



RHODES UNIVERSITY LIBRARY

A SNAPSHOT OF 2017

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van der Walt

During 2017 Rhodes University Library (RUL) continued to be guided by a revised Strategic Plan (2013-2019), which takes into cognisance the trends and developments impacting academic libraries with specific reference to the librarian's role in research, undergraduate student success, information literacy, new roles and competencies for librarians, and the library as place within the academic context. This report serves as a snapshot of the use of resources, the return on investment in resources and staff engagement with their own learning and the profession.

- **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 future responsible citizens.
- **Overarching Goal:** To advance quality and innovative library services that are responsive to the research, teaching and learning endeavours of Rhodes University.
- **Library Culture:** Rhodes University Library aspires to a shared culture, 'a way of being both in mind and in action' in support of a positive academic outcome for the Rhodes University community, while also creating a positive work environment for all.

The following strategic focus areas were still considered appropriate:

- Positioning the Library in the intellectual midst of the University community
- Dynamic user services
- Staff development
- Technology and innovation
- Transformation
- Risk Management

PHYSICAL LIBRARY

- ✓ 4 Libraries: Main, Law, Sound and Cory Library
 - Supports SAIAB and ILAM
- ✓ 1 200 study spaces
- ✓ 213 computers for students
- ✓ 57 computers for staff
- ✓ 10 000 m² space
- ✓ Library visits:
 - Occupancy Statistics: 172 117
 - Gate count: 550 252
- ✓ Certifying of documents: 2 483 transactions

INFORMATION RESOURCES & USAGE

Budget:

Information Resources – R 20 666 074

- Books & Monographs: R500 310
- Journals: R 2 605 439
- Databases: R 17 560 325

Collections:

- Monographs in stock: 222 219
2 799 new books
- e-Books: 11 012
- Journals – Individual titles: 145
- Journals via Databases: 37 000
- Repository (including ILAM & Cory digital collections): 16 522 items

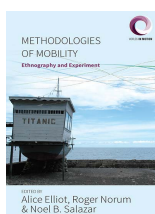
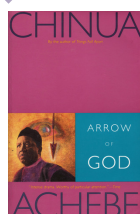
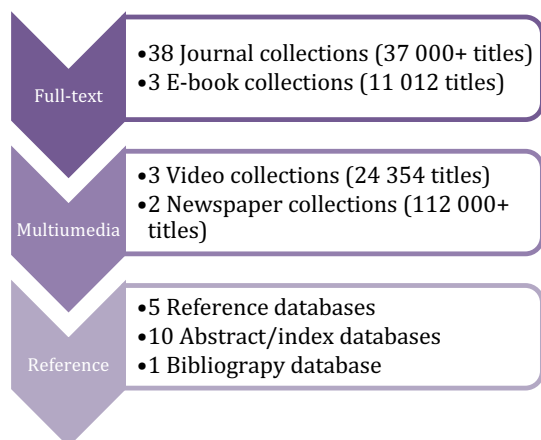
Usage:

- Circulation: 63 397 Loans (books & other materials)
- Inter-library loans:
 - 722 supplied to other institutions
 - 406 items received
- Database usage
 - 7 152 285 total database use
 - 705 521 full-text article downloads

TEACHING & LEARNING CONTRIBUTION

- 74 LibGuides
- 201 Group subject-specific presentations
- 1243 first-year student attendance at Library orientation during O-Week
- 1 226 undergraduate participants in Information Literacy/User Education sessions
- 9 872 Reference transactions

Online Resources 2017 Rhodes University Library (RUL)



Usage 2015:

Full text article downloads 672 102
Database usage 1 867 773

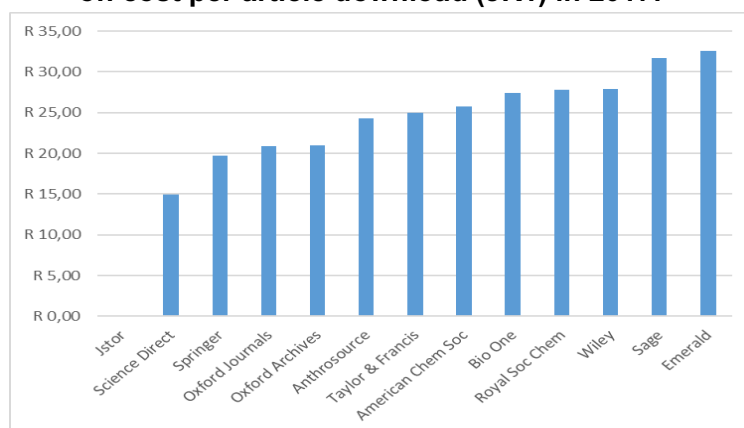
Usage 2016:

