



LIBRARY ANNUAL REPORT

JAN-DEC 2025

**Report compiled by Library Services Director,
Dr Malefetjane Phaladi
With input from
Managers, Co-ordinators and Librarians.**

By 2030, aligned with the ENVISION2030 strategy:

Our smart library will be adaptive and state-of-the-art, recognised for its impactful contribution to scholarly knowledge production and dissemination.

Our smart people will have seamless access to scholarly information and knowledge in a manner that is open, inclusive, developmental and sustainable.

Our smart library will be driven by collaboration & partnerships, service excellence, equitable & inclusive access, and critical librarianship.

Table of Contents

Item	Pages
I. Executive Summary	2
1.1. Highlights	4
1.2. Lowlights	17
2. Perspectives	18
2.1. Stewardship	18
2.1.1. Lived Values	18
2.1.2. Institutional Culture	23
2.1.3. Creativity	24
2.1.3.1. Marketing of Events	24
2.1.3.2. Innovative Projects	25
2.2. Systems & Process	28
2.2.1. Innovative Curricula & Research	28
2.2.1.1. Undergraduate Services	28
2.2.1.2. Postgraduate Services	30
2.2.2. Digital Environment	34
2.2.2.1. Library Technologies	34
2.2.2.2. E-Resource Usage	38
2.2.2.3. Library Website & Support Tools	42
2.2.2.4. Facilities Usage	46
2.2.2.5. Information Resources	47
2.2.3. Research Support	52
2.2.3.1. DUT Open Scholar	52
2.2.4. State-of-the-art Infrastructure	62
2.2.4.1. Systems & Support	62
2.2.4.2. Computer Bookings	63
2.2.4.3. Printing & Photocopying	63
2.3. Sustainability	64
2.3.1. Distinctive Education	64
2.3.2. Financial Sustainability	64
2.3.3. Green Ecosystem	74
2.4. Society	76
2.4.1. Engaged University	76
2.4.2. Adaptive Graduates	84

Smart Libraries, Smart People!

I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The annual report provides a general overview of the DUT Library Services for the reporting period, 01 January 2025 to 31 December 2025. The year 2025 has proven to be an exceptionally positive year for the Library, with substantial contributions made across the four perspectives outlined in the DUT ENVISION2030 strategy. These significant achievements bear testimony to a commitment from smart library staff to provide exceptional smart products, services, facilities and resources to our diverse user community. The institution's continued growth relies on the optimal functioning of its critical infrastructure, systems, and resources. Accordingly, our goal is to diligently entrench the DUT Library as the primary support resource for teaching, learning, research, innovation and community engagement in a more open, developmental, inclusive, impactful, transformative, empowering, and sustainable manner. Ms Nonsikelelo Patricia Badenhorst, Postgraduate Librarian at DUT, received the Research Support Librarian of the Year award from the Library and Information Association of South Africa (LIASA), sponsored by Worldwide Information Services (WWIS). This award honours librarians who excel in advancing research support, empowering researchers, curating knowledge, and fostering innovation in academic library services. The DUT ENVISION2030 Institutional Awards were held at The Capital Zimbali on 28 November 2025, with Library staff playing a crucial role in securing significant institutional awards, showcasing their contributions and impact within the organisation. Mr Muvhulawa Romeo Matumba received the Learning and Teaching Awards "**Engaged University Award**," and Mr Nhlanhla Nhleko was honoured with the Vice Chancellor's award for the "**Culture of Reading Project**." These accolades highlight the Library's strategic importance in advancing the University's institutional priorities, particularly in fostering a culture of reading and learning, knowledge production and dissemination, and community engagement. Together, these awards reinforce the Library's role as a critical strategic partner in supporting the University's ENVISION2030 and its perspectives. Moreover, these achievements highlight the importance of a sustained culture of discipline and leadership, embodied in the team's philosophy of "live, breathe leadership; lift as we rise."

Several strategic initiatives were undertaken to realise the **DUT ENVISION2030 Stewardship Perspective** and to strengthened collegiality and collaboration among library staff during the review period. Initiatives included staff recognition awards, an annual team-building event, cultural diversity talks, and the integration of lived values and principles into workplace and management meetings. This culture of collegiality and collaboration was further expanded to all four academic libraries in the KwaZulu-Natal (KZN) region. Library staff from Durban University of Technology (DUT), Mangosuthu University of Technology (MUT), the University of KwaZulu-Natal (UKZN), and the University of Zululand (UNIZULU) participated in the inaugural **Regional Library Staff Sports Day**, held on 28 November 2025 at the Fred Crookes Sports Centre, and hosted by DUT Library. The event was designed to enhance camaraderie, promote wellness, and foster collaboration among academic libraries in the province.

After the long-awaited release of **the council-approved library structure**, it was finally shared with Library staff during the third quarter of the period under review. This new structure heralds a new era and positive development for the DUT Smart Library. This structure aligns with the Strategy concept, linking organisational structure to strategic objectives and will assist the DUT Smart Library in achieving its ENVISION2030 Aligned Library Services Plan for 2024-2030. A total of 60% of the roles in the approved library structure have been filled through a match and placement process, with the completion of the entire structure expected by the first quarter of 2026.

As part of inculcating a culture of reading and a fearless research mentality, the DUT Library Book Club undertook various activities, demonstrating its value to both the DUT community and the broader public. Members actively participated in a DUT student-led seminar, with the Chairperson contributing a reflective article to the library newsletter and supported the Green Campus Initiative through a clean-up along Durban's South Beach. The Book Club also played an active role in community and stakeholder engagement by serving as judges and facilitators at the Bergville Bookathon, hosted by DUT's Research, Innovation and Engagement Unit, and by participating in the eThekweni Municipal Library One Book One City events. Its growing social media presence further inspired the Mandeni Municipality to establish its own Book Club. This relationship was strengthened through a guest presentation at the Mandeni Municipal Library Book Club launch, reinforcing collaboration between DUT and Mandeni Municipality Library Services. During the review period, two sessions of the **Lunch & Learn initiative** were held to promote reading and culture among library staff. The first article review session, led by Ms Tholeka Sidlayi, discussed "Book Challenges in UK Libraries: The Rise of

Censorship and Global Influence," sparking discussions on censorship and expression. The second session featured Ms Hombakazi Radebe, who reviewed "The Transformative Impact of AI on Knowledge Management Processes," initiating dialogue on AI's implications in library practices. Regarding academic qualifications improvements, eight library staff members graduated in 2025, while two others were preparing their doctoral theses for external examination.

From a **Systems and Processes Perspective**. DUT Library has enhanced its collection in 2025 by acquiring new information resources from reputable online publishers, in line with the DUT ENVISION2030 strategic objectives (**SO4, SO5, SO6, and SO8**). This acquisition focuses on supporting the qualification mix for undergraduate and postgraduate programmes, particularly in STEM fields, especially within the Faculties of Engineering and the Built Environment, Health Sciences and Applied Sciences. These library information resources were acquired to ensure and sustain accreditation of the undergraduate programmes. Regarding investment in enhancing the **digital environment (SO5)** and developing **the state-of-the-art infrastructure (SO6)**, the Alan Pittendrigh (AP) Library Refurbishment Project at Steve Biko Campus commenced in November 2025, following the contractor's appointment by Real Estate Management. Additionally, the project for replacing outdated computers in all Library laboratories (eZones) has been completed within the review period. The Library management expresses gratitude to executive management and leadership for their continued support in achieving the goals of creating a digital environment (SO5) and state-of-the-art infrastructure (SO6). The DUT Library also proudly celebrated International Open Access Week on 22 October 2025, with the official launch of its **Library Conference Centre (LCC)** and an Open Access Public Lecture at the BM Patel Library, ML Sultan Campus.

Furthermore, for the period under review, we have seen an impressive record number of DUT-affiliated researchers and their articles published through the library transformational agreements (TAs), also known as open access (Read and Publish) agreements. As part of its commitment to enhancing library and information services and supporting teaching and research more openly and sustainably, the library established eight transformational agreements with key scientific publishers. In 2025, two new agreements were initiated with IOP and Sage, allowing researchers to publish open access without incurring article processing charges (APCs). Initially, 149 articles received approval. However, 28 were either rejected or had their funding requests cancelled, resulting in a final tally of 120 APC approvals. This adjustment highlights the uncontrollable factors affecting publication outcomes. The total cost savings from the approved APCs reached R6,531,642, a reduction from R7,297,553 associated with 127 APCs in 2024. Among the 120 articles published under transformative agreements, the distribution of publication quality is as follows: **52.50%** were published in Q1 journals, **29.16%** in Q2 journals, and **14.16%** in Q3 journals. This achievement will certainly contribute to increasing the visibility and impact of our research enterprise, hopefully translating into improved rankings in the near future. The Library's achievements in **University Systems, Processes, and Sustainability Perspectives** are evident, with Smart Librarians demonstrating a fearless research culture and sustainable research enterprise by publishing **thirteen (13) articles** in high-impact international journals and conference proceedings. Library staff have primarily published in high-impact international journals categorised as quartile 1 (Q1) and quartile 2 (Q2), indicating a significant contribution to the scholarly output in these prestigious venues.

Regarding the perspective, **Society**, the DUT Library is widely cited as a best practice model nationally and globally, attracting interest from the library and information sector and higher education institutions. Therefore, it did not come as a surprise that some of our smart librarians were invited to deliver guest lectures, webinars, and masterclasses on key strategic topics in the Library and Information Science (LIS) sector at various levels, including internationally. The DUT Library received national recognition at the LIASA Annual conference, with Ms Nonsikelelo Patricia Badenhorst awarded Research Support Librarian of the Year and Dr Mousin Omarsaib, Subject Librarian (Faculty of Engineering and the Built Environment), named among the finalists for the Librarian of the Year Award. These achievements further underscore DUT's growing positive reputation, leadership and professional influence at a national level as well as the innovative impact of its smart library initiatives. This is a clear indication that the **Library Services Plan 2023-2030** is starting to demonstrate its true tangible value and benefits to the university, thus putting DUT and South Africa on the map.

Collaborations and partnerships in knowledge exchange have been highlighted through various academic contributions. Sara Mitha, alongside Nigerian academics, co-authored an article in BMC Neurology, titled "Development of a high-performing, cost-effective and inclusive Afrocentric predictive model for stroke: a meta-analysis approach" (Nweke et al., 2025). Dr Malefetjane Phaladi worked with Dr Steven Mamorobela

from UNISA for a paper presented at the 26th European Conference on Knowledge Management (ECKM) in Finland, which was subsequently published in the conference proceedings indexed by Scopus. Alongside this, Dr Patrick Mbongwa Mhlongo also presented and published his paper at the same ECKM conference. Dr Phaladi delivered a presentation on integrating strategic HRM practices into knowledge management at the Knowledge Management South Africa (KMSA) Imbizo 2025 and also delivered a webinar to Mzuzu University in Malawi, including a Knowledge Management Masterclass to advanced and postgraduate diploma students and lecturers in the Department of Human Resource Management at DUT. In preparation for the LIASA Annual Conference 2025, Mr Romeo Matumba collaborated on two research papers, one developed in partnership with a Marketing Librarian from UNISA focusing on a collaborative marketing model between academic libraries, and another on research capacity building for library staff. Both papers were successfully accepted for presentation. Lastly, Dr Omarsaib and Ms Sara Bibi Mitha partnered with Dr Vahed from Xi'an Ting Liverpool University to publish an open educational resource on Bibliometrics, accessible via DUT Open Scholar. To demonstrate the DUT Library's impact, these smart librarians were further invited to deliver a workshop within the Stellenbosch Doctoral Mobility programme on 1 July 2025. The session included a practical demonstration using the case study "Beyond Borders: Advancing Equity, Innovation, and Graduate Attributes". Library staff also engaged in academic citizen responsibilities such as external examination, editorial works and reviews, and the assessment of higher research degrees, including masters and doctoral programmes.

I.1. Highlights

• Institutional Awards

The institution hosted the DUT ENVISION2030 Awards at The Capital Zimbali on 28 November 2025.

The Library staff played a crucial role in achieving notable institutional awards, highlighting their significant contributions and impact within the organisation. The DUT Smart Library Team won in two categories. Mr Nhlanhla Mncamisi Nhleko and the book club team received the Vice-Chancellor's Award for the Culture of Reading project. Additionally, Mr Roméo Matumba won the Engaged University Award under Learning and Teaching Awards for his substantial contributions to the library and information service industry on international, SADC, and national levels. His work includes delivering webinars and guest lectures in various countries, such as Sweden, Peru, and Malawi, focusing on digital library marketing strategies, as well as publishing an article in a Q1 high-impact international journal in this field.



Image: Library at the institutional awards

• International Open Access Week and Library Conference Centre (LCC) Launch

The DUT Library proudly celebrated International Open Access Week on October 22, 2025, with the launch of its Library Conference Centre (LCC) and an Open Access public lecture at the BM Patel Library, ML Sultan Campus. The event began with a ribbon-cutting ceremony led by Professor Vusi Gumede, DUT's

Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Teaching and Learning, alongside Dr Malefetjane Phaladi, Director of Library Services. Following the launch, Professor Janicke Hinchliffe from the University of Illinois presented a public lecture titled “Open Access publishing models: stability, scalability and sustainability.” In her talk, she explored the challenges and opportunities facing the Open Access and Open Science movement, particularly its implications for academic libraries and research institutions. The events were organised through collaborative efforts and well-marketed through social media. This year’s theme, “Who Owns Our Knowledge?”, focused on the ownership of publicly funded research and emphasised the need for accessible knowledge as a public good for the community and scholarly world.



Image: DVC: Teaching & Learning at the official opening of the LCC

- DUT Smart Librarian Wins National Research Support Award**

The Library is proud to acknowledge the outstanding achievement of Ms Nonsikelelo Patricia Badenhorst, Postgraduate Librarian, who was awarded the **Research Support Librarian of the Year** by the Library and Information Association of South Africa (LIASA). Sponsored by Worldwide Information Services (WWIS), this prestigious national award recognises librarians who go above and beyond in advancing research support, empowering researchers, curating knowledge and integrating innovation within academic library services. Ms Badenhorst’s recognition reflects her exceptional commitment to excellence and her outstanding contribution to strengthening the research ecosystem at DUT. As a key member of the DUT Smart Library team, she has played a vital role in providing innovative, inclusive, and transformative research support services that align with DUT’s vision of being a people-centred and engaged university. Her work ethic, professionalism and dedication have earned her respect across the university community, and this accolade stands as a testament to her unwavering pursuit of excellence. This remarkable national recognition marks a significant milestone in the history of the DUT Smart Library.



Image:

Ms Nonsikelelo Patricia Badenhorst receiving the LIASA-WWIS Research Support Librarian of the Year Award

From Left: Romeo Matumba (MC), Ms Zanele Nomvete (WWIS), Dr Phaladi, Patricia Badenhorst, Mellisa Badenhorst (WWIS) and Prof Lefose Makgahlela (LIASA President-Elect)

- **DUT Library Shines at the 2025 LIASA Annual Conference**

The DUT Smart Library proudly participated in the LIASA Annual Conference, held in Gqeberha, Eastern Cape, from 30 September to 3 October 2025. Recognised as a G20 site event by the Department of Sports, Arts and Culture (DSAC) and the GLAM sector, this year's conference took place under the theme "Libraries as Innovation Hubs: Empowering Communities." DUT was strongly represented, with several librarians contributing through research presentations, conversational sessions, and lightning talks that showcased the library's commitment to innovation, collaboration, best practice knowledge sharing and community empowerment.



Image: Smart Library Team at the LIASA Conference.

Paper presentations by DUT Library staff included:

1. Patricia Badenhorst, Sara Bibi Mitha and Themba Nkuna: *"If we don't, who will? Incorporating ethical use of AI in postgraduate information literacy workshops."*
2. Tholeka Sidlayi: *"Driving user-centred transformation: highlighting proposals submitted for the DUT Library's Innovation Day to enhance academic library services."*
3. Romeo Matumba and Itumeleng Mpete (UNISA): *"Strategic partnership for innovation: a collaborative marketing model between academic libraries to empower communities in South Africa."*
4. Romeo Matumba and Dr Mousin Omarsaib: *"Research capacity building for library staff: a DUT Library success story."*
5. Nomcebo Mthimkhulu and Mendy Sibisi: *"Umntu, ngumuntu, ngabantu, I am because you are: an autoethnographic reflection at the Durban University of Technology."*
6. Siza Radebe: *"Zibukezulu High School Library as a model for the school libraries in the Imbali Education & Innovation Precinct."*

All papers presented were positively received during the conference sessions, contributing to the enhanced profile of the DUT Library. The highlight of the conference for DUT was the recognition of Ms Patricia Nonsikelelo Badenhorst, Postgraduate Librarian, who received the prestigious LIASA–WWIS Research Support Librarian of the Year Award. This esteemed national accolade recognises outstanding research support librarians, celebrating excellence and inspiring continued commitment within the higher education sector. Warm congratulations are extended to Ms Badenhorst on this well-deserved honour.

In addition, Mr Romeo Matumba, Librarian: Marketing and Communication, distinguished himself as Master of Ceremonies throughout the week, including at the conference gala dinner. Dr Mousin Omarsaib, Subject Librarian, was also named among the finalists for the Librarian of the Year Award, further underscoring DUT's leadership and professional influence at a national level.

Through its sustained engagement in national and international platforms, DUT Library continues to reaffirm its standing as a champion for innovation, ethical scholarship, and collaborative advancement in academic

librarianship. The library's presence at LIASA 2025 exemplifies its unwavering pursuit of excellence and its commitment to driving transformative impact across the higher education landscape.

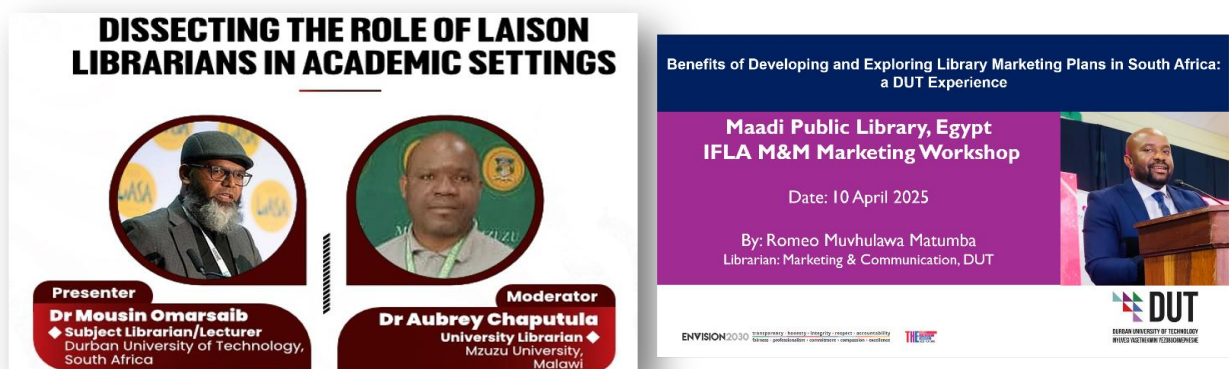
- **Smart Librarians Making an Impact on the Global Stage and Footprint**

The Smart Library people continue to make their mark and raise the DUT flag on the international stage, representing the university at various national and international industry forums, knowledge-sharing and research capacity development platforms.

Dr Patrick Mhlongo and Dr Malefetjane Phaladi presented and published 3 papers in the Proceedings of the 26th European Conference on Knowledge Management (ECKM) that took place 4-5 September 2025 at the Lahti University of Technology (LUT), Lappeenranta, Finland. The ECKM proceedings are indexed by Scopus, among other major indexes.

The DUT Smart Librarians' expertise and knowledge are well-recognised and sought-after at the international level, thus, in the process demonstrating a return on investment in human capital development and exposure. The Library staff, Dr Mousin Omarsaib and Miss S.B. Mitha presented a webinar on Bibliometrics for Research, arranged between Durban University of Technology and Xi'an Jiantong-Liverpool University, China. This research capacity initiative on Bibliometrics was requested by Xi'an Jiantong-Liverpool University.

On another positive note, Dr Omarsaib was invited to present on "Dissecting the role of liaison librarians in academic settings" to members of the Malawian Library Association. This virtual session took place on the 2nd of July 2025. Mr Romeo Matumba delivered a presentation at the IFLA webinar for librarians in Egypt, focusing on "Benefits of developing and exploring library marketing plans in South Africa: a DUT experience". The webinar was hosted by Maadi Public Library in Egypt on 10 April 2025.



Images: Poster segments displaying the presentation titles of Dr Omarsaib and Mr Matumba.

- **Library Staff Recognition Awards 2025**

There is a quote that says "You never know when a moment and a few sincere words can have an impact on a life", which is attributed to Zig Ziglar, an American author and motivational speaker. As part of recognising and appreciating the sterling performance, the Library hosted the 2025 staff recognition awards function to acknowledge and appreciate library staff for their dedication. The library hosted its annual Staff Recognition Awards Ceremony on Friday, 5 December 2025, at the Edward Hotel. The event celebrated and acknowledged the contributions and achievements of library staff and key stakeholders.

- **Library Staff Recognition Awards 2024**

As part of recognising and appreciating the excellent performance and commitment, the Library hosted the 2024 Staff Recognition Awards to honour and acknowledge library staff members for their dedication to serving the university community. The event took place on Friday, 14 February 2025, at the BM Patel Library on the ML Sultan campus, bringing together library staff from both the Durban and Midlands campuses in a spirit of appreciation and goodwill.



Image: Library managers and some of the awardees at the Staff Recognition Awards Function

- **Council-Approved Library Structure**

After the long-awaited release of the council-approved library structure, the structure was shared with Library staff. Structure follows Strategy is a concept that emphasises the relationship between an organisation's structure and its strategic objectives. The new library structure will go a long way in helping the DUT Smart Library realise its ENVISION2030 Aligned Library Services Plan 2024-2030. After the release of the council-approved library structure to Library staff, it has been noted that the new structure accommodates emerging services and promotes equitable service provision across various campus library sites. However, the effects of the current staff levels on this structure remain uncertain. Currently, the 'match and place' appointment process is being implemented. During this reporting period, 60% positions were filled, and the ongoing match and placement process will continue into the next reporting period to fill remaining vacancies and align with the approved structure. In summary, the alignment between Library operational plans and structure is crucial for achieving long-term success and adaptability in a competitive information environment.

- **Library Leadership Development Workshop**

Tied to the 2025 EAPP key performance indicator on leadership development, a Leadership Development Workshop was organised on the 19th September to intellectually and practically empower staff with leadership theories and principles. This Leadership Development Workshop, facilitated by an external expert, was organised to strengthen managerial capacity and interpersonal effectiveness among library staff. The programme focused on leadership principles aligned with DUT's Envision2030 pillars, emphasising collaboration, accountability, and innovation. Participants gained insights into strategic decision-making, communication, and team motivation, fostering a culture of proactive leadership within the library environment. The workshop further supports succession planning and the professional growth of staff members.

- **DUT Smart Library Book Club Activities**

- **Inculcating a culture of reading and writing**

The DUT Library Book Club under the leadership of Mr Romeo Matumba, Librarian: Marketing and Communication, and Mr Nhlanhla Nhleko, Library Manager, actively participated in a diverse range of activities and events during this period, showcasing its growing influence and commitment to both the DUT community and the broader public. Club members attended a **student-led seminar**, representing the Book Club as a recognised DUT student society, while the Chairperson drafted a reflective article capturing their experiences and insights from the event. The article was also included in the library newsletter. In support of DUT's

sustainability initiatives, members contributed to the **Green Campus Initiative**, cleaning designated areas along Durban's South Beach.

The DUT Book Club has had a positive external impact, with the Mandeni Municipality establishing their own Book Club after being inspired by our activities showcased on social media. The club also strengthened partnerships with external institutions through a **guest presentation at the Mandeni Municipal Library book club launch**, cementing ties between DUT and Mandeni Library Services. On the academic and literary front, members hosted a **journal and script review session**, critically engaging with a film script authored by Junior Mhlungu, which was scheduled for staging at The Courtyard. The marketing and communication section organised a practical session on **journal article review techniques**, facilitated by Ms Tholeka Sidlayi, who equipped members with skills to conduct scholarly evaluations.

In addition, Book Club members served as **judges for an inter-residence debate**, receiving certificates of appreciation for their active involvement and contribution. Collectively, these activities highlight the DUT Library Book Club's ongoing dedication to learning, collaboration, community engagement, and partnership building, reflecting its mission to foster both intellectual and social development within and beyond the university.



Images: DUT Library Book Club members at Mandeni Municipality Book Clubs Launch, and a certificate of participation received at Inter-Res debate

➤ **DUT Book Club-RedBull Awareness Drive**

The DUT Book Club, in collaboration with RedBull South Africa, hosted an awareness drive on campus to promote reading, student engagement, and wellness. This initiative enhanced the university's visibility and reflected the library's efforts in creating vibrant learning environments and supporting students. The collaboration underscores DUT's commitment to holistic student development and strengthening strategic external relationships.



Image: Students and staff members at the RedBull Activation

➤ **Bergville Bookathon Event**

Members of the Library Book Club were invited to serve as judges and facilitators at the Bookathon event hosted by DUT's Community Engagement Unit at Inkosi Nogaga Primary School in Bergville on 24 November 2025. They participated as judges in competitions including debates, Spelling Bee, book reviews, poetry, short story readings, and skits. This involvement provided an opportunity for members to contribute their experience, insight, and passion for literacy to the event.



Image: Library book club with learners and teachers at Inkosi Nogaga Primary School

➤ **Book Club Team Building**

The DUT Library Book Club recently hosted planning and teambuilding sessions for students and book club coordinators in Durban and Midlands campuses, which served as both a strategic and social engagement for members. The session was not only dedicated to strengthening team dynamics through various teambuilding exercises but also provided an opportunity to deliberate on the 2025 activity programme. The event was filled with excitement and camaraderie, as members participated in a variety of board games such as Chess, Jenga, Morabaraba, checkers, other enjoyable indigenous games and physical activities, fostering a sense of unity and collaboration among the team. Dr Mhlongo, DUT's Subject Librarian for the Faculty of Accounting and Informatics, served as the guest speaker for the day, delivering an inspiring talk focused on the love of reading and sharing his curated list of books with Book Club coordinators. The team-building exercise emphasised the Library's strong belief in cultivating a reading culture as a powerful means of strengthening and enriching the mind. As part of his brief presentation, Dr Mhlongo reviewed several books he had recently read and found enjoyable. In the Midlands, students participated in traditional games organised by the Midlands Book Club coordinators. This session was held in collaboration with Red Bull South Africa, which sponsored the event with beverages.



Left Image: Midlands Book Club team building



Right Image: Durban Book Club team building

➤ Exam Preparation Support

In collaboration with the Book Club coordinators, the Library arranged for the Red Bull team to visit the Durban libraries, where they distributed Red Bull beverages to library users as a gesture of support for students ahead of the June examinations.



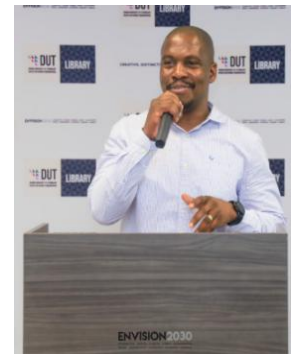
Images:

The Redbull team, the marketing and communication librarian and the book club chairperson are distributing Redbull drinks inside the library

• Book Launches

As part of its operational objective of promoting a culture of reading, writing and research, the library contributed to the successful launches of books by Professor Zamokuhle Mbandlwa and DUT's DVC: People and Operations, Dr Vuyo Mthethwa.

Professor Mbandlwa's book, *Challenges, Strategies, and Resiliency in Disaster and Risk Management*, was launched on 23 April at the BM Patel Conference Centre. The event, attended by DUT staff, students, and guests from institutions such as eThekweni Municipality, UKZN and MUT, was coordinated by the Marketing and Communication Librarian, who handled planning, designed the invitation and programme, and served as programme director. The launch generated interest from the eThekweni Municipal Libraries, which invited DUT to host a similar event for Africa Day. Although the municipal event was later cancelled due to funding constraints, the invitation reflected the success of the launch and recognised the librarian's facilitation expertise.



Prof Mbandlwa at his book launch

Dr Vuyo Mthethwa's book titled "*Vuka Tshabalala on Trial: The South African Jurisprudence Personified*" was launched on 15 May 2025 at the DUT's hotel school. The event was a closed session limited to guests from the DVC office. Our book club coordinators were also invited to this occasion. Speakers and guests included the Vice Chancellor and Principal, Prof Thandwa Mthembu, retired Judge Vuka Tshabalala and Advocate Naseer Aboobaker.



Left Image: Book club coordinators with VC & Principal, Prof Thandwa Mthembu at Dr Mthethwa's book launch.



Right Image: Nhlanhla Nhleko with VC & Principal, Prof Thandwa Mthembu and Judge Vuka Tshabalala at Dr Mthethwa's book launch.

- **New Library Resources to Support Innovative Curricula and Research (SO4)**

During 2025, the DUT Library strengthened its scholarly collections in alignment with ENVISION2030 strategic objectives SO4, SO5, SO6 and SO8, acquiring new databases and digital resources to support undergraduate and postgraduate programmes, particularly in STEM fields. New subscriptions and enhancements included SAGE Read & Publish, Web of Science Research Assistant, Digital Theatre+, Emerald Premier, Trading Economics, IEEE AI eBooks, Mastering Physics, Engineering Village, Knovel Engineering, Access Emergency Nursing and Medicine, Sustainable Development Goals, and ScienceDirect Focus eBooks covering a range of disciplines. These new resources were communicated to the DUT community through the DUT Pinboard in September 2025

- **Book Club Movie and Journal Review**

The event on 2 November, facilitated by Mr Romeo Matumba and Ms Loveness Kaite (Book Club secretary) at LCC, focused on reviewing a journal article and a movie. The first session featured a review of the article titled “The Use of Artificial Intelligence in Libraries: A Systematic Review” by Choncha, published in 2024. The session aimed to promote engagement with scholarly literature and enhance understanding of systematic reviews.

The second session involved reviewing the film “Hidden Figures”, selected by book club members. This film, based on Margot Lee Shetterly's 2016 non-fiction book, showcases the vital roles of African American women mathematicians at NASA during the Space Race. Mr Junior Mhlungu, a committee member and student in Film and Production Studies, facilitated this review.



- **DUT Library TECH Week**

Tied to SO5 on Digital Environment, the DUT Library proudly hosted its annual TECH Week Interactive Sessions from 4 to 8 August 2025 across all six campus libraries. The week created an energetic and engaging atmosphere, giving students and staff the chance to explore new tools and technologies that enhance learning, teaching and research.

During the week, staff, students, and researchers engaged in exploring various innovations, including digital resources, smart services, and AI-enabled library tools. Technology experts and learning partners from DUT and external sources provided updates on important topics such as cybersecurity, multi-factor authentication, and the student information system.

Additionally, the week included training sessions focused on emerging AI resources like Scopus AI, ScienceDirect AI, QuickFinder, and the Web of Science Research Assistant.



Images: Students and staff attending TECH Week

- **Digital Environment (SO5) and State-of-the-art infrastructure (SO6) - Smart Library Computing Labs**

Alan Pittendrigh Library Refurbishment Project situated at Steve Biko is finally about to take shape. Real Estate Management has finally confirmed the appointment of the contractor and scheduled the planning meeting to start the actual project in November 2025, immediately after the exams. This refurbishment project is estimated at R15.5 million.

The CAPEX allocation project for the replacement of ageing computers across all Library labs (eZones) was completed during the period under review. As the library management team, we wish to place on record our gratitude to the executive management and leadership for their support in realising SO5 and SO6 in the library environment.

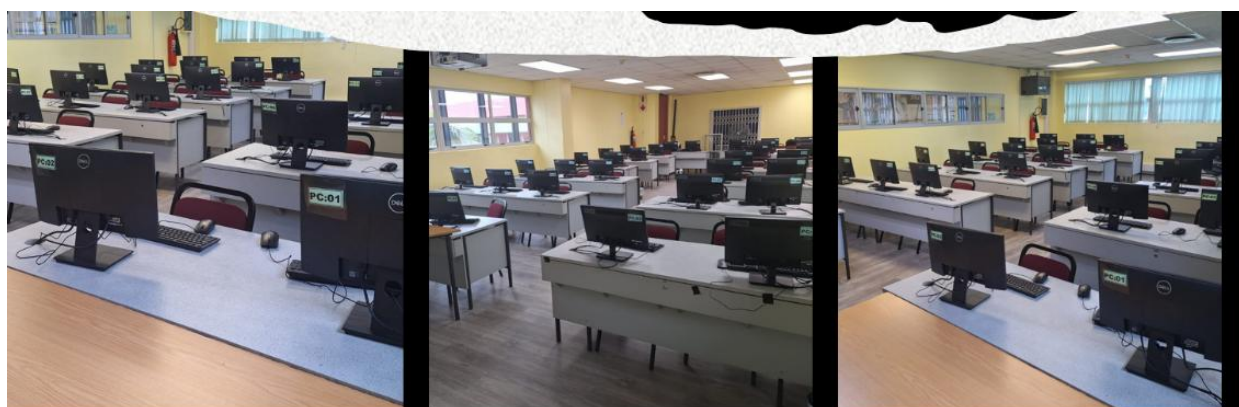


Image: eZones

- **Artificial Intelligence Workshops**

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is significantly altering the information landscape, necessitating library staff to acquire a fundamental comprehension of AI and to cultivate practical skills for its effective application in their work. A workshop focusing on Artificial Intelligence was successfully conducted to enhance the digital competencies of library staff. The session aimed to equip participants with knowledge and practical exposure to AI tools that can be integrated into library operations, information literacy programs, and user support services. Staff members displayed high levels of engagement and interest throughout the session, highlighting the growing need to adopt emerging technologies in the library environment. The workshop aligns with DUT's strategic objective of fostering innovation and digital transformation within institutional operations.



Image: Smart Librarian attending AI Workshop facilitated by Dr Modiba from Unisa

- **Durban International Book Fair (DIBF)**

This year's Durban International Book Fair (DIBF) took place from 14 to 17 August 2025 at EDUVOS, Umhlanga. The Library, together with its partners, the Writing Centre, Somatology, and members of the Library Book Club, participated in the DIBF. The library hosted a Slam Poetry session facilitated by Busiso

Mavundla and Junior Mhlungu, featuring performances by learners from local primary and high schools. This initiative allowed Book Club members to help manage the session, strengthening the library's engagement at the fair. DUT Library staff also provided IT support for the duration of the event. Sessions organised by DUT for the DIBF included a 4IR demonstration by the Faculty of Accounting & Informatics, a Writing Workshop by the Writing Centre, and a SLAM poetry session by DUT book club members.



