



Info Forum

Newsletter of the Potchefstroom Campus Libraries



IN THIS EDITION:

Page

- 1 - Group study venue
- 2 - 24/7 venue
- 2 - Entrance foyer
- 3 - Popular databases
- 3 - Book exhibition
- 4 - We care
- 5 - Staff
- 5 - Promosa school library
- 6 - New databases
- 6 - Pocket Library
- 7 - Air conditioning ESL
- 7 - Training rooms

New group study venue

The journal reading room on the second floor of the Library has undergone a metamorphosis during the past two months. It has been converted to a space conducive to group study. Apart from the new round tables and benches that are already very popular, four seminar venues and two presentation venues have been created. All six venues have their own white-boards and the two presentation venues have plasma screens. As in the rest of the venues, power outlets are also available in the seminar and presentation rooms for plugging in laptops. Bookings may be done on the Library website under [venue bookings](#) and the keys may be collected from Loan Services.



24/7 venue

A 24/7 venue has been created by the Ferdinand Postma Library. This venue is located on the eastern side of the third floor of the E7 Building, on the same floor as the lecture rooms.

The name of the venue conveys what it is; it is accessible for 24 hours a day, 7 days a week for students who need to study after hours.

After hours access to the venue is via card readers at the two entrances on the eastern and southern sides of the building. There are 40 seats in the venue.

For any further enquiries, get in touch with the Library at 018 299 2802.



Entrance foyer



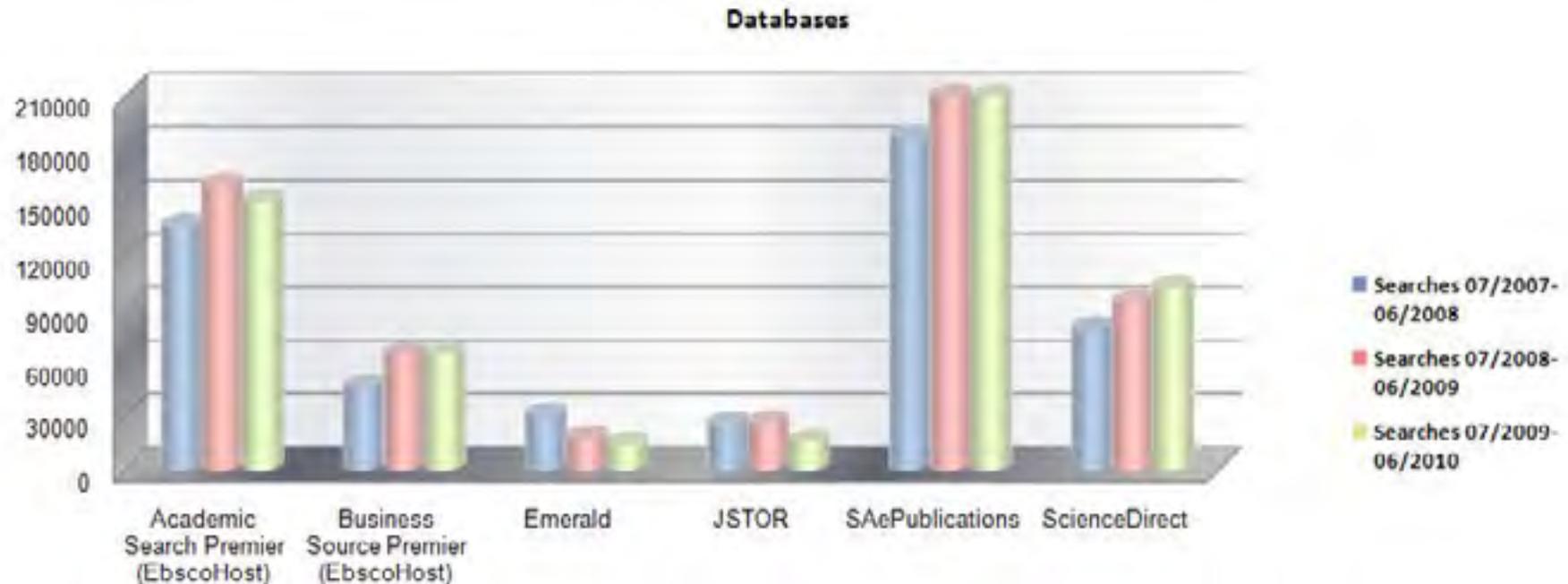
As part of the signage project, an information column has been set up at the entrance to the library. Information on library services, campus and branch libraries as well as subjects with the corresponding shelf numbers are indicated here. A large plasma screen has been installed that continuously screens information, news and sports programmes (DSTV). A new poster board has been put up opposite the information column where posters approved by the SRC may be displayed.



