

CONNECT

Newsletter



DURBAN UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY
INYUVESI YASETHEKWINI YEZOBUCHWEPHESHE

LIBRARY

First Semester Edition

Jan - June 2026

The DUT Library Engages SARChI Chairs

By Romeo Matumba

The University's eight South African Research Chairs Initiative (SARChI) Chairs met with Library management and staff for an engagement session aimed at strengthening collaboration and enhancing research support.

The session provided an opportunity for the Library to showcase its specialised research support services, scholarly resources and partnership opportunities while gaining valuable insights into the Chairs' research priorities, focus areas and future initiatives. The discussions reinforced the importance of close collaboration between the Library and the University's research community.

By gaining a deeper understanding of the evolving needs of the SARChI Chairs, the Library is better positioned to align its services, collection development and scholarly communication initiatives with the University's strategic research agenda.

The engagement reflects the Library's ongoing commitment to providing responsive, researcher-centred services that support research excellence and contribute to the University's research and innovation goals.

Image: Members of the Library Management and SARChI Chairs



The Billy Nair Archive Collection Launch

The Durban University of Technology (DUT) Library, in collaboration with Corporate Affairs, marked a significant milestone in preserving South Africa's liberation history with the launch of the Billy Nair Archive Collection at the ML Sultan Campus Library on 15 April 2026.

Developed through a partnership with the Billy and Elsie Nair Trust, the collection features documents, books, and artefacts that celebrate the life and legacy of struggle stalwart, Mr Billy Nair. The archive will serve as a valuable resource for researchers, students, and the wider community interested in South Africa's democratic journey. Speaking at the launch, DUT Library Director Dr Malefetjane Phaladi highlighted the University's commitment to preserving heritage and supporting teaching, research, and community engagement. Keynote speaker, Mr Mac Maharaj (Pictured right), commended DUT for safeguarding Mr Nair's legacy and reflected on his lifelong contribution to the liberation movement and constitutional democracy.

The event gathered a cohort of distinguished guests, academics, and community leaders, reaffirming DUT Library's role in preserving the stories of courage, resilience, and leadership that continue to inspire future generations.



Above: Mr Mac Maharaj at the event

Below: Distinguished guests at the launch of the Billy Nair Archive Collection.

Photo Cred: Vukani Langa





Billy Nair

Archive Digital Collection Launch

Billy Nair was a South African anti-apartheid activist, trade unionist and political prisoner who dedicated his life to the fight for equality and social justice. He spent many years imprisoned on Robben Island and remains recognised as an influential figure in South Africa's liberation struggle.



Guests

at the launch

Book Launches

By Romeo Matumba

The Durban University of Technology (DUT) Library reaffirmed its commitment to advancing research excellence by hosting two successful hybrid book launch events in May 2026. The events provided a platform to recognise the scholarly contributions of DUT academics while showcasing the University's growing body of research to both on-campus and online audiences.

Book Launch -Prof Tlou Maggy Masenya (29 May)

⇒ The first book launch honoured the publication of four books co-authored by Professor Masenya, an Associate Professor in the Department of Information Systems. The publications explored emerging themes in academic librarianship, digital preservation and Indigenous Knowledge Systems, reflecting Professor Masenya's significant contribution to research and knowledge production. The books launched were:

- *Innovative Technologies for Enhancing Knowledge Access in Academic Libraries*
- *Digital Preservation and Documentation of Global Indigenous Knowledge Systems*
- *Revaluation and Preservation of Indigenous Knowledge Systems in Modern Society*
- *Resurgence and Revalorization of Indigenous Knowledge Systems in Contemporary Society*



Above

Prof Tlou Maggy Masenya



The second event celebrated the publication of three books written and co-edited by academics and post-doctoral fellows in the Faculty of Management Sciences. These publications addressed critical issues relating to governance, sustainable development and economic resilience in Southern Africa.

The featured books included:

- *Development in the Post-Apartheid South Africa: Political and Governance Considerations* by Dr Hlengiwe Mabizela
- *Sustainable Urban Development in Southern Africa: Disaster Risk Reduction and Economic Resilience* by Dr Fortune Mangara
- *BRICS and Governance in Southern Africa: Impact on Sustainable Development, Trade and Investment* by Dr Tanzala Kikasu

These authors were mentored by Professor Nirmala Dorasamy, who also co-authored all three publications, highlighting the importance of mentorship and collaborative scholarship in strengthening research output. The launch brought together members of the University community to celebrate these significant academic achievements. As part of its ongoing support for research and learning, the DUT Library also committed to acquiring copies of the newly published books for its campus libraries, ensuring that students, researchers and staff have access to these valuable scholarly resources.

