



MESSAGE FROM THE SENIOR DIRECTOR

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Another year has come to an end. When one looks back at it from the perspective of the Library and Information Service, it has been an inspiring year! There have been many highlights, as I have mentioned in the last *Bibnuus*, and as are also reflected in this issue. The Library embarked on a very ambitious programme of activities for 2011 and significant achievements highlight a very productive year for the Library, the University and its staff and students. Some of the achievements include the following:

Earlier this year, we opened the Learning Commons, a state of the art facility, and in keeping with new paradigms supporting higher education, this was followed by the opening of the Research Commons a month later. With funding from the Carnegie Corporation of New York, we launched SUNSearch – a federated tool that will significantly contribute to the acceleration of knowledge production. In October we launched SUNJournals – becoming the first academic institution on the continent to publish research output from the institution. In November Stellenbosch University shared in celebrating the centennial year of the Carnegie Corporation of New York (CCNY) by naming the Research Commons in the JS Gericke Library the *Carnegie Research Commons*. I feel extremely privileged that we, as Stellenbosch University, can be associated with such a philanthropic organization as the CCNY and the naming of the Research Commons gives us this special bond with the CCNY. The principle of creating avenues to promote knowledge growth for a better society is espoused in the University's HOPE Project. The investment by the CCNY to support the promotion of a cadre of excellent researchers is a critical pillar in developing strategies and methodologies for Africa to find solutions for its own growth and to contribute to world knowledge production. If one takes a step back, and casts a bird's eye view, all of these milestones contribute to research excellence and the acceleration of knowledge production. We look forward to taking our library services to further new heights in the year to come. With best wishes,
Ellen R. Tise

CARNEGIE RESEARCH COMMONS



The Research Commons, situated in the JS Gericke Library, came into operation early in 2011 and was officially opened on 9 May 2011. The impetus for the creation of this state of the art facility for masters and doctoral students, academics and researchers at SU, was partial funding received from the Carnegie Corporation of New York (CCNY). The funding forms part of the CCNY's Research Library Consortium Initiative in South Africa of which Stellenbosch University Library and Information Service is a member.

In honour of the significant contribution of CCNY to the development of higher education and libraries on the African continent, as well as its commitment to accomplish Andrew Carnegie's ideals to advance and disseminate knowledge, it was decided to name the Research Commons after Carnegie. This event took place on 18 November 2011 and was attended by, among others, representatives of the CCNY. The event was especially significant as the Corporation is celebrating its centennial this year and various festivities to commemorate their com-

mitment to Carnegie's ideals are taking place across the globe.

Another factor which made the event special is the longstanding relationship between Stellenbosch University, and the Library in particular, and Carnegie. This relationship dates back to 1907 when Andrew Carnegie offered financial assistance to the Victoria College, predecessor of the University. An amount to match Carnegie's offer was raised by the College and some of this money was used to build up the book collection of the then CL Marais Library. In 1935 the Carnegie Corporation again donated money to Stellenbosch University, specifically for library development. After additional fundraising from the side of the University, the Carnegie Library was built in 1938. The Carnegie Library served as the main library of the University until the JS Gericke Library was constructed and opened in 1984.

The Carnegie Research Commons (as it is now known as) has successfully established itself as the intended facility for researchers to engage in discourse and collaborative research. There have been over 46 000 visits to the Commons since opening and more than 450 bookings for the seminar rooms within the Commons have been made. The area is proving to become more

and more popular with postgraduate students and researchers as the average number of clients per day has been rising steadily between March and October this year.

One of the latest initiatives implemented by the Research Commons to further stimulate discourse and debate between researchers, is the "social hour". The first successful social hour, hosted on 23 September 2011, featured Prof. Yusuf Waghid, Dean of Education, discussing three thinkers which had a lasting influence on his work: Stanley Cavell, Martha Nussbaum and Seyla Benhabib. The event was attended by about 30 guests in the lounge area of the Research Commons. A relaxed atmosphere where guests could get to know each other and talk to each other about their work was created.

More events such as these, as well as workshops to support researchers, are planned for the near future.



OOPTOEGANGSEMINAAR EN 'SUNJOURNALS'

Die Biblioteek- en Inligtingsdiens het vanjaar sy tweede suksesvolle ooptoegangseminaar aangebied op 24 Oktober tydens internasionale Ooptoegangweek. Die fokus van die seminaar was op publikasie in ooptoegangvaktyskrifte en kwessies soos kopiereg, intellektuele eiendom, outeursregte en eweknie evaluering is bespreek.

Sedert Stellenbosch in Oktober 2010 die eerste Afrika-universiteit geword het om die Berlyn-verklaring oor Oop Toegang tot Inligting ten opsigte van die Natuur- en Geesteswetenskappe te onderteken, het hierdie verbintenis tot oop toegang gelei tot opwindende nuwe projekte en ontwikkelinge.

