

CONNECT

Newsletter

The Library Launched a New Information Discovery Tool

By Romeo Matumba

The Durban University of Technology (DUT) Library hosted a hybrid event on 25 August 2022 to launch its new information discovery tool, **QuickFinder**. The launch was held virtually via MS Teams and physically at the AP Library, Steve Biko Campus.

QuickFinder is a library discovery tool that allows users to find a range of information sources for assignments and research projects, quickly and easily. The DUT's Director of Library Services, Dr Malefetjane Phaladi, highlighted QuickFinder as one of the smart services the library has invested in to support the academic project.

"As smart librarians, we are moving towards providing smart services and resources to our smart users by leveraging smart technologies like this new information discovery tool and many others that we already provide" said Dr Phaladi.

To generate a vibe around the launch, a competition to name this search tool was held during South African Library Week in March 2022. The response from the DUT community was overwhelming, generating more than 600 entries. The submissions were narrowed down to the top ten, from which the winning entry was chosen. Mr Mpilo Ngcobo, a first-year student at the Indumiso Campus in the Department of Education, won the competition.

The main prize for the competition included a brand-new tablet, a branded 4Gig USB, branded pens, notebooks and playing cards. EBSCO and UKS also sponsored goodies such as power banks, notepads, USBs, pens, and mobile reading lamps. Other participants who secured prizes for their entries included Mr Bongumenzi Mncwango (Umtapo), Mr Sulaimaan Manack (Evoke/Invoke) and Ms Alicia Govindasamy (The Discovery Plug).



When asked about his winning name, Mr Mpilo Ngcobo stated, "I was humbled and surprised that my name, QuickFinder, was chosen." When I submitted, all I could think about was how fast the library system is for finding information. The event was also graced by library book and poetry club members who entertained the audience. Ms Colleen Mills, EBSCO Vice President of Sales, Sub-Saharan Africa, outlined the benefits of using QuickFinder with its easy-to-use features to find a range of relevant information resources.

Mr Siza Radebe, Manager: Campus Library & Sites, delivered the vote of thanks and thanked all stakeholders who contributed to the project's implementation and launch planning, as well as those who attended the event.

Standing From right: Ms Ntutu Sogoni & Mr Romeo Matumba (Programme Directors), Ms Neesha Ramsumar (UKS), Ms Colleen Mills (EBSCO), Dr Malefetjane Phaladi (DUT Library), Mr Bongumenzi Mncwango (1st runner-up), Mr Sulimaan (2nd runner-up), Ms Alicia Govindasamy (3rd runner-up) and Ms Nomusa Maphumulo (DUT Library).

Front row from right: Mr Nhlahlhla Nhleko and Mr Nqobizitha Langa from the DUT Library

The Library Launched a Smart Makerspace

By Romeo Matumba

The much-anticipated Makerspace launch, intended to showcase this facility as a dynamic, innovative learning space where users could work and learn by accessing some of the latest technologies, took place on 30 August 2022 at the Indumiso Campus Library. The event was coordinated by the Programme Director, Mr Romeo Matumba, Marketing and Communications Librarian at the Durban University of Technology.

To capture the essence of the Makerspace project as groundbreaking innovation, the Library Innovation Working Group created the slogan, *Create, Collaborate and Inspire* to reflect the Makerspace as a space where the DUT community can create, collaborate, and inspire creativity and innovation using cutting edge technology.

Dr Joseph (Joe) Molete, DUT's Midlands Campus Director, highlighted in his welcome and opening remarks that the Library Makerspace is a pilot initiative that will be implemented in other DUT libraries. He further expressed, "We are elated about the launch of this project, and it shows the level of commitment from the team. Many projects are in the pipeline to be launched soon and they are going to make our community to be better and more innovative".

DUT's Director of Library Services, Dr Malefetjane Phaladi, described the Makerspace facility as a social and technological space for creative and innovative initiatives to thrive. He affirmed that users of the smart library, whether students or

academics, can work on creative projects collaboratively, *individually* or with library staff *and* added, these spaces commonly provide the university community with equipment, technology, and social connections that may not be available otherwise. He further explained that the goal of Makerspace is to allow users, particularly students, to learn more innovatively and creatively with the latest technologies, including 4IR technologies, through direct experimentation and from one another.