The successful delivery of both events was made possible through the collaborative efforts of the Library team.

These book launches underscore the DUT Library's strategic role in supporting the University's research agenda by promoting scholarly publishing, celebrating academic excellence and enhancing the visibility and impact of DUT's research



Above: Dr Hlengiwe Nomzamo Mabizela

Below from left:

Dr Kikasu, Prof Dorasamy, & Dr Mangara



South African Library Week

16-22 March 2026

By Romeo Matumba

The DUT Library joined libraries across South Africa in commemorating South African Library Week (SALW) from 16 to 22 March 2026 through a programme of activities that celebrated the role of libraries in advancing education, life-long learning and community development. The week's programme included a public lecture, Amnesty Week and wellness activities featuring the Somatology and Chiropractic units at the Durban campuses.

A highlight of the celebrations was the South African Library Week Public Lecture, held on 19 March 2026 at the BM Patel Library Conference Centre under the theme "Reclaiming Knowledge, Empowering Futures." The keynote address was delivered by Emeritus Professor Archie Leonard Dick from the Department of Information Science at the University of Pretoria. Professor Dick explored the philosophical foundations of library and information science, reading cultures and knowledge production, while encouraging participants to reflect on the enduring role of libraries in society. In his welcoming remarks, Executive Dean of the Faculty of Accounting and Informatics, Professor Oludayo Olugbara, highlighted the importance of libraries in supporting teaching, learning and research. Director of Library Services, Dr Malefetjane Phaladi, reflected on the significance of preserving indigenous knowledge systems, promoting African languages and addressing contemporary challenges such as misinformation, disinformation, artificial intelligence and knowledge inequalities.

Right: Dr Phaladi delivering a message of support at the SALW Launch

Below: DUT Staff at the SALW Public Lecture

The DUT Library also participated in the national launch of South African Library Week, hosted by the Library and Information Association of South Africa (LIASA) at the Msunduzi City Hall in Pietermaritzburg. Dr Phaladi delivered a message of support, while the Library's Marketing and Communication Librarian, Mr Romeo Matumba, contributed to the planning and delivery of the national launch in his capacity as a LIASA Board member. The South African Library Week Public Lecture was also featured on the DUT website: <https://www.dut.ac.za/dut-celebrates-library-week-with-insightful-public-lecture-by-professor-archie-leonard-dick/>



New Library Service Charter

The DUT Library has recently revised and updated its Service Charter to ensure that it accurately reflects the current services, values and commitments offered to the university community, in line with the ENVISION2030 Strategy.

New pull-up banners showcasing the Service Charter have since been produced and distributed to all site libraries. The banners are strategically displayed at entrances and circulation areas to ensure that students, staff and other library users can easily access and engage with the information.

The Service Charter outlines the library's commitment to providing high-quality services and clearly communicates the standards that users can expect when interacting with the library. It also highlights the rights and responsibilities of both the library and its users, promoting transparency, accountability and excellent customer service.

By increasing the visibility of the Service Charter, the library aims to strengthen user awareness and reinforce its commitment to delivering responsive, people-centred and professional library services.

A Smart Promise to Our Users



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LIBRARY

DUT LIBRARY SERVICE CHARTER

DUT Library is committed to facilitating access to scholarly information and knowledge in a manner that is open, developmental, inclusive and sustainable.

In alignment with the core values and principles of the university, we take considerable pride in delivering high levels of service excellence and commitment; by embracing impactful and collaborative partnerships; maintaining a critical librarianship ethos and providing a service that is equitable and inclusive.

WE COMMIT TO:

- **Delivering our services** in a professional, respectful, and caring manner, upholding the highest standards of integrity and accountability.
- **Ensuring seamless access** to relevant, high-quality information resources and services that effectively support teaching, learning, and research excellence.
- **Providing capacity development programmes** that empower the university community to confidently navigate the information and digital landscape, fostering lifelong learning and sustainable research.
- **Maintaining safe, secure, and inclusive** physical and virtual spaces that support diverse learning styles, research and accessibility needs.
- **Actively engaging with stakeholders** through meaningful collaboration and feedback to continuously enhance the quality, impact and relevance of library services.