Full text article downloads 661 417
Database usage 4 802 350

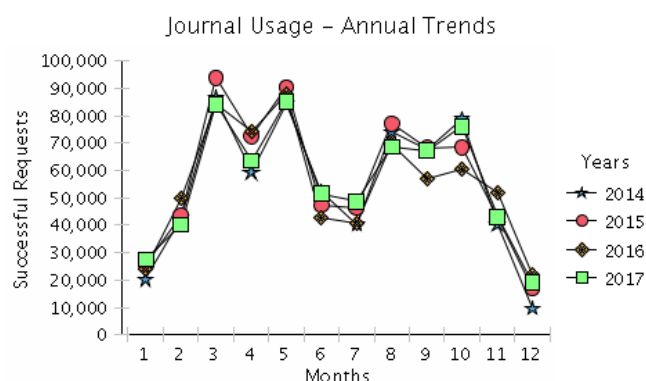
Usage 2017:

Full text article downloads 705 521
Database usage 7 152 285

The top most cost effective resources based on cost per article download (JR1) in 2017:



Journal subscriptions - usage trends over 4 years



Did You Know?



RUL spent R17 560 324.96 on access to electronic resources in 2017.

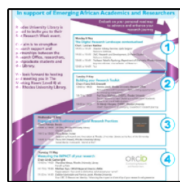


Through participation in the national SANLiC initiative, the cost avoidance of access to resources for Rhodes community members amount to R 138 million.

Top 15 most frequently used Journals by the Rhodes community in 2017:

1. Journal of Southern African Studies
2. Social Science & Medicine
3. Lancet
4. Ecological Economics
5. World Development
6. Agenda
7. Procedia-Social and Behavioral Sciences
8. Journal of Environmental Management
9. Trends in Ecology & Evolution
10. Journal of the American Chemical Society
11. International Journal of Pharmaceutics
12. Biological Conservation
13. Journal of Fluorescence
14. African Affairs
15. European Journal of Medicinal Chemistry

Rhodes Scholarly Communication and the Rhodes Digital Commons – 2017



Open Research

- Research Articles
- Conference Papers
- Hosted Collections
 - ISER
 - e-Books
- Lectures & Lecture Series
- Publications
 - Books & Book Chapters
 - Inaugural Lectures
 - Research Reports
 - Rhodes Newspapers Collections
- Theses & Dissertations
- Vice-Chancellor Collections
- Special Collections
 - Selmar Schonland Herbarium
 - ILAM Music Collections
 - JLB Smith Ichthyology Collections



Open Heritage

- African Heritage Collections
- Apartheid, the Struggle and the People
- Churches Collections
- Diaries and Letters
- Family Trees and Genealogy
- Fauna & Flora of the Eastern Cape Collection
- Fortrier Collections
- Grahamstown Collections
- Grahamstown Training College
- Map Collection
- Music Collection
- Rhodes University College (1904-1951)
- Rhodes University (1951-)
- Special Collections
 - Sport & Sporting Events
 - Glass Slide Collections
 - South Africa at War Collection
 - Gold Fields Collections

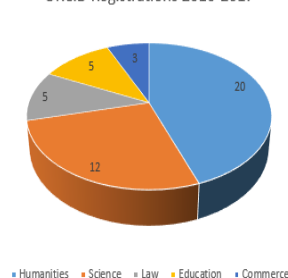
RUL in support of Research at Rhodes – Milestones

- Open Access Policy – passed by Senate in 2017
- Open Access Week – 2nd to 6th of October 2017
- Research Week – 8th – 12th of May 2017



Rhodes University Library hosted the first Rhodes University **Research Week** during 8th-12th May 2017 with the theme ***In Support of Emerging African Academics & Researchers.*** The aim of the Research Week was to strengthen research support and partnerships between the Library and the Research Office, researchers and postgraduates. The program imaged the personal research roadmap for emerging researchers.

