



InfoForum

Newsletter of the Potchefstroom Campus Libraries



IN THIS EDITION:

Page

- 1 - New home page
- 2 - Discovery tools
- 2 - Relay for life
- 3 - Incredible mental journey
- 3 - Courses
- 4 - Popular books
- 4 - Library week
- 5 - Peer evaluation
- 6 - Thakaneng
- 6 - Surplus books
- 6 - Book exhibition
- 7 - Architectural re-evaluation
- 8 - Academic discourses
- 9 - E-books
- 9 - Seminar rooms
- 9 - Staff

New home page (beta test)

The Library regularly looks at new functionalities to improve its web page. One of the functionalities that is emerging worldwide is to make the catalogue and database directly searchable via the home page by means of widgets in tabs.

We are also investigating the possibility of using a discovery tool with which users can search simultaneously in the catalogue and in various prominent databases (more about this on the next page).

The use of tabs helps to clean up the appearance of the web page with more defined headings.

CATALOGUE
DATABASES
ONESEARCH
JOURNAL LISTS
COURSE RESERVES
QUICK LINKS

Search the catalogue for books, e-books, theses, DVD's, and more.

Keyword
All NWU libraries

Catalogue | Advanced search

My Library

Your Library account |
 Renew your books |
 New books |
 Book suggestions

Have a look at the web page at <http://www.nwu.ac.za/library/index.html>. Any comments and suggestions regarding the page are welcome and can be sent to fbweb@nwu.ac.za.







PS: Quick links that include links to databases can now be found under the last green tab on the Library's web page.

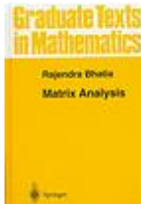

Discovery tools


Academic libraries are caught up in the mass shift of resources from a print to an electronic medium, and the challenges involved in finding information quickly and effectively. Libraries all over the world have for years been investigating the possibility of providing their users with a simple and convenient Google-style search mechanism that will search in a wide variety of databases as well as in local content as a one-stop search engine. Database publishers run their products on different platforms, with different search mechanisms, which take time to learn and sometimes cause users to quickly throw in the towel.

New unified-index discovery tools, sometimes called next-generation library catalogues, are entering the market now. Libraries eagerly study this new solution, which promises to provide good results quickly and effectively. WorldCat Local (WCL) and EBSCO Discovery Service (EDS) are two of the one-stop search engines that NWU Library Services is looking at currently.

A few characteristics of WCL are:

- The single search box provides immediate access to local library material, but also to a wide variety of electronic databases, e-journals, theses and dissertations, catalogues and many more.
 - Results show the most appropriate/relevant sources by listing local content at the top of the list (so-called relevancy ranking). This sequence can be changed easily by sorting the entries by date, author or title.
 - Source formats are indicated by icons and searches can be limited/demarcated easily in this manner.
-  Book
  eBook
  Thesis/dissertation
  Computer File
  Article
  Peer-reviewed
- Direct links to full-text articles and e-books.
 - Book covers are displayed, with access to the table of contents and reviews by Amazon.com. Availability in libraries can be checked with the click of a button.

4.  **Matrix analysis**
by Rajendra Bhatia
 Book
Language: English
Publisher: New York : Springer, 1997.
Database: WorldCat.org
Libraries that own this item: **North-West University Libraries**

 [View Now](#)
[Availability](#)
[Editions and formats »](#)

- More than 943 million items in library collections all over the world are visible through WCL. Interlibrary possibilities are provided for linking to sources that are not available locally.

Have a look at the beta version of the WCL as it was implemented locally at <http://www.nwu.ac.za/library/index.html>, and address your comments to fpbweb@nwu.ac.za.

Relay for life 17 - 18 March 2012

The team from NWU Library Services was very excited about participating in the Relay for life on Saturday, 17 March. Shortly after 5 o'clock that afternoon the team members arrived and the tent was pitched with the welcome assistance of our family members. The spouses, children and friends were there to share in this worthy cause and enjoyed the time with us. Pancakes, boerewors rolls, soup and coffee were consumed, and naturally we also WALKED. The night was long and cold, but the diehards collected quite a number of beads during their laps around the track. The extraordinary spirit of hope, gratitude and remembrance of this event affected all of us very profoundly. Who's coming along next year?



Incredible mental journey 4th-year LLB students (JURI 317)

27 February 2012 and 1 March 2012

Prof. Willemien du Plessis and Mr Jacques Matthee put in a lot of effort to plan the incredible mental journey through the Library for the students. Each team was given a card with instructions for sources to find in the Library. As soon as the assignments on a card had been completed, they received a token, with which they could draw the next card with instructions. The group that had completed all its assignments could report to the office of the Director of Library Services.

