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MESSAGE FROM THE SENIOR DIRECTOR

Welcome all readers to our first issue of *Bibnuus* this year! As usual, the past year ended on a high note for the Library and started off with a 'Big Bang', as you will read in this issue. All these activities have unfortunately led to a delay in the publication of the first edition of *Bibnuus* for the year.

Below you will read about the great excitement which accompanied the opening of our brand new 'Smart' Learning Commons in January 2011. The Learning Commons is one of the University's Hope Initiatives directly focusing and impacting on students.

Other highlights included in this issue cover some of the Library's major achievements of 2010 and some new initiatives for 2011. These initiatives are in line with international trends and paradigm shifts in the role of the academic library. As such, the Library has in the past few years migrated large parts of its print collection to digital collections and also developed and implemented new facilities and services, such as SUNScholar, the Learning and Research Commons and SUNSearch. High on our agenda for this year is to successfully implement, develop and expand these services to further enhance the Library's contribution in terms of student success and improving research output at the University.

Other key initiatives this year in support of the University's commitment to share its research output as widely as possible, include the implementation of an Open Access Journal Publishing system and a completely redesigned website, which will include amongst others, mobile functionalities. As stated in its 2010 annual report, the Library and Information Service will continue in 2011 to be the intellectual common ground for the various branches of the University and the entire University community.

Ellen R. Tise

LEERSENTRUM IN GEBRUIK - LEARNING COMMONS OPENS



Die Leersentrum ("Learning Commons") is op 16 Februarie vanjaar amptelik geopen deur prof Russel Botman, US rektor, tydens 'n prestige geleentheid. Tydens hierdie geleentheid was die Leersentrum ook in die kollig as deel van die US Hoop Projek inisiatief rondom die verskaffing van toegang tot elektroniese hulpbronne. Die opening het ook 'n besoek aan die Leersentrum self ingesluit waar gaste die atmosfeer van dié unieke ruimte eerstehands kon beleef en 'n demonstrasie van die tegnologie beskikbaar binne die e-klaskamer kon besigtig.

Met die amptlike opening nou agter die rug het dit egter tyd geraak om te gaan inloer na die daaglikse werking van die sentrum en tot hoe 'n mate dit deel van die identiteit van die Biblioteek- en Inligtingsdiens geraak het.

Die fasiliteit was op 31 Januarie 2011 reeds officieel oop vir gebruik en studente het op die eerste dag al dié nuwe area binnegestroom. Sedertdien oortref die gebruik van die sentrum alle verwagtinge. Hierdie studentevriendelike area sit byna daagliks vol. Wanneer die elektroniese klaskamer nie in gebruik is nie, word alle werkstasies daarbinne ook deur ywerige studente beset, wat aandui dat die Leersentrum werklik die tekort aan rekenaarwerkstasies in die JS Gericke Biblioteek aanspreek. Die Biblioteek- en Inligtingsdiens het onlangs dan ook 'n geldelike donasie ontvang om selfs meer rekenaarwerkstasies vir die Leersentrum aan te koop – 'n proses wat tans afgehandel word.

Statistiek vir die gebruik van die Leersentrum gedurende die eerste kwartaal van vanjaar bewys dat die Leersentrum 'n geslaagde projek is. Totale besoeke tydens die eerste twee operasionele maande was meer as 72 000. Wanneer hierdie statistiek verder ontleed word dui dit op ongeveer 1 700 'unieke' besoeke (m.a.w. verskillende besoekers), daagliks. Die gemiddelde besetting van gesprekskamers staan op 'n gesonde 63% en besetting van rekenaarwerkstasies is optimaal.

Wat die elektroniese klaskamer en opleiding daar aangebied betref, is daar tot op hede reeds 2 420 studente tydens 125 sessies opgelei. Die Leersentrum het ook 'n elektroniese "opleidingskalender" op sy webtuiste waar studente maklik kan sien watter opleiding wanneer aangebied word en selfs in sommige gevalle aanlyn daarvoor kan registreer.