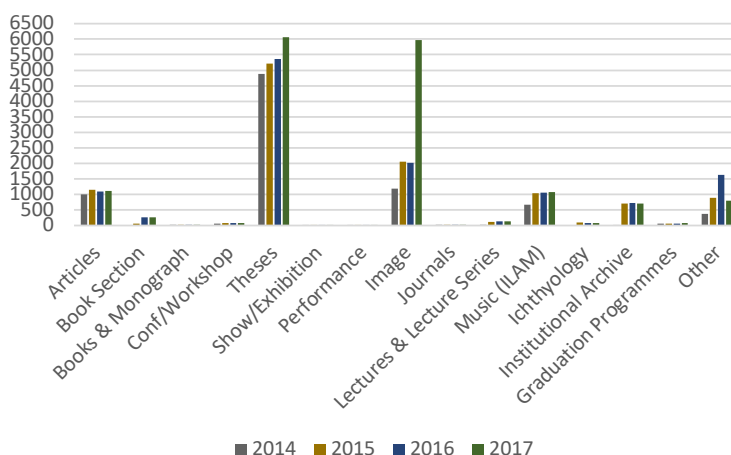
ORCID Registrations 2016-2017



ORCID Registration

ORCID (Open Researcher and Contributor ID), now a NRF requirement, is the ideal platform to connect the individual researcher's various research identifiers and research (peer-reviewed and non-peer-reviewed) output into a unique identifier. This identifier connects the researcher to Rhodes University, the NRF and publishers.

2014-2017 Rhodes Digital Commons growth



16 422 Number of Items on Rhodes Digital Commons



3066 Visitors to Rhodes Digital Commons



119 800 Hits on Rhodes Digital Commons



56 Researchers registered ORCIDs



Over 1863 downloads of Dr Hleze Kunju's thesis, *IsiXhosa ulwimi lwabantu abangesosininzi eZimbabwe: ukuphila nokulondolozwa kwaso*, the first Rhodes PhD thesis to be written in isiXhosa

SOCIAL MEDIA

The use of social media as a communication tool has grown over the year. Research visibility was enhanced via discoverability and retweets by followers who include students, academic staff, professional & research organisations, publishers & journal editors, journalists & media organisations, academic libraries and individuals.

- <https://www.facebook.com/RhodesUniversityLibrary> (2019 followers)
- <https://twitter.com/RhodesResearch> (1000 followers)
- <https://twitter.com/RhodesLibrary> (1250 followers)

PUBLICATIONS

Sharma, S., Menze, V. et. al. Antimicrobial Resistance: Identifying the Major Conflicts of Interest and Way Forward. Indian Journal of Pharmacy Practice. August 2017.

CORY LIBRARY remains engaged in scholarship and publishing activities. It managed the publication of the following:

- No. 16 in the Graham's Town Series, viz. Dr Sandra Rowoldt-Shell's *Protean Paradox: George Edward Cory Negotiating Life and South African History*, Rhodes University, 2017.
- Dr Shell's *Protean Paradox* was received with much acclaim at its launch in Cory Library on 25 October 2017. Dr Shell has been appointed Senior Research Associate in Cory Library for 2017-2020.

Cory Library assisted the Institute of Social and Economic Research (ISER) at Rhodes University with the preparation of Dr Minsie Duka's manuscript – *Matthew Goniwe on a South African Frontier – A Community History of an African Revolutionary*, which was published in November 2017.

DYNAMIC USER SERVICES

The activities relating to user services were guided by the following strategic priorities:

1. **Promote the Library' values of service, scholarship, respect, and the provision of**

diverse resources, and stimulating places as a foundation for University life

2. **Provide access to appropriate, authoritative & relevant resources and services at the point of need and in the users' environment**
3. **Strengthen existing delivery services (physical, electronic and digital), while integrating new technologies, tools and services for information discovery and delivery**

UNDERGRADUATE SUPPORT

As part of a wider collaborative programme with Student Affairs for undergraduate support, a meeting was held with the Academic Representatives from the various residences to introduce them to the services and facilities of the RUL. Further to this approximately 20 residences, predominantly female residences, made appointments for staff to engage with students in their residences.

The introduction of late afternoon Information Literacy workshop/tutorials which were run from 4–5pm, Monday to Thursday saw an additional **221** first year students in attendance during the 1st term. Academic reps also requested group tutorials, which focused on study skills, study timetable & time management, taking notes at lectures and preparing for examinations.

The Information Commons (IC) is an active, vibrant and well-used section of the RUL and certainly fulfills the needs of the undergraduate students. A well-received daily fun activity of the IC is a crossword and quiz. A SA quiz was run as a competition and with prizes being awarded it generated a great deal of discussion and interest.