Een so 'n projek, wat tydens die seminaar bekendgestel is, is SUN-Journals – 'n platform wat ooptoegangvaktyskrifte aanlyn publiseer. Elf tydskriftitels het reeds by die platform aangesluit. Desmond Thompson van die US Mediakantoor berig as volg daaroor:

“Die vaktyskrifte word met behulp van die oopbronsagteware Open Journal Systems (OJS) gepubliseer wat deur die Public Knowledge Project ontwikkel is. Oop toegang verwys na onbeperkte aanlyntoegang tot artikels wat in vaktyskrifte verskyn. Dit kan 'n tydskrif se leserspubliek sowel as sy bydrae tot openbare welstand internasionaal uitbrei. Meer as 8300 vaktyskrifte wêreldwyd gebruik OJS. Dit sluit 429 vaktyskrifte van Afrika in.

Volgens Ellen Tise, Senior Direkteur: Biblioteek- en Inligtingsdiens, is oop toegang 'n belangrike stap na volhoubare menslike ontwikkeling. Dit kan kritiese inligting oplewer wat menselewens ten goede kan verander. As sodanig, sluit dit aan by die US se HOOP Projek, waardeur die Universiteit sy kennisbasis gebruik om van die knellendste ontwikkelingsvraagstukke van die samelewing aan te spreek.

“Ons ooptoegang-vaktyskrifdiens bied plaaslike vaktyskrifte internasionale blootstelling. Ons het reeds versoeke vir samewerking van hoëronderwysinstellings van so ver as Swede

ontvang,” sê Tise, wat tot onlangs nog as president van die Internasionale Federasie van Biblioteekverenigings en -instellings gedien het.

Volgens Ina Smith, Bestuurder: E-navorsingsbewaarplesse aan die US, vervul biblioteke wêreldwyd deesdae al hoe meer die rol van uitgewer. In 'n verslag deur Purdue University Libraries in Amerika word uitgewys dat biblioteke oor die afgelope vyf jaar hul rol in die waardeketting van vakkundige publikasie begin uitbrei het deur 'n groter verskeidenheid voorpublikasie- en redaksionele steundienste te bied.

“Dit is deesdae maklik om aanlynvaktyskrifte en -bewaarplesse te hê weens die beskikbaarheid van oopbronsagteware, wat meestal gratis is. In plaas daarvan dat derde partye ons vaktyskrifte aanlyn aanbied, kan ons presies dieselfde doen teen 'n fraksie van die prys,” sê Smith.

Ooptoegangfonds

Vroeër vanjaar het die US se Biblioteek- en Inligtingsdiens 'n ooptoegangfonds gestig om die Universiteit se navorsers aan te moedig om in ooptoegangtydskrifte te publiseer. Outeursfooi vir publikasie in ooptoegangtydskrifte word gesubsidieer, en navorsers ontvang ook 'n subsidie vir publikasie in gewone vaktyskrifte indien 'n bykomende fooi vereis word om oop toegang tot gepubliseerde artikels moontlik te maak. Voorts dek die fonds die Universiteit se lidmaatskap van ooptoeganguitgewers soos BioMed Central (BMC) en die Public Library of Science (PLOS).

Navorsing deur prof Louise Warnich van die US se Departement Genetika en Visedekaan van die Fakulteit AgriWetenskappe word vervat in die eerste akademiese artikel wat deur die US se ooptoegangfonds gefinansier en uitgegee is. Dit handel onder meer oor die strategiese rigtings wat toekomstige mediese navorsing in Suid-Afrika behoort in te slaan.”

DIGITISATION INITIATIVES

Another way in which the Carnegie Corporation of New York is contributing to the acceleration of knowledge production is by supporting digitisation projects within the Research Libraries Consortium. Institutions that form part of the RLC have been asked to identify unique collections in their holdings which will benefit research on South Africa and the African continent. Many institutions have rare manuscript or other collections which are hidden away in archives or special collections and not publicly accessible to support research.

The Library and Information Service has now selected two unique collections to be digitised as part of the project. These collections have been prioritized and others will follow.

The first collection to be identified is that of the *Vrye Weekblad*, the only existing Afrikaans anti-apartheid weekly newspaper. The Library holds the entire collection from 1988 to 1994. The collection is considered to have excellent research value as it contains unique and important information regarding this period of the

history of South Africa. The collection is not available in digitised format elsewhere. Once the collection is digitised, researchers will have complete free access to the full text of the newspaper in PDF format.