Dit lyk dus volgens alle aanduidings asof die Leersentrum vinnig 'n volwaardige deel van die JS Gericke Biblioteek-landskap en die groter Biblioteek- en Inligtingsdiens as geheel geraak het dat dit nog baie *Smart Maties** in die toekoms sal oplewer. Lees gerus op bladsy 4 oor die unieke kunswerke binne die Leersentrum.

*Die leuse "Be a smart Matie" is geïnspireer die *Smartie* boks ontwerpkonsep van die argitek van die Leersentrum en word gebruik om studente aan te moedig in die gebruik van die Biblioteek vir hul inligtingsbehoefes.

HB THOM ROOM UNVEILED

The Manuscripts Section Room in the Special Collections division of the JS Gericke Library was officially named after Prof HB Thom, former rector of Stellenbosch University, at a special event on 10 November 2010. Prof Rusell Botman, SU Rector, was the main speaker at the event and spoke about Professor Thom's legacy at Stellenbosch University. He also drew comparisons between his own term as rector and Professor Thom's, now more than forty years ago. He commented on the common threads of academic excellence and service to one's community running through the history of Stellenbosch University, thus very eloquently tying together the past and future of our institution and country.

Prof HB Thom had a longstanding association with Stellenbosch University which started in 1924 when he enrolled here as a student. He went on to lecture in the Department of History and eventually served as rector of the University between 1954 and 1969. The University expanded significantly in this period under Thom's strong leadership, with new faculties, fields of study, residences and buildings coming into being.

The Manuscripts Section is the keeper of Professor Thom's valuable written legacy – an extensive manuscript collection, containing correspondence, photographs, speeches, articles, historical notes and documents pertaining to Thom's association with various cultural, historical and educational societies. The entire collection spans over 45 metres shelf space and is stored in 544 pamphlet boxes. The collection has now been fully indexed and made accessible to researchers, thanks to the continued financial support of the HB and MJ Thom Trust. The end result of the indexing efforts is an impressive eight volume descriptive catalogue with subject, author and title indexes.



Prof HB Thom, 1971

SU SIGNS BERLIN DECLARATION ON OPEN ACCESS



Ms Ellen Tise, Senior Director: Library and Information Service with Prof Rusell Botman, Stellenbosch University Rector, signing the Berlin Declaration

The Library and Information Service hosted its first Open Access seminar during international Open Access Week, on 20 October 2010. The purpose of the seminar was to alert the scholarly community to the benefits of open access, encourage the sharing of research and informing the community of the Library's commitment to open access and developments within this sphere. The seminar was attended by academics, researchers and librarians from Stellenbosch University, but also reached a wider audience online with internet video streaming being utilised to broadcast

the proceedings. Representatives from various academic disciplines related how open access impacts their respective fields.

One of the highlights of the seminar was the signing of the Berlin Declaration on open access to knowledge in the Sciences and Humanities. This declaration was written in 2003 and is one of the milestones of the global open access movement. In signing the declaration, an institution commits itself to implement a policy that "encourages their researchers to deposit a copy of all their published articles in an open access repository" and encourage them to "publish their research articles in open access journals where a suitable journal exists and provide the support to enable that to happen". The signing was also an historic event on the continent, since SU became the first African university to sign the declaration.

Another highlight of the seminar was a message by Mark Shuttleworth broadcasted to the audience from his home in Jersey. In his message, entitled "Standing on the shoulders of giants", Shuttleworth congratulated SU on taking the initiative in signing the Berlin Declaration. He related how the Internet has made it possible to create collaborative processes and how these processes have become a driving force in research. According to Shuttleworth, collaboration touches every industry and open source software, for example, was created as a result of this. In sharing research in this collaborative manner one allows others to do things with your work which you yourself could never imagine and it is this which leads to innovation, progress and success. Open access makes it possible to truly stand on the shoulders of giants.



