



# RUL News

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## Message from Ujala



It is now two months since I joined Rhodes University Library on February 01 2012 as the latest Director in a list of respected professionals who have led this Library to what it is today. I feel extremely privileged to have inherited an amazingly beautiful library building that has all the trappings of a modern 21<sup>st</sup> century academic library. To this end I acknowledge the former Director Gwenda Thomas who drove this reconstruction and renewal process together with Ms Jeanne Berger, former Acting Director and Deputy Director. I believe that

together we are poised to embark on a new trajectory that will redefine this institution. This redefinition will include a new vision, mission and values statement; an articulated organizational culture; staff enablement and development for consolidation and innovation; and increased visibility and appreciation of the Library.

While we enjoy the physical Library environment, we also need to explore the frontiers of the digital library. Unprecedented growth in technology provides us with vast new opportunities for identifying appropriate or relevant models for library services and communication. We need to commence this conversation proactively so that we understand and embrace the newest technologies to enable and contribute to the success of our users and the University.

I believe that we have an exciting future ahead of us and that collectively we can set the agenda for this future. The African proverb, "If you want to go fast, go alone; if you want to go far, go together" certainly holds true for us and I look forward to working with each one of you.

Ujala

## Postgraduate Commons

◆ This facility opened to postgraduate students on 2 April, the first day of the vacation, and was soon busy with activity—students at the computers, in the study booths and group study rooms.

◆ The Postgraduate Commons is staffed by postgraduate student assistants, and is open for the same hours as the Library.

◆ The official opening took place on 22 March, with Rhodes University Vice-Chancellor, Dr Saleem Badat, commenting on the Library's service to postgraduate students which supports the university's goal to increase its enrolment of these students.



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## Achievements



### Honours Blnf

- ◆ Wynand van der Walt
  - ◆ Thandiwe Menze
  - ◆ Nicolene Mkhathali
- Blnf
- ◆ Brenda Stoltz

## RESEARCH LIBRARIES CONSORTIUM

*Funded by the Carnegie Corporation of New York*

### Executive Management Academy

A two week Executive Management Academy (EMA) was held at the scenic [Mont Fleur Conference venue](#) (Western Cape) from the 4<sup>th</sup> to the 17<sup>th</sup> of March 2012. The EMA was aimed at developing high-level executive management capacity within the libraries of the six research-intensive RLC member institutions in order to ensure continuance of the drive to increase research support. The academy opened with an address by Rhodes University VC, Dr Saleem Badat, on the national higher education context.

Fiona Still-Drewett and Wynand van der Walt represented Rhodes University Library Services at the academy. The exceptionally challenging programme focused on leadership development and strategic management within the context of South African higher education and of the participating university institutional environments. The academy programme was developed by world-renowned Stephen Town (Director of Information and University Librarian – University of York, UK), supported by Lorraine Haricombe (Dean of Libraries – University of Kansas, USA) and Joan Rapp (retired Executive Director: UCT Library Services).



## Birthdays

## US Interns



### January

Jill Otto  
Ujala Satgoor

### February

Siya Kleinbooi  
Jabu Nene  
Sindiswa Gule

### March

Amos Booi  
Vuyo Gontshi  
Wynand van der Walt  
Chantel Clack  
Fiona Still Drewett



Vuyo Gontshi, Debbie Martindale and Lucky Mosia-Xaba left on Monday 20 February for an exciting ten week study visit to the United States. They will spend the first two weeks at the Mortenson Center for International Library Programs at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. During the rest of the programme, Vuyo will be hosted by Yale University, Debbie by the University of Washington at St Louis, Missouri, and Lucky by the University of Arizona in Tucson. They will gather in San Francisco for a mid-internship meeting with their mentors, with staff of the Carnegie Corporation of New York (the project funders), and with the Research Libraries Consortium

(RLC) Project Director and Manager. Last year two of the Library's Principal Librarians, Linda Cartwright and Fiona Still-Drewett, spent three months in the USA on the previous RLC study visit. After attending the Mortenson Center programme, Linda was hosted by Duke University and Fiona by the University of Arizona where both gained valuable experience from their research intensive host institutions.

## Fire-Fighting Tips

- Always stand with an exit at your back.
- Stand several feet away from the fire, moving closer once the fire starts to diminish.
- Use a sweeping motion and aim at the base of the fire.
- If possible, use a "buddy system" to have someone back you up or call for help if something goes wrong.
- ◆ Be sure to watch the area for awhile to ensure it doesn't re-ignite.



## Heritage Digital Campus

Africa Media Online offered a training programme called the Heritage Digital Campus during the week of March 12-16 at the Alice campus University of Fort Hare at the National Heritage and Cultural Studies Centre (NAHECS) and involved training modules in the digitisation of documents, still images and video.

The programme consisted of the following five themes:

**Building a Digital Archive: *Framework for an Organisational Digitisation Strategy***

Presenter: David Larsen founder and Managing Director of [Africa Media Online](#).

Introduced the ten steps toward establishing a sustainable digital archive. Created an awareness of the key decisions that need to be made toward setting up and running such digitisation projects and sustaining the resultant archive. All digitisation projects will be built on this framework.