The second collection is the Hugh Solomon collection of African maps dating before 1860. The collection consists of 98 maps in excellent condition, the earliest dating from 1570. The collection has some very important and well-known maps of Africa, but also a few rare and unique pieces, such as an unidentified manuscript map of False Bay, dating from 1788.

These maps will be digitised by a company specialising in the digitisation of large scale art works. This process will ensure that the maps are captured in great detail and that the original colours will remain true in the digitised format. Researchers will be able to study the maps from the comfort of their own pc's and the physical format of the original maps will remain perfectly preserved for the future.

JAPIE BASSON VERSAMELING BEKENDGESTEL

Die Biblioteek- en Inligtingsdiens het op 15 Junie 2011 die voltooide katalogus en indeks tot die Japie Basson-versameling in die Dokumentesentrum bekendgestel. Jacob Daniël du Plessis Basson (93) se lang loopbaan as politikus en die interessante tydperk in die geskiedenis van Suid-Afrika wat hy beleef het word in hierdie waardevolle dokumentversameling weerspieël. Na noukeurige sortering, beskrywing en indeksering van die versameling was dit vir die Dokumentesentrum 'n voorreg om hierdie mylpaal met mnr Basson en sy familie en vriende te vier.

Ten spyte van die triestige winterweer het mnr en mev Basson en verskeie vriende en familielede, o.a. mnr Basson se skoonseun, dr Christo Wiese, die geleentheid bygewoon. Die verrigtinge het afgeskop met 'n paar woorde van mev Lynne Fourie en Marina Brink van die Dokumentesentrum wat verantwoordelik was vir die werk aan die versameling.

Mev Marina Brink het die versameling as volg opgesom: "Die Basson-versameling weerspieël nie net die dertig jaar van mnr Basson se uitstekende diens aan die Suid-Afrikaanse samelewing as LV in die parlement sowel as die 7 jaar as lid van die Grondwetkomitee in die Presidentsraad nie. Daar is ook vroeëre dokumente uit sy skooldae aan Boishaai in die Paarl en as Matie-student waaruit sy leierskap duidelik blyk – hy was o.a. 'n aktiewe lid van die Voortrekkers en sy besondere manier van met woorde omgaan blyk reeds vroeg uit artikels wat hy vir die organisasie geskryf het. Mnr Basson staan steeds bekend as

een van die beste orators of redenaars wat die parlement ooit opgelewer het – hy praat soos hy skryf, netjies, akkuraat, sy sinne georden – en in die versameling is daar o.a. ± 350 politieke toesprake alleen, wat natuurlik nie die vele insluit wat hy by ander geleenthede soos die open van kuns uitstallings of op troues gemaak het nie. Daar is ook uitgebreide afdelings oor die verskillende politieke partye, apartheid, sensuur, SWA, die grondwet, Presidentsraad, artikels en baie korrespondensie. Dié versameling dokumente oor 'n baie interessante tydperk van ons land se politieke geskiedenis is van onskatbare navorsingswaarde en sluit uitstekend aan by ander versamelings waaroor die Dokumentesentrum reeds beskik".

Oor die besondere verhouding wat hul met "Oom Japie" het, het mev Lynne Fourie die volgende te sê gehad: "Ons het mnr. Basson eers laat in sy lewe persoonlik leer ken toe hy sy versameling in 1998 aan die Dokumentesentrum geskenk het. ... Jare gelede is mnr. Basson in die pers beskryf as 'n ambisieuse individualis, 'n taai stuk politieke biltong, stormvoël van die politiek en iemand wat nie sommer gaan lê

nie. Hy is beskou as een van die briljantste politieke denkers van sy tyd. Ons het mnr. Basson ervaar as iemand wat metodies, netjies en korrek te werk gaan. Sy werkywer, vlymskerp verstand en kennis van SA politiek en geskiedenis het ons verstom. Hy is altyd nederig, belangstellend en hartlik. Ons was bevoorreg om boekbekendstellings en spesiale verjaardae by te woon waar ons mnr Basson ervaar het as 'n aangename, stylvolle "gentleman" wat 'n liefde vir sy vrou, kinders en familie uitstraal. Sy liefde vir Suid-Afrika het my opgeval asook sy ondersteuning van Suid-Afrikaanse kunstenaars en musikante".

Een van die hoogtepunte van die aand was sekerlik mnr Basson se toespraak. Dit was meer as duidelik waarom hy as een van die land se beste redenaars beskou word. 'n Leergebonde stel van die vyf-delige katalogus is aan mnr Basson oorhandig.



Mev Fourie (links) en Brink (middel) by mnr Basson

NEW LIBRARY WEBSITE - A SNEAK PREVIEW...