The Popular Reading collection and board games within the Library continue to be firm favourites with students. Mini-collections have been located in the recreation areas of the Faculty Libraries.



RESEARCH SUPPORT

Champion open access (OA), open publishing and scholarly communication

- ✓ The RU Open Access Policy was adopted by Senate in 2017;
- ✓ Open Access Week was observed during 2nd -6th October 2017.

Implement scholarly communications

Recognising the importance of collaboration to ensure scholarly communications is consolidated within Rhodes University, Ms. Debbie Martindale, Librarian: Scholarly Communications has established working relations with the Research Office, CHERTL and the Centre for Postgraduate Studies.

- ✓ RUL hosted its first **Research Week**, 8th-12th May 2017 with the theme ***In Support of Emerging African Academics & Researchers.***



The aim of Research Week was to raise awareness of how the Library supports research and research visibility, and to strengthen its partnership with the Research Office, Centre for Postgraduate Studies, researchers and postgraduate students. The programme imaged the personal research roadmap for emerging

researchers. Many of the researcher audience attended most, if not all, the sessions. It was encouraging to see the interaction between presenters, speakers and researchers. The attendance register shows that of the over 150 researchers who attended the event, most came from the Chemistry Department and the School of Languages.

- ✓ As a National Research Foundation (NRF) requirement, the RUL continues to advocate for the registration and optimal use of **ORCID** (Open Researcher and Contributor Identification) among researchers and postgraduate students. ORCID is the ideal platform to:

- Connect the individual researcher's various research identifiers and research (peer-reviewed and non-peer-reviewed) output into a single, permanent and unique identifier,
- Connect the researcher to Rhodes University, the NRF and publishers;
- Reflect Rhodes University research output and the theses supervision activities undertaken by individual researchers.

✓ Postgraduate and Research Support

- Several training initiatives to individuals and groups included:
Use of **ZOTERO**; **ORCID** training for SAIAB librarian and individual academics; Postgraduate Orientation; Proposal writing; Copyright with specific reference to images and art etc.
- ORCID Faculty Conversations:**
Humanities 14th July, Humanities & Education 21st July, Commerce & Law 28th July, Science & Pharmacy 29th July, Science & Pharmacy 22nd August
- 1st August: Elsevier Scopus Workshop by Lucia Schoombee;
- Presentation on "Raising Research Visibility" at the Postgraduate Conference, 30th September.

ANDREW W MELLON CORY LIBRARY DIGITISATION PROJECT

In 2014, the Cory Library for Humanities Research was awarded a grant of \$85000 by the Andrew W Mellon Foundation to identify, digitise, preserve and make available existing collections of photographs, rare books and manuscripts held in the Cory Library. The assigning of metadata (according to international protocols) and uploading of these digital collections onto the institutional repository for access and research purposes was also linked to this process.

The involvement of the Main Library in the project from May–July 2017 came at an opportune time in the project cycle. The experience, expertise and collaboration amongst staff, together with the knowledge of the Cory collections, enabled the identification of a more diverse collection of items for inclusion in the project. Based on the materials already digitized the following approach was adopted:

- **Collection Development:** organising current collections and identification of additional collections that will complement the existing digital Cory collections. The aim was to reflect the parallel histories of the Eastern Cape, namely the colonial and indigenous histories. This serves as a crucial turning point to “decolonise” the Cory collections. When organizing the digital collections, a thematic approach was adopted which enables greater access and ease of use by a user e.g. African Heritage Collections; Apartheid, the Struggle and the People; Family Trees and Genealogy; Frontier Collections; etc.
- **Preservation:** the need to safeguard rare and possible valuable materials by minimizing the physical deterioration of materials necessitated the acquisition of preservation materials such as acid-free preservation boxes. The identification of materials for restoration also enabled the restoration and re-covering of several rare books.

- **Digitisation:** the identification of materials for digitisation based on areas of priorities, e.g. 280 maps dating from the 1800s to late 1900s were digitized on site by Africa Media Online; valuable and unique materials in indigenous languages (e.g. IbalamaHlubi), and materials of national interest (e.g. the Rosemary Smith collection). Furthermore, the creation of metadata for, and upload of materials digitised to the Rhodes Digital Commons so that complete digital collections may be showcased and accessed for research purposes.
- **Human resources:** Identifying and organizing available staff and students with relevant skills and competencies into project teams. The support and willingness of 18 staff members and students to participate in this aspect of the project has ensured the expansion of the following collections:
 - Cory collection - 3415 images received and loaded;
 - Gold Fields collection - 739 loaded;
 - Manuscripts - 494 received and loaded.
- **Additional hardware:** The procurement, configuration and use of a server solution for preservation of the digital raw materials e.g. TIFF formats. The implementation of a preservation layer of these raw formats contributes to the long-term preservation strategy as detailed within the Library’s eStrategy. In addition, the preservation of the raw formats allows the Library to be better positioned towards compliance to international and national standards for file formats and preservation, and recommended best practice for digital preservation strategies.