**Digital Imaging Essentials: *Understanding Digital Imaging***

Presenter: Graeme Cookson is a UK-based digital imaging consultant who has done extensive work with organisations such as The British Library, The British Museum etc.

We learned all about what digital is and the meaning of terms such as bits, bytes, bit depth, 16-bit, jpeg, tiff, colour space etc. We also learned about the standards you need to work to to produce an archival quality digital repository – a digital collection that will last for generations. This information will enable us to make wise choices about service providers, about equipment and about working with digital files.

**Digitising Documents: *Understanding the processes for digitising documents***

Presenter: Patricia Liebetrau

We learned about the archival document conversion process from physical format to digital format. Familiarised ourselves with the internationally accepted standards for digitisation as well as techniques to deal with common problems.

**Metadata for Documents: *Creating metadata using Dublin Core***

Presenter: Patricia Liebetrau

It covered the essentials of creating metadata to describe digitised resources using an open international multifunctional standard, Dublin Core. We learned about the purpose and function of metadata as well as a hands-on practical understanding of how to apply what we have learned to our own collections. The role of controlled vocabularies in managing digital information were discussed and principles of quality assurance were explored.

**Sustaining a Digital Archive: *Management and Markets***

Presenter: David Larsen

We learned about and understood what it takes to sustain a digital archive. The archive needs to be preserved, enriched and accessed and we learned about the systems, processes and costs that can enable this.



Library Staff supporting the sixth annual silent protest to highlight sexual violence in South Africa .

Anelisa Mente, Thandiwe Menza, Nicolene Mkhathali, Viv Botha, Noelene Pillay, Sindiswa Gule, Ujala Satgoor, Fiona Still-Drewett, Eileen Shepherd & Jabu Nene



## Bon Voyage Jeanne Berger!!!

Quarter I

Dear Colleagues

As you all know saying goodbye is not proving an easy thing for me to do and by the time I eventually leave in late May I think you will all be very relieved! Having already said a few tearful words at the wonderful surprise tea party you gave me on the 12<sup>th</sup> March, and then a few more composed words at my official retirement tea, I've been invited to write a farewell message for the Library newsletter, so please bear with any repetition.

I would like to thank you all again for being such wonderful colleagues and friends, providing support to me on both a professional and personal level whenever I've needed it. At my retirement tea, I paid tribute to three particular people who have been my mentors and without whom I would not have experienced the opportunities I've been afforded over my 17 ½ years in the RU Library - Viv Botha, Gwenda Thomas and the late Margaret Kenyon. However I want to also emphasize again that every one of you has been special to me, supported me in different ways and had a positive impact on my life.

The transformation of the Library – the building, services and staffing – over the years since I joined in 1994 has been enormous and impressive, but also challenging and difficult at times for all of us. These changes have taken place under the leadership of Felix Ubogu, the late Margaret Kenyon and Gwenda. I'm confident that Ujala is going to take the Rhodes Library to even greater heights, with your support and hard work. I would like to wish you all the very best for the coming years and will follow with interest the developments, both at an organisational and individual level, through the Library newsletter and personal updates.

I will remember you all and hope to stay in touch. I also promise to keep you informed as to what I'm up to in Paris – my new phase and adventure in life!

Warm regards

Jeanne



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*Where leaders learn*

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The **ReRR** is an open access institutional repository of the academic and research output from the Rhodes University community. Current contents include full-text theses, journal articles and papers from conferences, workshops and other events. The repository is administered by Rhodes University Library

**The following number of types of content appear in the ReRR:**

- Articles (783)
- Book Sections (40)
- Monographs (10)
- Conference or Workshop Items (54)
- Books (13)
- Theses and Dissertations (1210)
- Other (9)

**The following number of items per Faculty appear in the ReRR:**

- Faculty of Commerce (125)
- Faculty of Education (200)
- Faculty of Humanities (522)
- Faculty of Law (29)
- Faculty of Pharmacy (144)
- Faculty of Science (943)
- Research Institutes (228)
- Support Units (43)
- Vice Chancellor's Office (5)

### Theses and Dissertations:

The Rhodes Library are busy with a project to retrospectively digitise theses and add it to the ReRR.. We also digitise theses on demand. The retrospective digitisation project started from 2000 onwards, and once this time period from 2000 – 2012 has been completed, the period from 1990 – 1999 will be digitised next.

There are currently 1210 theses and dissertations in the ReRR.

From 2000 – 2011 there are 1114 theses already on the repository.

### Repository Statistics:

[IRStats](#) allows you to generate graphs and tables of data summarising the usage data for items in the repository.

Statistical results are available in numeric and graphic formats, including bar charts and pie charts. The dashboard displays can be embedded in other pages. Each of these options can be restricted to a set period of time. Statistics for Rhodes theses and dissertations are available from 4 December 2009 onwards.

### What do the download statistics represent?

- The download statistics represent the number of times the full-text version attached to the eprint record has been downloaded.
- Download figures are only available for eprint records that have a download-able (i.e. open access) copy of the paper attached.
- The first figure is the total number of downloads of the open access copy of the item since it was uploaded into ReRR ePrints. The date it was uploaded is provided.
- The second figure is the number of downloads of the open access copy of the item during the last 12 months. This is a rolling figure.

The figures are updated overnight, not in real time.