The students showed considerable perseverance and mental acuity in rushing through the Library in their search for books, journal articles, acts, court cases and regulations. A particular challenge was the search for printed sources – something today's students encounter less often. However, some lawyers prefer students to be familiar with the printed legal resources as well.

This mental journey showed students how many resources there are available to them, and that it is not always easy to find them.

The winning team was treated to coffee and cake at Ferdi's, sponsored by the Library. There were two winning teams.



Courses

Carine Basson and Jubrie Oosthuizen attended the Library Collection Management & Policies for e-Publications course in Midrand from 12-16 March 2012. The portfolio of courses provides a valuable opportunity to understand the scope of e-sources, and to learn how to best manage the resources in a growing library collection through the planned and regulated inclusion of e-journals, e-books, image libraries, etc.



In conjunction with the American embassy, LIASA presented a series of free workshops on the provision of health information through public libraries. Marieta Buys and Erika Rood attended the workshop in Rustenburg on 13 March 2012 as members of LIASA NWU. Marieta and Erika were pleasantly surprised with the

content of this workshop. Initially they thought that the topic was not really relevant to a university library, but during the presentation they realised that students in Nursing Science, Pharmacy, Social Work and even researchers in subjects like Physiology, Biochemistry and Consumer Sciences could benefit from this information. It will be particularly useful when students have completed their studies and no longer have access to the Library's databases.

The NWU students often require general health information for personal purposes as well. Closer cooperation between the Library and the Healthcare Centre on the campus can facilitate the dissemination of this type of information. Useful links encountered during the workshop were also forwarded to subject librarians and the Healthcare Centre. The presenters, Martha Earl and Cynthia Vaughn, are trained librarians employed by the Medical Library of the University of Tennessee. The university is also part of a training hospital and students as well as patients use their library.

Popular books

Did you know that the Library purchases numerous popular books these days to encourage everyone on campus to use the library more and to read more?

The loan section has a shelf for new books where many interesting new books are displayed to be borrowed. You can also search the shelves at 839.363 for Afrikaans fiction and at 823 for English fiction. Books can also be reserved.

Here are a few of the interesting titles that we added during the past year.

- The archivist's story / Travis Holland.
- Aunt Julia and the scriptwriter / Mario Vargas Llosa; translated by Helen R. Lane.
- Nemesis / Jo Nesbø; translated from the Norwegian by Don Bartlett.
- The God species : how the planet can survive the age of humans / Mark Lynas.
- God is not a Christian : speaking truth in times of crisis / Desmond Mpilo Tutu; edited by John Allen.
- Bitter fruit : a novel / by Achmat Dangor.
- David Kramer : a biography / Dawid de Villiers and Mathilda Slabbert.
- Byleveld : dossier of a serial sleuth / Hanlie Retief; translated from the Afrikaans by Elsa Silke.
- Hitler's private library : the books that shaped his life / Timothy W. Ryback.
- Sir David Pieter de Villiers Graaff : die erftridder van De Grendel / Ebbe Dom-misse.
- Figuring out father / Athelé Oosterbroek.
- Tutu : the authorised portrait / Allister Sparks and Mpho A. Tutu; foreword: Bono; introduction: His Holiness the Dalai Lama; edited by Doug Abrams.
- Meer as rugby / Pierre Spies met Myan Subrayan.
- Wynand Claassen : kaalvoetklong tot rugbytoks.
- Albert Luthuli : bound by faith / Scott Couper.
- The litigators [text (large print)] / John Grisham.
- Steve Jobs / Walter Isaacson.
- When God was a rabbit / Sarah Winman.
- Die hart van Nelson Mandela: die epiese verhaal / Kobie Korf.
- Oor krygers, korrelkoppe en konkelaars : ongewone verhale uit ons verlede / Max du Preez.
- Die dood van die God van my vaders : hoe die lewe in die township Mamelodi my godsbeskouing verander het / Nico Smith.
- Vier briewe vir Jan Ellis / Steve Hofmeyr.
- As die eland struikel / Martie Muller.
- Dwarstrekkers, dweppers en dokters : merkwaardige vertellings uit die Anglo-