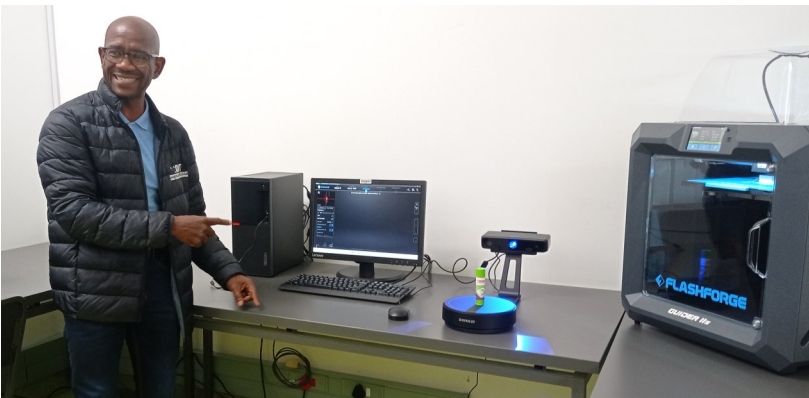


The purpose of the Library Makerspace is to stimulate creativity, innovation and entrepreneurship. For this reason, the Library Makerspace is a natural extension of the library as Knowledge sharing and creative space. The facility is very central to the concept of smart, fit-for-purpose libraries using the latest technologies to deliver innovative and creative services and products to the users of the Library. The Makerspace facility is well-aligned with the ENVISION2030 strategic perspectives on Systems & Processes and Society. As the DUT Library Management, we are grateful for the executive management support for funding this Makerspace project out of the strategic priorities fund. Such gesture goes to show the Library's strategic value proposition in the academic project", said Dr Phaladi.

The DUT's Library Manager: Information Resources & Systems, Mr Sagren Moodley, emphasized the library's excitement for the successful implementation of Makerspace as well as the benefits of this intriguing and creative space. He also mentioned additional new projects the library plans to launch, which include the launch of a new research commons at the Indumiso Library, the implementation of RFID-enabled self-service at all sites, and a new learning commons for undergraduate students at the BM Patel Library.

"Integration of these modern spaces within the curriculum or co-curriculum will promote lifelong learning and help to develop 21st-century skills and mindsets. By achieving this, we can truly provide the distinctive educational experience to which we aspire", said Mr Moodley.

Another success story for the DUT Library, which has earned a reputation for adopting and implementing smart and cutting-edge technologies that support the needs of modern users.



DUT Celebrates International Open Access Week

By Romeo Matumba

The DUT Library commemorated the international Open access week with colourful and creative displays, a public lecture and the publishing of an open book by HELTASA on the DUT Open Book publishing platform.

Open Access (OA) week was celebrated in South Africa and globally from the 24th to the 30th of October. This auspicious week is celebrated by the International OA community to encourage libraries, researchers and institutions to discuss issues concerning open access.

The DUT Public Lecture, hosted by the library, took place virtually via MS Teams on Wednesday, 26 October 2022. While providing a background on the purpose of the day and introducing the guest speaker, DUT's Director of Library Services, Dr Malefetjane Phaladi highlighted that by strategically supporting the causes of open science and open access, DUT is on the right path. He also added that the DUT library has also established an open publishing platform for books and journals. So far, a total of 4 books have been published on the platform, and many more are yet to be published soon. Delivering her lecture, the guest speaker, Ms Osman, Executive Director: National Research Foundation (NRF) focused her discussion on the 2022 theme, Open for Climate Justice. She spoke about several critical issues, including current African realities that necessitate free access to publicly funded research outputs. One of her concerns was that many research outputs are published on open-access platforms but are "not so open" due to the high costs associated with publishing on these platforms. Ms Osman also commended DUT for its contribution toward the open access movement.

"DUT is committed towards the open access movement and has done a sterling job in terms of moving towards entrenching open



Pictured from Left: Dr Rosaline Govender, Professor Sue Pather (from HELTASA) and Dr Malefetjane Phaladi, DUT

access as a new normal in their environment and that is exactly the kind of progress we want to see" added Ms Osman.