Image: DUT Staff and Students at DIBF

- **Elsevier Future Research Symposium**

Elsevier, in partnership with the Durban University of Technology Library and Research Support Office, organised a dynamic session on 24 July 2025 at Coastlands on the Ridge, Musgrave. The event gathered scholars, researchers, and academic professionals from the four universities in the KZN region to discuss the evolving landscape of research and publishing in South Africa.

- **DUT Portfolio of Transformational Agreements (Read and Publish)**

As part of its operational intent to provide library and information services, teaching and research support in a more open, developmental, inclusive, and sustainable manner, the library has put in place eight (8) transformational agreements with major publishers of scientific information. In 2025, the library initiated two new transformational agreements with publishers IOP and Sage, enabling researchers to publish open access without article processing charges (APCs). Throughout the year, 149 articles were initially approved; however, 28 were rejected or had funding requests cancelled, leading to a final approval of 120 APCs. This adjustment reflects uncontrollable factors impacting publication status. The approved APCs resulted in a cost saving of R6,531,642, a decrease compared to R7,297,553 from 127 APCs in 2024. The decrease in output and financial benefit was attributed to changes in Wiley Gold publishing quality issues, pricing and currency fluctuations. The table below shows the library's current portfolio of transformative agreements.

Publisher	Agreement period	No. of journal titles that are eligible per publisher	2025: No. of articles that can be published free of APCs
ACM Open	2024 - 2026	55 Full journal list	Uncapped
Emerald	2025 -2027	310 Full journal list	140 (first-come, first-served basis across all participating institutions)
Wiley	2022 - 2025	1681 Full journal list	Unlimited
Springer Nature	2023 - 2025	2360 Full journal list	995 (first-come, first-served basis across all participating institutions)
Elsevier (ScienceDirect)	2023 - 2025	1820 Full journal list	2221 (first-come, first-served basis across all participating institutions)
Taylor and Francis	2024 - 2026	2000 journals Full journal list	1276 (first-come, first-served basis across all participating institutions)
IOP Science	2023 - 2025	70 journals Full journal list	uncapped
Sage	2025-2027	1047 journals Full journal list	Uncapped

- **South African Library Week, 17-23 March**

- **Public Lecture**

During South African Library Week (SALW), observed from 17 to 23 March 2025, the Library organised a public lecture on 18 March, at the BM Patel Library 4th floor conference centre, as part of the commemorative activities. This pivotal week marked a significant occasion in South Africa for the Library and Information Association of South Africa (LIASA) and the broader Library and Information Services (LIS) sector. It is for this reason that yearly, the Library plans and celebrates the SALW, by hosting several activities, including a public lecture as part of the proceedings. This hybrid public lecture was delivered by Professor Mpho Ngoepe, C2 NRF-rated researcher and Executive Director of Library and Information Services at the University of South Africa. The lecture was delivered under the theme and title “Libraries

for Sustainable Communities: Towards Inclusivity in an Academic Library Space to Foster Access to Information”. Also, in attendance was DUT’s DVC: Teaching and Learning, Professor Mashupye Kgaphola, who delivered a welcome and opening remarks, and Professor Mathys Swanepoel, Deputy Dean of the Faculty of Accounting and Informatics, who delivered the vote of thanks and closing remarks. An article was published on the DUT website: <https://www.dut.ac.za/dut-library-celebrates-south-african-library-week-with-insightful-public-lecture-by-prof-mpho-ngoepe/>



Image: Professor Mpho Ngoepe, C2 NRF-rated researcher and Executive Director of Library and Information Services at UNISA, and Professor Mashupye Kgaphola, DVC: Teaching & Learning, DUT

➤ **Amnesty Week**

SALW was also designated as Amnesty Week at DUT. Library users were encouraged to return all overdue items, with their fines waived as a gesture of goodwill. Posters were designed and distributed to circulation coordinators for display across all library sites. Additionally, notices reminding users about Amnesty Week were placed on library notice boards and incorporated into SALW displays throughout the libraries.

➤ **Somatology and Chiropractic Units**

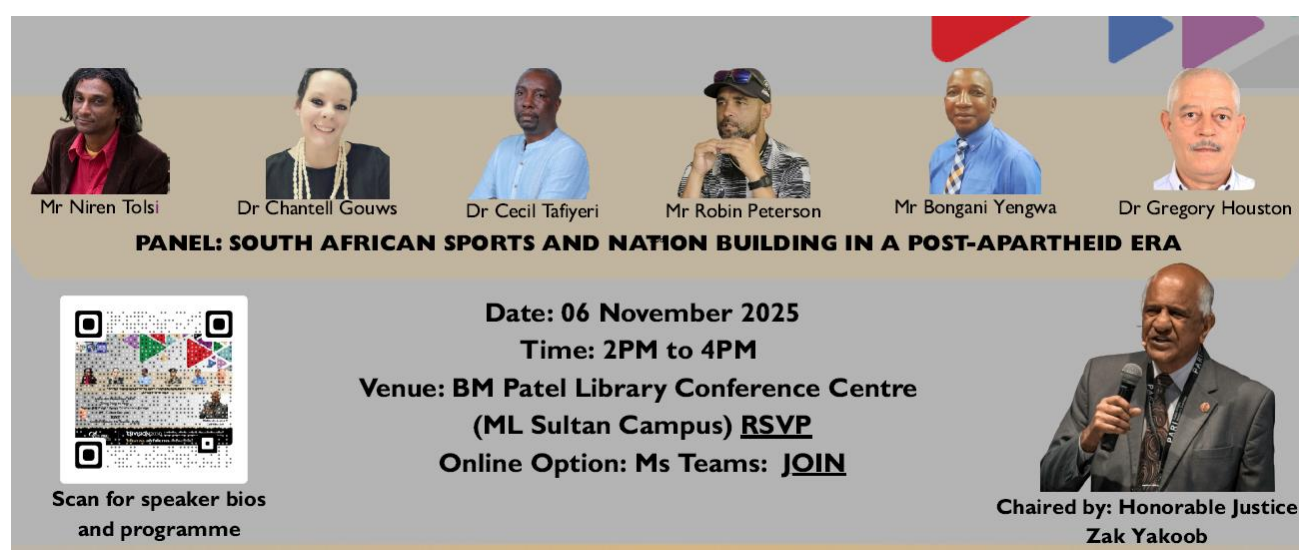
In collaboration with the marketing team, arrangements were made with the Chiropractic and Somatology units. Both units visited library sections at the Durban sites to offer blood pressure checks, cholesterol screenings, and massages to library users.

- **Library and Information Association of South Africa (LIASA) Library Week Activities**

The Marketing and Communication Librarian, who is also a member of the LIASA Board, participated in the launch of SALW in Makhado, Limpopo, on 14 March 2025. He facilitated the event as programme director. The launch was attended by senior government executives in Limpopo, including the Deputy Minister of Sports, Arts and Culture, Honourable Peace Mabe; the Executive Mayors of the Vhembe District and Makhado; the MEC from the Department of Sports, Arts and Culture (DSAC); LIASA Board members; Directors of Library and Information Services departments; traditional leaders; and officials from various government departments in Limpopo.

- **Successful Collaboration with International Education and Partnerships in Hosting a Panel Discussion on Transformation in Sports.**

The Durban University of Technology's (DUT) International Education and Partnerships Directorate, in collaboration with the Library Directorate, successfully hosted a hybrid panel discussion titled "South African Sport and Nation Building in a Post-Apartheid Era" on Thursday, 6 November 2025. The stimulating discussion took place at the BM Patel Library Conference Centre on the ML Sultan Campus and was attended by both physical and online participants, reflecting DUT's commitment to creating inclusive platforms for critical dialogue and knowledge sharing. The esteemed panel featured Dr Chantell Gouws, Head of the Sport Studies Department at DUT; Mr Bongani Yengwa, Head of DUT Sport Administration and an SABC Sport analyst; Mr Niren Tolsi, an award-winning journalist and researcher; Dr Cecil Tafiyeri, a researcher and consultant in Physical Education and Health Promotion; Dr Gregory Houston, Research Fellow at the University of the Free State; and Mr Robin Peterson, head coach of the Warriors cricket team and former Proteas player. Each panellist brought a unique perspective to the conversation, enriching the discussion with their personal experiences, professional expertise, and historical insights. The panel discussion was chaired by Honourable Justice Zak Yacoob, a retired judge of the Constitutional Court and respected advocate for human rights and social justice.



PANEL: SOUTH AFRICAN SPORTS AND NATION BUILDING IN A POST-APARTHEID ERA

Mr Niren Tolsi | Dr Chantell Gouws | Dr Cecil Tafiyeri | Mr Robin Peterson | Mr Bongani Yengwa | Dr Gregory Houston

Date: 06 November 2025
Time: 2PM to 4PM
Venue: BM Patel Library Conference Centre (ML Sultan Campus) RSVP
Online Option: Ms Teams: JOIN

Scan for speaker bios and programme

Chaired by: Honorable Justice Zak Yacoob

Image: DUT Explores the Role of Sport in Nation Building in Post-Apartheid South Africa

1.2. Lowlights / Challenges

- **Student Protests and Damage to Property**
 Student protests at the university have led to significant damage to library facilities, particularly affecting the Alan Pittendrigh and Indumiso libraries. During the first term, both libraries were forced to close due to protests. The Alan Pittendrigh Library at Steve Biko campus experienced severe damage, including broken glass panels from stone throwing and water damage caused by opened fire hoses. This destruction adversely affected library services and delayed the start of lectures, marking it as one of the worst incidents of property damage attributed to student riots in the university's history.
- **Network and Wi-Fi Problems Affecting Libraries**
 During the reporting period, the library experienced intermittent network connectivity challenges that adversely affected normal operations. These disruptions impacted access to online resources, library management systems, and general workflow efficiency.
 - **Impact on Library Service Availability and Provision**
 The unstable network connection proved to be counter-productive, particularly in areas requiring continuous online access such as:
 - User services and circulation processes
 - Access to electronic databases and digital collections
 - Staff productivity and virtual communication
 - Student research and information retrieval

These challenges occasionally resulted in service delays and user frustration, highlighting the critical dependency on a stable IT infrastructure for seamless library operations.

- **Delayed Implementation of Universal Printing Solution**

The delayed implementation of an institutional (universal) printing solution is negatively affecting service delivery across the library.

- **Security Risks and Theft in Libraries**

A key concern during the reporting period was the rise in laptop theft incidents across campuses, which caused anxiety among students and staff and threatened the perceived safety of learning environments. Despite strengthened security efforts, this situation underscored the ongoing necessity for improved awareness, preventative measures, and collaboration with Protection Services to protect users and their personal learning equipment.

2. PERSPECTIVES

2.1 STEWARDSHIP

2.1.1. Lived Values:

- **First-Year Student Orientation**

The university orientation for first-year students in Durban and the Midlands took place from 4-7 February. The Library participated in the first-year institutional and faculty orientation sessions at the Durban and Midlands campuses. Presentations were presented on the 5th and 6th of February at both campuses. During these institutional sessions, the library's presentation took the form of an engaging interview between a library staff member and a first-year student. This format enabled the presenters to effectively present library services in an interactive, informative, and enjoyable manner. The session was well-received, with students participating in a Q&A session and receiving freebies.



Image: Romeo Matumba and Patricia Badenhurst delivering a library presentation at the Durban first-year student orientation.

- **Library Book Club Year-End Certificate Handover Session**

The DUT Library Book Club hosted its year-end session at the recently launched Library Conference Centre (LCC) to present Certificates of Appreciation and bid farewell to the 2025 coordinators. The event celebrated the dedication and hard work of book club members in promoting and strengthening the culture of reading and writing at DUT and beyond. The guest speaker on the day was Dr Patrick Mhlongo, Subject Librarian for the Faculty of Accounting and Informatics. Dr Mhlongo encouraged students to continue inculcating the culture of reading and writing.



Image: 2025 Book Club Coordinators

• **Library Human Capital Development**

Below is a summary of the training interventions/events attended by library staff during the period under review. Some of these were attended by all staff, but most were targeted to specific cohorts or were optional. From the list below, it is clear that there is much investment in the development of staff.

Institutional generic training /event participation

- Curriculum-Conversations: Responsible Use of AI;
- The AI-Augmented Educator: Navigating the Future of University Learning
- UJ Seminar: Women in Research: Breaking Barriers, Shaping the Future
- Epistemic Decolonisation workshop, Prof Mqgwashu
- MS PowerPoint essentials
- PowerPoint level 2
- Article Development Session: Turning your thesis into a journal article
- Writing Skills Workshop, Ms. Mutsvairigwa
- Moodle Essentials, Dr Mari Pete
- Moodle Quizzes, Dr Mari Pete
- LIASA: writing for academic presentation
- LIASA: Writing a winning abstract paper.
- Conflict management
- GBV skills workshop
- Data analysis using SPSS
- ENVISION 2030: Phi-Ed in Action
- DUT-IREC Research Ethics workshop
- DUT Living values workshop for staff / leaders
- Models of Supervision (by Prof M Lourens & Prof D Hlengwa)
- DUT Alumni Time Management Workshop
- Personal branding
- Talent Management Roadshow
- YouTube and Canva Basics for Vodcasting
- AI Tools for Writing and Research
- Diversity and inclusivity
- Turnitin Training

Library specific training / event participation

- EDS UI training
- PANORAMA
- Scopus AI
- Application of Artificial Intelligence to promote Information Literacy in Library 5.0, Dr Modiba
- Leadership training
- AI workshop for library staff, Dr Mistri
- Creative Writing Through Libraries Advanced bibliometrics training
- Postgraduate librarian's research workshops
- Malawi Library Association Forum
- Introduction to Ryann (Systematic Review Application (App))
- SANS: update on standards
- IFLA trends and library marketing in AI age
- Bibliometrics for Research Webinar
- Systematic Reviews: Developing Search Strategies and Using EndNote
- KM webinar: Dr Phaladi
- LIASA events: Copyright/Intellectual Property Webinar
- Circulation Webinar (UKZN)
- LIASA: Copyright/ Intellectual Property Webinar

Vendor / Product trainings/ Information sessions

- Elsevier: Future Research Symposium
- Partnering for Success: Let's Shape the Future of Clarivate Resources at DUT
- Pearson: Study Prep- Pilot implementation
- Films on Demand
- Nursing Access APN
- WWIS databases
- Nursing collection Database
- Research Assistant and Incites
- Chemical Engineering & McGraw-Hill Publishers
- EBSCO Technology Day
- Panorama
- Scopus AI
- Introduction to altmetrics
- Clarivate-AI Meets Research
- SANLIC-Author Engagement Programme-Wiley

- **A High Tea With Women in the Library**

As a gesture to appreciate the women of the Library, a high tea was arranged on the 18th of August 2025, to celebrate and acknowledge the value of women.



Image: *Library women attending the high tea*

- **Library's Annual Research Colloquium Continues to Inspire Reflective Practice**

The Library's Annual Research Colloquium continues to serve as a dynamic platform for staff to share their experiences and reflect on their professional practices. Now in its fourth year, the event has become a highly anticipated celebration of learning and collaboration within the Library. Coordinated by Mr Thomas, the colloquium emphasises a practice-based research approach, encouraging staff to critically examine their daily work, recognise challenges, and transform insights into significant research presentations and publications. This methodology enhances critical thinking and equips staff with essential research skills, bolstering their confidence in contributing to the broader Library and Information Science (LIS) and academic research contexts.

The colloquium also provides a safe environment where staff can explore meaningful topics, receive guidance, and present their ideas confidently, ensuring that all presenters feel appreciated and motivated in their development as reflective practitioners. This year's event showcased 18 presentations, notably from six interns who offered new perspectives and enthusiasm, underscoring the colloquium's role in nurturing the next generation of library professionals.

- **Lunch & Learn initiative**

This initiative, aimed at encouraging library staff to engage with academic literature, resumed this year, featuring the review of two articles.

The **first review**, presented by Ms Tholeka Sidlayi, focused on “Book Challenges in UK Libraries: The Rise of Censorship and Global Influence,” which generated a lively discussion on censorship and freedom of expression.

The **second review** was conducted by Ms Hombakazi Radebe, analysing “The Transformative Impact of AI on Knowledge Management Processes” by Maayan Nakash and Ettore Boisani, prompting an engaging dialogue among library staff regarding the implications of AI in their field.

- **Participation in the Big Walk 2025**

As part of its commitment to staff wellbeing and team cohesion, the Library facilitated the participation of 12 staff members in the 2025 ECR Big Walk. This initiative allowed the Library team to join other DUT colleagues and thousands of participants in promoting ownership of their well-being.



Image: Staff participating in the Big Walk

- **2025 Academic Qualifications Achievements**

- ✓ Ms Nozipho Majola graduated a Master's degree in Library and Information Science at the University of Western Cape.
- ✓ Ms Nomcebo Mthimkhulu graduated with a Bachelor of Information Science Honours qualification from the University of South Africa (UNISA).
- ✓ Ms Nomkhuleko Sibisi graduated with the Postgraduate Diploma in Library & Information Studies at DUT
- ✓ Ms Nontuthuko Zondi graduated with the Postgraduate Diploma in Library & Information Studies at DUT
- ✓ Dr Mousin Omarsaib successfully completed the certificate in Strengthening Postgraduate Supervision (Rhodes University)
- ✓ Qinisela Chiliza with a National Diploma in Operations at Durban University of Technology
- ✓ Mr Nhlakanipho Njilo graduated with an Advanced Diploma in Library & Information Studies at DUT
- ✓ Ms Zibuyile Jama graduated with an Advanced Diploma in Library & Information Studies at DUT

- **2025 Library Staff Registrations/Studies**

A huge number of the library staff are busy furthering their studies.

- ✓ Ms Bongekile Mpungose registered for a PhD degree in Library & Information Science at DUT
- ✓ Mr Nhlanhla Nhleko registered for a PhD degree in Library & Information Science at DUT.
- ✓ Ms Patricia Nonsikelelo Badenhorst registered for a PhD degree in Information Science at UNISA.
- ✓ Mr David Thomas registered for a PhD degree in Library & Information Science at DUT.
- ✓ Mr Muvhulawa Romeo Matumba registered for a PhD degree in Library & Information Science at DUT.
- ✓ Ms Nwabisa Rasana registered for a Masters' degree in Library and Information Science at the University of Western Cape.
- ✓ Mr Tom Zwane registered for the Postgraduate Diploma in Library and Information Science at UNISA.
- ✓ Mr Dennis Mpumlwana is registered for the Postgraduate Diploma in Library and Information Studies at DUT
- ✓ Mr Sipho Mchunu is registered for the Postgraduate Diploma in Library and Information Studies at the DUT
- ✓ Nabisa Mbali is registered for the Masters' degree in Library and Information Science at the DUT
- ✓ Mr Prashanth Sivsaran is registered for the Bachelor of Information Science (Honours) at UNISA.
- ✓ Mr Sagren Moodley registered for a PhD degree in Library & Information Science at DUT.

- ✓ Ms Tholeka Sidlayi registered for Masters in Library & Information Science at DUT
- ✓ Mr Themba Nkuna registered for a Masters' degree in Library and Information Science at the University of Western Cape.

- **Retirements and Medical Boarding**

This year, the Information Services team experienced the departure of several key members: Ms Claire Spershott, Ms Kogie Naicker, and Ms Nozipho Majola all retired, while Ms Nomusa Maphumulo left due to medical boarding.

- **Library Staff Connect Through Team-Building Drumming Session**

In a vibrant team-building event orchestrated by management, library staff participated in an interactive drumming session aimed at enhancing connection, collaboration, and team spirit. This engaging activity provided a refreshing break from regular routines and enabled participants to explore teamwork in a creative manner. The drumming experience transcended mere enjoyment; it served as a powerful metaphor for effective teamwork. Participants were reminded that successful drumming, much like workplace collaboration, requires attentive listening, responsiveness to changes, and the integration of individual contributions into a cohesive whole. Throughout the session, staff reflected on the notion that a team operates most effectively when all members are attuned, aware, and responsive, embodying the idea of "drumming to the same beat."



Image: Library staff engaged in drumming

- **Cultural Awareness Campaign**

As part of the initiative to create an environment that fosters respect and awareness of our cultural diversity, the Staff Training Working Group arranged visits to 2 Heritage sites in Durban on 23 May 2025. The Kwa Muhle Museum and the 1860 Heritage Centre are both archives that capture the historic journeys of the people of the province.



Image:
Library staff visiting
heritage sites around
Durban

2.1.2. Institutional Culture

- **Library Survey**

The Library LifePulse survey, conducted in March 2025, garnered responses from 465 participants spanning various faculties and campuses. Overall, the feedback was positive, though specific areas for enhancement were noted, including the improvement of spaces, the availability of computers, and the provision of training and awareness programs. Additionally, a competition was held to randomly select participants for mobile tablet giveaways, with the recipients being Mr Siyathemba Ndlovu, a second-year student in the Department of Entrepreneurial Studies and Management; Ms Dawn Khuluse, a PhD candidate in the Department of Tourism Management; and Dr Marilynne Coopasami-Pillay, a lecturer in the Department of Basic Medical Sciences.



Image: Library managers presenting prizes to lucky winners

- **Library Planning**

Library Management held a planning workshop on March 6-7, focusing on both the Teaching and Learning EAPP and the RIE EAPP. During this workshop, the team created and refined the library's EAPP for the year 2025. Additionally, the targets set for the year were influenced by the Library's Services plan covering 2023-2030. Subsequently, a Library Middle Management Committee meeting was convened on November 7, 2025, where the Committee evaluated the past year and formulated a Quality Improvement plan for the Library.

- **Review of Library-related Policies**

At the Library planning meeting in March, the Management team reviewed the draft Open Science policy, which was adapted from ASSAf's Open Science Policy, along with the draft overarching Library and Information Service (LIS) policy. This discussion served as a platform to enhance skills in policy formulation. The Library Management team is currently focused on finalising these policies.

Smart Libraries, Smart People!

- **CQPA Award**

The Library received recognition from the Centre for Quality Promotion and Assurance (CQPA) for its involvement in and contributions to the quality assurance processes, as well as the Big Rocks projects.

Image: Certificate of Recognition



Performance Management:

Library staff have been engaged with the Mid-term reviews for 2025 as well as the 360-degree evaluation process. The overall analysis is that most staff achieved their targets set for the year. As part of an initiative to recognise and incentivise excellence and dedication, several library staff members were awarded performance bonuses. This initiative marks a significant improvement compared to the previous year's performance bonuses, reflecting a commitment to improving staff motivation and performance recognition within the library.

- **Staff Recognition Events**

The 2024 awards event was held on 14 February at the Library Conference Centre. The event aims to appreciate the efforts of staff within identified categories. The stakeholder engagement category wherein departments or persons outside of the Library are acknowledged for their collaborative and supportive role, recognized Prof Mheta (Writing Centre) and Prof Olugbara (Executive Dean: Accounting and Informatics). All the awards were well-received. The 2025 awards took place on 5 December 2025 at the Edward Hotel. The external stakeholders' engagement awards were awarded to the Departments of Somatology, Chiropractic, Corporate Affairs, Real Estate and Dr Rakoma from the LIS programme.

- **Mentorship:**

Coaching and mentoring have been formally embedded as part of the Library's human capital development. Formal mentorship initiatives were put in place for the secondment and contract posts in place, while the new organisational structure is implemented.

2.1.3. Creativity

Library Makerspace at Indumiso Campus

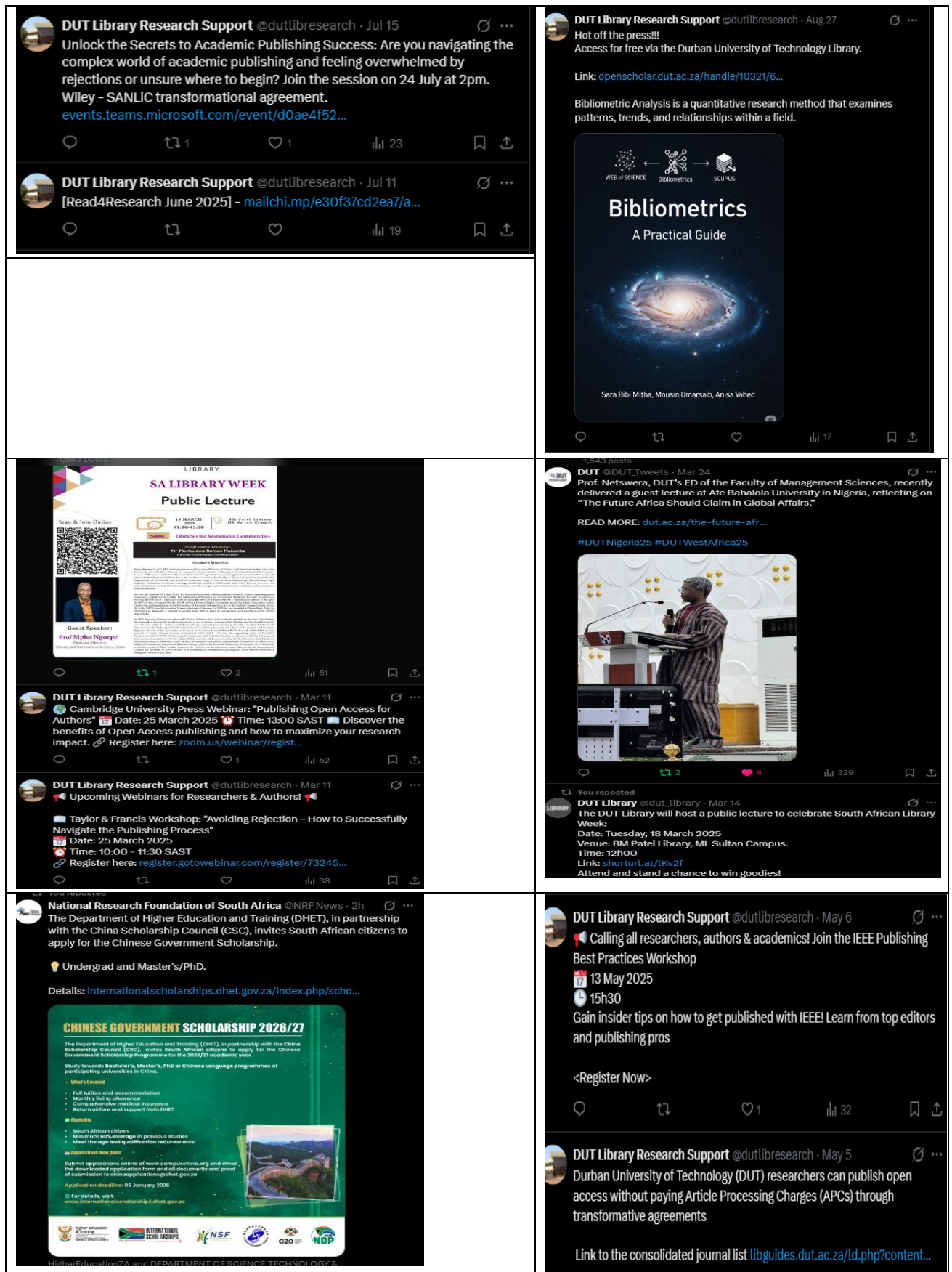
The library is actively collaborating with academics to incorporate the Makerspace into various modules, addressing and resolving identified issues in the process. To improve efficiency, two new 3D printers have been acquired, significantly reducing printing times and allowing for more project work. Additionally, the Makerspace has been expanded to include a workshop, featuring new tools, suitable workbenches, and a laser cutter.

2.1.3.1. Marketing of Events/Webinars

The Library adopts an integrated, multi-channel marketing and communication strategy aligned with the University's branding and strategic priorities. This approach leverages digital and institutional platforms to enhance the visibility, accessibility, and impact of library services, resources, and initiatives, while strengthening engagement across the University community

- **Research Support X Feed (Postgraduate Support)**

The research support account @DUTlibresearch serves as a dynamic communication and marketing tool, effectively engaging with postgraduates and researchers by providing updates on research resources, events, and training. Throughout its activity, the account has made 17 posts, resulting in over 329 engagements from reposts and 63 engagements on original content. Notably, the post that garnered the most interaction pertained to transformative agreements. Currently, the account has built a following of 414 individuals.

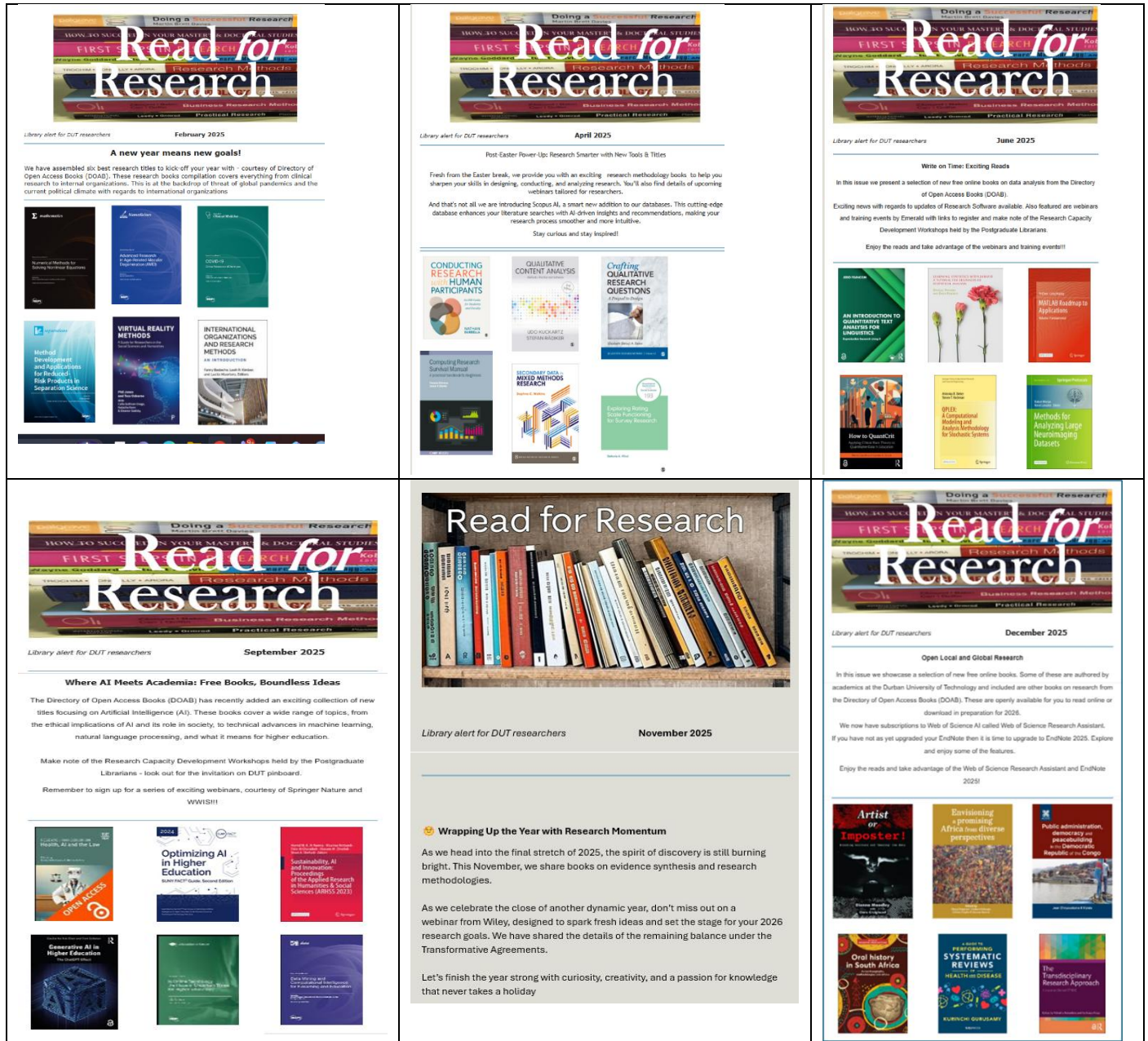


Smart Libraries, Smart People!

• Read for Research Alerts

The purpose of the alert is to promote and create awareness of the resources that the library has to offer to support postgraduate (PG) students and staff at DUT. The library PG support team circulated the *Read for Research* newsletter, which covered research books, upcoming workshops and updates on research-related activities. *Read for Research* alerts were compiled and distributed by the Postgraduate librarians to DUT staff.

These are the issues published this year.



Smart Libraries, Smart People!

- **Library Tech Week**

The DUT Library hosted Tech Week from August 4 to 8, 2025, across all site libraries, highlighting diverse technology, tools, and support services available at DUT Libraries. The event engaged staff, students, and researchers in exploring innovations such as digital resources, smart services, and AI-driven library tools. Technology experts and learning partners presented updates on cybersecurity, multi-factor authentication, and the student information system. Training sessions were conducted on emerging AI resources, specifically Quickfinder AI, Scopus AI, ScienceDirect AI, and the Web of Science Research Assistant.



Image: Participants at the Library Tech Week at Indumiso Campus Library

The sessions were aimed at providing attendees with practical skills and insights. Key features included EBSCO's guidance on using the Library's Quickfinder discovery tool for accessing reliable information for various academic tasks. The Writing Centre showcased its online booking system for consultations with writing specialists. CELT introduced a variety of AI tools available to DUT students and lecturers, highlighting their potential to improve academic work. Additionally, the Library IT Support team presented a selection of digital tools and gadgets, including solutions for Multi-Factor Authentication (MFA) and EndNote reference management software.

- **Innovative Projects – Visit to Innobiz**

A new model to promote innovation in the library was introduced in 2025, focusing on expanding service offerings to support initiatives S03 and S011. The Innovation working group organised activities to share innovative technologies with library staff under the theme "Curious about what's NEXT?" Colleagues were invited to engage with innovation through events such as a tour of the Archiving & Digitisation Centre, interactive 3D printing sessions, and a visit to the Innobiz incubator to encourage collaboration. Site visits took place on November 18 and 21, 2025, to the Innobiz Centre and Agri Hub, respectively, aiming to establish a partnership between the DUT Library and the Innobiz Centre to enhance educational and research support. However, due to time limitations, only one activity was hosted, with additional activities planned for 2026.



