

Who we are

We are an academic support service and partner that provides access to diverse contextual learning and research collections, services, spaces and facilities to support the academic project. We value strategic collaborations and partnerships with stakeholders and communities.

Purpose Statement

Rhodes University Library and Information Services are committed to supporting the mission of Rhodes University in the pursuit of knowledge by students, researchers, scholars and communities by providing quality learning resources, user-centred services and the skills required to participate effectively in the knowledge economy and a conducive physical and virtual learning environment that enhances intellectual creativity, free and open exchange of knowledge and ideas.

1. Our Services and Programmes

The Library operates in a hybrid environment. It provides on-site and off-site services. On-site services include but are not limited to access to all our learning resources, including print, lending/Circulation services, faculty-based services and hubs with context-relevant print collections, IT help-desk and technology support; library venues and facilities, **services** and the **differently abled**.

The library website is a gateway to all our learning resources and services. Online/Remote services include but are not limited to access to online resources and search platforms, **LibAnswers** with a **Chatbot** where you can chat and ask specific questions to librarians; subject, research, general **LibGuides**; operating hours, a virtual tour, and our popular **online tutorial & videos**. About 80% of our learning resources are accessible online. Our search-all tutorial will guide you through the search process.



2. Teaching, Learning & Research

2.1 Support Resources for Learning

The Library Services Division receives a substantive annual Information Resources (IR) grant to develop learning resources from the institution. It also uses other grants to develop context-relevant and discipline-specific learning resources to support the academic project.

These collections are developed through several processes, including:

Curriculum-aligned procurement (once-off purchases and/or subscription-based) of materials (Print & eBooks, journals and databases, deposits and donation, verified open access resources, Rhodes community research outputs, Research Data, articles, conference proceedings, theses & dissertations, digitized analog materials and Special Collections). **NB.** Registered Rhodes library users may **recommend** purchasing an item through their dedicated Faculty Librarian.

2.2 Access to all Learning Resources

The Library has +- 300 000 volumes of print books onsite, +-299 439 unique e-book titles, and more than 66 online scholarly databases. The **A-Z** is an alphabetical list of databases subscribed to by Rhodes. Access to content and other services is through the Library's **web page**. Once you are here, you can search our Library catalogue using the exact title/ subject/ keyword/s. Rhodes University staff and students have seamless access to our services and learning resources. However, new students and new staff members must set up or activate their library accounts to access online databases, e-journals, and eBooks remotely/off-campus. You can set up your account in **"My Library Account."**

2.3 The short loan collection

This is heavily used by staff and students. Short loan includes materials reserved by lecturers for immediate and short-term access. You will have to visit the library to access short loans and other print resources held by the library during operating hours. These hours are subject to change at any time due to specific regulations, public holidays, extended times during the examinations, etc. Changes are communicated regularly by posting on the Library entrance, the Library's webpage, social media, and e-mail. For all access or loan-related inquiries, contact our Circulation desk or send an email to libloansupport@ru.ac.za or directly to sizwe.mabena@ru.ac.za or a.mncwabe@ru.ac.za.

2.4 Access to Electronic Learning Resources

Library users can use our eResources, accessible both on campus and remotely. RU Library is a member of the South East Academic Library System (SEALS), a consortium of the Eastern Cape's four academic libraries (NMU, WSU, Fort Hare and Rhodes). The Common Library Management Information System hosts the myriad of learning resources of the 4 libraries using a **shared catalogue**. The common library catalogue across SEALS enables sharing of resources through Interlibrary loan systems within the consortium. **N.B.** the subscription-based e-resources are accessible to the current Rhodes University staff and students only as a significant portion of e-resources is subject to terms and conditions stipulated in license agreements with vendors. Community members, including Makhanda residents, who need access to subscription-based electronic resources must contact the Circulation desk staff. You can browse our **e-journals** by subject. You can also filter through the **Rhodes Library discovery tool** to find our resources.

2.5 Our Programmes

First-Year Experience (FYE) Programme:

Our FYE programme starts with orientation week (O-week) each year. The Library O-Week programme is paired with the 1st Year poll, whose results help to review the ongoing Information Literacy Skills Instruction. The librarians offer an Information & Digital Literacy (I&DL) skills programme to 1st-year students. The discipline specific I&DL skills programme is offered to all 1st year students who are registered for the Extended Studies Programme (ESPs).



Academics are encouraged to arrange with their faculty librarians for their students to attend the ongoing I&DL skills programme.

2.6 Information Commons

The Undergraduate Librarian is available to assist first-year undergraduate students with transitioning to the academic learning environment. The Unit provides all undergraduate students with an Information and Digital Literacy programme to support teaching and learning. We also offer training on the effective use of scholarly databases. You are responsible for **booking an appointment** with your Librarians. The Faculty Liaison programme provides a conducive interface between the Library and faculties. Your knowledgeable **faculty librarians** are accessible at Levels 2, 3 and 4 of the Main Library.

3. Research Support

Our research support ranges from specialized Digital Scholarship services to a myriad of other valuable research support services, including Scholarly Communication and the Rhodes Research Commons. The Institutional Repository, Research Data Management, and Rhodes Journal service (OJS) are some of our flagship research support services provided by the Library. Research support also includes workshops on using systematic reviews as a research methodology, citing and referencing, avoiding plagiarism, research integrity (avoiding predatory journals, conferences, publishers and publishing) and fake news. For more information, visit our **research page**.

4. Library Facilities

The Rhodes University Library has always endeavoured to be a “desired space” for all patrons. Seen as a world-class academic facility, it supports the University’s Teaching and Learning requirements. It is a space that is aligned with the current educational trends. Using an **online booking tool**, library users may book group study rooms, a dedicated space for students to collaborate on projects, discuss course materials, and work together on assignments. Our **virtual tour** will enhance your experience with our venues and facilities.

5. Where to find us

Rhodes University Library has both an onsite and virtual footprint. The physical presence comprises five library sites, the Main Library, the Cory Library for Humanities Research, the Alastair Kerr Law Library, the Sound Library, and the Teacher Resource Centre. The two affiliated libraries are the Margaret Smith Library at the South African Institute for Aquatic Biodiversity (SAIAB) and the International Library of African Music (ILAM). There is more information on each of these **libraries**.

6. Library Membership

All registered students and Rhodes University staff are members of the Library. Community members are required to register annually to have access to the library services and facilities. For all your membership queries and problems with login procedures, contact the Circulation Desk or libloansupport@ru.ac.za.

7. Contact us

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SUCCESS**



RHODES UNIVERSITY
Where leaders learn



Guide to Rhodes University Library (RUL) Services