Our most popular databases

The Library deliberately tries to subscribe to databases that provide linkage to electronic full text articles. These scientific articles are a good counter to the generic information that users are keen to get on the Internet via search engines such as Google.

There was a reasonable growth in the number of searches in 2008/2009, but a decline in 2009/2010. It may be ascribed to the increasing integration of smaller databases into bigger aggregate databases.



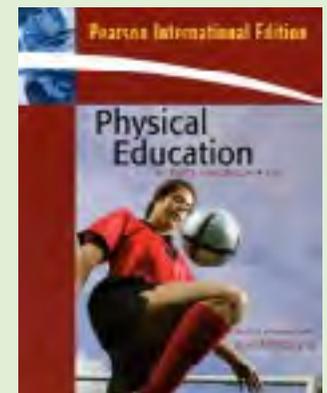
Book exhibition

The Library presented a very successful book exhibition in the Gallery early in September.

Six book suppliers (Knowledge Resources, Complete Bookshop, Vugabooks, Logan's Bookshop, Van Schaik/Wiley/Pearson and Red Pepper) from as far afield as Durban, exhibited the latest books on a variety of subject areas.

The Library purchased 968 books, a welcome addition to our existing collection.

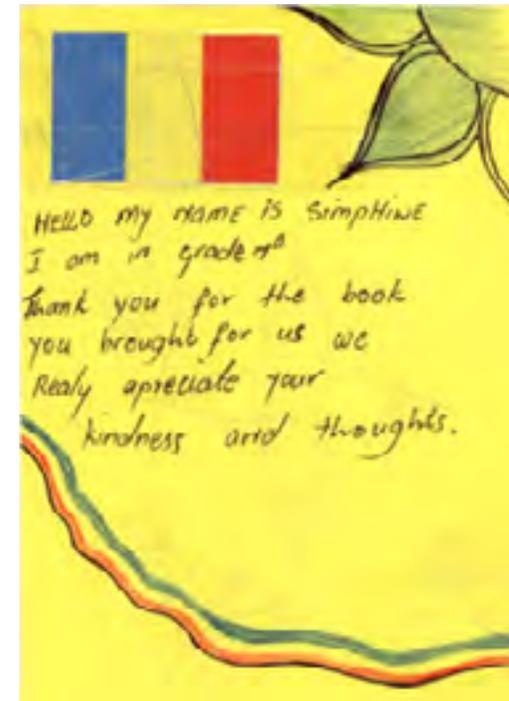
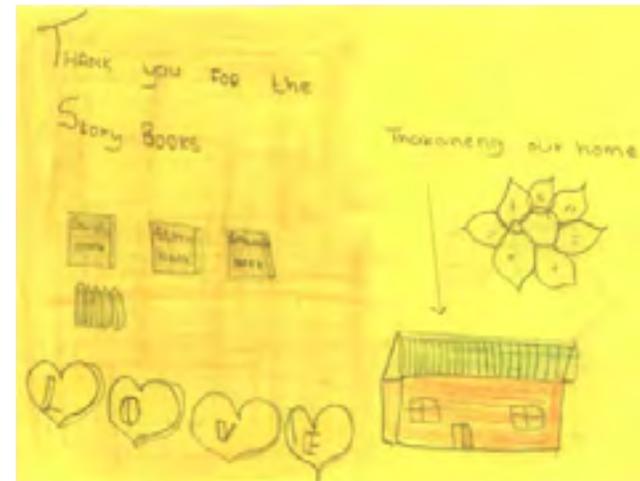
A list of new acquisitions is available on: http://www.nwu.ac.za/library/new_acquisitions.html