WE WILL MEASURE OUR SERVICE THROUGH:

- **Suggestion boxes and Talking Walls** are placed in library spaces to encourage real-time user feedback.
- **Online suggestion platforms** available via the library's digital channels for convenient, anytime input.
- **Regular satisfaction surveys** are conducted to evaluate user experiences and identify areas for improvement.
- **Focus group feedback sessions** organised by the library to gather in-depth insights from our diverse user community.

SMART Library, SMART People!

ENVISION2030 transparency • honesty • integrity • respect • accountability
fairness • professionalism • commitment • compassion • excellence
CREATIVE. DISTINCTIVE. IMPACTFUL.

Library Interns Showcase Learning Through Book Review Session

By Romeo Matumba

On 28 May 2026, the DUT Library hosted an engaging Lunch and Learn session where library interns shared reviews of books they had recently read, creating a platform for learning, discussion and professional development.

The session featured reviews of *It's Time to Reveal What God Longs to Heal* by T.D. Jakes, presented by Busiso Mpanza; *The Next Conversation: Argue Less, Talk More* by Jefferson Fisher, reviewed by Nkosingphile Zulu; *Twenties Girl* by Sophie Kinsella, presented by Samkelisiwe Cele; and *A Jacana Pocket Biography of Steve Biko* by Lindiwe Wilson, reviewed by Zenande Ngubelanga.

The session encouraged interns to strengthen their reading, communication and presentation skills while building confidence in public speaking and critical analysis. It also provided an opportunity to exchange ideas, gain new perspectives and engage in meaningful discussions inspired by the books they had read.

The diversity of the selected titles demonstrated how reading can expose individuals to different perspectives, experiences and areas of knowledge. Covering personal reflection, communication, fiction and South African history, the reviews highlighted the value of reading in broadening understanding and encouraging critical engagement with different ideas.

The initiative also provided interns with an opportunity to become active contributors to knowledge sharing. By presenting their interpretations and engaging with colleagues, they developed practical skills in communication, collaboration and engaging with diverse audiences skills that are valuable to their future roles as library and information professionals.

The Lunch and Learn session demonstrated that professional development can extend beyond formal training. By creating opportunities to read, reflect, present and learn from one another, the DUT Library is fostering a workplace culture that values continuous learning, knowledge sharing and intellectual engagement.

In addition, this initiative provided valuable exposure to the library industry and prepared them for future public service roles, emphasising the significance of fostering a culture of reading, writing, and scholarship among future librarians.

The screenshot shows a virtual meeting interface. At the top, there is a row of participant avatars with names: Anushie M..., Nwabisa Ra..., Nkosingph..., Zenande Ngub..., Busiso Sakh..., Ayanda Th..., Indralosha..., Thamsanqa..., and a partial view of Mphahlela Romeo M... Below the avatars, there is a list of book reviews presented by different interns:

- Busiso Mpanza**
Title : *It's Time to Reveal what God longs to Heal*
Author: TD Jakes
- Nkosingphile Zulu**
Title: *The Next Conversation: Argue Less, Talk More* by Jefferson Fisher
Author: Jefferson Fisher
- Samkelisiwe Cele**
Title: *Twenties Girl*
Author : Sophie Kinsella
- Zenande Ngubelanga**
Title : *A Jacana Pocket biography Steve Biko*
Author : Lindy Wilson

New Library Electronic Resources

By Rajen Eswarlal

The following top resources are now available at the library

- ⇒ **PERLEGO**: An extensive e-book platform offering over 800,000 books across various disciplines.
- ⇒ **ProQuest Theses and Dissertations Database (PQTD)**: A comprehensive collection of theses and dissertations from institutions around the world.
- ⇒ **JoVE**: A video database tailored for undergraduate students, featuring high-quality educational videos.
- ⇒ **Primal 3D**: An interactive 3D anatomy database specifically designed for undergraduate health sciences students.
- ⇒ **InCites**: Benchmarking & Analytics
- ⇒ **Access Engineering**: An engineering reference and teaching platform that delivers interdisciplinary engineering content
- ⇒ **IOP Science (Read & Publish)**: Read access is provided to over 70 scholarly journals
- ⇒ **Scopus AI**: A dynamic GenAI-powered research companion.
- ⇒ **Sage**: interdisciplinary collection of international, peer-reviewed journals, including high-impact titles from Health Sciences, Business, Biomedical Sciences, Engineering, Social Sciences, Humanities, and Technology
- ⇒ **Ebsco Digital Theatre +**: Broad selection of video/performance/literature

These new resources are now available to all our library members. We encourage you to explore them and take full advantage of these valuable tools. You can access them through the library link below:

<https://libguides.dut.ac.za/az.php>

Happy researching!

