Data Repository (SUNRDR), which we have built on the Figshare platform, should be ready for use by early 2019. We also completed RDM webpages and hosted RDM training and information sessions for staff and students.



Adapted by a post of Michael Walker on 28 November 2013

### CLIENT FEEDBACK

To deliver an increasingly world-class, innovative, diverse and client-orientated service, we engaged with clients to hear how they experience our service. For example, we provided whiteboards at the SU Library and branch libraries for client/Library communication on potential service improvements. We also included an online evaluation form in library guide e-learning modules. In 2019, we plan to conduct focus group discussions to determine our clients' perceptions of and needs regarding our research support services.

### 3.5 COLLABORATIVE RELATIONSHIPS WITH STAKEHOLDERS

We hosted purpose-specific **delegations and visitors** throughout the year, including the following:

- Dr Ayanda Lebele, Library Director: Botswana International University of Science and Technology, 22-23 January
- Ms Audrey Mhlanga, University Librarian: Bindura University of Science Education, Zimbabwe, 6 February
- Three research managers from different institutions in Namibia and Botswana, 8 May
- Visitors from the Reformed Church, Zimbabwe, 24 May
- Dr Dhaya Naidoo and Ms Anke McCallum from Tshwane University of Technology, regarding their library space planning project, 30 May
- Swiss Embassy and IDASA Archive visitors, 11 June
- United Nations Development Programme visitors, Mr Excellent Hachileka and Ms Marie-Claire Angwa, who were guests of the Research Alliance for Disaster and Risk Reduction (RADAR) based at SU, 20 June
- Mr Jasper Lee Maenzanise, Institute Librarian: Harare Institute of Technology, 5-16 November
- Ms Kate Robinson and Mr Alex Ball, respectively University Librarian and Research Data Librarian: University of Bath, United Kingdom, 12-16 November

Our sustained partnership with the **South African National Library and Information Consortium (SANLiC)** helped us save some R99 million in subscription fees. In exchange, we paid SANLiC service and membership fees of only R142 874.



We also continued our participation in the **Western Cape Tier2 Data Node Consortium (ilifu)**. Outcomes include a draft policy on research data management and open science to support researchers and scientists using the ilifu facility, as well as a draft document on work-integrated learning. The latter provides information for participating universities regarding the placement of postgraduate students and mid-career professionals with the various ilifu research projects so that they can gain experience in aspects of data science and RDM.

Towards the end of 2018, the Cape Library Consortium (CALICO) had a name change, and now goes by the name of **Cape Higher Education Library Network (CHELiN)**. Yet the value it adds to our services through a reciprocal borrowing agreement between the four Western Cape universities has remained unchanged. A daily courier service delivers borrowed material to the campuses of the four institutions.

Our solid partnership network has also earned us the honour of hosting two international conferences in the next two years, namely the **15<sup>th</sup> Open Repositories conference** in 2020 and the **congress of the International Association of Music Libraries, Archives and Documentation Centres** in 2021.

**R99 MILLION  
SAVED IN SUBSCRIPTION FEES  
DUE TO SANLiC MEMBERSHIP**



# OTHER ACTIVITIES

# 04

## SU OPEN DAY

On 24 February, we hosted more than 1 042 prospective students and their parents for SU Open Day. Visitors could choose between a short guided tour of our facilities, or exploring at their own pace.

## THE PUBLICATION OF AFRICA IMAGINED | AFRICA EXPLORED

*Africa Imagined | Africa Explored* is a hand-bound book containing a selection of maps from our Hugh Solomon collection. In November, our Senior Director, Ms Ellen Tise, presented copy number 4 of a limited edition of ten to the Library of Congress in Washington DC, United States. The National Library of South Africa also received a numbered copy on their bicentennial in June.

The book was completed in 2017 and is based on the Hugh Solomon historical Africana map collection, which we preserve in our Special Collections Division. The publication celebrates both the research value and aesthetic beauty of these maps, and has resulted from a special collaboration between the Library and SU's Department of Visual Arts.

Part 1 of the work contains background on the Hugh Solomon map collection. It also features two essays – one on early cartography by Prof Keith Dietrich, SU distinguished professor of Visual Arts, and another on different mapping systems by Prof Elri Liebenberg, Unisa emeritus professor of Geography. Part 2 contains detailed images and descriptions of 20 important maps from the collection, which Mimi Seyffert-Wirth, our Deputy Director: Digital Scholarship, put together, as well as an image catalogue of the entire collection. The map collection is accessible on SUNDigital Collections at <http://digital.lib.sun.ac.za/handle/10019.2/653>.



Figure 11: Cape of Good Hope sea chart, 1726, from the Hugh Solomon Map Collection, <http://hdl.handle.net/10019.2/838>



## CENTENARY EXHIBITION

As our way of marking SU's 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary, we launched our Centenary exhibition in the SU Library on 27 July. This glimpse of SU's past and present consisted of pictures and items from various collections and publications. It revolved around the themes "Library Service – then and now", "Student life – the spirit of the times" and "Maties sport – champions then, champions now". We even made the exhibition interactive with a QR code link-up to a webpage.