Transforming and positioning the library as a 'Smart Library', a key role player in the production and distribution of scientific knowledge systems, and the preferred publisher of such knowledge, demands a comprehensive re-evaluation of our systems and processes. To this end, several strategic initiatives have been developed to re-imagine the library's business processes and systems environment by investing in the development of state-of-the-art (smart) facilities, learning and research spaces.

2.2.1. Innovative Curricula and Research

- **Turnitin Checking**

This ongoing process of integrating Turnitin into the formal workflow for postgraduate submissions is gaining traction, but it faces challenges, particularly in standardising settings for the Turnitin classroom as identified by the Research ambit. The current procedure is time-consuming, and urgent attention is needed to streamline it. Librarians have experienced delays due to theses being sent back for not meeting guidelines, which prolongs the submission process. Occasionally, issues arise when a thesis has already been submitted to the Turnitin repository, resulting in conflicts with submissions by PG Librarians. Resolving these conflicts necessitates coordination with the FRO, supervisors, students, and Turnitin support teams. Consequently, training in Turnitin is essential for both supervisors and students. By the end of the academic year in December 2025, Postgraduate Librarians processed a total of 164 submissions, including resubmissions, as illustrated in the table below.

2025 Turnitin Submissions	
Faculty	No.
Accounting and Informatics	26
Applied Sciences	17
Arts and Design	13
Engineering and Built Environment	39
Health Sciences	48
Management Sciences	21
Total	164

- **Open Educational Resources (OERs) Campaign**

A task team are developing a digital information poster aimed at promoting an improved understanding and adoption of OERs at the university. This is targeting the Open Access Week in October.

2.2.1.1. Undergraduate Services (Information Literacy Training, Queries, Faculty Analysis)

- **Prescribed Textbook Project**

All subject librarians were assigned the responsibility to interact with academic departments to compile a list of prescribed titles for each program. However, despite multiple reminders, responses from all lecturers were lacking. In response, librarians took proactive measures to ensure that the library maintains inventory of the identified titles, where applicable.

- **Residence Education Programme (REP):**

The Library successfully negotiated for a library presence in the REP programme and developed a tailored Information Literacy training programme aimed at empowering resident tutors. Alongside Ms Makhathini, Ms Sidlayi, and Ms Zondi, Mr Thomas conducted two training sessions with various groups of tutors. Additionally, Mr Thomas organised similar sessions for PMB tutors. However, those tutors did not attend the planned training.

- **Libguides Review**

A review of all Libguides was undertaken, wherein broken links or outdated information were identified and the respective librarian was alerted to address.

- **Referencing Guide Review**

The revised guide was finalised and released to the DUT community via the website. Referencing of Generative AI is clearly a developing area and may need to be monitored and adjusted as further advances surface

- **Cornerstone and Information Literacy (IL)**

During the first semester, librarians conducted face-to-face sessions for Cornerstone classes, introducing students to library services and the Discovery tool through lectures and demonstrations. Subsequently, Cornerstone tutors led a session on referencing. However, due to concerns about overlapping content with first-year information literacy classes, Mr. Thomas modified the lesson plan to focus on orientation. Attendance for the initial session was low due to registration issues and student protests, leading to the cancellation of the second-semester sessions amidst librarian resistance.

- **Information Literacy**

Librarians continue to offer customised Information literacy training to the Faculties. The content covered, teaching approaches adopted, time allocated, as well as the inclusion of assessments, are relative to the programmes concerned and the degree of integration allowed. Both face-to-face and online training are offered. In addition, support is provided via online platforms including the online subject guides, Moodle, MS Teams and the LiveChat facility. Information literacy training equips our students with essential skills to navigate vast amounts of information and critically evaluate sources through irrelevant and questionable content.

With the continuous rise of fake news, predatory publications and generative AI, ensuring that all students are information literate has become increasingly necessary.

The table below provides the average percentage attendance of students by faculty. It reflects the average attendance for the sessions held during this reporting period.

AVERAGE % ATTENDANCE: INFORMATION LITERACY TRAINING							
	Faculty of Arts & Design	Faculty of Accounting & Informatics *(Stats provided for Accounting cluster only)	Faculty of Applied Sciences	Faculty of Engineering & Built Environment	Faculty of Health Sciences	Faculty of Mngt. Sciences	Midlands Programmes
2023	80%	60%	71%	78%	73%	71%	58%
2024	90%	70%	65%	88%	79%	66%	73%
2025	92%	60%	79%	63%	76%	68%	66%

- **Reference Queries**

Reference queries for teaching and learning support by faculty

The librarians are fielding queries via various online platforms, including email, WhatsApp, MS Teams and via the Ask a Librarian service, which entails a real-time live chat facility.

The LiveChat Facility (LibChat) has been customised to enhance the routing process and is monitored by Information Service librarians, Circulation coordinators and IT support staff. The stats generated from queries for the circulation coordinators and IT support staff will be reported on in the respective managers' reports.

An overall decline in the number of queries has been noted. There have been some inconsistencies with staff not monitoring the online chats. This will be addressed by the respective managers. An overall decline in the number of queries for certain faculties has been noted. This could be due to the students being able to navigate the platforms easily and not requiring assistance beyond the information literacy training or it could be that the service requires more marketing. Queries vary in nature and complexity, and the team has been trained on dealing with FAQs as well as routing the queries appropriately. It is noted, however, that the Librarians are not consistently capturing this data. This has been addressed with the team.

Queries vary in nature and complexity, and the team has been trained on dealing with FAQs as well as routing the queries appropriately.

Reference queries for teaching and learning support, by faculty

TOTAL REFERENCE QUERIES							
	Faculty of Arts & Design	Faculty of Accounting & Informatics * for accounting cluster only	Faculty of Applied Sciences	Faculty of Engineering & Built Environment	Faculty of Health Sciences	Faculty of Mngt. Sciences	Midlands Programmes
2023	930	190	312	320	263	153	121
2024	398	175	344	136	303	159	132
2025	302	86	186	193	228	107	99

• Programme Reviews:

Reports were prepared and submitted for the following departments:

- Faculty of Applied Sciences
 - ✓ Sports Studies,
 - ✓ Maritime Studies,
 - ✓ Chemistry,
 - ✓ Mathematics
 - ✓ Textile Science
- Faculty of Arts & Design
 - ✓ Jewellery
 - ✓ Photography
- Faculty of Health Sciences
 - ✓ Child and Youth Care,
 - ✓ Chiropractic,
 - ✓ Homeopathy and
 - ✓ Postgraduate Nursing
- Indumiso campus
 - ✓ Civil Engineering

2.2.1.2. Postgraduate Services

The year 2025 has been a very engaged and overwhelming year with many eventful activities for the library postgraduate services team.

The Libraries are still experiencing interrupted network connectivity and Wi-Fi issues. Internet connections are weak, and there are also drop-in connections during peak hours. This compromises the services and support that the library offers.

- **Promoting Research Quality Publishing:**

The Postgraduate librarians, together with the Manager: Academic Services and the Marketing librarian, developed promotional digital posters that promote the value and benefits associated with publishing in high-impact journals. The 3 posters that have been developed are:

- Open Educational Resources
- Predatory Journals
- Publishing in High Impact Journals

- **Research Capacity Webinar presentations**

Ms Badenhorst was invited to facilitate a webinar on mastering referencing with RefWorks at UNISA for postgraduate research support for the College of Education on 28 August 2025.

Ms Mitha and Dr Mousin Omarsaib were invited to facilitate a webinar on Bibliometrics for Research as part of the Doctoral Mobility Programme arranged between Stellenbosch University, South Africa, and the Xi'an Jiaotong-Liverpool University, China.

The session was held on 1 July 2025 and included a practical demonstration using the case study "Beyond Borders: Advancing Equity, Innovation, and Graduate Attributes".

The Postgraduate Research Support Programme (PRSP)
Invites you to a webinar on

Mastering Reference Management: A Practical Guide to Using RefWorks

Date: Thursday, 28 August 2025
Time: 18:00 – 19:00
Teams: Join the meeting now.
Enquiries: nkosin1@unisa.ac.za

Ms Patricia Badenhorst
Durban University of Technology

Patricia Badenhorst is an accomplished and passionate research support librarian at the Durban University of Technology (DUT), with over 14 years of academic library experience. She currently serves as the Postgraduate Librarian, supporting students and staff across three faculties (Accounting and Informatics, Arts and Design, Management Sciences). Patricia holds a Master of Philosophy in Digital Curation (UCT, 2022), a BA Honours in Information Science (UNISA, 2014), a BEd and Diploma in Library and Information Science (DUT) and is pursuing a PhD in Information Science. She has earned multiple awards, including the Rookie of the Year, Innovation and Creativity Award and the Publication and Conference Award at DUT Library. Her research support includes training in EndNote, referencing, systematic reviews, publishing strategies, and research visibility. She has published on research data management complexities and presented at LUASA, ICL, and ECIL conferences. A committed mentor, Patricia has guided junior librarians and interns in digital tools, research support processes, and professional development.

Define tomorrow.

UNISA

- **Bibliometrics for Research**

Dr Omarsaib and Ms Sara Mitha partnered with Dr Anisa Vahed from at Xi'an Jiaotong-Liverpool University (XJTLU) in Suzhou, China, in presenting a 2-day webinar on the 14th & 16th May 2025

Webinar 1: Formulating and Creating a Searching Strategy: Downloading the data in preparation for Bibliometrics

Webinar 2: Merging the data using RStudio: Analysing and Interpretation of the data using Biblioshiny

These colleagues were further invited to deliver a workshop within the Stellenbosch Doctoral Mobility programme on 1 July 2025. The session was held on 1 July 2025 and included a practical demonstration using the case study "Beyond Borders: Advancing Equity, Innovation, and Graduate Attributes".

DUT 21 YEARS 2004-2025

XJTLU Xi'an Jiaotong-Liverpool University

Join us for an interactive virtual session on

BIBLIOMETRICS FOR RESEARCH

Webinar 1 WEDNESDAY 14TH MAY 2025
11H00 – 13H00 (SAST)
17H00 – 19H00 CHINA TIME
CLICK TO JOIN

Webinar 2 THURSDAY 15TH MAY 2025
11H00 – 13H00 (SAST)
17H00 – 19H00 CHINA TIME
CLICK TO JOIN

Smart Libraries, Smart People!

- **Systematic Reviews and Scoping Reviews**

There is a growing demand for support with systematic and scoping reviews among undergraduate and postgraduate diploma students, which poses a challenge given the current fully booked schedule. To address this, it was recommended that subject librarians be trained to provide these sessions as part of advanced information literacy. This approach aims to better distribute student demand for support and ensure that students have access to the assistance they require.

- **Training, Queries, Faculty Analysis**

During this year, several training sessions were provided at various planned events and programmes, including the Academic Induction, Postgraduate Orientation (both general and faculty-based), Doctoral Mentoring, and Research Capacity Development Workshops. The popular workshop called “*EndNote for your academic writing*” (new service offering) was offered several times in the period under review due to the demand and needs of the students. The highest number of attendees was for the *Word for thesis*. Among the list of workshops facilitated are the following:

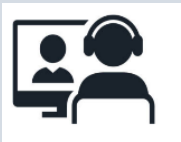
- ✚ Searching the library collections, databases and Google Scholar
- ✚ Managing your research information with EndNote
- ✚ Systematic Reviews: Developing search strategies and using EndNote
- ✚ Word for thesis
- ✚ Resources for your research: Library databases, literature and software
- ✚ EndNote for academic writing

During the period under review, postgraduate librarians responded to a wide range of queries from the DUT community. There has been a notable increase in demand for accredited journals, likely driven by the requirement for postgraduate students to publish their research. Turnitin queries have also increased due to the new Turnitin guidelines.

For the reporting period, the nature of queries received covered a broad range of topics, including:

- ✚ 351 related to accredited publications,
- ✚ 225 on EndNote troubleshooting and installations,
- ✚ 189 on H-Index,
- ✚ 216 on referencing,
- ✚ 398 were requests relating to sourcing articles and chapters,
- ✚ 48 on SPSS/Nvivo licensing and installations,
- ✚ 181 on the formatting of a thesis,
- ✚ 397 queries relating to Turnitin,
- ✚ and 23 Ask a librarian queries.

This year 2025 has been very productive in terms of the number of workshops, webinars and orientations held. The majority of workshops were held online to accommodate the number of participants.

Research Support			
	Attendance at Workshops		Total Reference Queries
2023	2620		2183
2024	2746		2435
2025	2572		2140

- **Academic and Admin Staff support**

Mr Thomas, Mr Mpumlwana and Ms Mitha presented at the second semester academic induction session that was held on 21 August 2025.

- **Transformational Agreements (TAs) – Open Access**

The Transformational Agreement Webpage is updated with the inclusion of SAGE. DUT has now eight publisher agreements and we are hoping for more. The librarians have updated the Consolidated alphabetical list of titles in Excel format for ease of use. Librarians have been promoting the TAs at faculty, departmental and research forums. The 2025 has noted 2089 views of the guide, which is an encouraging increase from last year for the same period. With the recent addition of the SAGE agreement, it is envisaged that we would see greater uptake of the benefits that these agreements offer.

The usage statistics for the guide is shown below.

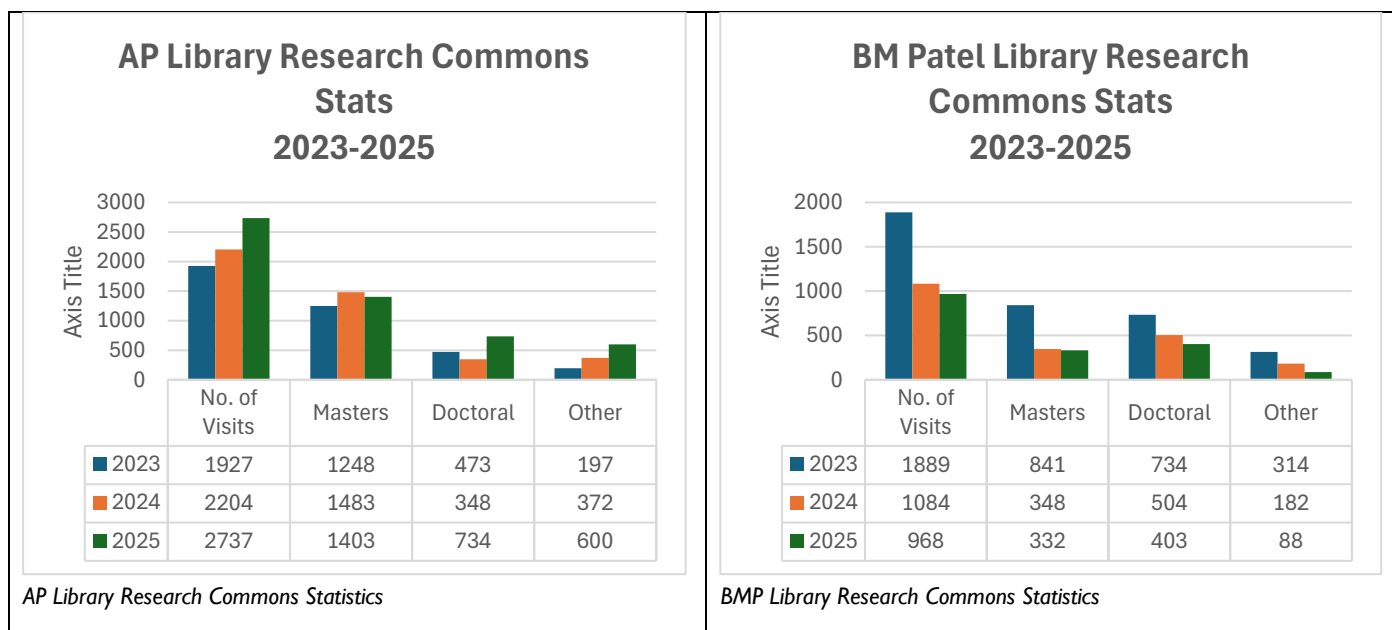
	2023	2024	2025
TA Support guide	982	1427	2089

- **Research Commons (Postgraduate Research Spaces)**

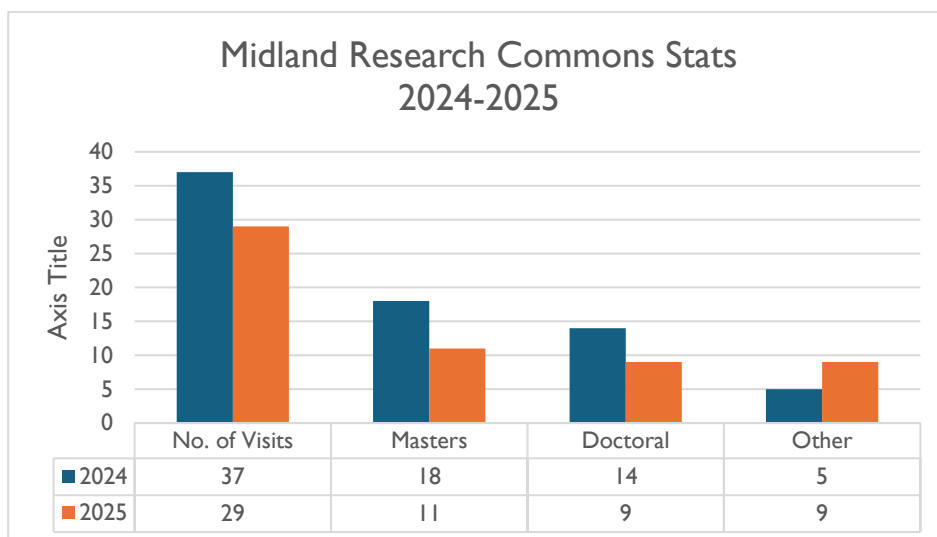
Over a three-year period, data from AP Library at Steve Biko Campus shows a significant and continuous rise in the usage of the Research Commons. This trend indicates an increasing awareness among users, the effectiveness of support services, and a heightened demand for dedicated research areas.

In contrast, the BM Patel Library recorded a decline in Research Commons usage over the same period. This decrease may be attributed, in part, to intermittent network and Wi-Fi connectivity challenges, which impacted users' ability to fully utilize research facilities and digital services.

Usage levels at the Indumiso Library remain comparatively low, suggesting limited awareness of the Research Commons among users at the Midlands campus. To address this, a targeted marketing and awareness campaign is recommended to promote the availability, purpose, and benefits of the Research Commons, thereby enhancing utilisation and supporting postgraduate research activities.



Smart Libraries, Smart People!



Midlands Research Commons Statistics

2.2.2. Digital Environment

2.2.2.1. Library Technologies

- Scholarship, DUT Repositories, Virtual library tools, Social media presence and management, Open Scholar
- **Libguides**
The subject/research guides are customised by Librarians to provide a portal to resources that support the various subjects offered at DUT. Librarians curate links to content that includes resources to which the library subscribes, as well as open-access content. The platform is robust enough to function as more than a repository and has been engaged as a platform to market products and events, as well as to administer formative activities. In consultation with lecturers, the librarians collate and present content that supports specific assignments. Although some of the guides are consulted frequently, others are not. This platform provides a gateway to finding relevant resources within the discipline but requires greater marketing and adoption. Below are the views statistics for the reporting period compared to previous years: 2023, 2024 and 2025

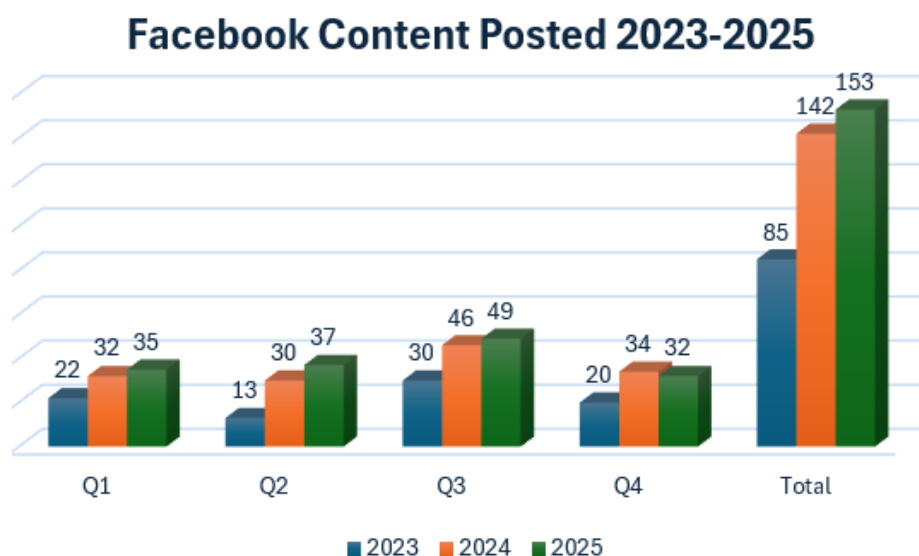
TOTAL LIBGUIDE VIEWS							
	Faculty of Arts & Design	Faculty of Accounting & Informatics	Faculty of Applied Sciences	Faculty of Eng. & Built Environment	Faculty of Health Sciences	Faculty of Man. Sciences	Midlands programmes
2023	494	1650	1486	11288	1481	1246	3474
2024	435	1536	2998	9273	2604	1427	3937
2025	1071	1368	1898	7594	3679	1246	4626
		Research Support Guide		Referencing Guide		Copyright Guide	
2023		2904		20681		153	
2024		3839		18330		279	
2025		3950		13381		68	

- ✚ The Engineering and Built Environment guides have shown the highest number of views of the faculty guides. The contributing factor is the approach used for teaching Information Literacy within the Technical Literacy module, which directs students to the guide for content and engagement.
- ✚ Views for other guides show a spike around the time IL training is offered and when assignments are due. Generally, this resource is not optimally used and requires a marketing strategy.
- ✚ The Research Support guide and the Referencing guide are the most frequently visited guides, given the content hosted and their appeal to the broader DUT community.
- ✚ Students often use the LibChat facility. This is used not only for library-related queries, but students also see it as a place where they can get assistance. Often, librarians field queries that do not relate to the library, e.g. about departments within the institution, getting a student card and many more such queries.

• Social Media Presence

Managed by the Marketing and Communication Librarian, the DUT Library has a strong social media presence and active followers across various channels. The Library primarily uses social media platforms to market its services, announce news, improve services, interact with users, and inform them about the new library and information resources, services and products. The Library's social media pages continue to grow in popularity both nationally and internationally. During the year under review, the number of Facebook followers increased to 6,000, X with about 348 followers, YouTube with 422 subscribers, and the book club TikTok page with 673 followers. The library's social media pages have been showing a significant growth in the past 3 years, with each page increasing the number of followers and content posted each year.

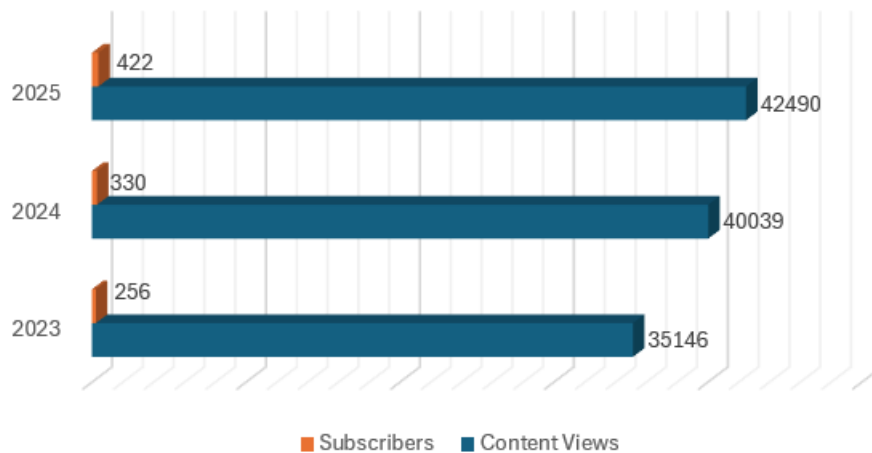
➤ Facebook Content Posted



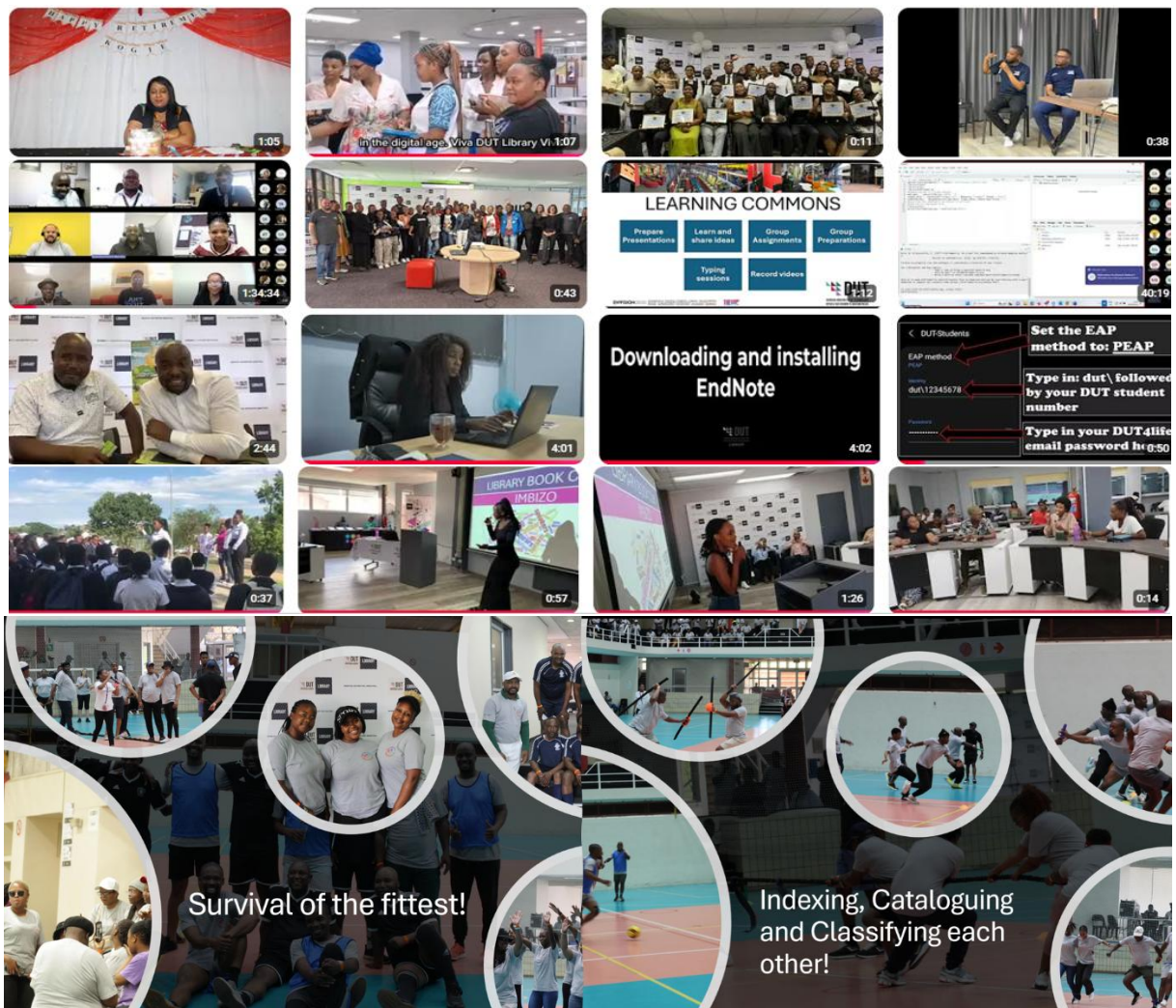
- ✚ The Facebook page has shown consistent growth over the past 3 years, with increases recorded each year.
- ✚ Quarter 3 has proved to be the busiest, with more content posted across the three years. Compared to 2024, content posted in 2025 increased by approximately 7.7%
- ✚ When compared to 2023, in 2025, the content posted increased by about 80%
- ✚ This growth was accompanied by improved engagement during the periods under review, as reflected in increased reactions, comments, and reshares by users and other institutions.
- ✚ This engagement has enhanced the visibility of DUT Library initiatives and supported the Library's broader marketing and communication objectives.

➤ **YouTube Channel (Library)**

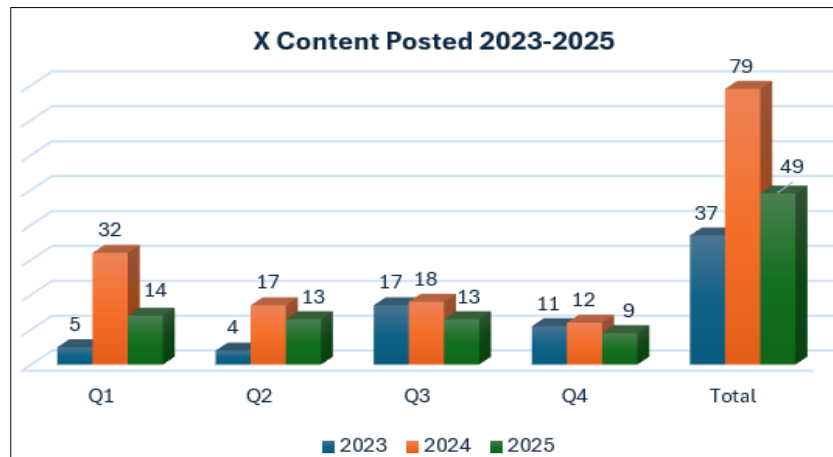
Youtube Sucbribers & Content Posted 2023-2025



- ✚ The channel shows consistent growth when it comes to both subscribers and content views.
- ✚ Since 2023, the number of subscribers increased from 256 in 2023 to 330 in 2024 and then 422 in 2025.
- ✚ Content views also continue to grow each year. In 2023, the channel received about 35146, which increased to 40039 in 2024 and then increased to 42490 in 2025.
- ✚ In the current year, the channel now has 59 videos hosted on the platform, and some of the content posted on social media pages are shown below:



➤ **X (Formerly known as Twitter) Content Posted.**

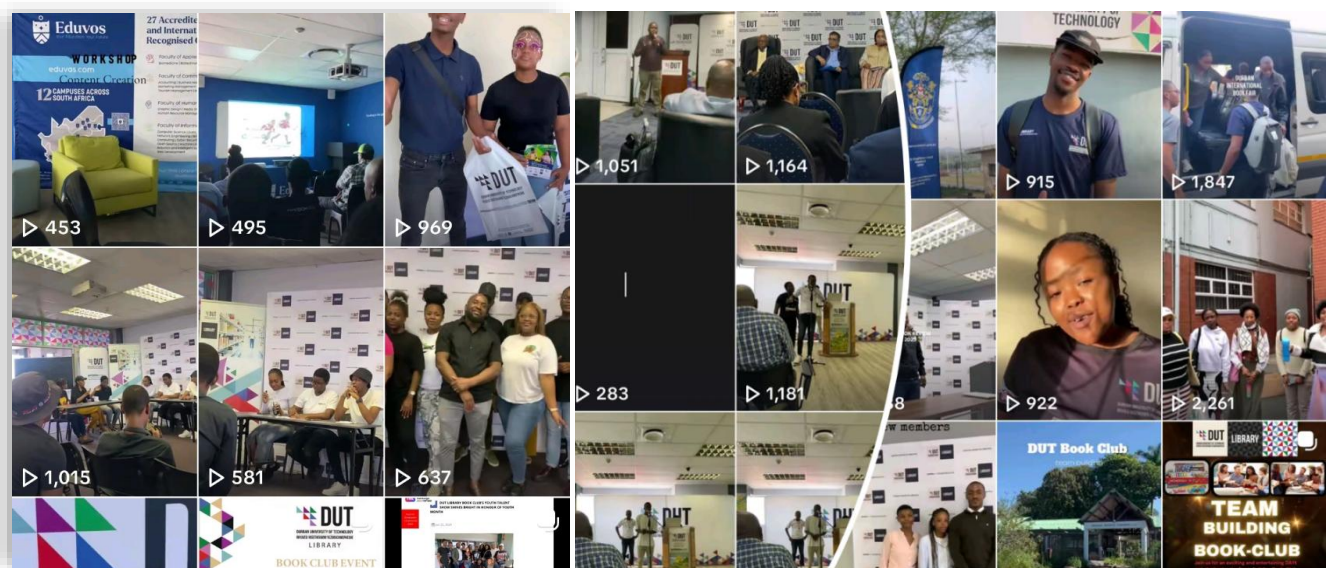


- ✚ The total number of posts on X increased from 37 in 2023 to 79 in 2024, before dropping to 49 in 2025. In 2023, the most posts were in Q3 (17) and the fewest in Q2 (4). In 2024, Q1 had the most posts (32) and Q2 the fewest (17).
- ✚ In 2025, Q1 had the highest (14) and Q4 the lowest (9). Q2 and Q3 had similar numbers of posts each year, showing consistent activity in the middle of the year. Although 2025 had fewer posts (49) than 2024 (79), the library maintained regular posting across all quarters.

➤ **TikTok Account for the Library Book Club**

	LIKES	FOLLOWERS	CONTENT POSTED
2025	5, 590	673	28
2024	1,380	247	14

- ✚ The page has now grown to over 600 followers within a space of one year
- ✚ Content posted continues to increase each year, as highlighted in the figure above.
- ✚ The page started with 1380 likes in 2024 and then grew to 5590 in 2025, showing significant growth. The numbers for both content and followers are anticipated to grow in 2026, going forward with more members joining the club at both the Durban and the Midlands campuses.
- ✚ The marketing and communication librarian is working with the chairperson of the book club marketing committee and the deputy chair to manage the page. The channel can be followed [@dutlibrarybookclub](#). Some of the content posted is displayed below.



2.2.2.2. E-Resources Usage:

➤ Usage Statistics

- **QuickFinder (EBSCO Discovery Tool)**

The QuickFinder table shows a month-on-month increase in searches. In the early part of the year, the usage of QuickFinder saw a significant increase of 32% compared to the same period in 2024, likely attributed to library orientation efforts conducted in February and March. Despite this early surge, QuickFinder usage declined for the remainder of the year, with the exception of usage levels noted in June and July.