- Boeroorlog / J.C. (Kay) de Villiers.
- Roald Dahl's book of ghost stories.
- Wals met Matilda / Dan Sleigh.
- Verklipper / Leon van Nierop.
- Die jakkalsdans / François Loots.
- Toorwoorde roep my / Valiant Swart.
- Pik Botha en sy tyd / Theresa Papenfus.
- Pik Botha and his times / Theresa Papenfus ; text translated from the Afrikaans by Sandra Mills.
- Advocates for change : how to overcome Africa's challenges / edited by Moeletsi Mbeki.
- Evita se BlackBessie / Evita Bezuidenhout; uit die Engels vertaal deur Elizé Lübke.
- My mother, my mirror : recognizing and making the most of inherited self-images / Laura Arens Fuerstein.
- Abel se lot / Chris Karsten.
- Oor bokdrolletjies en rosyntjies / Jonathan Jansen.
- 'n Seun soos Bram : 'n portret van Bram Fischer en sy ma Ella / Hannes Haasbroek.
- Fruit of a poisoned tree : a true story of murder and the miscarriage of justice / Antony Albeker.
- Wilhelmina Radebe kom tuis / Marinda van Zyl.
- Sirkusboere / Sonja Loots.

Library Week: 17 – 24 March 2012

During Library Week 36 training sessions were scheduled over four days in conjunction with the Writing Lab. The following were presented:

- How to find books
- How to find journals
- How to compile a list of sources
- RefWorks Basic for postgraduate students
- RefWorks Advanced for postgraduate students
- Writing Lab



Peer evaluation: Official report as provided by the Quality Office

In 2010 the Library was informed that a peer evaluation would take place on 18 and 19 October 2011. A panel of seven members – four library heads from other universities and three senior academic staff members from the NWU, Potchefstroom Campus – assessed the Library's services, facilities and information provision in terms of set criteria.

Various aspects of the Library were assessed, and like in the case of self-assessment, four different ratings applied:

- "Commendation",
- "Meets minimum standards",
- "Needs improvement", and
- "Does not comply".



Criteria	Panel decision
1. Goals, priorities and management	<i>Commendation</i>
2. Service(s) and/or product(s) provided to one or more of the three core areas of the NWU, namely teaching and learning, research and community engagement/implementation of expertise	<i>Commendation</i>
3. Staff	<i>Needs Improvement</i>
4. Infrastructure and IT systems	<i>Commendation</i>
5. Partnerships with other support units	<i>Meets Minimum Standards</i>
6. User surveys and impact studies	<i>Commendation</i>

Library Services is proud to say that the overall assessment was Commendation, which is an incredible compliment for the entire Library's staff, and all the services and facilities involved.

The next part involves that the Library Management must draw up an improvement plan in conjunction with the Vice Rector: Research and Planning to address problem areas that were identified in the short, medium and long term.

Matters that will receive immediate attention are the noise levels in the Library, increased computer access for users, planning of a research and information commons for postgraduate and undergraduate students, suitable expansion of qualified staff, drawing up a service agreement with other service units at the NWU and renovating the toilet facilities.

At the end of an intensive introspection after internal processes and procedures, Library Services is grateful for a very positive report and very enthusiastic about improving in the areas as indicated. We are very grateful to everybody who contributed to the excellent service and successful assessment!

Thakaneng: Book presentation



The Ferdinand Postma Library once again presented the Thakaneng Centre in Ikageng with books, this time to the value of R8 000.

The school houses and cares for street children.

With respect to the selection of books the Library was guided by the needs of the centre. These were determined in consultation with the principal of Thakaneng, Ms Corrie Engelbrecht, and Suzette Coetzee from the Library.

As the residents of Thakaneng attend 13 different schools, the greatest need was for educational books that provide information on the very divergent school assignments that have to be completed.

The books were presented at Thakaneng on Friday, 16 March 2012. The Library was represented by Suzette Coetzee, Alinah Madwala and Janie Lamprecht.

Corrie Engelbrecht explained the work method briefly and also told them about their support systems, as well as their problems and frustrations.

A brief tour of the dining hall, dormitories and clothing store was impressive, firstly because of the simplicity and the discovery that only the basic necessities are available, and secondly because of the remarkable neatness and precision with which everything is managed!

It was an experience that touched everybody's hearts, to say the least. The love that drives everything left us speechless.

The Library also had a surprise: Louw Venter cut a CD for the centre that is available free on the internet, namely WikiSchool. It was installed on the principal's computer and she can now install it on the other computers used by the children as well. It is equal to an encyclopaedia with 20 volumes! They were extremely grateful.

As we left, we were very aware of the old adage: It is better to give than to receive.

If the Library managed to contribute something to their vision of "A dream came to reality, where children can see at last a light at the end of their dark tunnel", we regard it as a great privilege.