**Smart
Libraries,
Smart People.**



DUT Library Supports UKZN Yabelana Webinar Launch

The DUT Library continues to strengthen collaboration within the higher education sector by actively participating in professional knowledge-sharing initiatives. In May 2026, the Library participated in the launch of the Yabelana Webinar Series, hosted by the University of KwaZulu-Natal (UKZN) Library. The initiative provided a platform for librarians, repository managers, researchers, and information specialists to share best practices, exchange knowledge, and explore emerging developments in institutional repositories, open access, and scholarly communication.

Representing the DUT Library, Mr Sean Carte, Librarian: Digital Services, delivered a presentation titled "How Repositories Support Research and Open Access." The presentation highlighted the role of institutional repositories in preserving the University's research output, enhancing research visibility, and promoting equitable access to scholarly information. Mr Carte also shared valuable insights into effective repository management, metadata quality, and digital preservation practices. The webinar encouraged valuable discussions on strengthening repository services, improving research discoverability and advancing open scholarship through collaboration and innovation.

By Romeo Matumba

DUT Library also contributed behind the scenes to the successful launch of the webinar series. Mr Romeo Matumba, Marketing and Communication Librarian, worked with the organising team during the planning stages and was recognised for mentoring team members and providing guidance on event planning, communication and stakeholder engagement.

DUT Library's participation in the Yabelana Webinar Series reflects its ongoing commitment to supporting research, promoting open access and strengthening partnerships across the higher education library sector.

Left Image:

Mr Sean Carte delivering his presentation online

The image is a composite. On the left is a video call frame showing Mr Sean Carte, a man with glasses and a headset, in a white shirt. On the right is a promotional poster for the Yabelana Webinar Series. The poster has a dark blue background with white and yellow text. At the top, it features logos for the University of KwaZulu-Natal, Yabelana, and figshare. The main text reads: "THE UNIVERSITY OF KWAZULU-NATAL (UKZN) LIBRARY SERVICES CORDIALLY INVITES ACADEMICS, RESEARCHERS, STUDENTS, AND STAFF TO A WORKSHOP ON:". Below this, a red box contains the text: "THEME: ELEVATING YABELANA REPOSITORY FOR GLOBAL VISIBILITY: UKZN INSPIRING RESEARCH EXCELLENCE." Further down, it says "SAVE THE DATE" in large yellow letters, followed by "WEDNESDAY, 15 APRIL 2026" and "09H00 - 12H00 (SAST)". A quote "TURNING DEPOSITS INTO DISCOVERIES" is displayed in large white letters. Below the quote is a yellow button that says "CLICK HERE TO REGISTER OR USE THE QR CODE" and a QR code. On the right side of the poster, there is a circular inset image of a woman with long dreadlocks looking at a tablet. At the bottom, a red banner says "INSPIRING GREATNESS".

Publish with DUT Open Access Platforms

By Romeo Matumba

The DUT Library encourages academics and researchers to increase the visibility and impact of their scholarship by publishing through the University's Open Journals and Open Books platforms.

DUT's Open Access publishing platforms support the global sharing of knowledge by making research freely available to readers worldwide, increasing discoverability, citation potential and research impact.

DUT Open Journals

This platform hosts several peer-reviewed publications, including the

- ⇒ *Journal of Public Management and International Relations*
- ⇒ *African Journal of Inter/Multidisciplinary Studies*
- ⇒ *Great Lakes Journal of Peacebuilding*

DUT Open Books

The platform provides an open-access platform for publishing scholarly books, further expanding access to the University's research output.

Researchers and authors are encouraged to submit their journal articles and book manuscripts and contribute to advancing open scholarship at DUT.

For more information, visit the DUT Open Journals and DUT Open Books platforms or contact the Library at

dutlibrary@dut.ac.za

openscholar@dut.ac.za

<https://library.dut.ac.za/dut-open-access-publications/>

Submit Your Publications Now!!