Month	Sessions 2025 (2024)	Total Search Clicks 2025 (2024)	Total Requests 2025 (2024)	Total Full-Text Requests 2025 (2024)	Total Linkout Requests 2025 (2024)	Abstract Requests 2025 (2024)
Jan	33554 (20121)	5954 (3522)	1832 (2302)	371 (919)	281 (302)	1180 (1081)
Feb	33041 (24933)	26225 (17130)	9652 (7509)	2042 (2544)	1087 (906)	6523 (4059)
Mar	43609 (32956)	72561 (43699)	24784 (22548)	4790 (8315)	3087 (2924)	16907 (11309)
April	30921 (39064)	55394 (39752)	21327 (30277)	4700 (12681)	2829 (4551)	13798 (13045)
May	36480 (36462)	30483 (30232)	36190 (18169)	2042 (6884)	1586 (2391)	32562 (8894)
June	31105 (24752)	14979 (10516)	5219 (6701)	849 (2255)	716 (1109)	3561 (3337)
July	29647 (24613)	17131 (8474)	5301 (4806)	1149 (2023)	661 (587)	3477 (2196)
Aug	36411 (40114)	34117 (29205)	37806 (19093)	2881 (7648)	1541 (2507)	33327 (8938)
Sept	32802 (43628)	24577 (17627)	11346 (12658)	3621 (5548)	1397 (1876)	6268 (5234)
Oct	36158 (43730)	14992 (14964)	6160 (10728)	1538 (4313)	785 (1385)	3821 (5030)
Nov	25343 (42298)	3068 (6737)	2206 (4358)	756 (1257)	245 (396)	1202 (2705)
Dec	11349 (25651)	1292 (1577)	900 (744)	309 (166)	113 (122)	474 (456)
	380420 (392322)	300733 (223435)	162633 (139893)	25048 (54553)	14328 (19056)	123100 (66284)

- **Full-text Databases (Journals and E-Books)**

Between January and December 2025, 1,281,145 full-text items (journals and e-books) were viewed, compared to 2,017,309 for the same period last year – a decrease of 36.49%. **These statistics exclude usage data from Emerald, ScienceDirect, and Springer databases, which were not available at the time of reporting.**

- **Abstracting/Indexing Databases**

A total of 98,501 searches were done in the abstract databases from January to December 2025, compared to 96,064 searches done for the same period last year, an increase of 2.54%.

In comparing the January to December 2025 stats to the same period in 2024, the following is noted:

- ✚ Scival usage decreased by 24.66%, with 3,104 searches compared to 4,120.
- ✚ Waters & Oceans Worldwide decreased by 34.55%, to 39,031 searches compared to 59,637.
- ✚ Web of Science increased by 28.38%, with 12,579 searches compared to 9,798.
- ✚ Scopus increased by 93.18%, to 43,453 searches compared to 22,494

A technical issue is impacting all Scopus COUNTER metrics from June onwards, resulting in the loss of data that cannot be recovered. A fix was rolled out in August; however, Scopus usage may be lower than expected between June and August 2025.

- **E-Book Usage**

In 2025, there was a significant increase in the number of viewed e-books (full-text subscriptions and purchased titles), rising by 241.53%. Specifically, from October to December 2025, a total of 32,452 e-books were viewed, a notable increase from 9,502 viewed in the same period in 2024.

- **E-Book Subscription Packages**

- Perlego increased by 475.21%
- Primal Premier increased by 759.42%
- Sage Research Methods decreased by 70.44%,
- Encyclopedia Britannica decreased by 59.04%,
- Ebook Central decreased by 23.58%,
- Jove increased by 9.28%
- Access Engineering (I580, started in 2025)

- **E-book purchased packages**

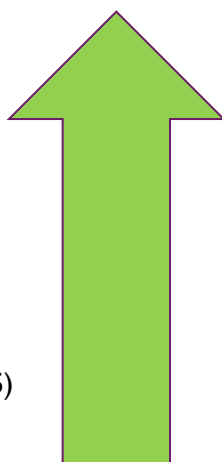
- EBSCO ebook usage increased by 255.18%
- Cambridge ebook usage increased by 57.76%
- Bloomsbury Drama Online usage increased by 3.51%

- **Overall database usage comparisons**

In comparing January to December 2025 to the same period in 2024, the following is noted:

10 databases had **increased** usage:

- Primal Premier by 759.42%,
- Scopus by 93.18%,
- Perlego by 475.21%,
- Web of Science by 28.38%,
- Springer Nature by 13.93%,
- Press Reader by 12.33%,
- Jove by 9.28%,
- Wiley Online Library by 7.86%,
- African Journals Sabinet by 4.40%,
- Taylor & Francis by 3.82%,
- Access Engineering (I580, started in 2025)
- IOP Science (3132 started in 2025),
- Sage Read & Publish (started in Jul 2025)



18 databases **decreased** in usage:

- WGSN by 94.52%,
- LexisNexis by 81.44%,
- Sage Research Methods by 70.44%,
- JUTA by 64.72%,
- SportDiscus by 61.71%,
- Encyclopedia Britannica by 59.04%,
- Art & Architecture Source by 58.67%,
- EBSCO SANLiC Package by 56.07%,
- JSTOR by 35.27%,
- Waters and Oceans Worldwide by 34.55%,
- IEEE/IET Electronic Library by 30.83%,
- SciVal by 24.66%,
- Ebook Central by 23.58%,
- ScienceDirect by 13.69%
- ACM Digital Library by 14.48%,
- CINAHL Complete by 9.48%,
- Emerald by 8.15%,
- ProQuest by 5.03%,



- **Cost per search**

In comparing the January to December 2025 cost per search to the same period in 2024, the following is noted:

The databases with the lowest cost per search are:

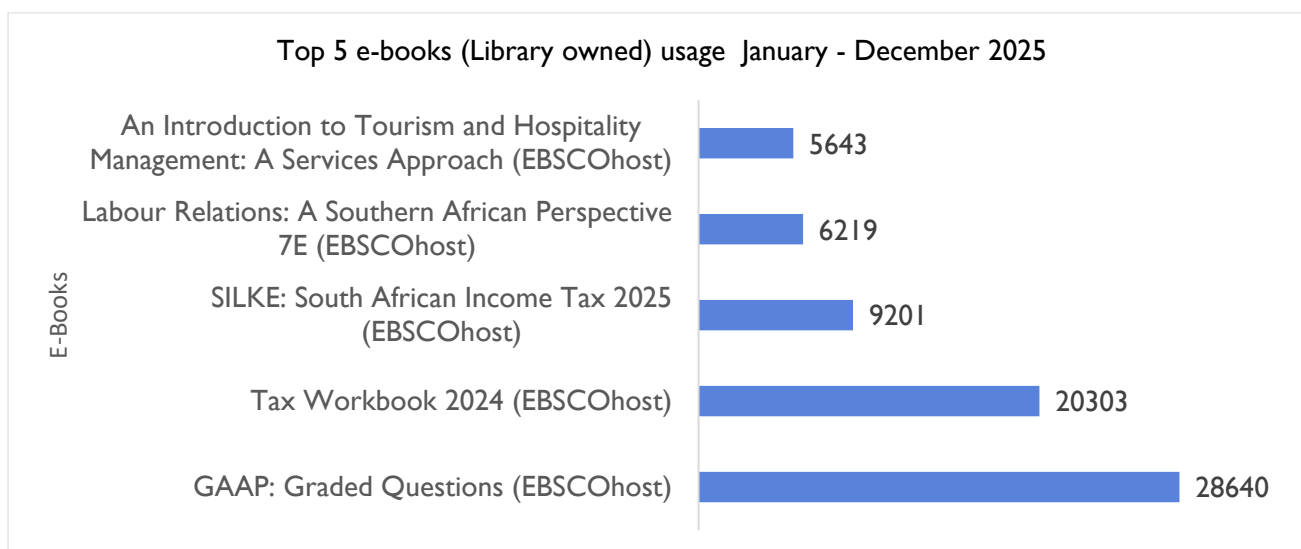
- ✓ Taylor & Francis (R17.81)
- ✓ Wiley (R16.18)
- ✓ Ebook Central (R14.06)
- ✓ ScienceDirect (R11.58)
- ✓ Springer Nature (R1.61)
- ✓ PressReader (R1.17)
- ✓ WGSN (R4.32)
- ✓ Waters & Oceans Worldwide (R4.04)

- **Databases with the highest cost per search 2025 are:**

- ✓ Sage (R13 150)
- ✓ Lexisnexis (R507.26)
- ✓ Scival (R331.45)
- ✓ Art and Architecture Source (R317.42)
- ✓ SportDiscus (R208.75)
- ✓ ProQuest Central (R164.09)
- ✓ Juta (R94.68)
- ✓ CINAHL Complete (R84.51)
- ✓ Ebsco package (R 83.73)
- ✓ Web of Science (R63.10)
- ✓ African Journals Sabinet (R48.94)
- ✓ Emerald (R41.97)
- ✓ Britannica (R33.14)
- ✓ IEEE (R31.51)
- ✓ ACM Digital Library (R31.24)
- ✓ Scopus (R26.64)

- **E-Book Usage / Downloads**

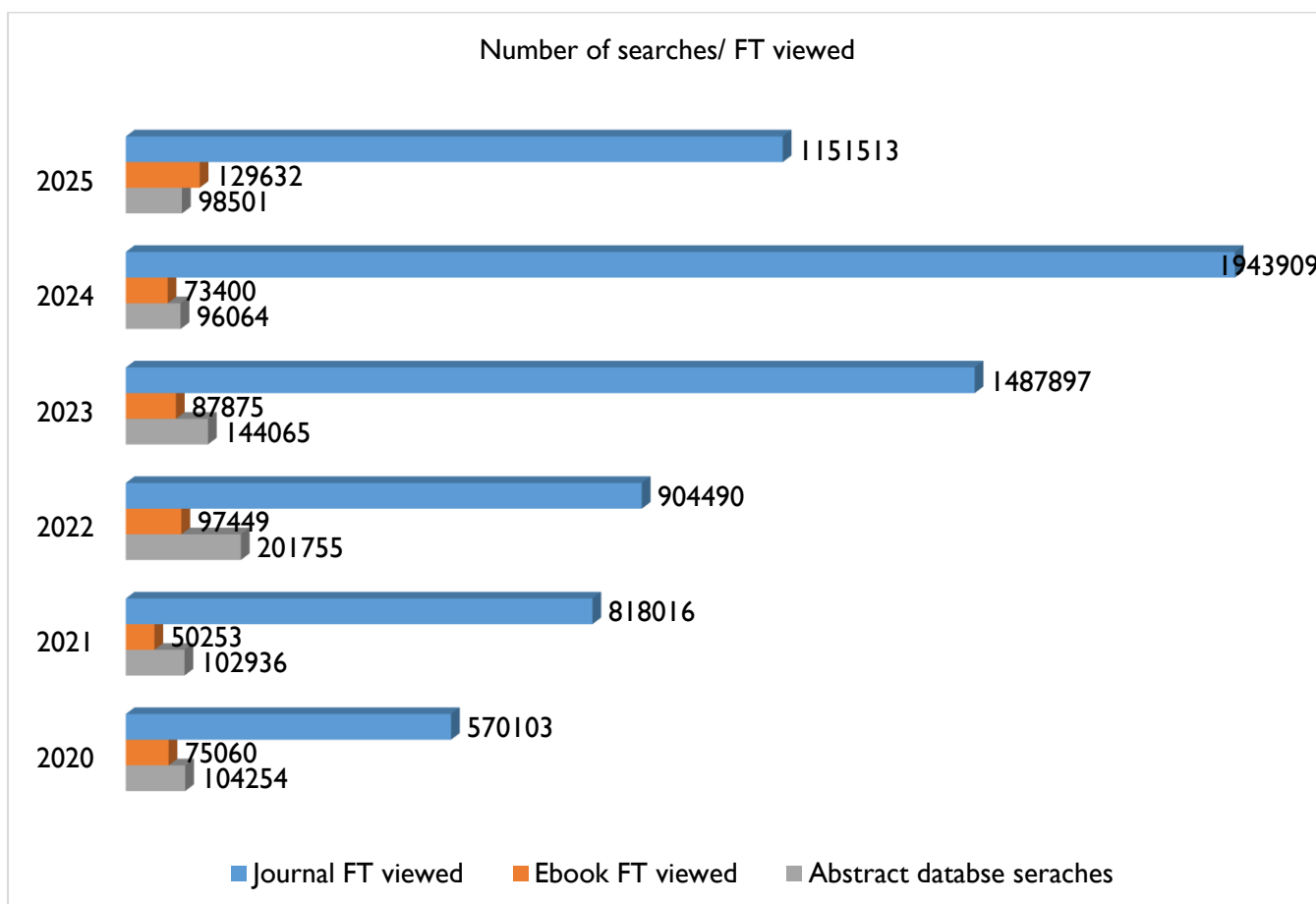
The analysis of e-book downloads from January to December 2025 revealed the top five owned e-books sourced from Ebook Central, Sage, Cambridge, and RSC. The most downloaded purchased e-books included: 1) "GAAP: Graded Questions" (EBSCOhost) with 28,640 downloads, 2) "Tax Workbook 2024" (EBSCOhost) with 20,303 downloads, 3) "SILKE: South African Income Tax 2025" (EBSCOhost) with 9,201 downloads, 4) "Labour Relations: A Southern African Perspective 7E" (EBSCOhost) with 6,219 downloads, and 5) "An Introduction to Tourism and Hospitality Management: A Services Approach" (EBSCOhost) with 5,643 downloads.



- **E- resource usage - trends**

Trend graphs are useful to examine progress over time for select library data. The trend graph below highlights the usage of subscribed and purchased electronic resources over six years. The data presented in the graph includes searches completed and full-text views from abstract databases, full-text e-books viewed, and full-text articles. It is promising to note an increase in the use of abstract databases and e-books, which were low in previous years. The implementation of AI tools in SCOPUS and Web of Science could be attributed to this significant increase in the use of abstract databases.

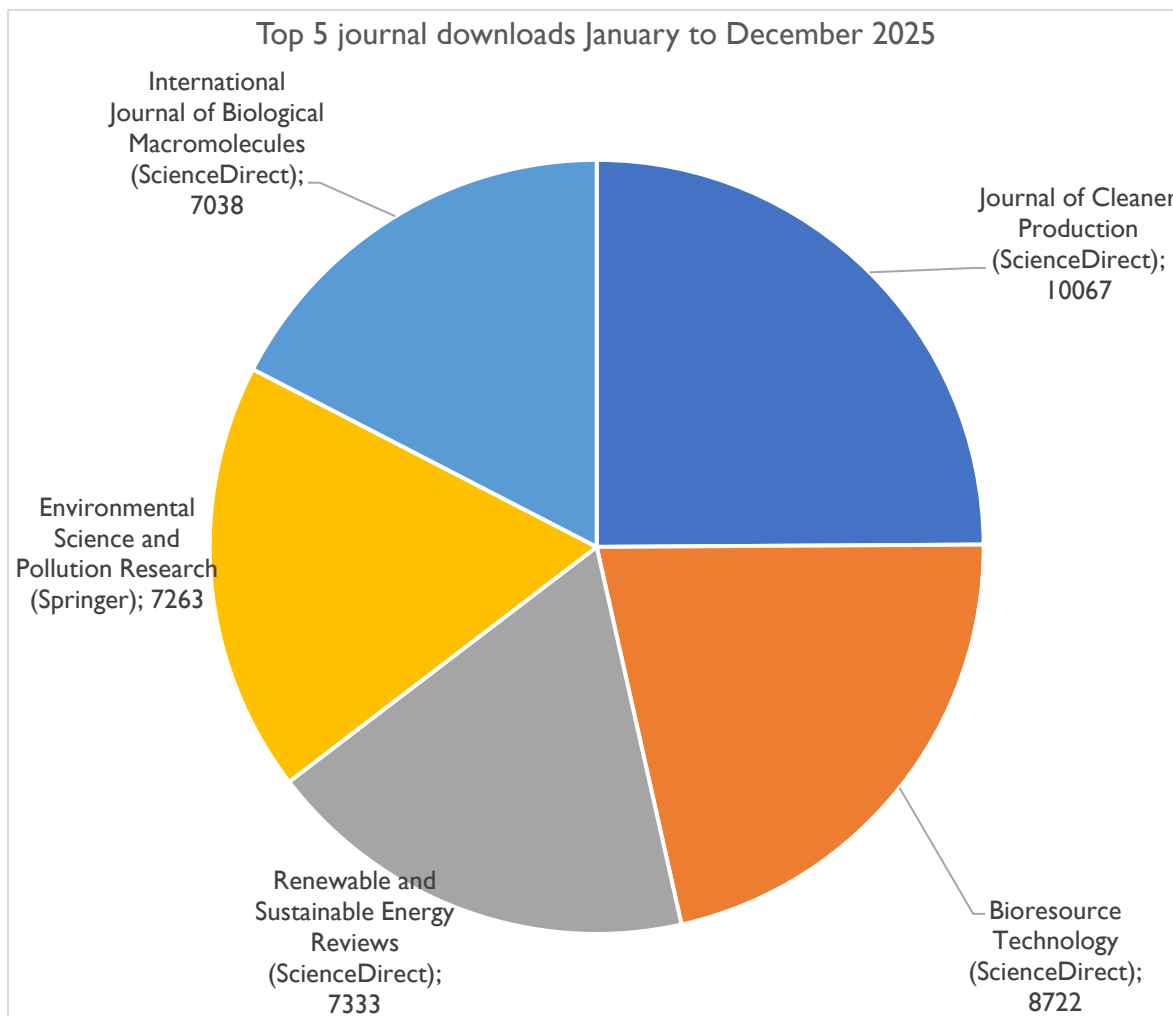
There is a huge decrease in the use of the full-text databases; this is particularly worrying given the increased investment in new databases in 2025. The library will need to consider new marketing strategies to ensure that these resources are being used optimally by all DUT people.



- **Journal Downloads**

The analysis of full-text downloads from eight major databases, including ScienceDirect, Springer, and others, for the year 2025 reveals that ScienceDirect was the most prominent source, recording 324,606 downloads.

The top five most downloaded journals during this period include the Journal of Cleaner Production, with 10,067 downloads, followed by Bioresource Technology at 8,722 downloads, Renewable and Sustainable Energy Reviews at 7,333 downloads, Environmental Science and Pollution Research at 7,263 downloads, and International Journal of Biological Macromolecules at 7,038 downloads. All of these journals were primarily sourced from either ScienceDirect or Springer, indicating a significant preference for these platforms in academic research dissemination.



2.2.2.3. Library Website and Support Tools

The library website, <https://library.dut.ac.za/>, is the primary source of all library information and resources. The revision of the library website is on hold once more, pending the appointment of a new service provider through a DUT TENDER. Despite numerous meetings aimed at clarifying the website's requirements, progress has stalled. Nevertheless, the library team has successfully incorporated core library functionalities into the DUT APP.

Access to the website by browser: Chrome continues to lead the market as the most popular web browser, showing a considerable rise in its user base according to 2025 statistics. In contrast, both Edge and Firefox have seen significant decreases in their user numbers compared to the prior year, while Safari has achieved modest growth, reinforcing its position as the third most used browser.

Website Browsers 2025 (2024)	
Browser	Users
Chrome	57980 (64562)
Edge	15490 (20581)
Safari	7431 (6984)
Firefox	3653 (7409)
Samsung Internet	844 (1028)
Opera	340 (344)
Android WebView	293 (454)
Safari (in-app)	33 (18)
Android Browser	4
Mozilla Compatible Agent	4

From the table below, there is a clear indication that more users are accessing the library website from desktop computers, either from the office, home or one of the many computer labs in the library and faculties.

Access to the website by device: The website's device usage changed between 2024 and 2025. Desktop is the primary platform for website access, with 76% of users accessing it via desktops at home and campus, compared to 23% using mobile phones. In 2025, the library upgraded all its desktops and laptops to enhance support for students utilising its e-zones and laptop loans. However, there has been a year-on-year decline in overall usage traffic across all devices.

Website Device Platform 2025 (2024)	
Device Category	Users
desktop	64970 (79946)
mobile	20017 (21607)
tablet	331 (312)

- **Resources Accessed**

Most popular resources accessed on the Library Website: The DUT Library's homepage is by far the most visited page (316800). Key pages, such as e-books and research support, are the next most popular pages. Access to the website dropped by approximately 90000 hits when compared to 2024, largely due to network issues on campuses.

Website Top Pages 2025	
Page	Views
DUT Library homepage	316800
DUT Library E-Books	12508
DUT Library Access to Electronic Resources	6644
DUT Library Research Tools	5584
DUT Library EndNote Software	2694
DUT Library Accredited Publications	2461
DUT Library E-Resources	2124
DUT Library Accessing the Learning Management System (Moodle)	1730
DUT Library Guides & Tutorials	1638
DUT Library Postgraduate Support	1351
DUT Library DUT Open Access Publications	1272
DUT Library University Software	1236
DUT Library Undergraduate Support	1046
DUT Library Remote Access FAQ's	772
DUT Library Subject Support	734

- **Country Logins**

Geographic access to the website: The majority of website users are based in South Africa, as expected. However, there are significant hits on the website from China, Zimbabwe, the Netherlands, Nigeria, and the United States of America. This is consistent with access in 2024.

Website User Location 2025	
Country	Users
South Africa	82281
China	961
Zimbabwe	224
Netherlands	149
Nigeria	125
United States	125
Ghana	112
Kenya	95
India	92
United Kingdom	88
Singapore	70
Germany	62
Indonesia	58
Hungary	42
France	41

- **Usage of Library Resources: User Authentication**

Open Athens (library software that manages access to resources) keeps a log of all library users who sign in to access the library's full-text resources. The overall authentication statistics show variations in the successful access attempts for both all users and unique users for 2025 compared 2024.

The Open Athens authentications are aligned with the academic calendar, experiencing peaks in user activity from March to May and from August to September. However, the data for 2025 indicate a decline in the number of unique users compared to 2024.

Open Athens authentications	Successful (all) 2025 (2024)	Successful (unique) 2025 (2024)
January	3151 (2865)	883 (789)
February	5991 (6754)	1853 (2303)
March	16569 (15978)	4433 (4787)
April	15306 (17645)	3786 (4468)
May	10556 (13530)	2983 (3690)
June	6084 (5996)	1744 (1841)
July	7040 (6294)	2049 (1874)
August	13205 (14122)	3662 (4011)
September	10954 (11760)	2830 (3250)
October	8867 (11313)	2362 (2820)
November	4694 (4711)	1181 (1600)
December	3020 (1240)	724 (481)

- **Open Athens - Resources Usage**

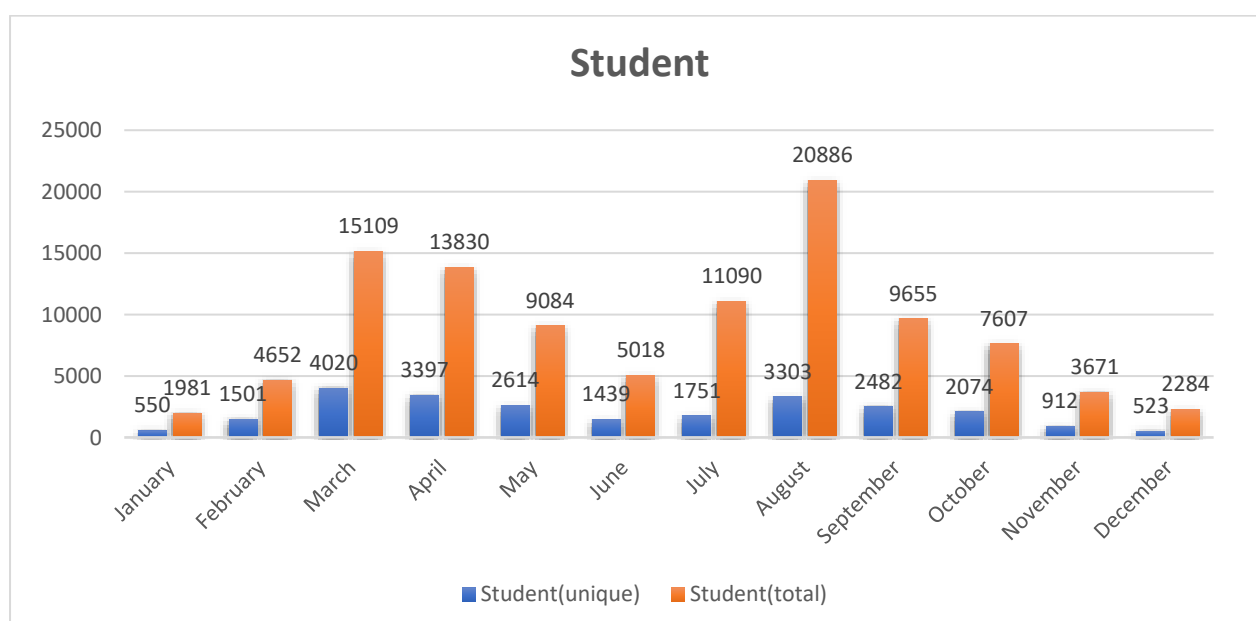
In 2025, there was a significant rise in the usage of Elsevier resources, establishing it as the most accessed resource overall, likely encompassing platforms like ScienceDirect, Scopus, and SciVAL. IEEE Explore also saw a 13% increase, reflecting a growing demand for engineering and technology content.

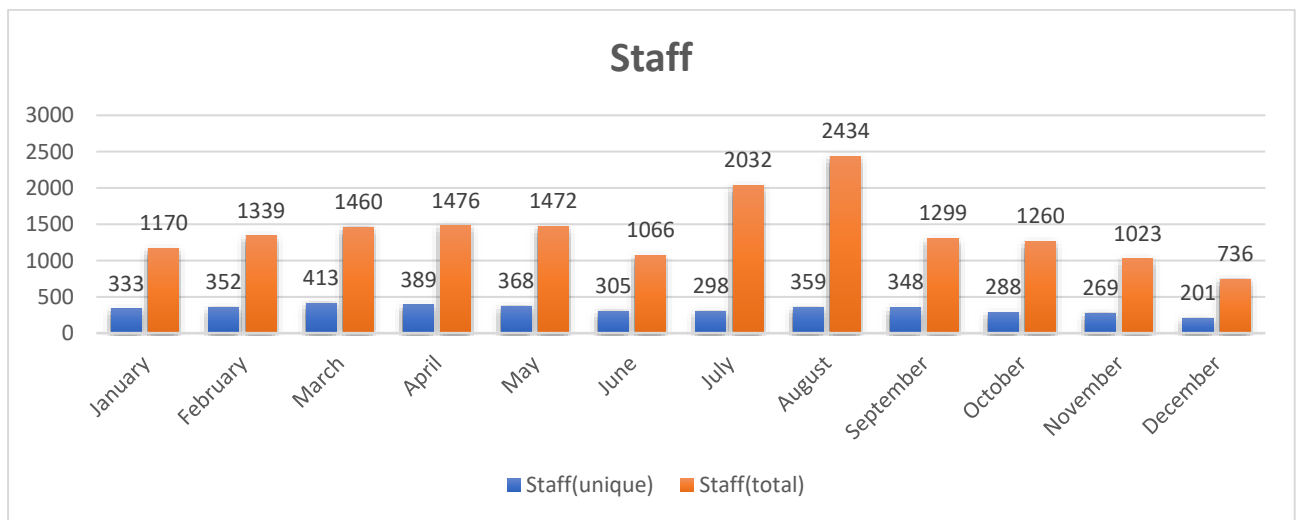
Additionally, usage of Taylor and Francis books more than doubled, surging by 112%, which indicates an increased interest in ebook content, potentially linked to the introduction of the new SDG collection.

OA 2025 Resources	Times accessed	Monthly average
Elsevier	55512	4626.0
EBSCO Information Services	52507	4375.6
Springer Link	13846	1153.8
EbookCentral	10437	869.8
IEEE Explore	10145	845.4
Aluka	7918	659.8
Taylor & Francis Online	6747	562.3
Wiley Online Library	5301	441.8
Emerald	4990	415.8
SAGE Journals	3214	267.8
Sabinet African Journals	2399	199.9
Taylor and Francis Books	2046	170.5
ProQuest	1849	154.1
Cambridge Core	1561	130.1
ITHAKA	1462	121.8
Web of Science	1454	121.2
Bloomsbury Digital Resources	1269	105.8
ACM Digital Library	1135	94.6
WGSN	1094	91.2
Sabinet Discover	940	78.3

- **Open Athens Students and Staff Logins**

Students are the primary users of OpenAthens, significantly contributing to unique and total logins for the year. Usage patterns align with the academic calendar, peaking from March to May and August to September, while declining during vacation periods. In 2025, unique student logins were lower than in 2024, suggesting reduced access to resources. Unique staff logins experienced a general decrease throughout most months in 2025, with notable spikes in July and August. Despite the overall decline in the number of users, 2025 recorded increased logins per user, especially in the latter half of the year, indicating that engaged users were very active during that time.





- Examination Repository**

Software

Server Linux Ubuntu 24.04 (full update on 2025-12-09)

Application DSpace 9.1 (current version: 9.2)
on

The exam papers repository was upgraded to DSpace 9.1 on 2025-11-27. Additional resources (RAM and CPUs) will be required to ensure availability. The statistics below indicate that overall usage grew significantly, with increases in both visits and downloads across nearly all faculties compared to 2024.

Engineering and Built Environment was the most active faculty for visits, while Accounting and Informatics led in downloads. New submissions were significantly lower compared to 2024.

Faculty	Submissions 2025 (2024)	Visits 2025 (2024)	Downloads 2025 (2024)
Accounting and Informatics	273 (731)	290,371 (141,270)	108,503 (72,394)
Applied Sciences	215 (394)	348,997 (150,917)	71,110 (57,649)
Arts and Design	118 (241)	146,197 (57,654)	19,876 (13,024)
Engineering & Built Env.	398 (450)	465,583 (197,964)	81,123 (63,853)
Health Sciences	120 (182)	227,211 (89,200)	27,270 (25,646)
Management Sciences	337 (773)	355,633 (142,118)	61,949 (44,479)
Total	1,461 (2,771)	1,833,992 (779,123)	369,831 (277,045)

2.2.2.4. Facilities Usage

- Library headcounts, Group rooms, Photocopiers**

The 2024 and 2025 annual statistics for the DUT Library, covering all library sites, indicate significant trends in library services and usage relative to previous years. These statistics offer valuable insights into changing user behaviours and service patterns, emphasising both growth and decline in essential library functions.

This report provides a comparative analysis of library usage statistics between 2025 and 2024, highlighting key trends and attributing factors behind the changes.

DUT Library (ALL SITES)			
Annual Statistics 2025			
Service	2025	2024	%Variance
Circulation	66512	52 941	26%
Headcount	879140	1 242 395	-29%
Photocopying	106907	276 561	-61%
In-house	6616	15 648	-58%

An analysis of the DUT Library annual statistics for 2025, compared to 2024, reveals shifting patterns in library usage, reflecting evolving user behaviours, increased digital engagement, and changes in how physical library spaces and services are utilised across all sites.

- **Circulation:** In 2025, library circulation activity saw a notable increase, with total transactions rising from 52,941 in 2024 to 66,512—a 26% year-on-year growth. This upsurge underscores a sustained demand for physical library materials, illustrating the vital role print collections play in supporting teaching, learning, and research. The rise in circulation is particularly significant amid a general decline in some traditional in-person service metrics. It may reflect improved alignment of collections with academic requirements, heightened awareness of resources, or more strategic utilisation of the library by users needing physical materials for their coursework and research.
- **Headcount:** Library headcount decreased from 1,242,395 in 2024 to 879,140 in 2025, a decline of 29%. This drop indicates fewer physical visits to library facilities, possibly due to an increased dependence on online resources, hybrid learning models, and remote access to services. Despite the reduced foot traffic, circulation numbers remained stable, suggesting that visits became more purpose-driven, with users seeking specific resources. Air-conditioning issues were also a factor in some libraries.
- **Photocopying:** Photocopying usage experienced a substantial decline, decreasing from 276,561 transactions in 2024 to 106,907 in 2025, a 61% reduction. This declination is %, attributed to the continued impact of the obsolete printing solution and a growing shift toward digital submissions and online learning materials. The decline further reflects changing study practices and a move away from paper-based workflows.
- **In-house usage:** In-house use of library materials decreased from 15,648 in 2024 to 6,616 in 2025, representing a 58% decline. This suggests reduced on-site consultation of materials, possibly linked to shorter visits, improved borrowing access, or greater availability of digital alternatives. The decline aligns with the broader reduction in headcount and reinforces the trend toward more efficient, goal-oriented library usage.

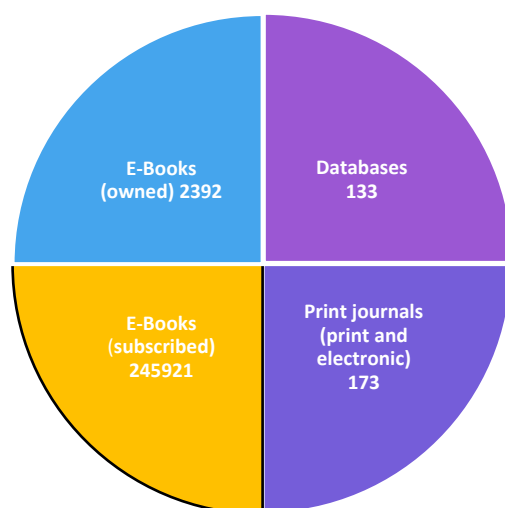
Overall, the data indicate that DUT Libraries are operating under stable and improving conditions, with a notable rebound in circulation activity. However, the persistent decline in headcount and photocopying usage underscores the need to enhance digital infrastructure and modernise printing solutions to align with evolving user expectations and technological trends.

This balanced performance highlights the library's ongoing adaptability and commitment to supporting both traditional and digital modes of academic engagement, in line with Envision2030's focus on innovation, sustainability, and user-centred service delivery.

2.2.2.5. Information Resources

- **Library Print and E-Collections**

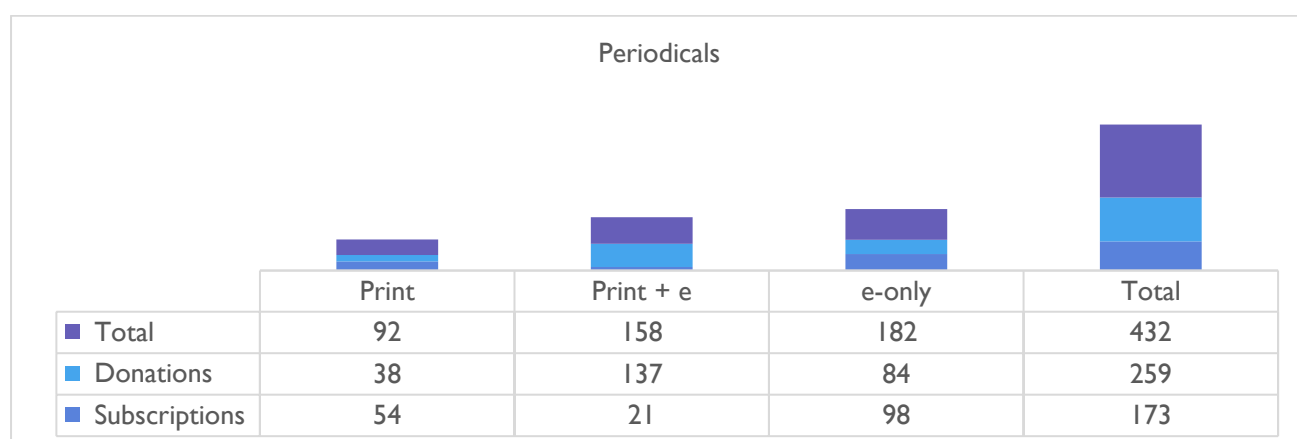
Databases: DUT Library currently subscribes to 133 (123 512 e-journals) databases/database packages, 245921 e-books and owns 2392 e-book titles.