Surplus books

The Library regularly receives donations of used books on condition that we deal with them as we see fit. After careful consideration some of the books are added to our collections, others are donated to institutions or made available to staff and students on campus. We use the following criteria to determine whether to add the donated material to our collection:

Thorough checking against our library holdings, determines the relevance with respect to study and research areas of the campus, the date of publication and the language in which the books are published. As the Library has no more room for unnecessary duplication, the surplus books will be placed on the special shelf in the foyer of the library on Monday mornings before 10:00 should we have books available. Some of the branch libraries (Theological Library, Music Library and the Educational Sciences Library) have a similar arrangement.

Book exhibition

The Ferdinand Postma Library will host a book exhibition in the Gallery from 22 to 24 May 2012.

This year the emphasis is on e-books and some of the major role-players in the e-book industry, namely EBSCO, Swets Information Services and Springer Science & Business Media SA, will demonstrate their products. Other publishers will also exhibit books and catalogues.

Architectural re-evaluation of spaces

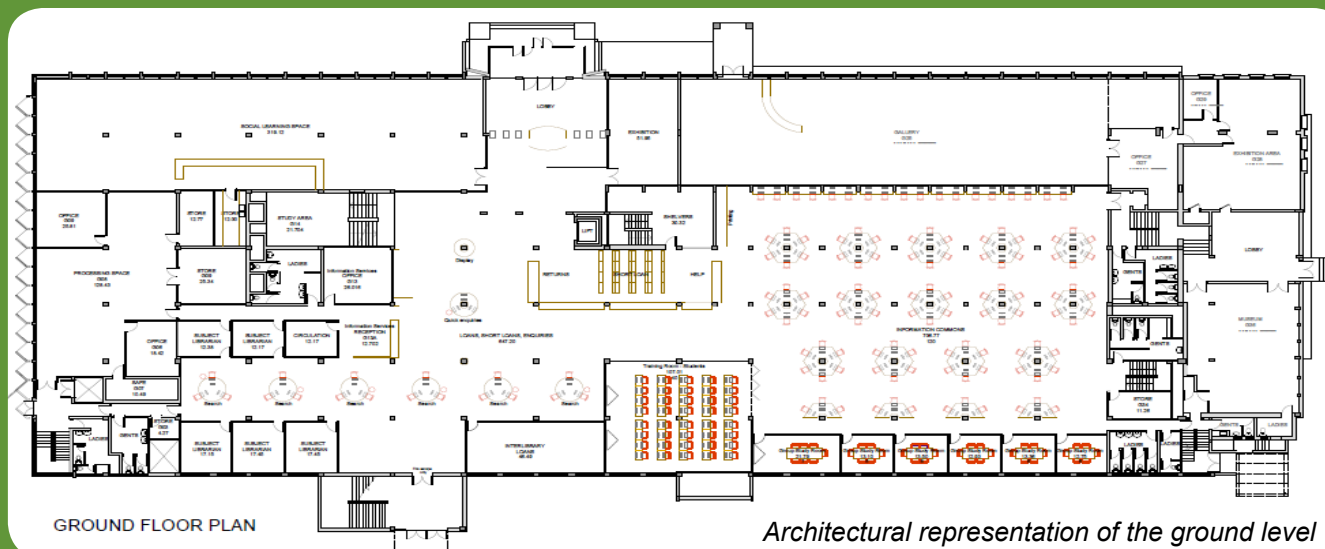
A few years ago a need was identified for the spaces as they exist currently to be changed in line with users' needs, and the need for a dedicated research division in particular was recognised. Over a period of time Mss Hester Spoelstra, Suzette Coetzee, Louise Vos and other colleagues visited other libraries where such spaces had been constructed and/or were being planned. Valuable information was obtained for planning a meaningful re-deployment of library spaces to meet the needs of our own users in a unique manner.

Dr Tom Larney acquired the services of an architect, Mr Geoff de Wet, late in 2011. Mr De Wet is an experienced architect as far as the planning and re-arrangement of libraries are concerned, and therefore conversant with library services in general, the needs of users and how to re-utilise buildings optimally. At his request, Mr De Wet was provided with the essential background information regarding user numbers, needs, types of information formats, quantities, existing study and seminar room facilities, as well as all building plans since the 1950s, when the first building was constructed after the fire in 1948, in which the previous library (located in the main building) was totally destroyed.