Memory of the World

van bewaring van, en toegang tot, dokumentêre erfenis in verskeie wêrelddele. Die visie van die program vandag lui dat die wêreld se dokumentêre erfenis aan almal behoort en vir iedereen toeganklik moet wees en bewaar en beskerm moet word. Die program dra dan ook by tot die verwesenliking van hierdie ideaal deur 'n ondersteunings-, fasiliterings- en opleidingsrol te speel in

Me. Ellen R Tise, senior direkteur: Biblioteek- en Inligtingsdiens en president van IFLA, is onlangs aangestel op die Internasionale Advieskomitee van UNESCO se "Memory of the World" program. Hierdie prestige aanstelling is deur die direkteurgeneraal van UNESCO, Irina Bokova, gedoen.

Die "Memory of the World" program het reeds in 1992 tot stand gekom toe komer begin ontstaan het oor die toestand

terme van digitale bewaring, universele toeganklikheid en besluitmaking van die bestaan en betekenis van dokumentêre erfenis wêreldwyd.

Die rol van die Internasionale Advieskomitee is om UNESCO te adviseer rondom die beplanning en implementering van die "Memory of the World" program as geheel. Me. Tise is vir 'n tydperk van vier jaar aangestel (2011-2014) en sal as een van 14 lede in haar persoonlike hoedanigheid op die komitee dien. Lede word verkies op grond van hul outoriteit op die gebied van die bewaring van dokumentêre nalatenskap.

Me. Tise se verbintenis tot die bewaring van erfenis het onlangs weer gestalte gekry in die ontwikkeling van inisiatiewe binne IFLA ter ondersteuning van haar presidensiële tema "Libraries driving access to knowledge". Een so inisiatief is meer investering in die heropbou van kulturele erfenis ná 'n natuurramp, soos byvoorbeeld in die geval in Haiti. Me. Tise het Haiti in 2010 besoek en IFLA is steeds betrokke by verskeie herstelprojekte in dié land.

ELSEVIER E-BOOK COMPETITION

The Library and Information Service's partnership with Elsevier Publishers continues in 2011 and in April this year an 'Elsevier week' was presented. Events included several training sessions presented by Elsevier representatives. A competition with a Sony PRS-600 eBook reader as prize, sponsored by Elsevier, was also presented by the Library and Information Service at this time.

The competition was designed to expose students to Elsevier eBook titles available via the Science Direct platform. Students had to view an eBook demonstration in order to be eligible to enter the competi-

tion. The competition was simultaneously hosted in the the JS Gericke Library as well as the branch libraries, where exhibitions demonstrated the fulltime accessibility of electronic books versus the limited availability of their hard copy counterparts.

Tharine Stoumann, a third-year medical student, was announced as the winner of the competition on 12 April 2011 after entering the competition at the Health Sciences Library, Tygerberg Campus.

Student entering the competition at Health Sciences Library, Tygerberg Campus



SUNSEARCH: NUWE SOEKPORTAAL

Die SUNSearch soekportaal is onlangs by die Biblioteek- en Inligtingsdiens in beta modus geïnstalleer. SUNSearch is ons eie installasie van die Primo produk wat deur die Research Libraries Consortium (RLC) beskikbaar gestel word. Primo word as 'n "discovery-to-delivery" stelsel deur die maatskappy Ex Libris vervaardig en het die doel om as soekportaal vir navorsers toegang tot akademiese bronne te vergemaklik deur alles binne één koppelvlak beskikbaar te stel. Vanuit ons perspektief is die implementering van SUNSearch dus een stap nader aan die verwesenliking van die ideaal waarna ons streef, naamlik om die inligtingsontdekkingsproses vir ons navorsers en studente so soomloos as moontlik te maak.

Die implementering van SUNSearch word in twee fases benader. Die eerste fase, wat reeds ten einde 2010 afgehandel is, behels die verskaf van toegang deur middel van 'n enkele koppelvlak tot die meerderheid elektroniese bronne waartoe ons toegang bied deur middel van subskripsie ooreenkomste. Met die SUNSearch stelsel is die proses van soek binne databasisse van oorsese verskaffers nou veel vinniger.