DUT Library's current e-book purchases and subscriptions are as follows:

Subscriptions	Purchased titles
e-book packages: 245 921 titles (Package titles: Ebook Central, Encyclopedia Britannica Academic online, Papermaking Science and Technology ebook series)	2392 titles

From 173 current journals subscriptions, one is a duplicate title. (Duplicate titles are titles that we subscribe to for two or more site libraries.) The number of subscriptions decreased in 2025 in comparison to 2024. The library's paid subscriptions decreased by 9% in 2025 from the previous year. This is due to print titles ceasing publication or becoming open access, as well as the cancellations in October 2024, when four periodical titles were identified for cancellation for 2024 due to lack of relevance.



Cancellations 2025: Four individual periodical titles (1 print title; IP+E; 2 Online) were identified for cancellation for 2025 with an estimated savings of R168 368.

Titles ceased publication or were no longer available

- Contemporary Labour Law – discontinued (E)
- Encyclopaedia of brands and branding – discontinued (P)

New journal titles (online) for 2025

- ✚ Journal of African Languages and Linguistics
- ✚ Signed Language and Linguistics
- ✚ Translation and Interpreting Studies
- ✚ South African Law Journal
- ✚ South African Mercantile Law

Periodicals subscriptions

Trend tables are instrumental for assessing the progression of specific library data over time. The featured trend table illustrates the subscription formats for print, Print+E, and online journals across a five-year span. It indicates a downward trend in subscriptions from 2023 to 2025, particularly noting that the years 2024 and 2025 exhibit significantly low subscription numbers due to individual journals being absorbed into databases and the implementation of TA agreements.

	2025	2024	2023	2022	2021
■ Total Subs	173	192	253	332	352
■ e only	98	105	152	220	221
■ Print + e	21	25	27	29	30
■ Print only	54	62	74	83	101

	2025	2024	2023	2022	2021
■ Total	R2089 865	R2097 728	R3010 000	R4722 589	R4498 381
■ e-only	R1659 268	R1662 456	R2549 000	R4324 389	R4058 291
■ Print + e	R212 940	R217 167	R213 000	R200 661	R197 424
■ Print	R217 657	R218 105	R248 000	R247 539	R242 666

Periodical Renewals 2026:

The renewal process for journals was concluded by 29 August 2025.

A total of 173 subscriptions were sent for renewal consideration. Following a thorough review:

- ✚ 4 titles have been proposed for cancellation due to low usage or redundancy.
- ✚ 25 titles have been identified as available on alternative database platforms and will therefore be removed from the 2026 renewals list to avoid duplication and optimise resource allocation.

New database purchases 2025: (19)

- ✚ Sage (Read & Publish) - R133 702.79
- ✚ Web of Science Research Assistant - R141 340.00
- ✚ Incites Benchmarking & analytics, R287 000.
- ✚ Institute of Physics (IOP) (Read and Publish), R172 373
- ✚ Scopus AI, R220 000
- ✚ Digital Theatre + database - R58 948.00
- ✚ Emerald Premier Top up - R210 000.00
- ✚ Trading Economics Database - R 25 980
- ✚ The IEEE AI ebook package consolidates content from De Gruyter AI eBook library R61 065.00. Wiley AI eBook collection R40 710.00, Wiley Data & Cybersecurity eBook R50 887.50, Manning Publishers eBook library R132 307.50 and PACKT eBook library R193 372.50
- ✚ Mastering Physics - course model (PSCB101) - R70 380.00
- ✚ Mastering Physics - course model (PSCC101) - R62 100.00

- ✚ Mastering Physics - course model (PHYS1042) - R200 000.00
- ✚ Sustainable Development Goals - Top up - R97 672.00
- ✚ Access Emergency Medicine – eBook Bundle deal - R617 550.00
- ✚ Access APN Nursing – eBook collection
- ✚ Engineering Village - R198 000.00
- ✚ Knovel - R179 000.00
- ✚ The ScienceDirect focus eBook package consolidates content from Agricultural, Biological, and Food Sciences eBooks - R196 142,80, Chemical Engineering eBooks - R103 511,41, Energy eBooks R45 717,10, Engineering eBooks - R285 472,04, Environmental Science eBooks R39 994,24 and Materials Science eBooks R154 714,56

Database Renewals 2026: A special LIRC meeting was held via Microsoft Teams to discuss the renewal of electronic database subscriptions for the upcoming year. Following a review of current usage, value, and institutional needs, the committee agreed to renew all existing database subscriptions for 2026.

• **Book Budget Allocation**

In 2025, R 1 842 895 was allotted for books and media, a 10% increase over the R 1 675 359 that was obtained in 2024. The budget's distribution has been somewhat adjusted to account for General Education and a new Evidence-Based Acquisitions model. R85 000 was set up for new courses, R9 464,36 for general education, and R38 000,00 was ring-fenced to cover 2024 orders received in 2025. The budget of **R 1 842 895** was divided as follows:

- ✚ EBook packages R704 964,76
- ✚ EBook Evidence-Based Acquisition (EBA) R100 000,00
- ✚ General collections and service departments R360 164,36
- ✚ Faculties total R677 765,90
- ✚ Faculty of Arts and Design R93 235,30
- ✚ Faculty of Accounting and Informatics R163 170,16
- ✚ Faculty of Engineering and Built Environment: R70 097,07
- ✚ Faculty of Health Sciences: R112 407,62
- ✚ Faculty of Management Sciences: R142 637,47
- ✚ Faculty of Applied Sciences: R96 218,28

Expenditure

The expenditure for the book and media budget is reflected in the summary below:

Faculty	Budgeted 2025	Available	% Spent
Arts	R93 235,30	R	99%
Accounting & Informatics	R163 170,16	R	100%
Engineering & B. E	R70 097,07	R	96%
Health	R112 407,62	R	100%
Management Sciences	R142 637,47	R	95%
Applied Sciences	R96 218,28	R	95%
General/Service depts	R358 064,36	R134 305,59	38%
Evidence-Based Acquisitions	R100 000,00	R98 000,00	2%
E-Book packages	R704 964,76	R55 142,80	92%

NB: Following the consolidation of the book budget, individual faculty balances are no longer visible. The system now reflects only the Central Fund, it is not possible to display the actual available funds per faculty or department.

To ensure timely spending of the library budget, individual departmental budgets were consolidated into a central faculty budget by July 31, 2025, which is then further merged into a library book central fund by August 30, 2025, for access by all faculties. Consequently, the total available budget for each faculty is projected to display as 0% in September 2025. This comprehensive budget, which caters to new courses, contingency funds,

and service departments, includes the integrated funds from various faculties and is typically expended early in the final quarter. The allocations from this budget are specifically designated for evidence-based acquisitions, with e-book purchases guided by actual user demand, and it is expected that this budget will be entirely utilised by the end of November 2025.

Orders Comparison Analysis: 2024 vs 2025

In 2025, the total number of orders placed was 395, a decrease from 2024's 425 orders. This includes a decline in eBook orders, from 73 to 65, marking an overall reduction of 30 orders or 7%. The eBook orders specifically saw a decrease of 8 titles, which is a 10.95% reduction in digital acquisitions. Despite this downturn, the library's ongoing acquisition of eBooks indicates a commitment to enhancing digital access to educational resources. Additionally, the library has initiated subscriptions to e-book learning platforms, such as Mastering Physics from Pearson, for select courses in the Faculty of Applied Sciences. Following positive feedback and successful implementation, the library plans to allocate further budget in 2026 to extend this model to other departments, considering these e-book platforms.

- Budget for Periodicals & Databases**

The following figures apply to the Electronic Resources, Periodicals and Newspaper budget:

Periodicals budget report January to December 2025		
Budget allocation 2025		R 27 609 600,00
Expenditure		
Periodicals & Newspaper	R 2 121 335,55	
Databases	R 24 712 263,03	
Bank Charges	R 24 887,00	
Processed to date		R 26 858 485,58
Still To be paid		
Periodicals	R -	
Databases	R 1 250 000,00	
Still to be paid (estimated)		R 1 250 000,00
Credit Notes		R 144 151,55
Estimated negative balance		-R 354 734,03

In 2025, R27,609,600 was allocated for subscriptions to databases and periodicals, reflecting a 10% increase from R25,099,636 in 2024. The library aims to prevent interest charges and access suspension by submitting requisitions to Procurement in November and December 2024, tracking these requests monthly through the Library Procurement Plan. However, delays occur due to a complex signing process for contracts that require multiple university parties' signatures. The need for manual handling and digitisation of foreign payments further lengthens processing time, increasing the risk of unfavourable currency exchange rates and potential access suspension. At the start of 2025, the exchange rate was unstable and uncooperative, leading to high payments for large journal and database invoices. Despite this, initial estimates suggested that the 2025 budget would adequately support current subscriptions, resulting in a favourable balance by year-end. Instead, delays in payments and the procurement of new resources during the year produced a negative information resources balance. Nevertheless, recent improvements in the exchange rate during the last quarter of 2025 are expected to positively influence outstanding payments.

Pending Invoices for 2025 New Subscriptions

Two databases estimated the total subscription cost R1 250 000. These products were recently added to our collection, and the publisher has yet to generate and send the corresponding invoices.

Publisher	Database	Outstanding Amount
Elsevier	Knovel	R550 000,00
Elsevier	Engineering Village	R700 000,00
Total		R1 250 000,00

- **Copyright Services, Budget Expenses & Deficits**

Copyright management is provided across all DUT campuses through the development and implementation of policies, procedures, and systems that protect the intellectual rights of authors, rights holders, and the university. Professional advisory services aligned with the Copyright Act are offered to all faculties, ensuring compliance and reducing the risk of financial or reputational damage. A copyright compliance presentation was delivered at the CELT Academic Staff Induction. The 2025 copyright budget of **R2.2 million** was exhausted by May due to increased inspection activities, online Moodle Classroom checks, and higher compliance costs. To address this, Library Management reallocated funds from other budget lines to cover copyright licences for the remainder of the year. To deal with the deficits, an amount totalling R800,000 was allocated to the Copyright budget from two distinct sources. The first allocation consisted of R300,000 transferred from the Instructional Software Account, while the second amount of R500,000 was sourced from the Database Account. The Library is investigating sustainable alternatives to combat under-budgeting. As a result of discussions with the finance division, the Copyright budget for 2026 has been increased to R4 million.

2.2.3. Research Support

2.2.3.1. DUT Open Scholar

The DUT Open Scholar repository was updated to DSpace 7.6.6 (current version) during the period under review. It is hosted in the DUT data centre.

Software	
Server	Linux Ubuntu 22.04 (full update on 2025-12-09)
Application	DSpace 7.6.4 (current version: 7.6.6)

The repository continued to grow in 2025 due to continued participation from the majority of the DUT community in submitting theses and dissertations timeously, and also due to the dedication from library staff in ensuring that the appropriate systems and support is available to expedite submission and discovery.

At the end of 2025, Open Scholar provided access to:

3,619	Theses and dissertations
2,344	Research publications
1	Open educational resource
1	Open dataset
1	Book
1	Guides and resources

Submission of Theses & Dissertations

In 2025, a total of 585 items were submitted to DUT Open Scholar, marking a 4% decrease from the 611 items submitted in 2024. Of these submissions, 308, which constitutes 53%, were classified as research articles and 47% (277) as theses.

Faculty/Community	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	Jun.	Jul.	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Totals
Academic Support	1	0	0	1	7	7	1	0	0	1	0	0	18
Accounting & Informatics	10	2	4	0	4	1	1	2	0	1	0	5	30
Applied Sciences	4	8	1	0	1	2	0	0	0	1	0	0	17
Arts & Design	4	1	4	0	16	7	0	3	4	1	0	6	46
Engineering Built Env.	9	11	10	0	15	1	0	0	1	0	0	2	49
Health Sciences	3	2	6	6	7	2	4	0	0	1	0	3	34
Management Sciences	9	9	10	0	12	7	9	21	0	0	0	8	85
Water and Wastewater Technology	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	5
Systems Science	0	9	12	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	24
Total:	40	46	47	7	62	27	15	26	5	5	0	28	308

Research Article Uploads by Faculty

277 (47%) of the items submitted were theses.

ETD Uploads by Faculty

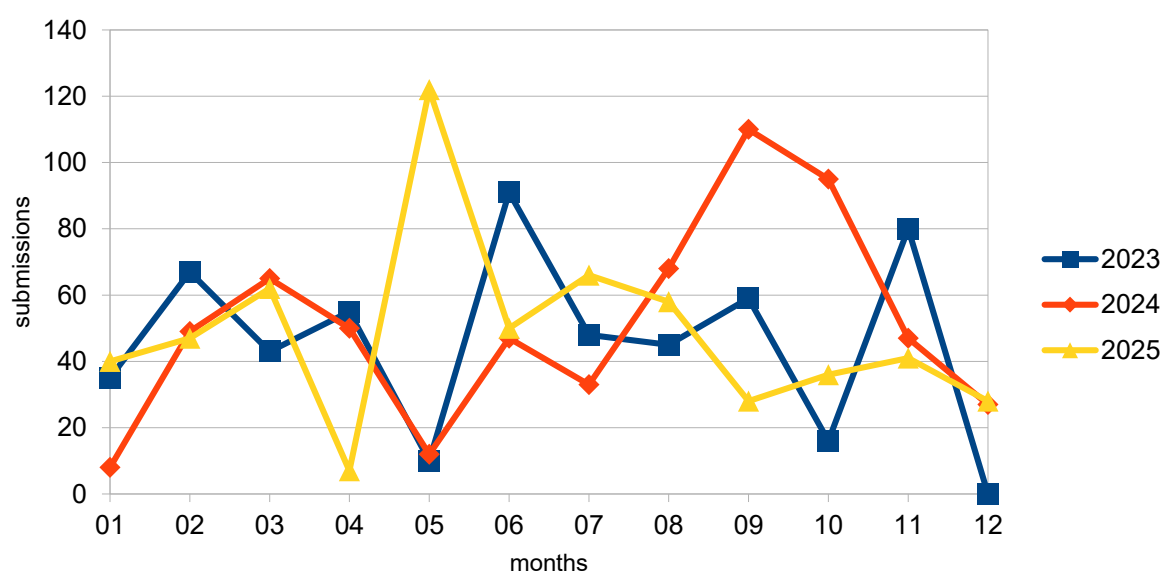
Autumn Graduation - Faculty	Theses
Accounting & Informatics	0
Applied Sciences	0
Arts & Design	8
Engineering & Built Env.	6
Health Sciences	6
Management Sciences	0
Total	20
Spring Graduation Faculty	Theses
Accounting & Informatics	0
Applied Sciences	0
Arts & Design	6
Engineering & Built Env.	13
Health Sciences	1
Management Sciences	1
Total	21

The tables below highlight the theses and dissertations that are still outstanding from 2025 graduations

Faculty/Community	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	Jun.	Jul.	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Totals
Accounting & Informatics	0	0	0	0	0	16	0	0	0	0	6	0	22
Applied Sciences	0	0	0	0	0	0	15	0	0	9	1	0	25
Arts & Design	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Engineering and Built Env.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	23	0	0	0	29
Health Sciences	0	0	1	0	13	6	3	2	0	10	10	0	45
Management Sciences	0	1	14	0	47	1	33	24	0	12	24	0	156
Total:	0	1	15	0	60	23	51	32	23	31	41	0	277

ETD Uploads by Faculty

The graph below compares submissions during 2025, 2024 and 2023.

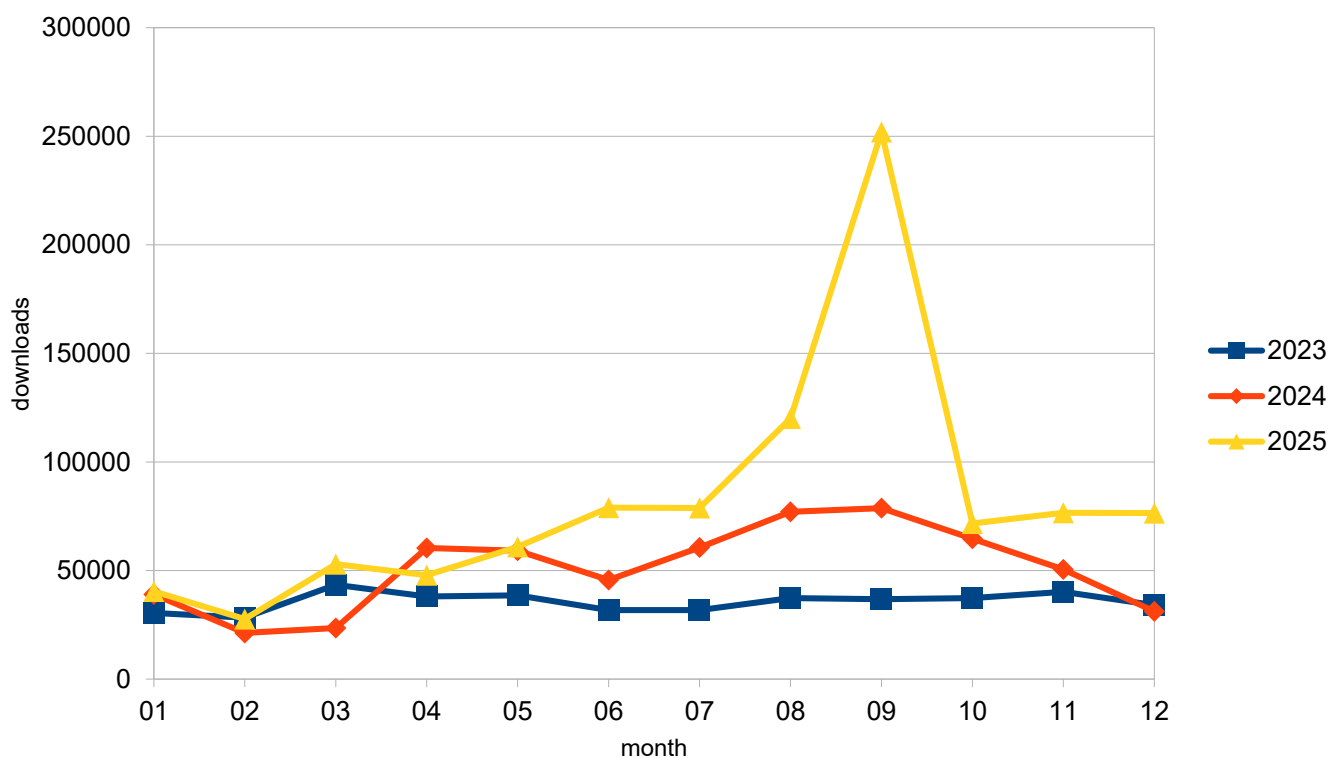
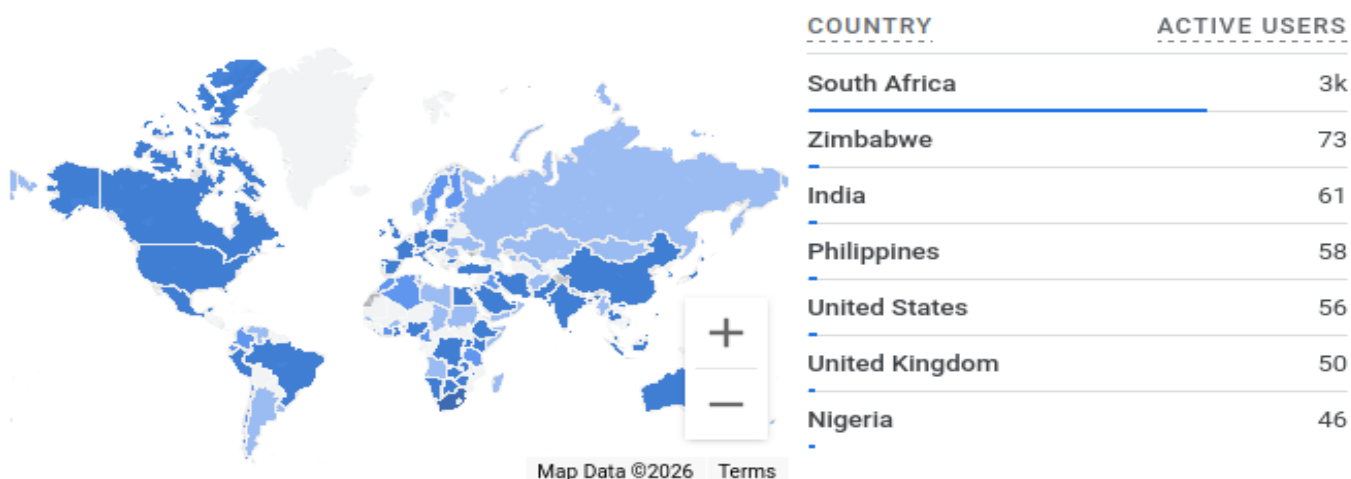


Submissions: 2025 compared to 2024 and 2023

- **Usage of DUT Open Scholar**

The Open Scholar institutional repository is available at <https://openscholar.dut.ac.za>. There are views and downloads from across the world, but significant usage is from South Africa.

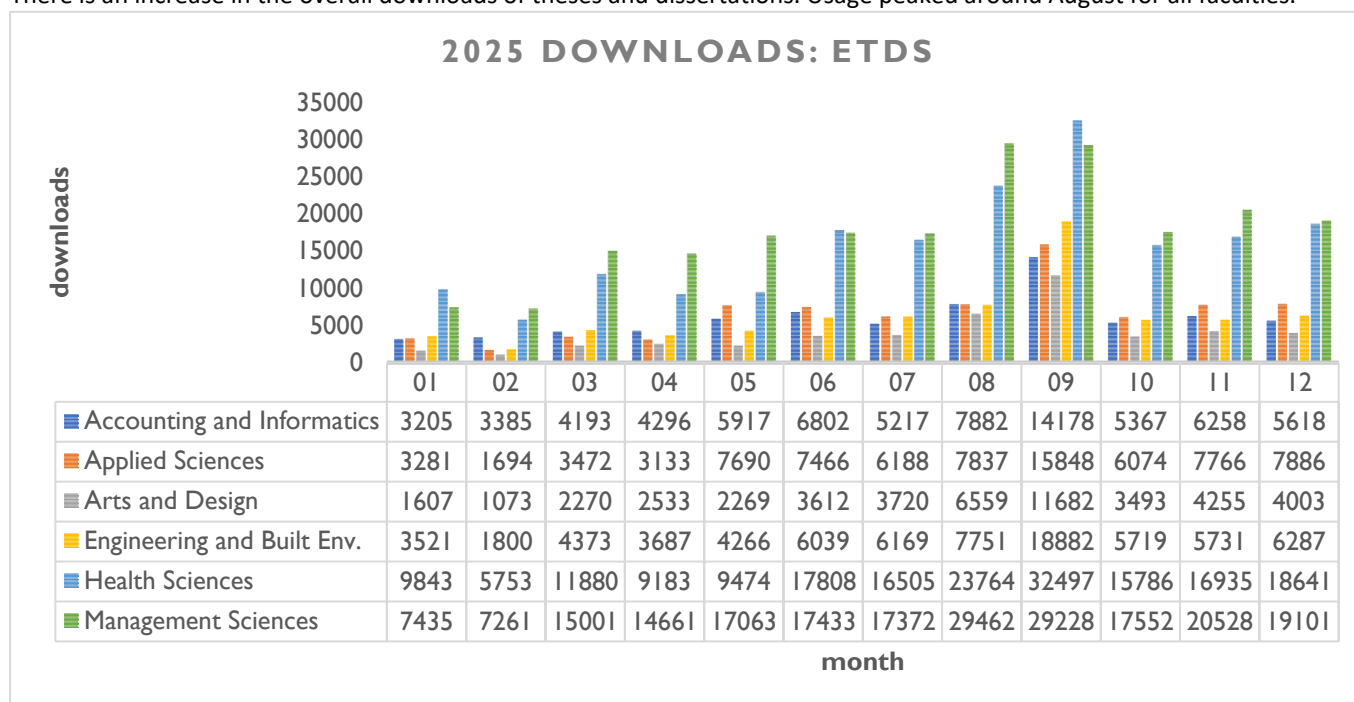
Compared to 2024, downloads of theses and dissertations increased by 40% (from 480,783 to 672,120), while downloads of articles increased by 137% (130,850 to 310,384). This demonstrates that the university's research outputs are visible and being accessed.



Downloads: 2025 compared to 2024 and 2023

- **Theses & Dissertations Downloads**

There is an increase in the overall downloads of theses and dissertations. Usage peaked around August for all faculties.



Theses & dissertations downloads

- **Most viewed and most downloaded items on Open Scholar**

The following were the most viewed ETDs during the period under review:

views	Collection	doi	Author	Title
701	Management Sciences	https://doi.org/10.51415/10321/3318	Womack, Anna Johanna Catharina	The influence of labour legislation on job creation and job sustainability in South Africa
391	Applied Sciences	https://doi.org/10.51415/10321/4814	Palmer, Karina	Product development, lexicon creation and sensory acceptability of goat meat products for the emerging consumer
372	Management Sciences	https://doi.org/10.51415/10321/956	Mabindisa, Vuyisile	Impact of staff turnover on organizational effectiveness and employee performance at the Department of Home Affairs in the Eastern Cape Province
362	Accounting and Informatics	https://doi.org/10.51415/10321/5298	Fada, Sinesipho	Exploration of budget, budgetary control and performance of public hospitals in KwaZulu-Natal, Durban
347	Management Sciences	https://doi.org/10.51415/10321/2612	Ngobese, Xolani Khayelihle	Assessment and implementation of skills development at Umzinyathi District Municipality and impact on service delivery
345	Management Sciences	https://doi.org/10.51415/10321/4300	Gumede, Msizi	The impact of training and development on employee performance : a case study of Capitec bank in Durban
343	Management Sciences	https://doi.org/10.51415/10321/5926	Tatenda Chikukwa	An employee engagement framework linked to leadership practices and organisational culture at a selected University of Technology in KwaZulu-Natal
320	Engineering and Built Environment	https://doi.org/10.51415/10321/5539	Akpan, Joseph Samuel	Development of integrated model and framework for sustainable energy resources and systems planning
316	Management Sciences	https://doi.org/10.51415/10321/5339	Kganyape, Obakeng	Ethical leadership and service delivery : a case of Mangaung Metropolitan area
309	Engineering and Built Environment	https://doi.org/10.51415/10321/3161	Kahlela, Thobeka	Ethics in construction industry : project managers' case study

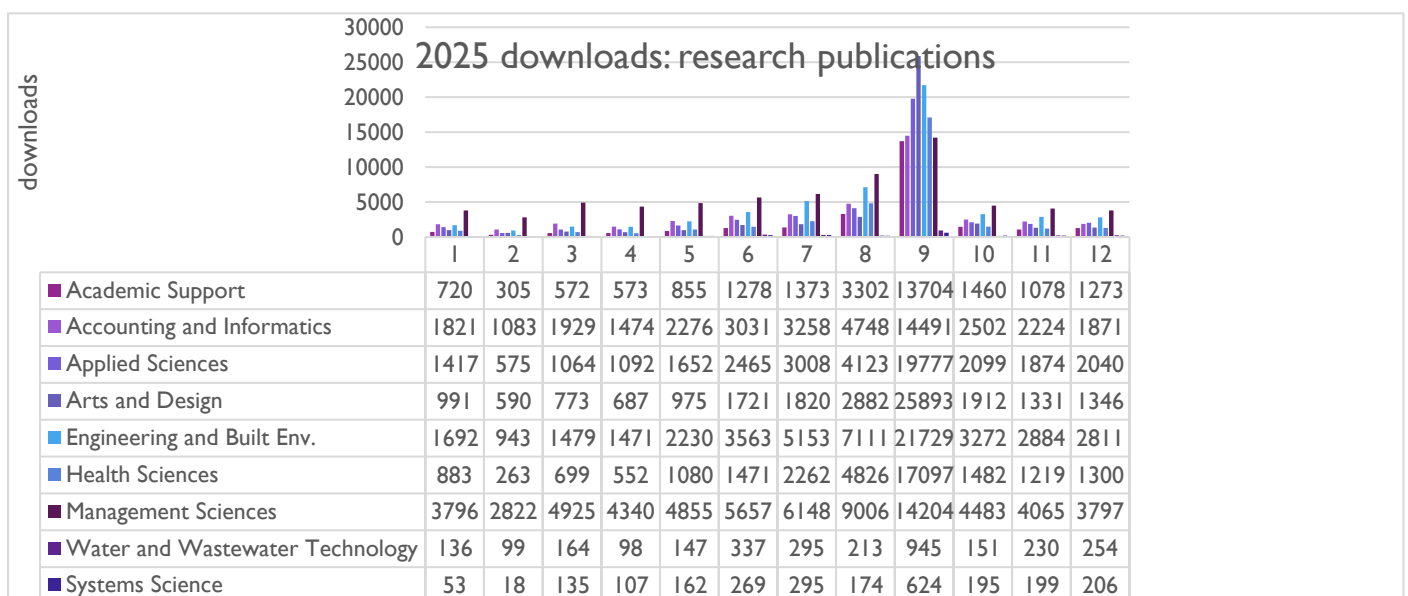
The following were the most downloaded ETDs during the period under review:

downloads	collection	doi	author	title
5792	Applied Sciences	https://doi.org/10.51415/10321/1734	Naicker, LEEANNTA	Pharmacological screening of synthetic piperidine derivatives
5044	Accounting and Informatics	https://doi.org/10.51415/10321/5569	Bingwa, Luyanda Loraine	A framework for supporting technological innovation by manufacturing small and medium enterprises in KZN
3379	Accounting and Informatics	https://doi.org/10.51415/10321/345	Khomo, Musawenkosi Phumelelo	Membership of the Library and Information Association of South Africa (LIASA) among library and information service workers in KwaZulu-Natal
3253	Management Sciences	https://doi.org/10.51415/10321/5859	Mpungose, Godfrey Sabelo	The use of social media drive during Covid-19 crisis by small, medium and micro enterprises in rural KwaZulu-Natal
2279	Accounting and Informatics		Jori, Richard	An analysis of challenges faced by internal audit departments in the public sector: a case study of eThekweni Metropolitan Municipality
2224	Engineering and Built Environment	https://doi.org/10.51415/10321/6221	Mthembu, Bongakonke Thandwayinkosi	Application of DMAIC technique to improve supply chain efficiency
2215	Health Sciences	https://doi.org/10.51415/10321/507	Khoosal, Bharti Gangaram	A survey of the perceptions of homeopathy by registered chiropractors in South Africa
1983	Management Sciences	https://doi.org/10.51415/10321/3906	Mlotshwa, Nelisiwe Rejoice	Students' perceptions towards careers in the hospitality industry
1943	Management Sciences	https://doi.org/10.51415/10321/5920	Khumalo, Sinenhlanhla Thabile Nompilo	The role of corporate governance towards the reliability of financial reports in small and medium enterprises in Durban, KwaZulu-Natal
1798	Management Sciences	https://doi.org/10.51415/10321/4300	Gumede, Msizi	The impact of training and development on employee performance: a case study of Capitec bank in Durban

• Research Journal Publications Downloads

The graph below demonstrates the downloads of research articles from the repository by faculty. In contrast to previous quarters, where the Faculty of Management Sciences dominated by a large margin, other faculties are showing significantly increased downloads.

Research publications downloads



- **Most Viewed Research Articles**

The following were the most viewed research articles during 2025:

Views	Collection	doi	Citation
599	Management Sciences		Moodley, P. and Singh, R. J. 2015. Addressing student dropout rates at South African universities. <i>Alternation. Special Edition No 17</i> : 91–115
576	Management Sciences	10.31838/jcr.07.19.170	Mbandlwa, Z. and Dorasamy, N. 2020. The impact of substance abuse in South Africa: a case of informal settlement communities. <i>Journal of Critical Reviews</i> . 7(19). Available: doi:10.31838/jcr.07.19.170
394	Accounting and Informatics	10.51137/wrp.ijarbm.2024.ccf.45636	Chonco, C.M. and Mvunabandi, J.D. 2024. Firms-specific sustainability reporting among Johannesburg Stock Exchange listed companies: do IFRS S1 and IFRS S2 matter? <i>International Journal of Applied Research in Business and Management</i> . 5(2): 1-22. doi:10.51137/wrp.ijarbm.2024.ccf.45636
366	Management Sciences	1810-5467 (Online)	Nama, K., Daweti, B., Lourens, M. and Chikukwa, T. 2022. The impact of training and development on employee performance and service delivery at a local municipality in South Africa. <i>Problems and Perspectives in Management</i> . 20(4): 42-51 (9).
365	Accounting and Informatics	10.24294/jipd8872	Aroba, O.J. and Rudolph, M. 2024. Systematic literature review on the application of precision agriculture using artificial intelligence by small-scale farmers in Africa and its societal impact. <i>Journal of Infrastructure, Policy and Development</i> . 8(13): 1-19. doi:10.24294/jipd8872
312	Water and Wastewater Technologies	https://doi.org/10.51415/10321/2992	Enitan, A. M. 2015. Characterization of brewery wastewater composition. <i>International Journal of Environmental and Ecological Engineering</i> . 9(9): 1073-1076.
260	Applied Sciences	10.1186/s40104-021-00640-9	Aruwa, C.E., et al. 2021. Poultry gut health: microbiome functions, environmental impacts, microbiome engineering and advancements in characterization technologies. <i>Journal of Animal of Science and Biotechnology</i> , 12(1): 119-. doi:10.1186/s40104-021-00640-9
236	Applied Sciences	10.1039/d4tb00184b	Krishna, S.B.N. et al. 2024. ZnO based 0-3D diverse nano-architectures, films and coatings for biomedical applications. <i>Journal of Materials Chemistry B</i> . doi:10.1039/d4tb00184b
234	Management Sciences	10.36941/ajis-2023-0100	Jali, N.P., Nyide, C.J. and Stainbank, L.J. 2023. The interplay between financial literacy, financial technology and financial behaviour of high school teachers in an emerging economy. <i>Academic Journal of Interdisciplinary Studies</i> . 12(4): 139-151. doi:10.36941/ajis-2023-0100
233	Accounting and Informatics		Aroba, O.J. and Adefemi Oluwaniyi, O. 2023. An SAP enterprise resource planning implementation using a case study of hospital management system for inclusion of digital transformation. <i>International Journal of Computer Information Systems and Industrial Management Applications</i> . 15(2023): 154-165.