A vibrant, streamlined and user friendly webpage for the Library and Information Service will be launched early in 2012. The new website is built and maintained using the Microsoft SharePoint 2010 Development Publishing Platform. One of the main new features of the website will be a collapsible search box (pictured below) to provide quick and easy access. A mobile site has also been developed and is already available at <http://m.library.sun.ac.za/>.

The screenshot displays the library website's search and user interface. At the top, there are three tabs: "Books + Articles", "SUNScholar", and "Short Loans". Below these is a search box with a magnifying glass icon, a dropdown menu for "All Collections", and a "SEARCH" button. To the right of the search box, there are links for "Advanced Search", "Databases A-Z list", and "e-Journals A-Z list". On the right side of the page, there is a "MyLibrary" section with icons and links for "Renew Books", "My Account", "Subject Guides", and "Ask a Librarian".

OUT WITH THE OLD...

The Library and Information Service recently said farewell to a familiar feature that has been synonymous with libraries for hundreds of years...

On 7 December 2011 a symbolic 'funeral' was held in the JS Gericke Library to pay our last respects to our dear friend, the **Card Catalogue**. A project which saw every single card entry transferred to the electronic catalogue was recently completed. Staff members had the opportunity to say farewell with a tinge of nostalgia as Senior Director, Ellen Tise, spoke about the fascinating origins of the card catalogue and where the future might take us:

"I would like to start by quoting John Dunn who says, *Death, be not proud, though some have called thee mighty and dreadful, for thou art not so...*

The card catalogue, which has been the bastion of librarianship for so many decades, is fast becoming a relic. We do not mourn its death (our card catalogue) – this is not a 'dreadful' event that we should fear, but a celebration of innovative ways of giving new life and meaning to finding information in a more efficient and faster way.

The history of librarianship can be traced by examining the profession's technology, specifically its catalogues. For the longest time, millennia in fact, the catalogues of libraries were simple lists ordered by dates, authors, and titles. Until Dewey, dictionary catalogues were the norm. The advent of the subject catalogue and its introduction into the public spaces of libraries was seen as a progressive step in the history of library service.

In many ways the card catalogue was also quite an innovation. First of all, since it was located in a public space, the catalogue became a tool available to anybody, not just librarians. Secondly, by organising its contents by subject as well as organising the collection by subject, the catalogue mirrored the contents of the library's shelves. If a person knew how to follow the tracings found at the bottom of every set of cards, then he or she could figuratively hyperlink from one part of a library's collec-

tion to another part without moving but a few feet to another of the catalogue's drawers.



The history of the card catalogue itself began in the time of the French Revolution – Paris 1789. The purpose of the card bibliographic catalogue has not changed over the decades.

The concept and creation of the first cards used for catalogues occurred during the revolution. The Constituent Assembly confiscated books and manuscripts and these were brought to literary depots at several locations in Paris. The staff at each depot had to record on cards the basic particulars about each item held. Because of wartime shortages, confiscated playing cards were used to record the information. The playing cards then were larger and instead of having a pattern or a picture on the back, they were blank.

The title page of the book was handwritten on the card and the author's surname underlined for the filing order. If there was no author, a keyword in the title was to be underlined. A description was added which included the number of volumes, size, a statement of illustration, the material of which the book was made, the kind of type, any missing pages, and a description of the binding if it was outstanding in any way. The primary purpose of this elaborate description was to inform the government of books that had extreme financial value. This financial asset would offer govern-

ment the opportunity to make a sale in order to increase government revenue. After the cards were filled in and put in order according to the underlined filing word, they were to be strung together by running a needle and thread through the lower left hand corners to keep them in order.

That is how the card catalogue started. I think I will be stating the obvious when I say that librarians who have been in the profession for more than a few years have seen significant change come to libraries through the implementation of new technologies. Hard work has been done to ensure that the library is not left behind by these technologies but instead manipulated relevant technologies to improve service and to make our institutions more useful and more vibrant.

Most of us have adapted to the changes, appreciating the advantages of the OPAC over the card catalogue and welcoming other technologies that have made resources more accessible. For some, however, these changes are not enough. They would like to challenge libraries to change more fundamentally, feeling that such a shake-up is essential for our institutions to remain relevant and successful in the future— a future that's populated by a generation that has grown up with technology and takes technology for granted.

In keeping with the spirit of innovation and change and, growth and development, the integrated library system as we currently know it may soon be as much of a relic like our beloved card catalogue. It's not clear what will replace it, as librarians debate among themselves about just what is needed to manage both physical and electronic resources.

Users have never had so many resources available to them, and it's our job to design, or at least help to design, the systems that manage these resources so users can more easily find exactly what they need. To conclude, death be not proud, we have found better ways to live our lives as librarians and improve the efficiency of the service we provide."

Research: Dr Reggie Raju