Die tweede fase van implementering is tans in volle swang met die indeksering van bibliografiese inhoud van die Aleph katalogus (biblioteekkatalogus) wat eerste aandag geniet. Daarna volg die inkorporering van reserwermateriaal, navorsingsuitsette binne SUNScholar en elektroniese tydskrifartikels wat binne die SUNJournals stelsel ('n OJS- of oop toegang e-joernaal-platform) gehuisves gaan word. Hierdie tweede fase van implementering word beplan om saam te val met die gebruik van die beplande nuwe webblad van die Biblioteek- en Inligtingsdiens, om een soomlose stelsel vir kliënte te bied.

Statistiek rondom die gebruik van SUNScholar sedert die bekendstelling daarvan in Februarie vanjaar vertoon baie goed met 'n gemiddeld van 3500 soektogte wat bv. per week in Maart op die stelsel uitgevoer is. Statistiek dui ook op goeie responstyd en bevredigende soekresultate. Ons hoop dat die stelsel in sy finale formaat 'n onmisbare hulpmiddel vir navorsers en studente sal word.

SMART MATIES, ART MATIES

The Learning Commons is an area dedicated to students, specifically designed for students and partly staffed by students. You might have noticed these student assistants wearing “Smart Matie” t-shirts. The motto “Be a Smart Matie” was inspired by the Smartie box design elements used by the architects in the Learning Commons. The motto is now used to encourage students to use the Library for their information needs.

Another way to incorporate students into the fabric of the Commons, was to involve them in the design of an artwork on a blank wall in the Commons. The challenging task of visually portraying the “process of learning” was given to several groups of art students. In the end, the “D-Unit” group was chosen to decorate the blank wall. Lecturer Trasi Henen and the students explain:

“The group decided to explore the shape of neurons and combine this with the idea of a mind map. During a series of exploratory drawings, we decided to combine the different line-drawing styles of each group. Starting at each corner of the page, our lines began to intertwine and combine. In every drawing, the outcome was different, as the image was unplanned and we were guided by process. Here we were led and are still being directed into a space in which we have never been”.



Art Maties at work in the Learning Commons

The end result of their efforts is an intricate and lively piece of work and can be seen in the Learning Commons.

Another artwork in the Learning Commons which captures one’s attention is the huge portrait of the late Prof Laurence ‘Larry’ Scully (1922-2002), artist and lecturer at the Visual Arts Department. Art students did this painting collectively in 1984 and presented it to Prof Scully as a token of appreciation upon his retirement as head of the Department in the same year. It has been a familiar face in the Library and used to be displayed on the lower level before finding it’s colourful new home in the Learning Commons.



Student assistant wearing the SMART Matie T-shirt

FROM THE BREADBIN TO THE TOASTER—A FEAST OF FREE CONTENT

Toaster? Breadbin? What do these culinary references have to do with an academic library? I suppose we could argue that information is our daily staple and that our clients certainly need to acquire it in order to successfully complete their studies or research, to have their bread buttered on both sides, I suppose!

Let me explain. *Breadbin Interactive* specialises in the “provision of creative turn-key solutions for the distribution of digital content through customised touch screen kiosks” (www.breadbin.co.za) and is home to the ‘Freedom Toaster’ – a touchscreen kiosk developed as a project of the Shuttleworth foundation to distribute free and open source software.

The updated ‘Toaster’ is a completely customised kiosk with an easy touch screen interface where clients can burn relevant

digital content to CD’s, DVD’s and USB flash disks. The Library and Information Service recently acquired one for a three month trial period in the Learning Commons. The ‘Toaster’ is preloaded with content according to clients’ perceived needs and clients will further be invited to suggest which additional content they would like to have available on the ‘Toaster’.

Feedback from the Learning Commons indicates that the ‘Toaster’ is becoming popular with students and is being used regularly. Downloading content from the ‘Toaster’ is totally free, meaning that there are not any costs involved for clients for download time. Students without Internet access at home can easily download material here to have on hand when needed. Content currently available includes open source software, open education content,

music, videos and e-books, as well as free-ware such as CutePDF and Adobe Reader. Other favourites include games, distro’s, “Ted Talks” and “Gutenberg books”.

Hopefully the continuous use of the ‘Toaster’ will ensure that it becomes a permanent feature in the Learning Commons.