- **Most downloaded research articles**

The following were the most downloaded research articles during 2025:

downloads	collection	doi	citation
4833	Engineering and Built Environment	10.1093/ce/zkae082	Akpasi, S.O. et al. 2024. CO2 methanation: a bibliometric analysis and review of activated carbon-based materials (2014–24). <i>Clean Energy</i> , 8(6): 148-174. doi:10.1093/ce/zkae082
4816	Arts and Design	10.1080/14680777.2025.2533879	Danso, S., Appiah-Adjei, G. and Adjin-Tettey, T.D. 2025. Vertical representation of gender in the Ghanaian broadcast media. <i>Feminist Media Studies</i> : 1-19. doi:10.1080/14680777.2025.2533879
2697	Arts and Design	10.1177/10776958251356372	Muringa, T., and Adjin-Tettey, T.D. 2025. Assessing the responsiveness of journalism curricula to the labor market needs in South Africa : a systematic review. <i>Journalism & Mass Communication Educator</i> : 1-22. doi:10.1177/10776958251356372
2686	Arts and Design	10.1177/14648849251379831	Adjin-Tettey, T.D., Asuman, M.A.K. and Ayim-Segbefia, M.S. 2025. Navigating trauma: Analysing the lived experiences of journalists who suffered violence in the line of duty. <i>Journalism</i> : 0(0): 1-22. doi:10.1177/14648849251379831
2440	Arts and Design	10.1177/10776958251356372	Muringa, T. and Adjin-Tettey, T.D. 2025. Assessing the responsiveness of journalism curricula to the labor market needs in South Africa: a systematic review. <i>Journalism & Mass Communication Educator</i> : 1-24. doi:10.1177/10776958251356372
1862	Engineering and Built Environment		Sewchurran, S. and David, I.E. 2016. Guiding principles for grid code compliance of large utility scale renewable power plant intergration onto south africa's transmission/distribution networks. 2016 IEEE International Conference on Renewable Energy Research and Applications (ICRERA): 528-537.

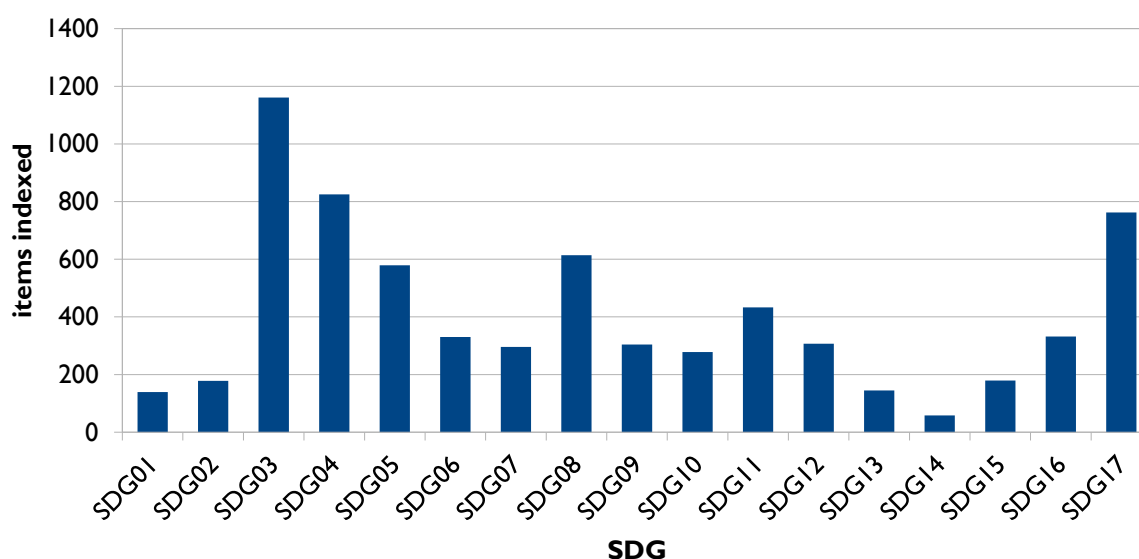
1632	Engineering and Built Environment		Oni, O.E.; Davidson, I.E. and Mbangula, K.N.I. 2016. A review of LCC-HVDC and VSC-HVDC technologies and applications. 2016 IEEE Conference 16th International Conference on Environment and Electrical Engineering. 1-7.
1572	Health Sciences	10.1186/s12879-023-08694-y	McGee, K. et al. 2024. Costs of distributing HIV self-testing kits in Eswatini through community and workplace models. BMC Infectious Diseases. 22(Suppl 1): 1-12. doi:10.1186/s12879-023-08694-y
1509	Management Sciences		Moodley, P. and Singh, R. J. 2015. Addressing student dropout rates at South African universities. Alternation. Special Edition No 17 : 91-115
1395	Management Sciences	10.31838/jcr.07.13.258	Mbandlwa, Z., Dorasamy, N. and Fagbadebo, O.M. 2020. Leadership challenges in the South African local government system. Journal of Critical Reviews. 7(13): 1642-1653. Available: doi:10.31838/jcr.07.13.258

- SDGs Engagement of Research Available on Open Scholar**

The repository has been updated with an ‘SDG’ browse index, making it possible to locate all items associated with any particular United Nations’ Sustainable Development Goal (SDG). The SDG classification of existing items was accomplished using the natural language processing functionality of the PostgreSQL database, along with a set of keywords adapted from those provided by Elsevier’s SDG Research-Mapping Initiative and the University of Auckland’s Keyword-Mapping Project. Furthermore, an ‘SDG’ metadata field has been added so that any new items are assigned SDG metadata when they are made available on the repository.

The ‘SDG’ browse index makes it possible to locate all items associated with any particular United Nations’ Sustainable Development Goal (SDG). SDG03, “Good Health and Well-being”, is most frequently associated with items in the repository. The ‘SDG’ browse index makes it possible to locate all items associated with any particular United Nations’ Sustainable Development Goal (SDG).

SDGs indexed on Open Scholar



SDG Browse Index

As highlighted in the table above, the university research output is impacting significantly on a number of the SDGs. Research about SDG 03 (Good Health and Well-being), SDG 17 (Partnerships for the SDGs) and SDG 04 (Quality Education) are the among highest in terms of contributions.

- Research Data Management / Open Science Policy**

The RDM policy has been placed on hold, as there are discussions around developing a single open science policy which will incorporate the RDM activities. RDM activities remain on hold while the Library and Research Office address the issue of the RDM policy, which remains in draft form. The library has worked on a draft an Overarching Open Science Policy that may supersede the RDM, Open Access and Institutional

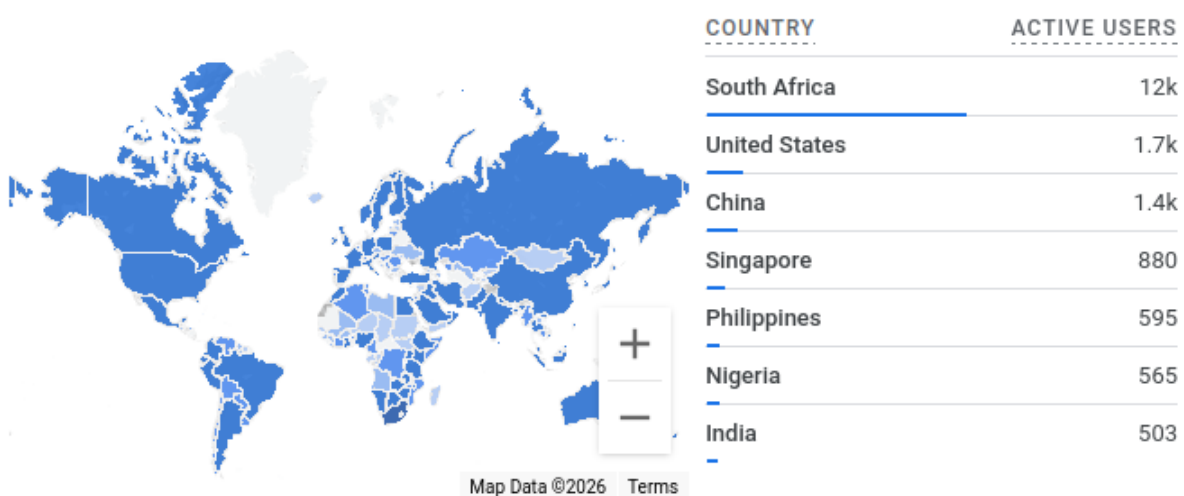
Repository policies. The draft is work in progress pending finalisation and consultations with relevant structures.

- **DUT Library as Publishing Service Platform**

The Library has been increasingly adopting the publishing role. The library has directed much of its investment philosophy towards making open access a reality. We are moving away from a traditional print collection-based model to a more broadly service-oriented model. The current library publishing initiatives such as DUT Open Journals and Open Books bear testimony to that effect. With these Open-access Science initiatives, the aim is to ensure the discoverability and visibility of our research outputs.

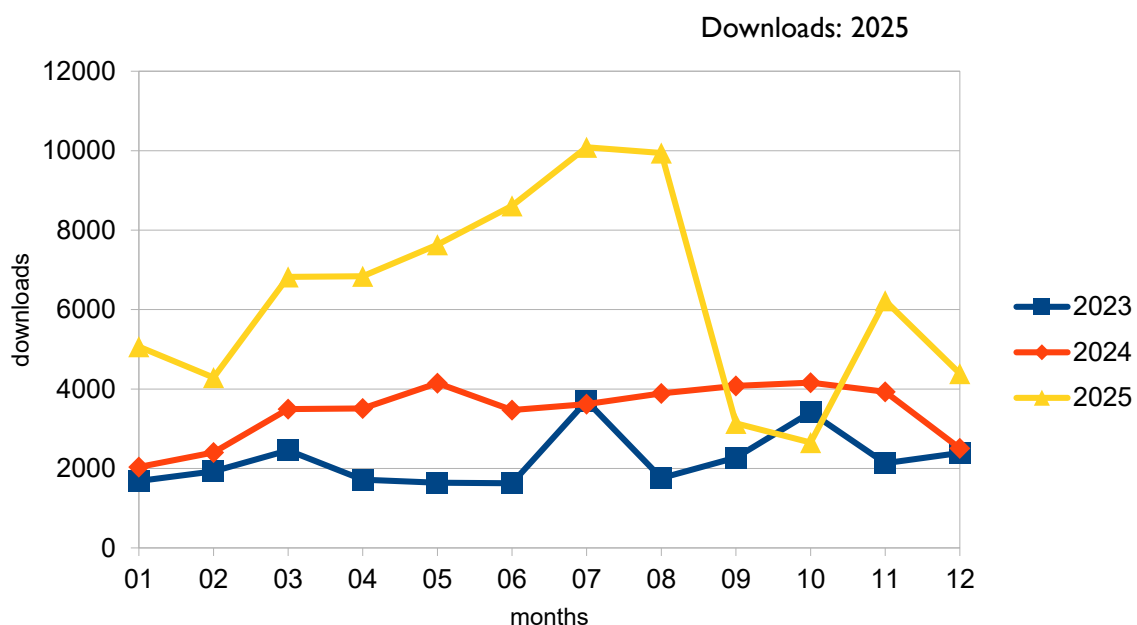
- **DUT Open Journals**

The Research Office's *African Journal of Inter/Multidisciplinary Studies (AJIMS)* journal is available at <https://journals.dut.ac.za>. There are views and downloads from across the world, but significant usage from South Africa, United States of America and the Philippines. Other countries accessing the journal include Nigeria, the United Kingdom, China and India.



Google Analytics: AJIMS pageviews by country (Jan. – Dec. 2025)

Compared to 2024, there has been a 83% increase in file downloads (from 41,255 to 75,686).



Openbooks file views in 2023, 2024 and 2025

During 2025, the Research Office's African Journal of Inter/Multidisciplinary Studies (AJIMS) published 52 submissions for Vol. 7 2025:

- Assessing the Impact of Results-Based Financing on Health System Strengthening in Zimbabwe: A Case Study of Marondera and Zvishavane Districts
- Contemporary Trends in African Elections (2013-2023)
- Quality of Work Life, Job Satisfaction and Happiness among Academics at a University of Technology in South Africa
- Considering Ethical Issues Affecting Patients' Records Stored on the Cloud in South Africa
- Communication through Shifting Lingua Franca: Surveying Followers' Perceptions of Influencers' Code-Switching in Social Media
- The Lexicographic Treatment of Xitsonga Kinship Terminologies in Selected Bilingual Dictionaries
- Towards a Decolonial Higher Education: Praxis and Theoretical Foundations
- A Call for the Philosophising of Open, Distance E-Learning: Learning as the Art of Living in Twenty-First Century South Africa
- The Concept of Domicile in Matrimonial Causes in Nigeria: A Critique of the Status Quo
- COVID-19 and Its Influence on the Mental Well-being of People with Co-Morbidities: A Qualitative Study at a Public Healthcare Clinic
- Applicability of Relationship Intentions among the Civil and Building Engineering Contractors in the South African Construction Sector: A Case of B2B Industry
- The Inclusion of Design Thinking as a Tool for Entrepreneurship at the Durban University of Technology
- Collaborative Supervision Pedagogy for Increased Postgraduate Student Success: The Importance of Writing Camps as an Alternative Supervision Programme
- Submission in the Context of Gender Equality: An Obstacle to Curbing Violence against Women in Intimate Relationships
- Dreams as a Diagnostic and Treatment Tool in Mental Health Care Practice by Traditional Healthcare Practitioners: An Afrocentric Perspective
- "I Hear the Cry, but I Do Not See the Tears": Indirectness in Bribery Negotiations
- Enduring Abuse in Matrimony: An In-Depth Analysis of Women's Experiences in Underprivileged Communities of Mankweng in Limpopo Province
- The Effect of Innate and Discretionary Components of Earnings Quality Properties on Stock Return Volatility in South Africa
- Assessing the Challenges and Implications of Corporate and Social Entrepreneurship for Sustainable Development Goals in South Africa: A Systematic Literature Review
- Discarded to Art-Maximised: Mitigating Dangers of Environmental Degradation
- Bridging the Gap Between Theory and Practice: A Critical Exploration of the Applicability of the Communication Skills Learned in the Classroom in Communication Contexts in Organisations
- Exploring the Nuances of Traditional Male Circumcision Initiation in South Africa and Other African Contexts
- Workplace Bullying and Intention to Leave among Academic Employees in a South African University
- Students' Risk of Depression: Student Affairs Practitioners' Perspectives at a South African University of Technology
- The San Code of Ethics Versus International Ethical Guidelines: A Cross-Cultural Analysis
- Experiences of Child and Youth Care Workers in Working with Victims of Child Sexual Abuse
- Critical Factors for Growth and Sustainability of Small and Medium Enterprises: A Systematic Literature Review and Propositions for a Successful Transition into Large Corporate Organizations
- Consumer Challenges of the Socio-Economically Disadvantaged in South Africa and the Role of Consumer Legislation
- Detecting Subtle Shifts: Comparing SME Performance Drivers Pre and During the Covid-19 Pandemic
- Goat Rearing for a Resilient Future: Enhancing Climate Adaptation among Smallholder Farmers in Umguza District, Zimbabwe

Special Issue I

- Editorial: Envisioning Critical Futures for Higher Education
- Envisioning a Reconceptualised Postgraduate Support in Research Writing Development for the Future: A Three-Legged Framework
- Dismantling Hierarchies in Student-Lecturer Engagement: A Critical Pedagogy Approach in Higher Education

- Reflections of an Early Career Academic on their Experience of Running a COIL Project
- Work Readiness in an Emergency Digital Learning Environment: Students' Self-Perception and Employer Expectation
- Students' and Lecturers' Perceptions and Experiences on Engaging Students in Feedback Dialogues to Promote the Voices of Students in Learning in Higher Education
- Advancing Gender Equity in Higher Education Research
- Theorising the Voices of Senior Academics on Decolonising the University Curriculum in an Open Distance E-Learning Institution in South Africa

Special Issue 2

- Editorial: Business and Information Management Realities in a World of Global Disruption and 4IR
- Drivers to Promote the Adoption of Green Information Communication Technology in South African SMEs
- Exigency of Work-Life Balance in the Wake of Digitalised Workspace for Information Technology Staff in the Banking Sector
- Exploring the Risks Associated with Organisational Digitalisation in the Fourth Industrial Revolution: A Systematic Review
- Students' Transition into Higher Education: Incorporating High-Impact Practices to Foster Smooth Transition and Academic Success
- Cultivating Student Entrepreneurship through Community Engagement Initiatives: A Comprehensive Review in A South African Context
- Motivation Levels of Administrative Employees at a Selected Government Department
- Small and Medium Enterprises' Success: Examining Social Media Effectiveness in Pietermaritzburg, South Africa
- The Adoption of Project-Based Learning in a South African Higher Education Teaching, Learning and Assessment Context: A Review
- Contact Centre Agents' Perception on Technology Adoption in Promoting Quality Customer Service
- Conceptualisation and Application of Client Engagement Strategies to Optimise Administrative Information Management Processes in a Selected Public Sector Organisation
- Examining the Impact of Learning Management Systems in African Higher Education: A Systematic Review
- Evaluating Sustainable Entrepreneurship Education in South Africa: Insights from a Systematic Review
- Is there a Relationship between Transactional Leadership Style, Communication and Job Satisfaction of Administrative Employees in the South African Public Sector?

• Digital Object Identifiers (DOIs)

A total of 327 DOIs were assigned to DUT research outputs (articles, theses and dissertations) during 2025.

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	Jun.	Jul	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Totals
AJIMS issues and articles	2	8	0	0	0	38	1	1	0	0	0	3	53
Open Scholar articles	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Open Scholar ETDS	0	1	15	0	59	23	49	27	22	32	40	5	273
Open Scholar ebooks	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Open Scholar guides & resources	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Openbooks	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Totals:	2	9	15	0	59	61	50	28	23	32	40	8	327

Number of DOIs registered

Smart Libraries, Smart People!

2.2.4. State-of-the-art Infrastructure

At the heart of strategic objective 6 has been the library investment drive in building and re-imagining its spaces, equipment, facilities and technologies into smart spaces and technologies to enable teaching, learning and research. Similarly, the Library must demonstrate the value proposition and usage of such an investment.

2.2.4.1. Systems & Support

In 2025, there was a notable decrease in Library IT assistance requests from students compared to 2024. The most frequent issues remained password resets and Wi-Fi connectivity, although requests for help with the main student portal significantly declined. As expected, there were predictable surges in requests at the beginning of each semester, particularly in March. The traditional low volume of requests in December was attributed to the summer break. This overall reduction in activity is partially explained by a failure to record data consistently, which stemmed from a server issue that affected data capture.

On-site & Online Support	Jan 2025 (2024)	Feb 2025 (2024)	Mar 2025 (2024)	Apr 2025 (2024)	May 2025 (2024)	Jun 2025 (2024)	Jul-2025 (2024)	Aug 2025 (2024)	Sept 2025 (2024)	Oct 2025 (2024)	Nov 2025 (2024)	Dec 2025 (2024)
Account activation	0 (2)	0 (149)	52 (24)	1 (20)	1 (18)	0 (4)	0 (16)	0 (7)	2 (3)	0 (0)	(1)	0 (0)
Active Directory	0 (4)	0 (409)	0 (110)	41 (135)	77 (79)	45 (25)	0 (27)	0 (76)	0 (47)	0 (80)	(64)	0 (0)
Beyond Scope	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	1	0 (0)	0 (0)
Cash acceptor	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (1)	0 (1)	0 (1)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (1)	0 (0)	0 (0)
Class Bookings	0	0	0	18	17	6	0	0	0	0	0 (0)	0 (0)
data	0(1)	1 (3)	0 (3)	1 (0)	3 (0)	0 (6)	0 (1)	0 (1)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
dut4life	1(38)	69 (1801)	108 (187)	36 (157)	52 (172)	15 (27)	34 (25)	25 (46)	11 (23)	3 (20)	3 (7)	1 (3)
Endnote	3 (2)	1 (8)	6 (27)	12 (46)	22 (33)	16 (7)	5 (8)	18 (8)	15 (11)	2 (22)	(5)	0 (0)
Exam Papers	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	5	13	4	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
JWF	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	1	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
Lab Bookings	0	11	29	17	17	6	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
LibKi	0 (10)	3 (12)	2 (14)	14 (11)	0 (7)	0 (7)	0 (4)	1 (6)	1 (7)	(8)	(1)	0 (0)
MFA	2 (36)	12 (166)	87 (262)	88 (160)	115 (145)	24 (35)	59 (75)	35 (159)	32 (50)	37 (96)	4 (16)	(1)
MS Teams	0 (0)	9 (286)	11 (73)	19 (40)	18 (48)	12 (2)	0 (4)	1 (24)	2 (13)	(15)	(1)	0 (0)
Office Activation	0 (2)	2 (7)	27 (42)	10 (0)	4 (0)	0 (0)	1 (0)	1 (0)	1 (0)	1 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
Office Install	0 (2)	2 (8)	18 (83)	24 (72)	19 (28)	3 (19)	9 (6)	10 (32)	5 (18)	5 (30)	3 (8)	0 (0)
Other	17 (6)	24 (25)	98 (75)	0 (62)	7 (41)	4 (29)	35 (31)	62 (73)	11 (27)	30 (107)	1 (20)	0 (2)
Password reset	14 (26)	52 (537)	58 (244)	97 (239)	52 (139)	36 (71)	125 (58)	118 (183)	40 (99)	23 (175)	4 (83)	4 (2)
PeopleSoft	0	0	0	0	5	3	17	19	26	20	6	2
Printing	12 (21)	1 (15)	8 (37)	30 (31)	1 (57)	0 (81)	0 (17)	2 (42)	6 (49)	5 (88)	2 (9)	0 (1)
SPSS	0 (3)	4 (0)	4 (6)	4 (7)	15 (5)	51 (5)	0 (2)	4 (3)	3 (9)	4 (15)	1 (6)	0 (1)
Staff Meeting	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (1)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
Student Portal	46 (118)	61 (179)	34 (34)	21 (57)	66 (56)	20 (32)	26 (45)	8 (76)	11 (25)	6 (36)	1 (63)	2 (11)
Technical	0 (1)	0 (2)	1 (13)	6 (6)	16 (10)	1 (9)	9 (0)	3 (8)	6 (4)	(8)	(3)	0 (0)
TLZ	1 (1)	61 (217)	107 (236)	22 (125)	0 (120)	0 (8)	43 (32)	27 (88)	9 (48)	7 (42)	(5)	0 (3)
TunItIn	0	0	0	2	5	2	0	0	0			
Wi-Fi	7 (21)	74 (345)	240 (554)	168 (543)	157 (311)	47 (95)	102 (135)	92 (366)	69 (186)	49 (262)	4 (58)	5 (0)
Writing Centre	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	3	2	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
Tot 2025	103 (294)	387 (4165)	890 (2023)	639 (1713)	684 (270)	295 (463)	466 (483)	426 (1210)	250 (610)	194 (995)	29 (350)	14 (24)

IT Support Statistics

2.2.4.2. Computer Bookings

- **LibKi**

Computer/eZone bookings usage decreased by 33.8% in 2025. However, these statistics are not a true reflection of the actual usage of the computer eZones. A prolonged issue with the DNS server prevented the client computers from accessing the LibKi server to record the usage.

LibKi Statistics	2025 (2024)
Brickfield	910 (1951)
City	332 (626)
BM Patel	6974 (19319)
Alan Pittendrigh	34474 (53010)
Riverside	8689 (6759)
Indumiso	16856 (21520)
Total	68235 (103185)

Computer bookings per site

- **LiveChat**

Chat volume was highly unstable, with a significant peak in March followed by a sharp decline in last quarter. LiveChat requests decreased in 2025. This is in line with the decrease for student IT support at the sites. 21% of the all the library's LiveChat responses were responded to by LIT staff.

Answer status	Jan 2025 (2024)	Feb 2025 (2024)	Mar 2025 (2024)	Apr 2025 (2024)	May 2025 (2024)	Jun 2025 (2024)	Jul 2025 (2024)	Aug 2025 (2024)	Sep 2025 (2024)	Oct 2025 (2024)	Nov 2025 (2024)	Dec 2025 (2024)
Answered	0 (4)	9 (144)	44 (165)	102 (271)	83 (131)	45 (86)	31 (24)	59 (99)	23 (87)	60 (115)	9 (9)	0

2.2.4.3. Printing and Photocopying

The statistics below highlight the major challenges being experienced by the library. A small number of usable machines are available at each of the site libraries, resulting in very low usage by students and staff. The library awaits the completion of the tender process for new multifunctional printing devices.

2025 Copy Stats (2024)				
Site	B&W Pages	Color Pages	Page Count	Total Jobs
BM Patel	2003 (8050)	89 (25)	2092 (8072)	1523 (6514)
Brickfield	1751 (4585)	152 (312)	1903 (4897)	1361 (3394)
City	490 (1352)	119 (254)	609 (1606)	265 (310)
Indumiso	4092 (11735)	67 (94)	4159 (11829)	2946 (7977)
Riverside	10035 (11877)	144 (119)	10179 (11996)	7064 (8605)
Steve Biko	148 (7873)	11 (0)	159 (7873)	37 (4943)
Total	18519	582	19101	13196
2025 Print Stats (2024)				
Site	B&W Pages	Color Pages	Page Count	Total Jobs
BM Patel	9110 (51551)	1162 (1054)	10272 (52605)	2344 (10951)
Brickfield	7033 (9428)	1640 (2625)	8673 (12053)	4294 (5500)

City	1569 (2361)	747 (1740)	2316 (4101)	510 (1093)
Indumiso	35320 (80079)	2200 (4495)	37520 (84574)	10223 (27421)
Riverside	53662 (55255)	923 (2181)	54585 (57436)	15731 (18676)
Steve Biko	588 (52935)	9 (0)	597 (52935)	109 (14080)
Total	107282	6681	113963	33211
2025 Scan Stats				
Site	B&W Pages	Color Pages	Page Count	Total Jobs
BM Patel	256	149	405	374
Brickfield	94	48	142	105
City	927	254	1181	258
Indumiso	319	244	563	379
Riverside	2275	214	2489	1054
Steve Biko	0	0	0	866
Total	3871	909	4780	3036

Printing and photocopying per site

Due to a large number of photocopying machines not working, there has been a general decrease in the use of photocopiers across the library sites. There is an urgent need to fast-track the tender process for a universal printing solution by ICTs.

2.3. SUSTAINABILITY

2.3.1. Distinctive Education

- **University Capacity Development Grant (UCDG) funding (PhD studies)**

Mr Nhlanhla Nhleko and Ms Bongekile Mpungose received University Capacity Development Grant (UCDG) funding in support of their PhD studies. This recognition reflects the university's confidence in his academic pursuits and commitment to advancing scholarly excellence within the Library Services division.

The funding not only supports his doctoral research but also strengthens the library's research capacity, aligning with DUT's Envision2030 strategic pillars of Excellence in Teaching and Learning, Innovation, and Knowledge Generation. Mr Nhleko's academic progress contributes to the professional development of library staff and reinforces the institution's vision of fostering research-led growth.

2.3.2. Financial Sustainability: OPEX, CAPEX, Strategic Priorities Funds

For the period under review, the Library received a total operational budget of **R35 630 995.18**, of which **R31 567 484.04** has been spent. As of 31 December 2025, 86.18% of the main operational budget had been spent, periodicals budget spent was sitting at 86.52% - these were positive indicators that the library budget was used to meet current needs, as well as allow for the acquisition of new software and other online materials to support the academic and research project.

Two databases estimated the total subscription cost R1 250 000. These products were recently added to our collection, and the publisher has yet to generate and send the corresponding invoices. There are still some invoices that need to be paid from the 2025 budget. The rand to dollar exchange rate has been robust, leading to savings in budgeted expenditures. The Library CAPEX spending is at 96.59%.

Library GLA Reports 01 January 2025 to 31 December 2025									
DURBAN MAIN COST CENTRE									
Budget-Ca	G/L Account Group	GLA CODE	Plan in Comp	Budget in Co	Commitm	Actual Costs	Assigned Va	Available Bu	Final Score
O2M8LI000	DUTB~13 (CONF-CC-CONFERENCE EXPENSES)	2000058761	157 500,00	157 500,00	0.00	157 089,28	157 089,28	410,72	99,74%
O2M8LI000	DUTB~14 (ADM.E-CC-TELEPHONE)	2000084763	20 000,00	20 000,00	0.00	3 573,39	3 573,39	16 426,61	17,87%
O2M8LI000	DUTB~15 (ADM.E-CC-COVID-19 DEPARTMENTAL)	2000084845	30 000,00	30 000,00	0.00	19 830,94	19 830,94	10 169,06	66,10%
O2M8LI000	DUTB~16 (ADM.E-CC-TECHNIKON FUNCTION)	2000084759	100 000,00	100 000,00	0.00	92 517,23	92 517,23	7 482,77	92,52%
O2M8LI000	DUTB~17 (ADM.E-CC-RENTAL/LEASE)	2000084760	60 000,00	60 000,00	0.00	-1240,61	-1 240,61	61 240,61	-2,07%
O2M8LI000	DUTB~18 (R&M-CC-REPAIRS + MAINTENANCE)	2000072518	675 000,32	675 000,32	0.00	473 924,44	473 924,44	201 075,88	70,21%
O2M8LI000	DUTB~19 (P&S-CC-PRINTING & STATIONERY)	2000069477	45 000,00	45 000,00	0.00	38 275,73	38 275,73	6 724,27	85,06%
O2M8LI000	DUTB~20 (S&T-CC-SUBSISTENCE)	2000077785	100 000,00	100 000,00	0.00	91 352,55	91 352,55	8 647,45	91,35%
O2M8LI000	DUTB~21 (ADM.E-CC-INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS)	2000084750	2 200 000,00	2 200 000,00	0.00	1 971 390,58	1 971 390,58	228 609,42	89,61%
O2M8LI000	DUTB~22 (S&T-CC-TRAVELLING)	2000077784	200 000,00	200 000,00	0.00	150 626,51	150 626,51	49 373,49	75,31%
O2M8LI000	DUTB~29 (MCIE-CC-LIBRARY BOOKS)	2000138340	1 842 894,81	1 842 894,81	0.00	1 142 347,56	1 142 347,56	700 547,25	61,99%
O2M8LI000	DUTB~30 (MCIE-CC-PERIODICALS & NEWSPAPERS)	2000138239	27 109 600,05	27 109 600,05	0.00	23 453 880,58	23 453 880,58	3 655 719,47	86,52%
O2M8LI000	DUTB~31 (ADM.E-CC-STAFF SKILLS TRAINING)	2000084806	81 000,00	81 000,00	0.00	77 660,62	77 660,62	3 339,38	95,88%
O2M8LI000	DUTB~32 (ADM.E-CC-COPYRIGHT LEVY)	2000084775	3 000 000,00	3 000 000,00	0.00	2 962 033,24	2 962 033,24	37 966,76	98,73%
O2M8LI000	DUTB~342 (Salaries Costs)	2000002273	1 007 440	1 007 440	780 100	154 122	934 222	73 218	92,73%
	TOTAL		36 628 435,18	36 628 435,18	780 100,00	30 788 624,65	31 567 484,04	5 060 951,14	86,18%
MIDLANDS COST CENTRE									
Budget-Ca	G/L Account Group	GLA CODE	Plan in Comp	Budget in Co	Commitm	Actual Costs	Assigned Va	Available Bu	Final Score
O0I8LB000	DUTB~13 (CONF-CC-CONFERENCE EXPENSES)	2000058761	5 000,00	5 000,00	0.00	0,00	0,00	5 000,00	0,00%
O0I8LB000	DUTB~14 (ADM.E-CC-TELEPHONE)	2000084763	4 000,00	4 000,00	0.00	2 660,56	2 660,56	1 339,44	66,51%
O0I8LB000	DUTB~15 (ADM.E-CC-COVID-19 DEPARTMENTAL)	2000084845	1 000,00	1 000,00	0.00	0,00	0,00	1 000,00	0,00%
O0I8LB000	DUTB~16 (ADM.E-CC-TECHNIKON FUNCTION)	2000084759	15 000,00	15 000,00	0.00	12 771,77	12 771,77	2 228,23	85,15%
O0I8LB000	DUTB~17 (ADM.E-CC-RENTAL/LEASE)	2000084760	25 000,00	25 000,00	0.00	29,35	29,35	24 970,65	0,12%
O0I8LB000	DUTB~18 (R&M-CC-REPAIRS + MAINTENANCE)	2000072518	49 500,02	49 500,02	0.00	17 900,02	17 900,02	31 600,00	36,16%
O0I8LB000	DUTB~19 (P&S-CC-PRINTING & STATIONERY)	2000069477	5 000,00	5 000,00	0.00	4 550,00		450,00	0,00%
O0I8LB000	DUTB~20 (S&T-CC-SUBSISTENCE)	2000077785	5 250,00	5 250,00	0.00	0,00	0,00	5 250,00	0,00%
O0I8LB000	DUTB~21 (ADM.E-CC-INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS)	2000084750	6 615,00	6 615,00	0.00	4 723,50	4 723,50	1 891,50	71,41%
O0I8LB000	DUTB~22 (S&T-CC-TRAVELLING)	2000077784	31 972,50	31 972,50	0.00	31 348,75	31 348,75	623,75	98,05%
O0I8LB000	DUTB~342 (Salaries Costs)	2000002273		0,00	0.00				
	TOTAL		148 337,52	148 337,52		73 983,95	69 433,95	74 353,57	50,12%
CAPEX 2025									
Budget ca	Product type	GLA Code	Plan in Comp	Budget in Co	Commitm	Actual Costs	Assigned Va	Available Bu	Progress
AA58B0155	TOTAL CAPEX	AA58B0155	4 819 500,00	4 819 500,00	0	4 655 251,52	4 655 251,52	164 248,48	96,59%

- Transformational Agreements (TAs) with Big Publishers of Scientific Information (Read and Publish Agreements)**

These agreements typically involve partnerships between libraries and publishers to shift from traditional subscription models to open access (OA) models. The aim is to make research outputs freely accessible to both the academic community and the public. As part of ongoing efforts to support and communicate updates on the transformational agreements within the DUT community, a reminder was shared providing an update on the number of vouchers used and those still available to DUT and other institutions participating in the agreements, in collaboration with SANLiC. This communication was distributed via the Pinboard platform. This aligns with the communication strategy document developed in 2024, which was designed to guide library management staff on effective methods for marketing and communicating services related to transformational agreements at DUT.