The Library also participated in the launch of an open book by the Higher Education Learning & Teaching Association of Southern Africa (HELTASA) titled "Critical Reflections on Professional Learning During COVID-19: context, practice, and change" on Thursday, October 27, 2022. This book was also published on the DUT Open Books website. Mr Sean Carte, DUT's Librarian: Digital Services, served on the project's planning committee for this initiative. Members of the organising committee including the HELTASA president thanked Mr Carte for his significant contribution to the project.

Dr Phaladi delivered a speech to set the tone at the beginning of the programme. He highlighted that to continue making an impact and meaningful contribution towards the open science movement, we need to move forward from advocacy to active change. Ms Rieta Ganas, president of HELTASA, agreed with Dr Phaladi that publicly funded research should be made available for free to all stakeholders as it remains public material. She also urged institutions and research departments to fully embrace libraries' role as publishers of open scholarship, to continue investing in more resources to support open science models, and to continue developing strategic partnerships with research departments and other institutions.

This was an exciting week for the library because it allowed the DUT community to add their voice to the global open-access movement.



DUT Represented at the Durban International Book Fair (DIBF)

By Romeo Matumba

The DUT Library staff members participated in the Durban International Book Fair (DIBF) that took place from 1 to 5 August 2022 at the Sibaya Conference centre. The Durban Book Fair offers writers, academics, and publishers a forum to debut and advertise their work to a wide range of audiences. It was introduced in July 2018 to celebrate Nobel Prize winner Dr Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela's birth anniversary and to encourage reading, among South African communities.

A collaboration with the Division of Corporate Affairs, the Centre for Excellence in Learning and Teaching (CELT), and the Writing Centre made the event feasible. The Division of Corporate Affairs provided DUT branding materials that were used at the venue to showcase some of the DUT amenities. Furthermore, staff members who attended the event were also provided with DUT-branded T-shirts to help promote the DUT brand throughout the event. Staff members from the three units mentioned above were assigned various times to attend and man the DUT stands.

DUT library staff also attended the DIBF to support the launch of a book published by the Writing Centre and CELT to honour the CELT's late Director, Professor Thengani Ngwenya, as well as to support the copyright presentation convened by DUT. The launch of the Writing Centre book titled "Planting the Seed: Emerging Student Voices" took place on 2 August 2022 with discussions about the book, including the contribution of DUT students in the book through a writing competition, Prof Thengani's involvement and the background on the decision to publish the book. DUT book club members

who recently published their books were also given a platform to read paragraphs from their books in an effort to encourage other book club members and potential authors. The book was published on the DUT Open Book publishing website:

<https://openbooks.dut.ac.za/index.php/dut/catalog/book/47>

The copyright session titled "Copyright Matters: understanding protection, access and barriers" took place on 4 August and was facilitated by Ms Deborah Ewing, a Durban-based writer, editor and advocate for children's rights.

DUT's Copyright Officer, Dr Ramika Bansi was part of the panel discussing copyright issues in South Africa. One important aspect of this discussion was how parts of the copyright legislation were affecting the deaf and blind community in South Africa. The marketing librarian created a dynamic photo presentation capturing the book launch and the copyright presentation and this presentation was also shared with all DUT staff members who attended the event.

Pictured below: Staff members from CELT, Library & Writing Centre, Library Book club members and Prof Ngwenya's family members.



STAFF TRAINING & DEVELOPMENT

Team Building - 12 August 2022:

The Library held a team building event to promote harmony among staff members and to equip them with communication, problem-solving skills and delegating. The fun activities enjoyed by staff members also incorporated 4IR technology.



Staff Wellness Workshop:

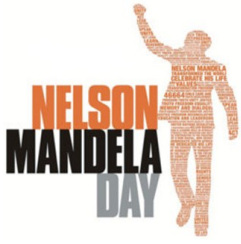
The Library hosted a staff wellness event at the Coastland Hotel on Friday, December 2, 2022. Library Management recognised that 2022 was a challenging yet productive year. The achievements celebrated are due to the combined efforts of our library family and so it was decided to invest in a staff wellness event. A workshop on dealing with workplace stress and other associated difficulties was well received by library staff members who attended the event. The wellness workshop was facilitated by Ms Thobeka Nkosi from the DUT's Wellness Centre.

