

To all our new students, welcome to Rhodes University, the place where you have chosen to embrace this new chapter of your life as a young adult and student. The academic journey is undoubtedly a long one but also an exciting, daunting, frustrating, fulfilling and dynamic experience. However, your ability to navigate this journey is contingent upon your familiarity with the various University entities that exist to support your physical, emotional and intellectual well-being. The Rhodes University Library is one such entity and we pride ourselves on being your study partner during the course of your academic journey.

Our Purpose Statement - "***The Rhodes University Library is committed to the pursuit of knowledge by connecting people to resources that contribute to the intellectual development of responsible citizens***" - recognises that your primary purpose as a student is to broaden your intellectual horizons through the active pursuit of knowledge so that you become a responsible global citizen. Our purpose is guided by the Constitution of South Africa which is the supreme law of the country. Whilst recognising that it provides the legal foundation for the existence of the Republic, sets out the rights and duties of its citizens, and defines the structure of the government, the Library is committed to upholding the Bill of Rights (Ch. 2) with specific reference to Section 32 - *the right of access to information, including all information held by the government*. To this end, we are committed to:

1. Fostering an environment of enquiry and dialogue;
2. Providing access to credible and authoritative print and electronic resources that cater to your different needs during the course of your developmental pursuits so that you make informed decisions and choices;
3. Availing state-of-the-art facilities for study, meetings and programmes;
4. The ethical use of information and knowledge;
5. Respecting a person's right to privacy and confidentiality;
6. Ensuring and maintaining an accessible and safe place.

By providing access and connecting you to the body of world knowledge and information, you can be assured that both your academic responsibilities are being met and intellectual horizons broadened. This is underpinned by actively fostering a culture of reading that promotes critical thinking, enhances one's vocabulary, language skills, imagination and creativity, and supported by a wide-ranging

recreational reading collection spanning various genres including the classics, African writers' series, fantasy, bestsellers, and many more.

The Library, as a beautiful and comfortable world class facility, has earned a reputation as a desired space and trusted place where students spend many hours studying, writing, researching, playing board games or reading for fun. You will be introduced to this environment and all that it has to offer you during the Library tours and training sessions scheduled this week by our professional and friendly staff, who are waiting to welcome you.

So, given our purpose and role, what is your role in all of this? It is to seize the opportunities presented to you and not limit yourself during this time of study, enquiry, debate, learning and expansion of your thinking. Delve deeper into subjects and become informed about contemporary issues, and national and global debates so that you learn to hold your own. By using the resources available to you, let your voice and opinion be heard as that of being informed and knowledgeable.

Most importantly, I urge that when you feel overwhelmed by the sheer enormity of the transition from school to an academic environment or the volume of work and the deadlines to be met, do not hesitate to ask for help. You will be doing yourself the greatest disservice by struggling alone or thinking that you will be mocked for not knowing how to use the Library, a computer or various resources. We are here to assist you to become information fluent so that you navigate this academic and knowledge environment to the best of your ability.

We work closely with the academic representative in your residence, so do not hesitate to approach them with any of your learning concerns. Also, you have an open invitation to pop by my office with any concern or suggestions that may enhance your and others experience of the Library or communicate with us via our Facebook Page – so please do go and like our page!

It is my pleasure, therefore, to invite you to make your acquaintance with us as your knowledge and study partner for the duration of your time here at Rhodes University.

I wish you well with all your endeavours!

Ujala Satgoor (Director)