Science coming out of publicly funded universities should flourish inclusively and sustainably to ensure public access that is free from copyright restrictions. TAs are some of the mechanisms of ensuring just, equitable and universal publicly funded research. DUT authors can publish seven transformational agreements signed by the library to support sustainable and impactful research. These open access agreements are with major publishers of scientific knowledge: Taylor and Francis, ELSEVIER, Springer Nature, Wiley, Emerald, Association for Computing Machinery (ACM), Institute of Physics (IOP) and SAGE. Sage and IOP Science are new transformative agreements signed for 2025.

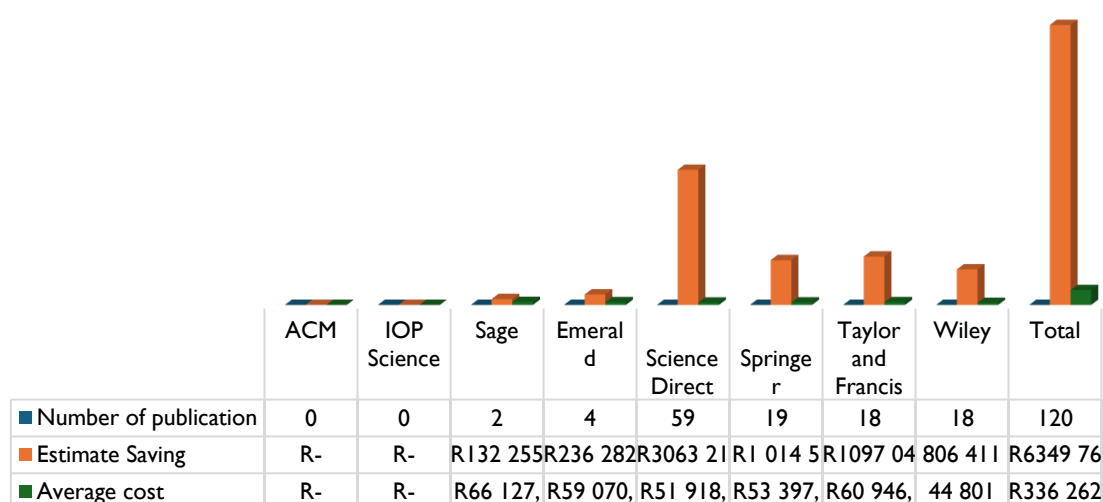
These agreements are also known as Read and Publish or transformational agreements that allow DUT to publish open access, without paying any APCs. For the reporting period under review, a total 149 articles were initially approved; however, 28 were rejected or had funding requests cancelled, leading to a final approval of 120 APCs. This adjustment reflects uncontrollable factors impacting publication status, such as article declined for publication after approval. The approved APCs resulted in a cost saving of R6,531,642, a decrease compared to R7,297,553 from 127 APCs in 2024. The decrease in output and financial benefit was attributed to changes in Wiley Gold publishing pricing and currency fluctuations.

There are some instances, especially in the case of Gold open-access journals, whereby a 15 % discount on APCs is granted to DUT authors.

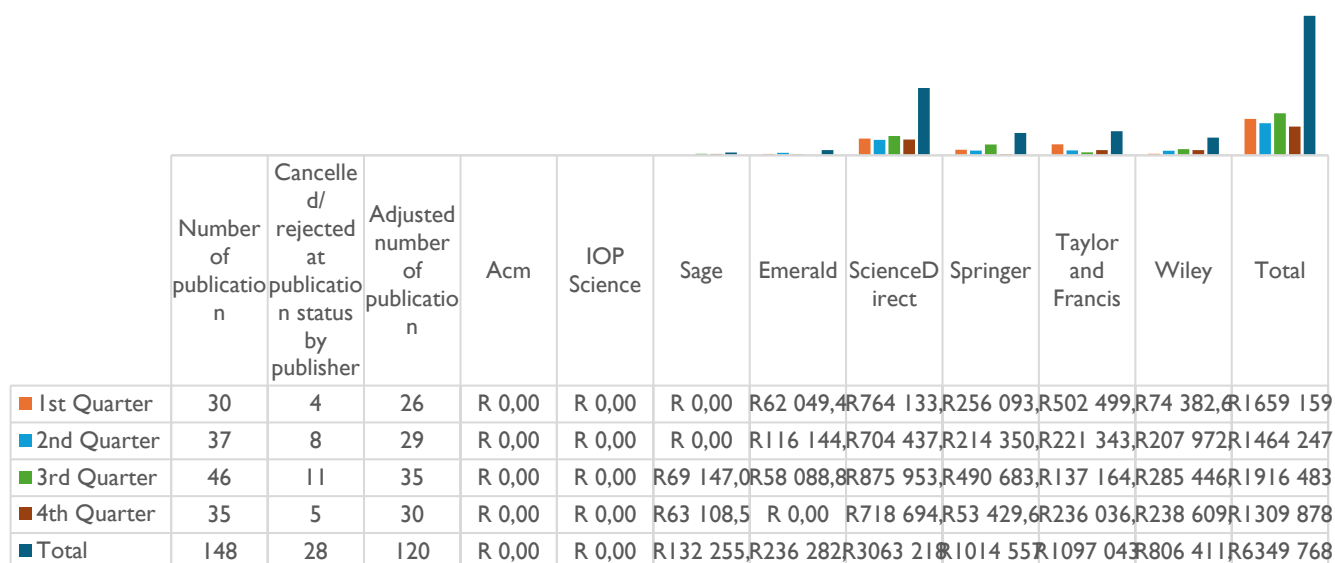
The table below summarises the eight (8) transformative agreements that are currently available.

Publisher	Agreement period	No. of journal titles that are eligible per publisher	2025: No. of articles that can be published free of APCs
ACM Open	2024 - 2026	55 Full journal list	Uncapped
Emerald	2025 -2027	310 Full journal list	140 (first-come, first-served basis across all participating institutions)
Wiley	2022 - 2025	1681 Full journal list	Unlimited
Springer Nature	2023 - 2025	2360 Full journal list	995 (first-come, first-served basis across all participating institutions)
Elsevier (ScienceDirect)	2023 - 2025	1820 Full journal list	2221 (first-come, first-served basis across all participating institutions)
Taylor and Francis	2024 - 2026	2000 journals Full journal list	1276 (first-come first-served basis across all participating institutions)
IOP Science	2023 - 2025	70 journals Full journal list	uncapped
Sage	2025-2027	1047 journals Full journal list	Uncapped

Average cost per publisher January to December 2025



Submitted by researchers and approved by quarter



Articles approved for waived APCs by publisher

The library guide on transformational agreements can be consulted for further information:
<https://libguides.dut.ac.za/c.php?g=1310157&p=9629541>

Articles approved by DUT Departments or Institute, or Unit

An examination of the articles approved for waived and discounted Article Processing Charges (APCs) reveals that the departments of Biotechnology, Food Science, the Institute for Water and Wastewater Technology (IWWT), and Chemistry collectively accounted for about 42.50% of all approved articles. This indicates a considerable increase in the uptake of waived APCs within these departments.

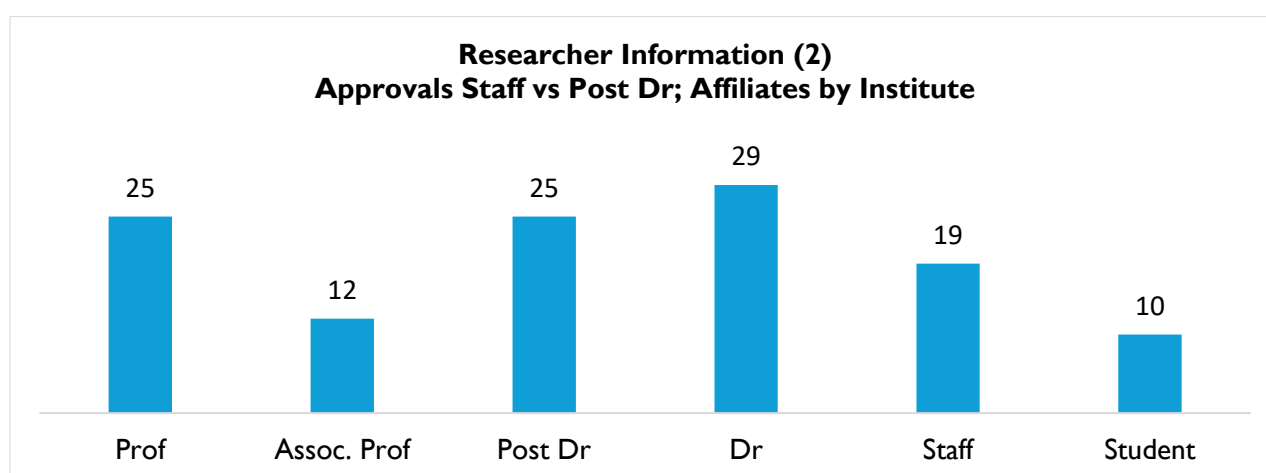
Articles approved for publication in TAs - January to December 2025

Department	Percentage	Number
Biotechnology and Food Science	19,17	23
Institute for Water and Wastewater Technology (IWWT,)	11,67	14
Chemistry	11,67	14
Mechanical Engineering	9,17	11
Research & Postgrad Support	9,17	11
Media Lang & Communication	4,17	5
Faculty of Arts and Design	4,17	5
Health Science	3,33	4
Basic Medical Science	2,50	3
Library	2,50	3
Public Mngt & Economics	2,50	3
Industrial Engineering	2,50	3
Chemical Engineering	1,67	2
Civil engineering	1,67	2
Information Systems	1,67	2
Institute of Systems Science (ISS)	0,83	1
Imbali Education and Innovation Precinct (Admin)	0,83	1

Chiropractic	0,83	1
Entrepreneurial Studies	0,83	1
Community Health Studies	0,83	1
Architecture	0,83	1
Construction Mngt & Quant Surveying	0,83	1
Radiography	0,83	1
International Education and Partnerships	0,83	1
Electronic Engineering	0,83	1
Biomedical & Clinical Tech	0,83	1
Nursing	0,83	1
Information Technology	0,83	1
Emergency Medical Care & Rescue	0,83	1
International Centre of Non-Violence	0,83	1
Total		120

➤ **Analysis of the Uptake and Costing Savings to DUT**

The articles approved for waived APCs were further analysed to determine the researcher's information or affiliation. This information was not clearly defined in the information that was provided by the publisher and in the published articles. For this report, we have loosely defined the categories by Professor, Associate Professor, Post-doctoral Fellow, Dr, Staff and Student.



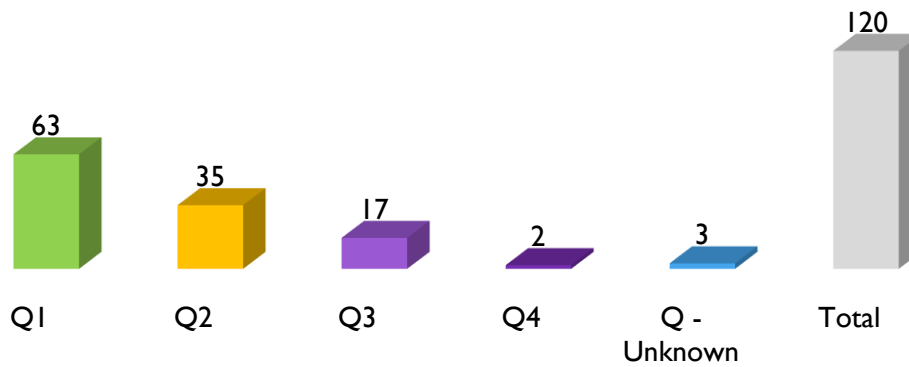
Articles approved for waived APCs by DUT researchers

Articles approved by Journal Quartile

Among the 120 articles published under transformative agreements, the distribution of publication quality is as follows: 52.50% were published in Q1 journals, 29.16% in Q2 journals, and 14.16% in Q3 journals.

Smart Libraries, Smart People!

January - December 2025 Transformational Agreements Uptake - Journal Quartile: Total



NB. Five sources of information were consulted to determine the journal quartile information: SCOPUS, Web of Science, SCIMAGO, DOAJ and the journal websites. For some journals, there are numerous quartiles listed for one title. These are ranked according to subject specialisation. For this analysis, the closest fit based on article and author affiliation was used.

DUT uptake of transformational agreements during July to September 2025 – full list

Publisher	Article Title	Journal Title	Est R value	DHET	Quartile
Sage	Navigating Trauma: Analyzing the lived experiences of journalists who suffered violence in the line of duty	Journalism	R69 147,00	Scopus	Q1
Sage	Libraries as agents of decolonisation: exploring the integration of indigenous languages into library services in South African public Higher Education libraries	Journal of Librarianship and Information Science	R63 108,50	Scopus	Q1
ScienceDirect	An inventory analysis of waste tyre generation and management in South Africa	Waste Management	R93 650,25	Scopus	Q1
ScienceDirect	Insights into the application of explainable artificial intelligence for biological wastewater treatment plants: Updates and perspectives	Engineering Applications of Artificial Intelligence	R67 344,00	Scopus	Q1
ScienceDirect	Molecular dynamic insight into imidazolium based deep eutectic solvent comprising carboxylic acids (C2 and C3): Experiments and DFT approach	Journal of Molecular Liquids	R73 236,60	Scopus	Q1
ScienceDirect	Carbon dioxide utilization in mineral processing	Journal of CO2 Utilization	R68 817,15	WOS	Q1
ScienceDirect	Development of a highly selective and sensitive colorimetric detection of manganese(II) ion in environmental water using 3-(4-hydroxy-3-methoxyphenyl)-2,3-dihydropyrazolo [3, 4-b] indole-1(4H)-carbothioamide modified gold nanoparticles: A CIE L*a*b*/Yxy c	Journal of Molecular Liquids	R73 236,60	Scopus	Q1
ScienceDirect	Influence of nitrogen sources on growth and biochemical composition of <i>Chlorella sorokiniana</i>	Biomass & Bioenergy	R89 862,15	Scopus	Q1
ScienceDirect	ImageJ analysis for quantifying lead ion in environmental water using gold nanoparticles as a colorimetric probe	Journal of Molecular Liquids	R73 464,30	Scopus	Q1
ScienceDirect	The role of industry 4.0 enabling technologies for predicting, and managing of algal blooms: Bridging gaps and unlocking potential	Marine Pollution Bulletin	R78 898,05	Scopus	Q1
ScienceDirect	In-depth study and optimization of process parameters to enhance tensile and compressive strengths of PETG in FDM technology	Journal of Materials Research and Technology	R4 351,74	Scopus	Q1
ScienceDirect	Microalgae-driven carbon sequestration and bio-fertiliser: Steps towards a sustainable future	Chemical Engineering Journal	R98 036,93	Scopus	Q1
ScienceDirect	Integrating rooftop PV system in low-cost building plan: A pathway to improving energy access and environmental sustainability	Energy and Buildings	R87 251,19	Scopus	Q1
ScienceDirect	Economic evaluation of decentralised energy sources for power generation	Energy Strategy Reviews	R6 304,74	Scopus	Q1

ScienceDirect	Efficient microplastic removal from wastewater using Fe ₃ O ₄ functionalized g-C ₃ N ₄ and BNNS: A comprehensive study	Journal of Environmental Chemical Engineering	R68 613,03	Scopus	QI
ScienceDirect	Impact of limited trypsin hydrolysis on Bambara protein-gum arabic interaction and the formation of soluble complexes	Food Bioscience	R69 227,47	Scopus	QI
ScienceDirect	Evaluating the influence of organisational resources and learning capabilities on the performance of small, micro, and medium enterprises (SMMEs) in Ghana	Scientific African	R1 595,66	Scopus	QI
ScienceDirect	Removal of efavirenz in wastewater effluents using a magnetic molecularly imprinted polymer: Synthesis, multivariate optimization and application	Journal of Water Process Engineering	R68 613,03	Scopus	QI
ScienceDirect	Eco-friendly nickel-ferrite/chitosan composite for electrochemical sensing of Erythrosine B	Inorganic Chemistry Communications	R74 709,75	Scopus	QI
ScienceDirect	Exploring the termite gut as a hub of industrially important microbes and enzymes for biofuel production	Biomass & Bioenergy	R89 862,15	Scopus	QI
ScienceDirect	Modified fuzzy logic and artificial bee colony: An artificial intelligence approach to optimization and power quality improvement in an MPPT-based system	Scientific African	R1 595,66	Scopus	QI
ScienceDirect	Innovative strategies for enhancing microalgae-based biohydrogen production: A review	Algal Research	R84 323,75	Scopus	QI
ScienceDirect	Quantitative microbial risk assessment of drug-resistant tuberculosis exposure from wastewater systems across Sub-Saharan Africa	Science of the Total Environment	R85 531,25	Scopus	QI
ScienceDirect	Innovative strategies for augmenting Omega-3-Fatty acid production in microalgae: Sustainable approaches for vegan food applications	Bioresource Technology	R99 669,12	Scopus	QI
ScienceDirect	Fungi-mediated nanomaterials: Advances, synthesis pathways, and limitations	Fungal Biology Reviews	R40 848,00	Scopus	QI
ScienceDirect	An integrated AHP-GP-GA approach for public project portfolio selection problem	Ain Shams Engineering Journal	R2 661,00	Scopus	QI
ScienceDirect	Exploring complexity in a Schwarzschild radiating star	Annals of Physics	R64 539,84	Scopus	QI
ScienceDirect	Rheological properties of Bambara groundnut and speckled sugar bean protein emulsion gels: Effect of high-pressure homogenisation	Applied Food Research	R5 461,20	Scopus	QI
ScienceDirect	Microalgae inoculation increases bacterial diversity and gene abundances related to nutrient removal while decreasing antibiotic resistant genes in municipal wastewater	Algal Research	R84 901,97	Scopus	QI
ScienceDirect	Synthesis and antibacterial studies of p -anisidinium-based ionic liquids: Experimental, DFT calculations and molecular docking	Journal of Molecular Liquids	R71 595,78	Scopus	QI
ScienceDirect	Medical xenophobia and healthcare exclusion of refugees and migrants in Africa: A scoping review	Journal of Migration and Health	R7 164,95	Scopus	QI
ScienceDirect	Cultivation of Arthrospira platensis in non-conventional water resources: A comparative analysis of biomass productivity and chemical constituents	Biomass & Bioenergy	R88 045,27	Scopus	QI
ScienceDirect	Hydrothermal synthesis parameter engineering and mass loading of polyaniline electrodes for high-performance supercapacitors	Advanced Sensor and Energy Materials	R4 275,86	Scopus	QI
ScienceDirect	Integration of solar PV, fuel cell, and hydrogen storage systems for sustainable desalination: techno-economic and multi-criteria decision-making analysis	Energy Conversion and Management: X	R7 951,59	Scopus	QI
ScienceDirect	Challenging Λ CDM with Higher-Order GUP Corrections	Journal of High Energy Astrophysics	R40 008,60	Scopus	QI
ScienceDirect	Machine learning prediction, molecular dynamics simulation, and in vitro studies of putative leads from citrus essential oil metabolites as potential dipeptidyl peptidase-4 inhibitors	Computers in Biology and Medicine	R52 668,00	Scopus	QI
ScienceDirect	Sustainable polyhydroxyalkanoates in the bioeconomy: A review of recent advances in production innovations, economic feasibility, and patents landscape	International Journal of Biological Macromolecules	R71 307,00	Scopus	QI
ScienceDirect	Insights into microbial community, nitrogen-phosphorus metabolism from metagenomic and metabolomic analysis of microalgal-cyanobacterial consortium-based bioinoculants	Science of the Total Environment	R70 965,00	Scopus	QI
ScienceDirect	Microwave-assisted deep eutectic solvent pretreatment of macadamia nut shells and pinewood shavings for effective saccharification and bioethanol production	Industrial Crops and Products	R59 961,60	Scopus	QI

ScienceDirect	Comparative secretome dynamics of <i>Beauveria bassiana</i> under solid-state and submerged fermentation	Scientific African	R1 866,24	Scopus	Q1
ScienceDirect	Unveiling the role of aeration systems in the bioaerosol emission rate, particle size and microbial composition from wastewater treatment plants	Journal of Hazardous Materials	R83 462,40	Scopus	Q1
ScienceDirect	Corn silk extracts modulated ADORA1 and GABBR1 for type 2 diabetes mellitus intervention: An in vitro validation study	Scientific African	R1 534,59	Scopus	Q1
ScienceDirect	Mindfulness-Based Interventions for Mental Health in Refugee and Migrant Populations: A scoping review	SSM - Mental Health	R4 005,54	Scopus	Q1
ScienceDirect	Computational profiling of terpenoids for putative dual-target leads against <i>Staphylococcus aureus</i> penicillin binding protein 2a and beta-lactamase: An integrated structure-activity-relationship-based study	Journal of Molecular Liquids	R70 035,00	Scopus	Q1
Springer	The effects of stigma and social support on the health-related quality of life of people with drug resistance tuberculosis in Lagos, Nigeria	Quality of Life Research	R51 218,72	Scopus	Q1
Springer	The current landscape of mental health challenges in women with PCOS: a narrative review	Current Psychology	R51 218,72	Scopus	Q1
Springer	A CFD-Based Study of Pipe Leakage Dynamics and Water Management Impacts	Water Resources Management	R54 271,84	Scopus	Q1
Springer	The pitfalls of "toughing it out": mapping stoic attitudes in cancer patients. A scoping review	Medicine, Health Care and Philosophy	R54 245,52	Scopus	Q1
Springer	Healthcare Access and Utilisation among African Refugee and Immigrant Women in Australia: A Scoping Review	Journal of International Migration and Integration	R54 771,92	Scopus	Q1
Springer	Anthropogenic impact assessment on the water quality of Umhlathuze River in KwaZulu Natal Province, South Africa	Environmental Geochemistry and Health	R53 429,60	Scopus	Q1
Taylor and Francis	Fostering civic engagement on "Ghana X": An analysis of data-driven journalistic practices of mainstream and peripheral media actors	Journalism Studies	R68 145,50	Scopus	Q1
Taylor and Francis	Navigating affordability challenges and opportunities in mixed-income housing: A case study of Cornubia in South Africa	International Planning Studies	R74 680,00	Scopus	Q1
Taylor and Francis	The Impact of the SDGs on Donors' Choices: Analysis of Trends and Types of Aid to Higher Education at the SDG Implementation Halfway Point	The Journal of Development Studies	R81 346,70	Scopus	Q1
Taylor and Francis	Decolonial Hope and Planetary Solidarity: Fostering Sustainability through African Life Narratives	Journal of Postcolonial Writing	R62 370,00	Scopus	Q1
Taylor and Francis	"Meaning in the Service of Power": A Marxist Analysis of Media Discourse on Presidential Elections in South Africa.	African Journalism Studies	R64 970,00	Scopus	Q1
Taylor and Francis	Decoloniality, Solidarity, and Indigenous Ecology: Reading Nemonte Nenquimo's <i>We Will Not Be Saved</i> as Hope in the Anthropocene	Journal for Cultural Research	R60 390,00	Scopus	Q1
Taylor and Francis	Exploring the Integration of Indigenous Languages into Teaching and Learning Practices at Primary Schools in South Africa	South African Journal of African Languages	R41 266,00	Scopus	Q1
Taylor and Francis	Delivery Strategies of Private Building Projects Amid Hyper-Inflationary Trends in Southwest Nigeria	International Journal of Construction Management	R65 444,50	Scopus	Q1
Taylor and Francis	Vertical representation of gender in the Ghanaian broadcast media	Feminist Media Studies	R71 720,00	Scopus	Q1
Wiley	Experimental and Numerical Calibration of Mechanical Properties for Banana Fiber-Reinforced Polymer Composites	Polymer Composites	R62 555,40	Scopus	Q1
Wiley	Sensitivity Analysis Of The Elastic Properties Of Graphene/Fiber-Reinforced Nanocomposites	Polymer Composites	R62 451,14	Scopus	Q1
Wiley	Hydrothermal treatment improved the functional and physicochemical properties of African yam bean (<i>Sphenostylis stenocarpa</i>) and cassava (<i>Manihot esculenta</i>) starch blend	Legume Science	R10 940,16	Scopus	Q1
Wiley	Microstructural, physicochemical, thermal, and rheological properties of starches from commonly consumed yam varieties in West Africa	Journal of the Science of Food and Agriculture	R79 002,00	Scopus	Q1
Emerald	Exploring Knowledge Transfer and Retention Strategies for Postgraduate Supervisors in Higher Education Institutions: A Global Perspective	Global knowledge, Memory and Communication	R57 758,75	Scopus	Q2

Emerald	Navigating Research Data Management Challenges in an Academic Landscape: A Framework for a University of Technology Research Repository Context	Digital Library Perspectives	R58 088,80	Scopus	Q2
ScienceDirect	Modulating <i>Acinetobacter baumannii</i> BfmR (RstA) drug target: <i>Daniellia oliveri</i> compounds as RstA quorum sensing inhibitors	Computational Biology and Chemistry	R72 160,20	Scopus	Q2
ScienceDirect	Statistical optimization and kinetic modeling simulation for fibrinolytic enzyme production by <i>Bacillus tropicus</i> from mahewu, a traditional South African fermented food	Process Biochemistry	R73 464,30	Scopus	Q2
ScienceDirect	Optimisation of plastic injection moulding parameters for biopolymer composite using Taguchi L9 method and mould flow analysis	Results in Materials	R4 634,16	Scopus	Q2
ScienceDirect	An appraisal of the South African antibacterial plants and their computational bioprospection for putative leads against <i>Staphylococcus aureus</i> penicillin-binding protein 2a and beta-lactamase	South African Journal of Botany	R78 898,05	Scopus	Q2
ScienceDirect	In-depth analysis of the structural, optical, electrical, and magnetic properties of boron nanofibers made from crystalline semiconductors	Materials Chemistry and Physics	R65 003,75	Scopus	Q2
ScienceDirect	Mapping evidence on community service nurse practitioners' experiences and practices during service placement in sub-Saharan Africa: A scoping review	International Journal of Africa Nursing Sciences	R5 646,39	Scopus	Q2
ScienceDirect	Assessing the effect of engineered nanoparticles on microalgae <i>Tetradasmus obliquus</i> , for enhanced biomass production and CO ₂ sequestration	Bioresource Technology Reports	R65 620,80	Scopus	Q2
ScienceDirect	Global research trends and therapeutic potential of fibrinolytic enzymes	Journal of Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology	R2 592,00	Scopus	Q2
ScienceDirect	Nicotinamide improves physiological outcomes in an arginine vasopressin rat model of pre-eclampsia	PharmaNutrition	R56 332,80	Scopus	Q2
ScienceDirect	Optimisation of plastic injection moulding parameters for biopolymer composite using Taguchi L9 method and mould flow analysis	Results in Materials	R3 862,08	Scopus	Q2
Springer	Lagrangians and Newtonian analogs for biological systems	The European Physical Journal Plus	R51 218,72	Scopus	Q2
Springer	Novel insights into the field-flow fractionation characterization and their electrical properties of graphene oxide and reduced graphene oxide materials	Emergent Materials	R53 219,04	Scopus	Q2
Springer	Effect of some common growth modulators on the biomass productivity of <i>Synechococcus elongatus</i> PCC 7942: A targeted algal farming initiative	Journal of Applied Phycology	R55 640,48	Scopus	Q2
Springer	Sewage intrusion into drinking water distribution systems: implications for water resource management	Environmental Monitoring and Assessment	R54 113,92	Scopus	Q2
Springer	The Study of Low-Velocity Impact Behavior of Glass Fiber-Reinforced Polymer Sandwich Structures with PVC Foam Core: Experimental Approach	Fibers and Polymers	R54 166,56	Scopus	Q2
Springer	Diffusion coefficients of graphite foil carbon in Mo during spark plasma sintering process	International Journal of Advanced Manufacturing Technology	R55 061,44	Scopus	Q2
Springer	Postbiotics: an insightful review of the latest category in functional biotics	World Journal of Microbiology and Biotechnology	R55 061,44	Scopus	Q2
Taylor and Francis	Diaspora vote: Relationship and power of the legislature in political leadership in Nigeria	African Identities	R56 212,00	Scopus	Q2
Taylor and Francis	Female care leavers' experiences of transition into, through, and out of residential care centres in South Africa	Child & Youth Services	R55 404,70	Scopus	Q2
Taylor and Francis	Unfolding Necro-realities: Politics of perceiving Human lives in toxic African Geographies	Peace Review	R55 506,00	Scopus	Q2
Taylor and Francis	Black Rural Girlhood and the Moral Economies of Transactional Sex in South Africa: Survival, Desire, and Inequality	Australian Feminist Studies	R56 430,00	Scopus	Q2
Taylor and Francis	A Meta-Analysis of Artificial Intelligence Tools and Smart Technologies in Academic Libraries for Disadvantaged User Group	Journal of Electronic Resources Librarianship	R62 050,00	Scopus	Q2
Wiley	Effect of Surface modification on mechanical properties of hollow glass microspheres(HGM)-filled epoxy foam composites	SPE Polymers	R8 699,46	Scopus	Q2

Wiley	Preparation and Characterization of Cellulose Filled With Hydroxyapatite Biocomposite Film	Biopolymers	R62 555,40	Scopus	Q2
Wiley	Resilience in Humanitarian Supply Chains: Addressing Artificial Intelligence and Big data Hurdles Across Borders	Engineering Reports	R8 412,62	Scopus	Q2
Wiley	Chromone Indole-Pyrazole Cobalt Nanoparticle-Based Electrochemical Immunosensor for Insulin Antibody Detection	ChemNanoMat	R70 149,00	Scopus	Q2
Wiley	Rural citizen satisfaction with drinking water supply: public policy imperatives for a South African municipality	Journal of Public Affairs	R50 605,00	Scopus	Q2
Wiley	Bioelectrochemical Systems for Waste Treatment and Valorisation: A Review of Applications and Benefits of Bioelectrochemical Systems.	Biofuels, Bioproducts and Biorefining	R81 404,10	Scopus	Q2
Wiley	Techno-Economic Analysis of Solar-Wind Hybrid Systems for Green Hydrogen Production in South Africa, KwaZulu-Natal Province	Energy Science & Engineering	R9 896,80	Scopus	Q2
Wiley	Oxidized starch from Vigna unguiculata as a potential bioactive delivery agent	Starch - Stärke	R72 846,00	Scopus	Q2
Wiley	Face Mask Detection and Masked Facial Recognition Model Based on a Hybrid Convolutional Neural Network	IET Image Processing	R9 535,20	Scopus	Q2
Wiley	Interdisciplinary Perspectives on E-Scooters: A Bibliometric and Systematic Analysis of the Current Research	IET Intelligent Transport Systems	R9 714,78	Scopus	Q2
Emerald	Assessment of factors inhibiting engagement of quantity surveyors on private residential building projects in Ado-Ekiti, Nigeria	Journal of Financial Management of Property and Construction	R62 049,40	Scopus	Q3
Emerald	Valorizing Waste Materials as Biomass Fillers in the Production of Asphalt Mixtures	World Journal of Engineering	R58 385,85	Scopus	Q3
ScienceDirect	Self-Perceived Psychological, Social, Academic and Personal Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic on Chiropractic Students in South Africa	Journal of Chiropractic Humanities	R60 271,50	Scopus	Q3
ScienceDirect	Beyond clinical competence: Exploring entrepreneurial knowledge among diagnostic radiographers and ultrasonographers in South Africa	Journal of Medical Imaging and Radiation Sciences	R59 229,60	Scopus	Q3
ScienceDirect	"I chose to stay and fight my way through": Examining female immigrants' re-integration and coping strategies following Traumatic experiences in Durban, South Africa	Ethics, Medicine & Public Health	R42 066,00	Scopus	Q3
ScienceDirect	Evaluating call prioritisation discrepancies and Emergency Medical Services resource allocation in the North West province of South Africa	African Journal of Emergency Medicine	R36 979,20	Scopus	Q3
Springer	Improving the hydrophilic microenvironment surrounding the catalytic site of fructosyltransferase enhances its catalytic ability	Biotechnology Letters	R51 218,72	Scopus	Q3
Springer	Molecular modelling and experimental validation of mangiferin and its related compounds as quorum sensing modulators of Pseudomonas aeruginosa	Archives of Microbiology	R51 218,72	Scopus	Q3
Springer	Emerging Trends in Synergetic Use of Biofloculants and Nanoparticles for Pollutant Removal from Water: A Review	Water Conservation Science and Engineering	R51 218,72	Scopus	Q3
Springer	Photocatalytic Degradation of Efavirenz in Wastewater Effluents Using a Hybrid TiO ₂ -Magnetic Molecularly Imprinted Polymer	Chemistry Africa	R54 245,52	Scopus	Q3
Springer	Amino-functionalized grafted cross-linked chitosan beads for the efficient adsorption of Pb ²⁺ and Cu ²⁺ ions in a synthetic media: equilibrium, kinetic, thermodynamic, and desorption study	Journal of the Iranian Chemical Society	R54 508,72	Unknown	Q3
Springer	Biosynthesized CoFe ₂ O ₄ Nanoparticles for Enhanced Electrocatalytic Detection of Formaldehyde in Cosmetic Products	Electrocatalysis	R54 508,72	Scopus	Q3
Taylor and Francis	The Short Story in South Africa: 'Thinking with Form'	Current Writing: Text and Reception in Southern Africa	R48 129,00	Scopus	Q3
Taylor and Francis	Comparison of density matrix and state vector approaches to dissipative evolution of hyperfine levels coupled to optical and radio-frequency fields in the two-level approximation	Journal of Modern Optics	R56 212,00	Scopus	Q3
Taylor and Francis	Arboreal dialogics and environmental activism: Multispecies entanglements in Ben Okri's Every Leaf a Hallelujah	Scrutiny2	R54 717,00	Scopus	Q3

Wiley	Selective electrochemical sensing of sunset yellow in beverages based on synergistic signal amplification of HKUST-1 and MWCNTs	Electroanalysis	R65 683,17	Scopus	Q3
Wiley	Embracing Resilience: Ageing, Disability, and Disasters in Zimbabwe—A Case of Cyclone Idai	Climate Resilience and Sustainability	R9 113,52	DOAJ	Q3
Wiley	Computational Bioprospection Of Selected South African Essential Oils For Inhibition Of Aldose Reductase And Sorbitol Dehydrogenase For Diabetes Therapy	ChemistrySelect	R67 512,00	Scopus	Q3
Taylor and Francis	Institution Induced Absenteeism of Second Year Communication Students: A Social Justice Case in a University of Technology in South Africa	Africa Education Review	R62 050,00	Scopus	Q4
Wiley	Staphylococcus Aureus AgrA Modulators from South African Antimicrobial Plants.	Chemistry & Biodiversity	R65 335,64	Scopus	Q4
ScienceDirect	Chemical modulators as a strategy to enhance α -linolenic acid and α -tocopherol productivities in <i>Scenedesmus</i> sp	Next Research	R51 060,00	Unknown	Unknown
ScienceDirect	Cannabinoids and chemotherapy in prostate cancer: A scoping review of evidence on pain relief and quality of life	Next Research	R50 743,75	Unknown	Unknown
ScienceDirect	Colorimetric detection and removal of copper(II) ions from wastewater using a Griess reagent and cellulose nanofibers supported with mesoporous silica nanoparticles: An ImageJ and CIELAB colour space-based analytical approach	Next Research	R43 200,00	Unknown	Unknown

2.3.3. Green Ecosystems

Peace Garden outside the BM Patel Library

During the period under review, the Library has partnered on a Sustainable Garden project, with horticulture lecturer, Thagen Anumanthoo providing critical information on propagation, planting techniques, and plant care. The Library staff actively contributed to establishing the peace garden outside the library.