A total of 1888 hours was spent on digitizing, assigning metadata and loading items onto the Vital system. This was an excellent opportunity for RUL staff to engage with the Cory collections collectively, and enhance staff skills in digitization and digital collection management. The Project was completed on time and the final Project report was well-received by both the Research Office and the Andrew Mellon Foundation.

CONFERENCE / WORKSHOP PRESENTATIONS

Martindale, D. "The Library's strategic plan to support raising the visibility of institutional research" SEALS Standards Workshop, 19 June

Naicker, L. "Open Access Policy" SEALS Standards Workshop, 19 June

Van der Walt, W. "Harvesting & Deep Linking". SEALS Standards Workshop, 19 June

Van der Walt, W. "Submission, access and exposure management". SEALS Standards Workshop, 19 June

Martindale, D. *Enhancing the visibility of you and your research*". Interdisciplinary Post-graduate conference. Rhodes University, 30 September

Satgoor, U. "Libraries as Desired Spaces". Facilitated LIASA Pre-conference workshop. 02 October

Satgoor, U. LIASA Professional Body Recognition: Considerations, Implications & Implementation. LIASA 18th Annual Conference, 03-06 October.

Still-Drewett, F. "The value and role of Twitter for Scholarly Communication and general communication with users". 18th Annual LIASA Conference – 03-06 October

Radebe, K & Clarke, R. "Rhodes Digital Commons: experiences with Vital". Innovative User Group Southern Africa (IUG-SA) Conference, 8-9 Nov.

HUMAN RESOURCES

Total RUL staff complement – 43

Appointments

M Chikafa (Librarian: Humanities)

L Maholo (Assistant Librarian: Circulation)

VT Ntamo (Assistant Librarian)

Resignations

L Ntaka (Librarian: Science & Pharmacy)

E Msindo (Assistant Librarian: Circulation)

In memoriam

A Torlesse (Archivist, Cory Library)

A Warring (Assistant Librarian, Commerce Library)

A LEARNING ORGANISATION

M Chikafa was selected to attend the 4-week residential *Enhancing librarians' ICT skills for research enablement in African universities: a Carnegie CPD programme*, hosted by the Department of Information Science, University of Pretoria, 29 Oct-26 Nov.

Formal studies (in process)

D Martindale (M.IT, UP); F Still-Drewett (MLIS, UCT); I Kretzmann (PGDipLIS, UNISA); K Yona & T Mamani (B.Inf, UNISA); K Radebe (MLIS, UCT); B Stoltz (MLIS, UKZN); M Mpokela, L Ntaka and S Gule (B.Inf Hons, UKZN)

SECTOR ENGAGEMENT AND PROFESSIONAL INVOLVEMENT

RUL staff are involved in various leadership roles in the acknowledged professional bodies, namely, CHELSA; IUG-SA; SANLiC; SEALS, IFLA-Africa; AfLIA, LIASA

U Satgoor:

- Deputy Chair SANLiC Board, 2015-2018
- Chair-Elect CHELSA, 2016-2018
- Chair: LIASA Professional Body Advisory Board, 2015-2019
- AfLIA Governing Board Member & Treasurer, 2016-2018
- Chairperson Academic & Special Libraries Sections, AfLIA, 2016-2018
- Member: IFLA Africa Section, 2012-2017

L Naicker:

- Sabinet Board Member 2015 –
- LIASA National Secretary 2016–2018
- Rhodes Middle Management Steering Committee

W van der Walt:

- SEALS Trust member
- LIASA ICTIG Chair-elect 2016 – 2018

- LIASA Eastern Cape ICTIG Convener 2016 - 2018

L Ntaka:

- LIASA National PRO 2016 – 2018
- LIASA Eastern Cape PRO 2016 – 2018
- LIASA Eastern Cape Chair-elect 2016 – 2018

A Mente:

LIASA Eastern Cape Treasurer 2016 – 2018