Far right: Winners of the team building exercise

"The WARRIORS"

By Nonsikelelo Badenhorst





Nelson Mandela Month Initiatives

By Sarah Khan and Ini Naidoo

To Commemorate Mandela Month annually, on 18 July, The DUT Library Community Outreach Project Team identifies and undertakes projects and initiatives intended to make a difference in the lives of individuals within underprivileged communities. In keeping with the United Nations theme for Mandela Day 2022 “Do What You Can With What You Have and Where You Are”, the Library Community Outreach Project team undertook three initiatives:

⇒ Food Parcels

The Library Community Outreach Team supported a feeding initiative by distributing 100 food packs in the Addington Hospital area. When a further request was received to participate in an additional food distribution drive, staff readily responded by arranging themselves into teams, distributing 200 food packs from four distribution points on 27 July 2022.



⇒ Knitting project

Wool and knitting needles were provided to staff expressing an interest in knitting items. It was agreed that the completed knitted items would be donated to The Sahara Shelter for abused Women and Children in Phoenix. Given the sensitive nature of the situation, and respecting the privacy of residents at the shelter, staff at the facility received the knitted items on behalf of the residents on Friday, 29 July 2022.



⇒ Wonderbag Initiative

In light of the rising cost of electricity, gas and paraffin, the Library Outreach team explored the idea of the “Wonderbag Initiative”.

The Wonderbag, as stipulated by wonderbagworld.com “is a non-electric slow cooker that uses heat-retention technology to continue cooking food once your pan has been removed from the heat source.”

The library staff supported the initiative by distributing 54 Wonderbags to deserving parents of learners at Bonela Secondary School.

“it is in your hands to make a better world for all who live in it”

Dr Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela



Operationalising an MOU With the LIS Programme

By Romeo Matumba

The DUT Library management met with colleagues and the management team from the Department of Information Systems on September 28, 2022, to operationalise a Memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the Library and Information Studies programme (LIS). The programme of the event was facilitated by Dr Mogiveny Rajkoomar, Senior Lecturer from the Department of Information Systems.

The meeting contributed to the exploration of fresh ideas for how the department and library may collaborate to improve the current MOU. Dr Nalen Naicker, Acting Head of the Department of Information Systems, gave a welcome presentation in which he highlighted the objective of the day as well as key parts of the MOU and how the department desires to engage with the library to ensure the sustainability and continuous development of both the library and the LIS programme at DUT.

The key suggestions on how both parties can contribute to strengthening the relationship include developing platforms for sharing innovative ideas, collaborating and hosting workshops, webinars, and colloquiums, having library staff members with PhDs deliver guest lectures, developing and strengthening the WIL student programme and encouraging library staff to pursue further studies and publish scientific and specialised papers to contribute to scientific knowledge production.

Some of the biggest challenges highlighted by staff members from the Information Systems Department include research output by students in the department as well as recruiting and retaining people with PhDs, especially South Africans. Dr Naicker mentioned that the University is currently advocating for outstanding academics to ensure sustainability hence the

department is encouraging all PhD students to publish before graduating.

The library services director, Dr Malefetjane Phaladi presented and highlighted the current vision and the projected future of the DUT library. Some of the issues emphasised by Dr Phaladi include the plan for a long-term vision and mission that will last until 2030, contributing to the scientific knowledge and research capacity by publishing in reputable and open science publications, use of modern and dynamic technology to deliver services to the current generation, as well as taking open science to another level as knowledge producers.

This was a great occasion because all parties were pleased with the discussions and were eager to collaborate to put the MOU into effect. This event's highlights were published on the library's Facebook and Twitter pages.



Reading Corner: Cultivating the Culture of Reading & Writing

By Romeo Matumba

As part of our efforts to encourage a culture of reading on campus, DUT Library has resuscitated book clubs at various sites. Students and staff members are invited to join.

To become a member, please complete the online membership form via the library website:

<https://library.dut.ac.za>

Alternatively, you may visit any of our site libraries to complete a membership form. It is **FREE** to join. Events such as book launches, keynote speakers, debates, author discussions, poetry and fun competitions will be hosted by DUT Libraries to encourage this initiative.