We care

We live in a country and world where we are daily exposed to the hardships people suffer. That is why the Library annually tries to help make things a little easier to survive and bring a little joy in a modest way. Last year we presented books and CDs to the young children at Mama Dorah's. This year we decided to do something for the Thakaneng shelter. Thakaneng is a shelter that takes care of so-called street children – often abandoned and homeless children. The idea of compassion for the helpless and “voiceless” is clear from Thakaneng's mission, namely the “intervention work with children at risk and their families/ communities: enabling them to begin the walk towards becoming responsible, meaningful citizens by means of an intercepting and transitional program”.

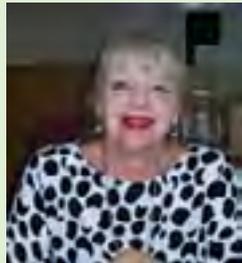
After talks with and a visit to Thakaneng, a need for books that contain information for use in school tasks was identified. (Indeed, some of the children are persuaded to go to school and there are success stories!) We have selected beautiful, colourful books containing information at book stores and handed them over to Thakaneng on a chilly autumn morning in May. Ms Corrie Engelbrecht, the staff of Thakaneng and some of the children gratefully and happily received the gift. We trust that the books will smooth the road a little for these children and also bring pleasure to lives where there is not much room for innocent excitement. The many precious and colourful letters that were delivered to the Library one day clearly reflected their joy and gratitude.



New staff



Helet Swanepoel
Secretary



Rinie Viljoen
Acquisitions
Section
(Temporary
appointment)

Staff activities



Based on her participation in the Carnegie Library Leadership Academy at the Centre for African Library Leadership in 2009, Erika Rood was chosen to be the assistant to Ellen Tise, the current president of IFLA (International Federation of Library Associations). She had the opportunity of attending the IFLA conference in Sweden during August 2010. Erika was also nominated as Librarian of the Year for the North-West Province. Congratulations on this nomination, Erika; we are proud of you!

Help in upgrading Promosa school library

At the beginning of their previous term of office, SRCS identified the need for upgrading the Promosa Primary School library. Tamara, the 2009 project leader of the Promosa Primary School project, effectively arranged the library venue, but several shortcomings remained. The 2010 project leader, Karlien van der Walt, decided to continue in their term of office.

The school received a large number of books as gifts and through sponsors, but owing to a lack of shelves, the books remained unused and disorganised. They immediately started organising and classifying the books according to the Dewey Decimal System.

Ms Van der Walt approached the Ferdinand Postma Library to find out if we had any shelves we could donate or provide at minimal cost to them. As the Library was emptying all the shelves in the former journal reading room to create the group venues and group study venues at that stage, it was the ideal opportunity to donate the shelves to the SRCS. They were grateful for the donation as it facilitated the completion of their project.

With these shelves they could arrange the library neatly so that learners could really pick the fruits and enjoy the facility of a good school library. It obviously gave the SRCS team immense pleasure when they saw the children's bright faces on walking into their "new" library!



New databases

The Library recently subscribed to the following databases:

LinkSource

It was decided to subscribe to LinkSource as this product enables users to link from GoogleScholar and other 'abstract' databases such as Web of Science and Scopus to the electronic magazine to which the Library has subscribed. It should contribute to the electronic subscriptions being better utilised by users being guided to the full text.

SOCIndex with Full Text

SocINDEX is a comprehensive and representative database for research in Sociology and Social Sciences in general. The full text of more than 820 magazines are provided with some magazines backdated to 1908. The content of more than 830 books and monographs are also conveyed. The database is not only valuable for Sociology, but also for Political Sciences, Anthropology, Communication Studies, Social Work, Psychology, Economic Sciences, Practical Theology, Languages and Literature.

Art & Architecture Complete

This **database** is largely aimed at users in the Arts, Design and History of Art. This is a comprehensive database that provides more than 330 magazines and 215 books in full text and also provides bibliographic coverage of a further 730 journals. The 'Image Collection' with more than 64 000 images provided by Picture Desk, is also available on this database.