One of the many interesting pieces we displayed was an explanation of the origin and meaning of "Maties", as Stellenbosch students are known. According to an inscription in a notebook on student language by Prof JJ Smith, the term was derived from the colloquial Afrikaans form of address "maat" (Eng: pal, chum or buddy).

At a cocktail reception that evening, we hosted 95 of our current and retired staff to further celebrate SU's Centenary.

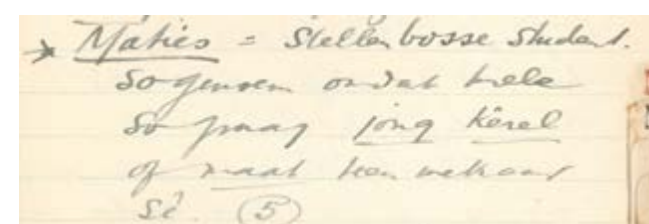


Figure 12: Notebook inscription from JJ Smith collection, Manuscripts Section, MS 333.N.2(25)





## LIBRARY SYMPOSIUM

Our 15<sup>th</sup> Stellenbosch University Library Symposium attracted more than 160 participants from seven countries. The theme of the event, which took place at STIAS from 15 to 16 November, was “Smarter libraries: User experience (UX) in action”. The keynote speaker, Mr Ned Potter, started the proceedings with an informative talk on UX research and implementation at the University of York Library. The ensuing three symposium sessions each addressed key UX-related themes.

The session “**Smarter libraries through technology**” included a talk by Mr Lars Binau from the Technical University of Denmark about their library, which they call “an internet-of-things living lab”. Hearing how they use sensors to determine the most popular areas in the library was particularly fascinating. In their presentation, Messrs Alex Ball (University of Bath) and Samuel Simango (SU Library) discussed a collaborative project to set up an RDM game. In the slot “**Smart library design: spaces and facilities**”, architect Roelof Rabe showcased SU’s refurbished MHSL, while MHSL user Dr Elsje-Márie Geldenhuys shared her experience of the new-look facility. Ms Abeer Al Kuwari from the National Library of Qatar also spoke about their imposing, cutting-edge new library. The final session, “**Using UX research for smarter services and resources**”, touched on how to include diversity in UX research, learning management systems, UX letters, as well as using evolved insights to drive UX.

The symposium concluded with a panel discussion that featured some of the prominent speakers at the event. Judging by feedback, delegates were particularly positive about the symposium theme and the content of the presentations.



Prof Wim de Villiers, Rector and Vice-Chancellor, Stellenbosch University, opened the 15<sup>th</sup> Stellenbosch University Library Symposium



# 05

## CLOSING REMARKS

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While we are grateful to be able to celebrate multiple achievements, we cannot look back on 2018 and, indeed, the past 100 years without also flagging the challenges we are up against. Our budget remains under pressure. Approximately 90% of our resources come from outside South Africa, which makes us vulnerable to a weak, fluctuating exchange rate. To us, the potential inability to meet the SU research community's demand for access to quality resources is a significant risk. One of our attempts to prevent this is by supporting the worldwide move towards open access, which pushes for greater access to published research beyond publishers' paywalls.

Looking forward, we know that academic libraries will increasingly go from providing information resources to facilitating clients' knowledge acquisition through learning, teaching and research. Over the last decade, academic libraries have had to respond to profound shifts in scholarly communication due to IT developments and the internet. This has made digital scholarship a vital part of our modern-day academic reality.

Yet the library as a physical space has not lost its attraction. This we know from the ever-increasing demand for extended library hours, even though virtual resources are available both on and off campus. Therefore, we continue to upgrade and repurpose our libraries to transform them into technology-friendly spaces that facilitate collaborative research and learning.

The Library remains well positioned to continue providing research support in terms of digital scholarship, bibliometrics and research impact. Future trends that we will be keeping an eye on are the decentralisation of the web, distributed computing and storage, data analytics, artificial intelligence, and knowledge graph infrastructures. These, we believe, are very likely to significantly affect our strategies, operations and services in the future. Meanwhile, SU's Library and Information Service is developing the digital skills and building the tools to effectively find, connect and integrate information, and so create new knowledge in support of the University's academic and research mission.



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# MEMBERS OF THE SENATE LIBRARY COMMITTEE IN 2018

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Prof TE Cloete (Vice-Rector: Research, Innovation and  
Postgraduate Studies, and committee chair)

Prof PA Brink

Prof MI Cherry

Prof JE du Plessis

Prof N Gey van Pittius

Prof LC Jonker

Prof P Meyer

Ms T Overmeyer

Prof E Strauss

Ms ER Tise (Senior Director: Library and Information Services)

Dr A van der Merwe (alternate for the Vice-Rector:  
Learning and Teaching)

Prof B Watson

Mr L Nkamisa (Students' Representative Council representative)

Ms I de Lange (secretary)

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