READERS
÷ are ÷
LEADERS

For more details, contact:

Romeo Matumba

Librarian: Marketing and Communication

Email: muvhulawam@dut.ac.za

Pictured below: Book club members holding some of their favourite reading books.

Read!
Discover!
Learn!



Benchmarking Exercise: UCT, Stellenbosch and UJ Visits

As part of the benchmarking process, Library Management visited the libraries at the University of Johannesburg, Stellenbosch University, and the University of Cape Town. The purpose of the visit was to interact and share ideas on topics like 4IR technologies, Open Science, Digitization, RDM projects, marketing, and many others.



Top: DUT Library Management with some of the Executive Library Management at the University of Cape Town

(Photos supplied)

Bottom: University of Johannesburg Library Management with DUT Library Management



The Library Host Its Inaugural Annual Colloquium

The DUT Library hosted its first research colloquium on Wednesday 16 November 2022 at the BM Patel Library. This was a successful hybrid event. The purpose of this initiative is to encourage library staff members to continue to participate in the production of scientific conference papers, further their studies, and present their current and completed research outputs. In addition, it will foster the sharing of industry expertise and best practices.

The welcome note was delivered by Mr David Thomas, Manager: Academic Services. Mr Thomas stated in his welcoming address that Library Management is devoted to the development of library personnel by preparing them not only to execute their jobs but also for their personal growth. He went on to say that the library's investment in staff development has undoubtedly helped the library embrace changes in our modern environments and remain relevant to today's users.

The Library Director, Dr Malefetjane Phaladi set the tone for the colloquium in his opening speech. He encouraged library staff members to continue furthering their studies, produce research papers, present at conferences and colloquiums, as well as taking their position in the development



and production of scientific knowledge.

"As knowledge workers and serious stakeholders of the knowledge-based economy, it is equally important that we have to be deeply entrenched in the knowledge production, sharing and investing in the necessary capabilities for our library staff to get unleashed and become unstoppable in the actual production and sharing of scientific and industry-specific knowledge" said Dr Phaladi.

The 11 presentations delivered by library staff members were as follows:

We are in this together: office engineers of the 4/5 IR: by Library admin staff: Reshmee Jadoo, Nondumiso Msomi and Lutchie John

Visualize DUT's contribution to systematic review research and has library support had an impact on this research: by Sara Mitha

Think different! Think Smart!: evolution library IT to meet changing user essentials: by Ayanda Thwala, Brian Reynolds, Bongeka Ndalen, Prashanth Sivsaran, and Sarah Khan

Have we become SMART?: a perspective from Circulation staff: by Tholeka Sidlayi

The role of library after-hours staff: by Blessing Dube

Perceptions of academic librarians' use of mobile technology in providing library services at UOTs in KwaZulu-Natal: A full Masters dissertation by Romeo Matumba

Competency requirements of academic librarians in providing Research Data Management services: a case of two university libraries: A minor Masters dissertation by Nonsikelelo Patricia Badenhorst.

Students' perception of the engineering librarians using multimodal teaching methods for the provision of information literacy (IL) at the Durban University of Technology (DUT): Conference presentation by Mousin Omarsaib.

Frontline staff and information literacy: a case study at the Durban University of Technology: a conference presentation by Mousin Omarsaib, David Thomas and Nonsikelelo Patricia Badenhorst.

Moving beyond library operations: using cross-functional teams to drive library projects: A conference presentation by Sagren Moodley.

A DIY approach to mapping research contributions to SDGs: a conference presentation by Sean Carte.

By Romeo Matumba



Other News Headlines!!

A Library Staff Member, **Ms Indrani “Vino” Pillay** (Pictured top left) was one of the winners of the #OneWorldOneFamily writing competition organised by the Writing Centre on 17 November 2022. Her winning poem is titled “ I Am Against Violence”. The writing competition is run on an annual basis to encourage the culture of reading and writing amongst the DUT community.

DUT Library staff members attended the LIASA SCECSAL Conference that took place at the Raddison Hotel in Johannesburg from 4 to 7 October 2022. This was a hybrid conference as some of the library staff members attended virtually and physically. The theme of the conference was “Against All Odds: Resilience of Libraries in a Post-Truth World”. DUT was well represented at the conference as Dr Phaladi facilitated some of the sessions, while Mr Sargren Moodley and Mr Sean Carte also presented papers at the conference. Some of the guest speakers included Prof Bonang Mohale, UFS Chancellor, and Ms Saray Khumalo, an award-winning Mountaineer, a Guinness World record holder.