Image: The revamped garden space outside the BM Patel Library

DUT Library Book Club in Green Initiatives

The DUT Library Book Club has significantly contributed to ENVISION2030 Strategic Objective 9 (SO9): Green Ecosystem, not only by fostering a reading culture but also by engaging in community environmental actions such as street cleaning in Durban.

This initiative highlights the library's dedication to sustainability and civic responsibility, while also emphasising the Book Club's role as a dual-purpose platform for literacy and environmental advocacy, positively impacting the local community.



Images:
DUT Library Book Club members cleaning up in the South Beach area

2.4. SOCIETY

2.4.1 Engaged University

- ✓ Collaborations, community engagements and partnerships
 - LIASA, IATUL, LIS programme, UCT RDM initiative, Research Office, etc.
- **Community Engagement**

67 Blankets for Nelson Mandela Day Project

The DUT Library Community Outreach Team has collaborated with the charity organisation called 67 Blankets for Nelson Mandela Day to spread warmth and kindness in honour of Madiba's legacy. With balls of wool purchased by the library, the information systems and resources have completed crocheting blankets, working tirelessly to ensure that the blankets are ready for distribution. The handover of the initiative took place on 28 May 2025.



Image:

The knitted blankets being handed over Ms Franki Hills

Food Parcel Distribution Project

The DUT Library Community Outreach Team has coordinated Food Parcel Distribution, demonstrating the warmth and kindness in honour of Madiba's legacy. In commemoration of Nelson Mandela Day, the DUT Library prepared and distributed food to the needy communities around Durban.

The Food Parcel Distribution initiative involved collaboration among library staff and interns, resulting in the sourcing, packing, and distribution of 274 food packs to areas including North Beach, South Beach, and Overport. This effort surpassed the initial target of 200 packs. Contributions from staff included financial donations, sponsorship of food items, sandwich preparation, pack assembly, and active participation in the distribution process.



Images: Library staff, interns, and WIL students preparing and distributing food parcels around

Imbali Precinct School - Zibukezulu High School Library Project

Zibukezulu High School Library was established in September through collaborative efforts from DUT Library, Library IT and Midlands libraries. This community engagement initiative involved the establishment of a school library, the preparation necessary for its operation, and the launching of programs focused on information literacy and reading. The initiative garnered positive feedback from the school management committee, leading to the development of an action plan aimed at creating a model that can be implemented across multiple schools within the Imbali Education & Innovation Precinct.

The DUT Library successfully conducted a continuing professional development course for educators from Zibukezulu High School, held from November 24 to 26, 2025. This event marked the first Digital and Information Literacy Skills Programme for the Imbali Precinct in the Midlands. The three-day workshop aimed to enhance educators' digital confidence and facilitate the integration of more technology into their teaching practices.

The programme commenced with foundational knowledge, equipping teachers with a comprehensive understanding of a computer's main components and their interconnections, thereby alleviating apprehension towards using technology. Following this foundational training, participants engaged in practical sessions focused on Microsoft Word, Excel, and PowerPoint. Here, teachers acquired skills to create documents, organise data in spreadsheets, and design simple yet engaging presentations suitable for classroom use. The training approach was hands-on and supportive, resulting in numerous “aha!” moments for the attendees.

Another important focus of the programme was evaluating online information. Teachers were provided with effective strategies to assess the reliability of internet content and to assist learners in doing the same. The workshop was characterised as a positive and energising experience, highlighting the Library's commitment to community empowerment. As a pilot project, this programme lays the groundwork for similar training initiatives across the Imbali Precinct. The insights gained from this initial workshop will inform future sessions aimed at enhancing educational opportunities in more schools within the community.



Image: DUT Library Team with Zibukezulu High School teachers during capacity development.

Inaugural Regional Library Staff Sports Day Strengthens Collaboration Across KZN Public Higher Education Libraries

Library staff from Durban University of Technology (DUT), Mangosuthu University of Technology (MUT), the University of KwaZulu-Natal (UKZN), and the University of Zululand (UNIZULU) participated in the inaugural Regional Library Staff Sports Day on November 28, 2025. Hosted by DUT Library at the Fred Crookes Sports Centre, this event aimed to foster camaraderie, promote wellness, and encourage collaboration among the province's academic libraries. The day was filled with friendly competition, featuring various activities such as soccer, relay races, dance competitions, and team-building challenges. The atmosphere was characterised by laughter and shared energy, allowing colleagues from different institutions to connect beyond their professional roles.

Beyond the competitive spirit of the games, the Sports Day aimed to enhance regional partnerships among four institutions. Library professionals are increasingly tasked with collaborating on digital innovation, resource sharing, community engagement, and research support. Events like this are pivotal in creating the human connections necessary for effective collaboration. Participants highlighted that the event contributed to breaking down silos while fostering mutual understanding and respect, as informal interactions helped build trust and relationships crucial for future joint initiatives. Moreover, the day illustrated how academic libraries can exemplify social cohesion and teamwork, values that are essential in the wider community.

The inaugural Regional Library Staff Sports Day exemplified successful collaboration among various contributors, including Dr Gouws, students from the Department of Sport Studies, the local organising team led by Mr Thomas and library service providers such as EBSCO, SABINET, and WWIS, who sponsored crucial program elements. Institutions are eager to make this event an annual tradition, with plans for each university to host in alternating years. The overarching aim is to foster structured partnerships that not only achieve institutional objectives but also promote community development throughout KwaZulu-Natal. This gathering marked a pivotal moment in strengthening the library community and enhancing its positive impact on society.



Image: *Library Staff from DUT, MUT, UNIZULU & UKZN at the Fred Crookes Sports Centre*

- **Ethekwini Municipal Book Launches**

During this period, the DUT Library received yet another invitation to attend the book launches organised by the Ethekwini Municipal Libraries, held on 19 and 20 November at the Stable Theatre. This invitation signified the importance and the impact made by the DUT Library Book Club around the KZN province.

Smart Libraries, Smart People!



- **2025 LIASA Annual Conference**

DUT was strongly represented, with several librarians contributing through research presentations, conversational sessions, and lightning talks that showcased the library's commitment to innovation, collaboration, best practice knowledge sharing and community empowerment.



Image: Smart Library Team at the LIASA Conference.

Paper Presentations by DUT Library staff included:

- ✚ Patricia Badendorst, Sara Bibi Mitha and Themba Nkuna: "If we don't, who will? Incorporating ethical use of AI in postgraduate information literacy workshops."
- ✚ Tholeka Sidlayi: "Driving user-centred transformation: highlighting proposals submitted for the DUT Library's Innovation Day to enhance academic library services."
- ✚ Romeo Matumba and Itumeleng Mpete (UNISA): "Strategic partnership for innovation: a collaborative marketing model between academic libraries to empower communities in South Africa."
- ✚ Romeo Matumba and Dr Mousin Omarsaib: "Research capacity building for library staff: a DUT Library success story."
- ✚ Nomcebo Mthimkhulu and Mendy Sibisi: "Umuntu, ngumuntu, ngabantu, I am because you are: an

autoethnographic reflection at the Durban University of Technology.”

- ✚ Siza Radebe: “Zibukezulu High School Library as a model for the school libraries in the Imbali Education & Innovation Precinct.”

All papers presented were positively received during the conference sessions, contributing to the enhanced profile of the DUT Library.

- **Collaborations and partnerships in knowledge exchange (national and international)**

- ✚ Sara Mitha, in collaboration with DUT academic staff and researchers from Nigeria, published an article in the journal called BMC Neurology. The details of the articles are: Nweke, M., Oyirinnaya, P., Nwoha, P., Mitha, SB., Mshunqane, N., Govender, N., Ukwuoma, M. & Ibeneme, SC. Development of a high-performing, cost-effective and inclusive Afrocentric predictive model for stroke: a meta-analysis approach. BMC Neurol 25, 282 (2025). <https://doi.org/10.1186/s12883-025-04229-x>
- ✚ Dr Malefetjane Phaladi collaborated with Dr Steven Mamorobela, a Senior Lecturer in the UNISA School of Computing, Department of Information Systems, for a joint paper that was presented at the 26th European Conference on Knowledge Management, to be held at the Lahti University of Technology (LUT), Lappeenranta in Finland, 04-05 September 2025. This paper was published in the ECKM conference proceedings, which are indexed by Scopus among other major indexes.
- ✚ Dr Patrick Mbongwa Mhlongo (Subject Librarian: FAls) also presented his paper at the same 26th ECKM Conference, and this paper was published in the Proceedings of the 26th European Conference in Knowledge Management.
- ✚ Dr Malefetjane Phaladi also presented and published a single-authored paper in the same conference proceedings.
- ✚ Dr Malefetjane Phaladi delivered a presentation titled “Framework for integrating strategic HRM practices into KM to mitigate tacit knowledge loss risks in South African SOEs” at Knowledge Management South Africa (KMSA) Imbizo 2025, Franschoek, Western Cape.
- ✚ Dr Omarsaib and Miss S B Mitha partnered with Dr Vahed from Xi'an Ting Liverpool University in China to publish an open educational resource on Bibliometrics. This open educational resource in the form of a book is available in DUT Open Scholar (<https://openscholar.dut.ac.za/items/8265912e-8236-44f0-a2e1-f90b15cd82ac>) <https://doi.org/10.51415/10321/6189>

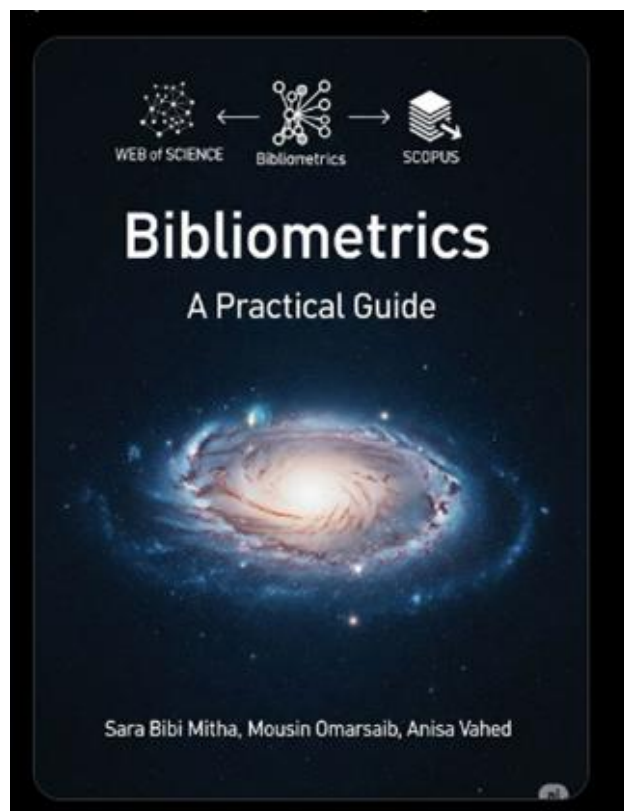


Image:

A cover page of the Bibliometrics guide developed by Dr Omarsaib, Dr Anisa Vahed and Sara Mitha

- ✚ A knowledge management webinar is being planned for October between Mzuzu University in Malawi and Durban University of Technology, wherein the DUT Library Director, Dr Phaladi, is the keynote speaker.

- ✚ Sara Mitha and Dr Mousin Omarsaib were invited to facilitate a webinar on Bibliometrics for Research as part of the Doctoral Mobility Programme arranged between Stellenbosch University, South Africa, and the Xi'an Jiantong-Liverpool University, China. The session was held on the 1st July 2025 and included a practical demonstration using the case study "Beyond Borders: Advancing Equity, Innovation, and Graduate Attributes.

✚ **Guest Lecturing (IFLA Webinar for the Egyptian Librarians)**

The Marketing and Communication Librarian, Mr Matumba, was invited to deliver a guest lecture at an IFLA webinar hosted by the Maadi Public Library for Egyptian librarians on 10 April 2025. The webinar, titled "Enhancing Library Services Marketing: Definitions and Strategies for Greater Impact," formed part of professional development activities for library and information professionals in Egypt, focusing on practical approaches to increasing library visibility and engagement. The session concentrated on digital marketing and communication for library services and included a short presentation on various artificial intelligence tools used by the librarian to support marketing and communication activities, including content creation, user engagement, planning, and data analysis. Participants actively engaged in discussions on applying these tools within their local contexts. The webinar also featured Dr Christie Koontz, a Professor of Marketing and Information Studies at Florida State University's College of Communication and Information, an internationally recognised expert in library marketing and management, who shared strategic insights on evidence-based marketing and effective service promotion, highlighting the value of global collaboration in library practice.

- **DUT and UNISA Library Marketing Collaboration**

The Marketing and Communication Librarian partnered with the Marketing Librarian from UNISA to strengthen ties between the two institutions, particularly in marketing and promoting library services. The librarians met online to discuss benchmarking opportunities and to share operational strategies, challenges, and successes within the marketing and communication portfolios of both universities. A joint abstract was subsequently drafted, submitted, and accepted for the LIASA conference held in Gqeberha. The presented paper, co-authored with the UNISA Marketing Librarian, was titled "*Strategic Partnerships for Innovation: A Collaborative Marketing Model between Academic Libraries to Empower Communities*. The joint presentation at LIASA further strengthened the relationship, and there are now plans to co-author papers focusing on marketing and communication in academic libraries. The collaboration was sparked by the hosting of UNISA's Executive Director, Prof Mpho Ngoepe, as a guest speaker during the South African Library Week Public Lecture in March 2025.

- **LIASA Board Engagements**

As a member of the LIASA Board, the Marketing and Communication Librarian contributed to several national initiatives, including the planning and launch of the Community of Practice – Wikimedia, the National Librarian's Day, and the LIASA Annual Conference 2025. At the National Librarian's Day, which was organised by the LIASA Board in collaboration with UNISA as host, the Marketing and Communication Librarian served as co-Programme Director for the event, held at the UNISA Library in Pretoria on 10 July 2025.

- **International Federation of Library Associations (IFLA) Participation (IFLA PressReader International Library Marketing Award)**

During this period, Romeo Matumba participated in the PressReader International Library Marketing Award at IFLA as a jury member, contributing to the evaluation and selection of award winners. Although he was unable to attend the event in Astana, he played a key role in organising the award ceremony. His responsibilities included communicating with winners, developing a short survey to identify members who would attend the ceremony, and collaborating with other organising members to prepare a programme for the day. Through these efforts, he supported the smooth coordination and success of the award event.

✚ **External Professional Associations and Industry Engagements**

Dr Malefetjane Phaladi, the Library Director, has been working on the Council on Higher Education Libraries (CHELSA) National Statistics Database project and is the Project Lead on the Technological Infrastructure Task Team.

- ✚ Mr Romeo Matumba, Marketing and Communication Librarian, continue to represent DUT and Africa at the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA) Management and Marketing Standing Committee and is also a LIASA Board member.

- ✚ Sagren Moodley and Sean Carte continue to serve on the national repository task team. Currently, the team have submitted a proposal to TENET for the development and hosting of the repository.
- ✚ Mr Romeo Matumba, Marketing and Communication Librarian, continue to serve on the CHELSA National Statistics Database, Marketing Task Team.
- ✚ Dr Ramika Bansi was appointed IFLA CLM Advisory Committee for the 2023 –2025 term. This capacity includes the role of delivering on IFLA’s mission to inspire, engage, enable and connect the global library field.
- **Academic Citizenship - Editorial Works & Reviews**
 - ✚ Dr Malefetjane Phaladi was appointed as the Guest Editor of the SAJLIS Special Issue for the LIASA Conference 2025.
 - ✚ Dr Mousin Omarsaib reviewed two (2) for Global Knowledge, Memory and Communication (GKMC).
 - ✚ Dr Mousin Omarsaib reviewed an article for the South African Journal of Library and Information Science.
 - ✚ Dr Mousin Omarsaib reviewed an article for the Journal of Academic Ethics – Springer.
 - ✚ Dr Malefetjane Phaladi reviewed two (2) articles for Global Knowledge, Memory and Communication (GKMC) (Scopus and WoS indexed journals).
 - ✚ Dr Malefetjane Phaladi and Dr Mousin Omarsaib reviewed papers for the 2025 Conference on Information Communications Technology and Society (ICTAS) – Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE)
 - ✚ Dr Malefetjane Phaladi reviewed for The Electronic Journal of Knowledge Management (EJKM).
- **Academic Citizenship - External Assessment and Examination**
 - ✚ Dr Malefetjane Phaladi, the Library Director, serves as an external examiner for Higher Research Degrees for multiple South African universities, including the University of Western Cape, the University of Fort Hare, the University of South Africa, and the University of Limpopo. During the review period, he examined several PhD theses and masters dissertations.
- **Publications by Smart Library People**

Building a culture of publishing in the Library environment is a priority for the management. The Library is active in the knowledge production system and continues to contribute to the sustainable future of the university through publications (DHET-approved, mainly in Q1 & Q2 international high-impact journals). The library is of the firm view that science grows in an environment that is open, developmental, inclusive, impactful, transformative, empowering and sustainable. For this reason, the library staff and researchers continue to prioritise publishing their research outputs in Open-access Quartile 1 and 2 journals where feasible. For the year under review, the following publications by the Library staff have been published:

 1. **Omarsaib, M., Mitha, S. B., Vahed, A., & Mohamed, G. M. (2025).** Mapping the AI Surge in Higher Education: A Bibliometric Study Spanning a Decade (2015–2025). *Informatics*, 12(4), 137. <https://doi.org/10.3390/informatics12040137> (Q1 journal)
 2. **Omarsaib, M., Matumba, M., Badenhorst, P., & Mohamed, G. M. (2025).** Exploring the integration of indigenous languages into teaching and learning practices at primary schools in South Africa. *South African Journal of African Languages*, 1–12. <https://doi.org/10.1080/02572117.2025.2501299> (Q1 journal)
 3. **Badenhorst, P., Matumba, M., & Omarsaib, M. (2025).** Libraries as agents of decolonisation: Exploring the integration of indigenous languages into library services in South African public higher education libraries. *Journal of Librarianship and Information Science*, 0(0). <https://doi.org/10.1177/09610006251389990> (Q1 journal)
 4. **Nweke, M., Oyrinnaya, P., Nwoha, P. Mitha, S., et al.** Development of a high-performing, cost-effective and inclusive Afrocentric predictive model for stroke: a meta-analysis approach. *BMC Neurol* 25, 282 (2025). <https://doi.org/10.1186/s12883-025-04229-x> (Q2 journal)
 5. **Carte, S. & Moonasar, A. (2025).** Evolving With FOLIO: Enhancing Durban University of Technology Library’s Services Through Continuous Upgrades. *International Journal of Librarianship*, 10(3), 50-56. <https://doi.org/10.23974/ijol.2025.vol10.3.481>
 6. **Mbobnda Kapche EL, Mitha SB, Haffeejee F. (2025).** Experiences of Pregnant Women With a Positive HIV Status in Sub-Saharan Africa: Protocol for a Scoping Review. *JMIR Res Protoc* 2025;14:e76971. <https://doi.org/10.2196/76971> (Q3 journal)
 7. **Mamorobela, S.P. & Phaladi, M.P. (2025).** A Resource-Based View Framework for Knowledge Risk Management in SMEs. *Proceedings of the 26th European Conference on Knowledge Management*,

ECKM 2025, 4-5 September, Lahti University of Technology, Lahti, Finland, 26(1), 601-608. <https://doi.org/10.34190/eckm.26.1.3649>

8. **Mhlongo, P.M. (2025).** Breaking Silos to Foster Knowledge Sharing in Universities: A Systems Thinking Perspective. Proceedings of the 26th European Conference on Knowledge Management, ECKM 2025, 4-5 September, Lahti University of Technology, Lahti, Finland, 26(1), 644-651. <https://doi.org/10.34190/eckm.26.1.3622>
 9. **Phaladi, M.P. (2025).** The Role of Human Resource Management in Building Knowledge Management Capacity in South African Public Sector Enterprises. Proceedings of the 26th European Conference on Knowledge Management, ECKM 2025, 4-5 September, Lahti University of Technology, Lahti, Finland, 26(2), 799-806. <https://doi.org/10.34190/eckm.26.2.3754>
 10. **Mpungose, B., Phaladi, M.P., Chisita, C.T., Omarsaib, M. and Mhlongo, P.M. (2025),** Exploring knowledge transfer and retention strategies for postgraduate supervisors in higher education institutions: a global perspective, Global Knowledge, Memory and Communication, Vol. 74 No. 11, pp. 178-196. <https://doi.org/10.1108/GKMC-08-2024-0556> (Q2 journal)
 11. **Phaladi, M. P. (2025).** Framework for Tacit Knowledge Loss Mitigation in South African Public Sector Enterprises. Administrative Sciences, 15(6), 218. <https://doi.org/10.3390/admsci15060218> (Q2 journal)
 12. Vitalis C. Okwor; Juliet C. Okwor; Maryjane K. Ukwuoma; **Sara B. Mitha**; Martins C. Nweke. (2025). Effectiveness of Hormonal Therapy for Post-Menopausal Women with Hormone Receptor-Positive Advanced Breast Cancer: A Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis of Clinical Trials. Medical Principles and Practice, Vol. 34, pp. 338–359. <https://doi.org/10.1159/000545264> (Q1 Journal)
 13. **Mitha, S.B, Omarsaib, M., AND Vahed, A. (2025).** Bibliometrics: A practical guide. Licensed under CC BY-SA 4.0. Available: <https://hdl.handle.net/10321/6189>
- **Publishing in local, national, and international publications (e.g., LIASA, DUT Newsletter, UKS, etc.)**

The following articles were submitted for publication in the LIASA In Touch and DUT Newsletter:

- *Empowering the next generation LIASA's mentorship and leadership programme -by Dr Anushie Moonasar – LIASA Mentoring*
- *The DUT Library Marks Mandela Day 2025 With The Distribution Of Food Parcels – Romeo Matumba*
- *DUT Library TECH Week: Guiding Students in Innovation, Research, and AI -Romeo Matumba*
- *SA Library Week Public Lecture ([LIASA InTouch Magazine -March edition published in April](#) and [DUT newsletter published in April](#)) -Romeo Matumba*
- *DUT Library launches Prof Mbandlwa's Book ([DUT Newsletter](#)) -by Romeo Matumba*



Image:

Guest speaker, Professor Mpho Ngoepe, receiving a token of appreciation from the DUT Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Teaching and Learning, Professor Mashupye Kgaphola.

THE DUT LIBRARY MARKS MANDELA DAY 2025 WITH THE DISTRIBUTION OF FOOD PARCELS

The Durban University of Technology (DUT) Library honoured Mandela Day in July 2025 by extending a helping hand to less fortunate communities around Durban.

In line with the Mandela Day spirit of giving back, the library team distributed food packages to needy families in the Durban Beach areas, the city centre, and Overport.

The initiative was a collaborative effort between DUT Library staff, Work Integrated Learning (WIL), and library intern students. Together, they packed and distributed parcels containing essential food items to support local communities facing food insecurity.

The project, led by Sarah Khan under the DUT Library



DUT Library staff distributing food items at South Beach

Community Outreach Programme, reflected the library's commitment to giving back and supporting communities, honouring Nelson Mandela's legacy of care and

service. Through this act of kindness, the DUT Library reaffirmed its role not only as an academic support hub but also as an institution dedicated to

uplifting communities in need.

ROMEO MUVHULAWA MATUMBA PL (SA)
LIBRARIAN: MARKETING AND COMMUNICATION, DUT

Image:

Mandela Day event
article published in
LIASA LIT Magazine



Image:

TECH Week Article
published on the DUT
Website

The article below was submitted in September for publication in the DUT newsletter. However, feedback indicated that it would be considered for publication later this year.

➤ DUT Library Book Club Inspires Mandeni Community

2.4.2 Adaptive Graduates

• Work Integrated Programme (WIL)

The Library hosted 11 Library and Information Science (LIS) third-year students for eight (8) weeks from July 14 to September 5 for their Work Integrated Learning (WIL) program in 2025. This experiential learning opportunity allowed the students to acquire practical experience and knowledge across different sections of the library.

During the 2025 period, a total of four LIS registered students were mentored and guided, with a focus on library marketing, event planning and management, public speaking, and article and report writing. Busiso Mpanza, a student in Library and Information Sciences (LIS) and a member and coordinator of the DUT Library Book Club, was mentored as part of his development. As part of this process, he was tasked with writing an article about his experience attending the DIBF in 2024. The draft article was proofread and edited before being submitted to *LIASA In Touch* magazine. It was accepted and published in the March 2025 edition of the *LIT* magazine.

DUT Book Club student members @ the Durban International Book Fair

The 2024 Durban International Book Fair (DIBF) was hosted by Eduvos at the Umhlanga Campus from 27 November to 1 December 2024.

As one of the Durban University of Technology (DUT) Library book club student coordinators, I had the privilege of attending the fair as a volunteer, engaging with various authors and publishers of academic and leisure writing. The programme featured exciting and insightful sessions.

I volunteered at the Cheryl Roberts Stage hosted by DUT, which opened with an informative session on *Afrikology: Heritage and Culture from a Pan-African perspective*, presented by Dr Ashantewa Ngidi from the Afrikology Institute. This session provided me with an opportunity to learn more about African heritage and the principles of Ubuntu.

Other notable sessions



DUT Student authors at the DIBF

included a DUT workshop on Creative Writing, facilitated by Prof Gift Mehta and Dr Jeff Mkhize at the Articulate Africa Alan Paton Stage. Additionally, the "Owl-Prah Winfree" show, based on the book *Super Heroes: Barn Owl vs Superman* by Chris Pretorius, was featured, followed by a poignant session on child and women abuse, presented through the animated video *Akhona's Journey* by Pharie Sefali of the Lulibo Projects.

The book fair also offered DUT students and staff the opportunity to launch their newly published

works. This included student works such as *Loe and the Sea Turtle* by Taariq Chetty, *Wash Your Hands* by Sinoyolo Tantsi, *Emihle's River Rescue Mission* by Lusanda Mzolo, Thembi and the *Umgungadlovu River* by Reese Pather, *Tony the Whale's Big Problem* by Mpathwenhle Ndaba, *Suicide* by Sboniso Manqele, *One Chance* by Huvanya Naidoo, *A Dubious Alliance* by Dumo Xaba, and many others. Some of these authors are also members of the library book club, where they have presented their books to fellow members.

Most of the DUT staff and student launches were facilitated by DUT colleagues, including Dr Jeff Mkhize from the Writing Centre, Prof Barry Lottering, Senior Lecturer in the Department of Graphic Design, and Romeo Matumba, Marketing and Communication Librarian.

Other DUT staff members who launched their books included Prof Fulufhelo Netswera, Executive Dean of the Faculty of Management Sciences, with *Higher Education and the COVID-19 Pandemic*, and Dr Colleen Chisita, Senior Lecturer in the Department of Information Systems, with *Information Services for a Sustainable Society: Current Developments in an Era of Information Disorder*.

Overall, this was quite an exciting and insightful experience for me as a future librarian, and I am grateful for the opportunity presented.

BUSISO MPANZA
DUT LIS STUDENT

10

MARCH 2025

LIASA-IN-TOUCH • VOL 26 • ISSUE 1

The LIASA in Touch magazine can be accessed here:

https://cdn.ymaws.com/www.liasa.org.za/resource/resmgr/liasa-in-touch/lit2023/2lit_issue_1_2025-web2.pdf

• Internship Programmes

The DUT Library hosted six interns across various sites and sections during the review period, with funding sources and contract durations varying according to placement requirements. All interns received a comprehensive orientation to the library system to ensure a clear understanding of services, operations, and workflows. In addition, site visits to the Midlands campuses were conducted in August to enhance exposure and promote integrated learning across library locations. During the period, Mr Sibongakuye Hlongwane terminated his contract with DUT following his appointment with the South African National Defence Force (SANDF). He was subsequently replaced by Ms Nokwanda Ndlovu, who is based at the Indumiso Campus and contributes to library services while also supporting the community engagement project at Zibukezulu School.

Intern Name	Site/Section based at	Funding Body	Contract Period	Current Qualification
Ms Nangamso Zenande Ngubelanga	Marketing & Communication portfolio	BANKSETA	Jun 2025 – May 2028	Adv Diploma: LIS
Mr Ntando Bandile Majola	Library Finance	Co-operative Education	Jan – Dec 2025	Diploma: Accounting
Ms Sinenhlanhla Mthembu	BMP Library	HCS	June 2025 - May 2026	Adv Diploma: LIS
Ms Nkosingiphile Zulu	Central Services	HCS	June 2025 - May 2026	Diploma: LIS
Mr Sibongakuye Hlongwane (replaced by Ms Nokwanda Ndlovu)	AP Library	HCS	June 2025 - May 2026	Diploma: LIS
Ms Samkelisiwe Cele	Directorate	HSRC	May 2025 - May 2027	Adv Diploma: LIS



Image: Library interns for 2025-2026

- **Guest-lecturing and Masterclass by Library Staff within DUT**

Library staff are occasionally invited to engage in guest lecturing at the university, leveraging their areas of expertise. Notably, Mr Mandla Ndaba, the Library Finance Officer, conducted a guest lecture for the Advanced Diploma in Library and Information Science, focusing on finance tailored for non-accounting students.

The Marketing and Communication Librarian, Mr Romeo Matumba was once again invited to deliver guest lectures to second-year students in the Library and Information Science (LIS) programme. These lectures, part of the Library Marketing module (LMKP), were conducted over one week at the Ritson and ML Sultan campuses. Additionally, an invitation was received from the Advanced Diploma in LIS programme to deliver a guest lecture on digital marketing. For both sets of lectures, PowerPoint presentations were prepared and delivered in person, with students and lecturers in attendance. Feedback from LIS programme lecturers indicated that these invitations reflected recognition of the outstanding work carried out at DUT libraries, including innovative practices in digital marketing. Following the second invitation, students were evaluated during their presentations on topics assigned by the Marketing and Communication Librarian and the lecturer, Dr Portia Rakoma. Students were divided into groups, each assigned a different topic from the guest lecture, and their presentations were formally assessed for marks.

Dr Mousin Omarsaib, Subject Librarian for FEBE delivered a series of lectures aimed at students enrolled in the Postgraduate Diploma in Library and Information Science programme.

Dr Malefetjane Phaladi, the Library Director, delivered a Masterclass on Knowledge Management for Advanced and Postgraduate Diploma students and lecturers within the Human Resource Management department in the Faculty of Management Sciences. This process emphasised the significant role and contributions of DUT library staff in fostering adaptive graduates.

- **Tutors**

Ten (10) tutors were employed with funding from the UCDG, with a preference for students from the LIS programme. Priority was given to LIS students; however, due to poor response from LIS candidates for the Research Commons tutor post, this was opened to other interested and qualifying students.

The tutorship programme offered experiential exposure to the discipline, enhancing practical understanding. The UCDG funding for the employment of the Information Literacy and Research Commons tutors was exhausted and so the services have ceased at the end of the third quarter.

Student name	Site based at	Post	Current registration
Ms Bongiwe Asanda Ntuli	City Campus	IL Tutor	Adv Dip: LIS
Ms Andiswa Zwane	AP Library	IL Tutor	Adv Dip: LIS
Ms Asanda Ndlangisa	AP Library	IL Tutor	Adv Dip: LIS
Ms Asanda Sibisi	AP Library	IL Tutor	Adv Dip: LIS
Ms Ntonhle Cele	BMP Library	IL Tutor	Adv Dip: LIS
Ms Sinazo Ngatsha	BMP Library	IL Tutor	Adv Dip: LIS
Ms Nokwanda Zondi	BMP Library	IL Tutor	Adv Dip: LIS
Mr Busiso Mpanza	AP Library	IL Tutor (will also support PG services)	Adv Dip: LIS
Ms Thandeka Ngcobo	BMP Library	RC Tutor	PhD: PR and Communications
Ms Betty Ajibade	AP Library	RC Tutor	PhD: Food Science & Technology

- DUT Library and Information Science (LIS) Advisory Board**

Mr Thomas, one of the library managers, serves on the advisory board of the LIS programme contained within the Department of Information Systems. A meeting of the board took place on the 12th of August 2025.

- After some engagements with Universal Knowledge Software, commonly known as UKS, there was agreement for them to set up an instance of a Library catalogue for teaching purposes, so that the students could benefit from practical cataloguing.
- The Advisory Board and lecturers attended a breakaway session in October to review the curriculum for incorporating new content.
- Some Library staff have been invited to guest lecture within the programme.



Smart Libraries, Smart People!