Mr De Wet utilised a number of principles, namely:

- Legibility of the Library – layout of floors should be the same as far as possible so that the user knows what to expect when he moves from floor to floor.
 - Services should be delivered on the ground floor so that noise can be localised and not spread throughout the Library. A user moves upwards from the noise on the ground floor, with the noise levels decreasing naturally. Quiet study rooms can therefore be placed on the higher floors. (Building materials can also be used to try and control existing noise levels – the current smooth surfaces of floors, walls and stairs cause the noise to intensify.)
 - Lesser used stock should be stored on compact shelves so that the newer, browsable stock is on the shelves. Prime space can be saved in this manner and employed to meet users' needs.
-

To redistribute space meaningfully to meet the needs of Library Services, the basement and the third floor of the existing building should be recovered for library use. The basement can be used for storing material, as the foundations will be able to bear the weight.



Architectural representation of the ground level

Architectural re-evaluation of spaces (continues)

In time the third floor can be transferred to the Library, but currently the existing space can be implemented as research commons.

All services should be centralised on the ground floor and/or at the entrance. This includes moving Ferdi's and the group study room, as well as the seminar venues, there from the second floor. Interlibrary Loans will move elsewhere on the ground floor and Nashua will move to the basement.

Subject librarians will also remain on the ground floor, sharing a number of OPAC computers. The other computers will move further down on the ground floor and will be increased to 60+. A training centre with 40 computers will also be installed here, and can be used by students if it is not being used for training. This is a very meaningful expansion of the information common for undergraduate users and will to a great extent replace the computer laboratories that are currently in the basement.

Books can then be provided on the first and second floors, with enough seating along the windows so that existing natural light and air can be optimally utilised.

Mr De Wet estimated that the project will have to be implemented in phases – particularly during holidays – and that it will take approximately three years.

To use Dr Larney's words: "We have received good value for money." Library Management is very excited about the way in which Mr De Wet was able to align the possibilities of the library building with the needs of the staff and students. We look forward to studying the submission in greater detail, making our own suggestions and refining it even further.

It is important for Physical Infrastructure and Planning and the Potchefstroom Campus Management to realise the importance of upgrading the Library so that it can be included in the facility planning and the necessary financial support and planning in this regard can be done. Library Services is thoroughly aware of the fact that it must remain relevant, and in an attempt to provide maximum support for research and teaching-learning, changes will have to be made to services, stock and facilities. Naturally this will be an expensive investment.

Ferdi's and academic discourse?



Yes, your eyes are not deceiving you. On Wednesday, 22 February 2012, Ferdi's entered the academic ranks and experienced the very first academic discourse, called Confabulatia, for the year. The Library sponsored the drinks for the event, which was arranged by die Academic Council. The theme of the discussion was: 'Is 21 December 2012 going to be the end of the world?'.

The discussions were led by Profs Rikus Fick (Dean of Students) and Frans Waanders (Chemical and Mineral Engineering). The presence of the rector, Prof. Herman van Schalkwyk, and the two vice rectors, Profs Mariëtte Lowes and Amanda Lourens, added to the prestige of this first event.

Fifty-one persons participated in the discussions. New or lesser-known and interesting scientific facts once again emphasised man's limited knowledge, and the conclusion was that the second coming was definitely and certainly on its way, but no-one knows when it will be! The signs of His approaching coming that are already visible are not there for the sake of prediction, but to remind us to be ready at all times.



The next Confabulatia will take place in the second term and we look forward to participating. The Academic Council will provide adequate publicity and posters and we believe that participants in these events will increase in our endeavour to establish academic discourse on the Potchefstroom Campus as part of students' growth and interaction on numerous levels.

Come and participate in our students' enthusiasm for current affairs and matters of the heart next time!

e-Books



At the end of 2011 it was decided to expand our e-book collection by subscribing to a number of Elsevier e-books. With this subscription we added a further 215 e-books to the collection.

We subscribed to a number of subject collections covering only titles published between 2008 and 2010:

Agricultural and Biological Sciences
Chemistry
Energy
Environmental Sciences
Pharmacology and Toxicology
Psychology

These e-books can be retrieved on [ScienceDirect](#) and from the Library catalogue. The individual chapters of each book can be downloaded in PDF format.

Seminar rooms

The Library has several seminar rooms available for group work. The rooms can be [booked online](#).



The Library would like to welcome the following staff members

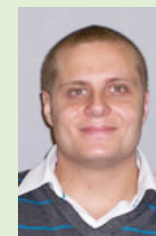
Opvoedingswetenskappe-Biblioteek



Jerry Raolane



Johny Elyon



Lucas van den Heever

Ferdinand Postma-Biblioteek



Andries Chake



Martha van der Walt



Meikie Leshomo



Mpho Makhanike



Nkosana Mofokeng



Seka Sizani



Surita Lessing

Staff who moved to other departments in the Library



Hester Lombard



Nestus Venter



Retha Badenhorst

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