Pictured below:

Library staff members who attended the conference physically



Bottom Right:

Father Christmas visited the BM Patel Library during their staff year-end function. Fun was the order of the day!!



Staff Update

Retirements



Our warmest gratitude and best wishes goes out to the following members of staff:



Avenal Finlayson: Top right
Postgraduate Librarian (January 2023)

Lindiwe Gumede: Top left

Site & Information Service Coordinator-Midlands
(December 2022)



Wendy Joseph: Bottom left

Library Assistant: Processing (August 2022)



Gloria Green: Bottom right

Library Stack Attendant (August 2022)

Vino Pillay



Claire Spershott



**Romeo Matumba,
Chief Editor**



Andrew Naicker



Reshmee Jadoo

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DUT's Open Journals and Open Books

Are you interested in publishing your books or articles as open access? DUT Library now has a platform that allows you to do just that.

The platform's purpose is to provide the DUT community with easy access to quality platforms for open access publishing.

In an effort to support the open access movement, DUT Library will continue to promote open access publishing through its platforms and expertise.

DUT Open Journals host

<https://journals.dut.ac.za/index.php/ajims>

DUT Journals hosts the Research Office's *AJIMS*, which is currently in its fifth volume.

DUT Open Books

<https://openbooks.dut.ac.za/index.php/dut>

DUT Open books provides access to five open access books, the most recent of which is *HELTASA's Critical Reflections on Professional Learning During Covid-19*.

SUPPORT THE OPEN ACCESS MOVEMENT, OPEN ACCESS IS THE FUTURE!!

DUT Open Journals

DUT Open Books

Are you interested in publishing your books or articles
as open access?

Open Access is the future...Contact us now!!

Tel: 031 373 200 (DBN) - 033 845 8800 (PMB)
Email dutlibrary@dut.ac.za or openscholar@dut.ac.za





Library and Information Association of South Africa

Join Your Professional Body!

Persons who work in the Library and/or Information Services Sector and who care about their profession and careers: Join your professional body and thus have a say in how your profession is shaped and developed.

Who can apply for membership?

Any individual or institution with an interest in the library and/or information services sector may join LIASA.

What are the membership categories and the fees per category?

There are two main categories of membership: Individual and Institutional membership.

Individual Membership is for a person who obtains membership in their personal capacity. Individual membership fees for 2023 is R720.

For 2023, South Africans who are full-time undergraduate students, interns, unemployed, retired, or volunteers at LIS-related institutions qualify for a discounted rate of R310. Proof of status is required

Institutions, vendors and organisations are eligible for Institutional membership. Benefits for this category are awarded to the institution and not to any individual staff members.

Visit the LIASA website for more information about membership, fees and other benefits!

<https://www.liasa.org.za>



Some of the benefits include:

- ⇒ LIASA is the SAQA accredited Professional Body for the LIS sector in South Africa and therefore, upon application and meeting the requirements, LIASA can confer a designation.
- ⇒ Regular communication via the mailing list LIASOnline.
- ⇒ Four issues of LIASA-in-Touch, our information-filled magazine for the LIS professional; paid-up members have access to the electronic version, even before the printed copy is posted (when possible) to the members and stakeholders.
- ⇒ Access to the South African Journal for Libraries and Information Science, the academic and accredited professional journal.
- ⇒ Discounted rates for meetings, seminars.
- ⇒ Discounted rates for training sessions, courses and workshops.
- ⇒ Subscription to the LIASA Online Career Centre to receive emailed notifications immediately once a vacancy has been added.
- ⇒ Eligibility for the various prestigious LIASA awards.
- ⇒ Eligibility for grants, scholarships or other financial support opportunities when available.
- ⇒ Eligibility to attend the IFLA Conference at the IFLA membership rate.
- ⇒ Membership of your local branch and access to all its activities at discounted rates.
- ⇒ Membership of two Interest Groups of your choice and access to its activities.
- ⇒ Opportunity to develop your leadership and professional skills, learning best practice from others.
- ⇒ Networking, and more networking!