African Writers Series

For the past 40 years the **most important text** in modern African Literature have been published by Heinemann. It is unique in the history of postcolonial literature. The Heinemann collection was initially published as a series of books, and to conserve it, ProQuest made it available electronically. Fiction, poetry and drama of, among others, Chinua Achebe, Ama Ata Aidoo, Steve Biko, Buchi Emecheta, Nadine Gordimer, Bessie Head, Doris Lessing and Nelson Mandela are available.

Quantec

It was decided to subscribe to the **Quantec database**, mainly useful in Economic and Management Sciences. This is a South African database that focuses on the marketing, distribution and support of economic and financial data. By collaborating with the Economist Intelligence Unit, constant analysis and prediction of more than 200 countries and 8 industries are given that can support managers and executive officers in making informed decisions.

Pocket Library

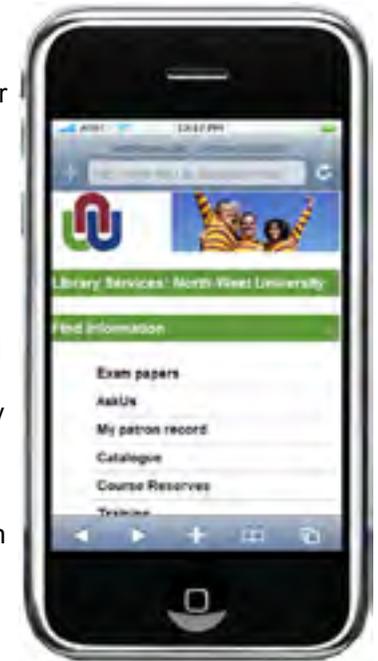
The NWU Library in your hand – or rather in your pocket – always with you? A joke? No, a reality. Yes, your personal mobile library on your own cell phone.

Better service delivery and the availability of information at any time and any place are only some of the objectives of the Library and proves that we always put our users' needs first. Virtual walls are demolished and various services are now extended into your hand, wherever you may be.



Use this QR code (take a photo by **Quick-Reference software** on your cell phone) and get quick access to the Library or use the following address on you cell phone browser:

<http://www.nwu.ac.za/library/mobi>.



Which services are offered? Even if you are far from a computer or are lying on a beach somewhere, you can:

- get access to some of our most popular online databases such as ScienceDirect, Scopus, EBSCOHost and many others;
- search the catalogue, reserve or renew books under "My patron record";
- view or download exam papers or electronically reserved material;
- find out what the library hours of the three campus libraries or branch libraries are;
- find contact details or direct a personal enquiry by pressing a button;
- download and read e-books on your cell phone (have a look; several are already available free of charge!).

More and more information and databases will be offered cell phone-friendly from time to time. Watch this space for new developments or let us know what else you would like to see here. (Corrie.Breitenbach@nwu.ac.za or Elize.vanEldik@nwu.ac.za or Louw.Venter@nwu.ac.za)

Air conditioning in the Education Sciences Library (C6)



The [Education Sciences Library](#) is in the fortunate position that since April 2010 we have had more than 18 air-conditioning units installed, that makes life very pleasant for the library staff as well as the hard-working students, and I must say, even more productive. It is winter now and a wonderful 22 degrees in the Library and, according to experts, it is the temperature at which students function optimally.

We happily say a warm thanks to Dr Larney, Mr Bobo van der Westhuizen and everyone from Technical Services and Physical Infrastructure and Planning who collaborated on the project. We sincerely appreciate it.

Ester Venter

Training rooms

The Library has two training facilities namely *Besembos* and *Tarentaal*. Students and staff may book these facilities at the Information Desk of the Main Library or by phoning Ria Adelaar at 018 299 2812.



Tarentaal



Besembos

Articles written by: Carine Basson, Corrie Breitenbach, Ester Venter, Henriëtte Groenewald, Hester Spoelstra, Jubrie Oosthuizen, Louise Vos and Suzette Coetzee

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InfoForum is available on the web at <http://www.nwu.ac.za/library/newsletter/potch/index.html>