DUT Open Journals host

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

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

DUT Open Books

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

DUT Open books provides access to five open access books.

Scopus AI now live at Durban University of Technology



ELSEVIER



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Benchmarking Exercise: Hosting UKZN Library Marketing Committee

By Romeo Matumba

The DUT Library recently hosted the University of KwaZulu-Natal (UKZN) Library Services Marketing Team for a benchmarking visit aimed at strengthening library marketing, communication and branding practices across the two institutions. Held on 5 and 9 June 2026, the initiative provided a valuable platform for knowledge exchange, collaboration and the sharing of best practices.

Facilitated by Mr Romeo Matumba, DUT Librarian: Marketing and Communication, the sessions showcased the Library's innovative approaches to promoting library resources, services and events, with a strong focus on people-centred engagement and enhancing institutional visibility. Discussions also explored quality assurance processes for marketing and communication content, the effective use of social media, student ambassadors, book clubs, and branding through TV screens and library event spaces.

The benchmarking exercise enabled the UKZN team to identify several practices that they intend to adapt within their own library, including specialised marketing portfolios, strengthened quality as-

urance processes for publications and digital content, and strategies to increase student engagement through digital platforms. Expressing appreciation on behalf of the UKZN delegation, Principal Librarian (LIS), Dr Richard Beharilal, thanked DUT management and Mr Matumba for their openness and willingness to share their expertise and experiences. Mr Matumba emphasised that benchmarking is a collaborative process that fosters mutual learning, innovation and continuous improvement across higher education libraries.

The partnership will continue with a follow-up meeting planned for September 2026 to review progress on the implementation of the strategies discussed, reinforcing both institutions' shared commitment to advancing library services through collaboration, innovation and the exchange of best practices.



Wellness Break: Supporting Students During Exams

By David Thomas

Recognising the importance of student wellbeing during the examination period, the DUT Library hosted a guided Pilates stretching session at the Library Conference Centre (LCC) on 4 June 2026. The session provided students with an opportunity to take a break from their academic routines, stretch, relax and manage exam-related stress in a supportive environment.

A curated reading corner featuring resources on fitness and wellness was also set up to promote evidence-based health approaches. Hosting wellness activities within the library demonstrates its role in supporting students beyond their academic and research needs.

Providing spaces and programmes that promote physical and mental wellbeing can contribute to a more holistic student experience, particularly during demanding periods such as examinations and test week.

The session also highlighted the value of incorporating accessible wellness initiatives into library programmes. Such activities can help create welcoming spaces where students feel supported and connected, while encouraging them to maintain a healthy balance between academic responsibilities and personal wellbeing.

By introducing initiatives that address both learning and wellness, the DUT Library continues to strengthen its role as a supportive environment that contributes to student success and the overall university experience.

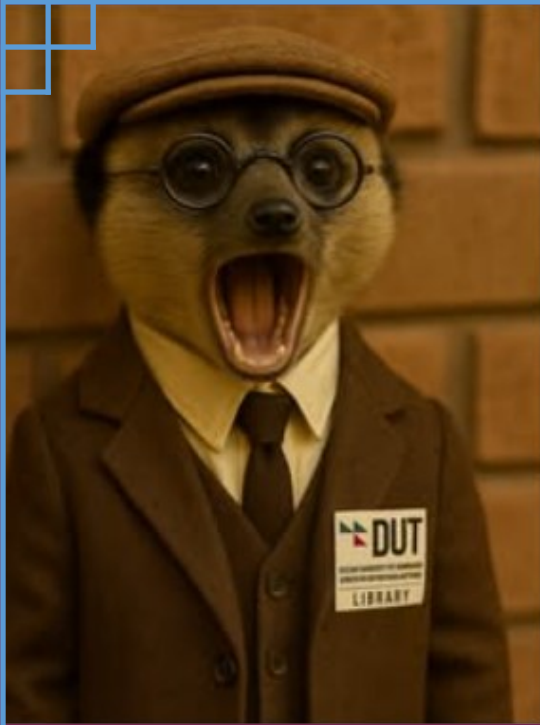


Suncoast East Coast Radio Big Walk

DUT Library staff participated at the 2026 East Coast Radio SunCoast Big Walk event



EASTCOAST RADIO SUNCOAST BIG WALK

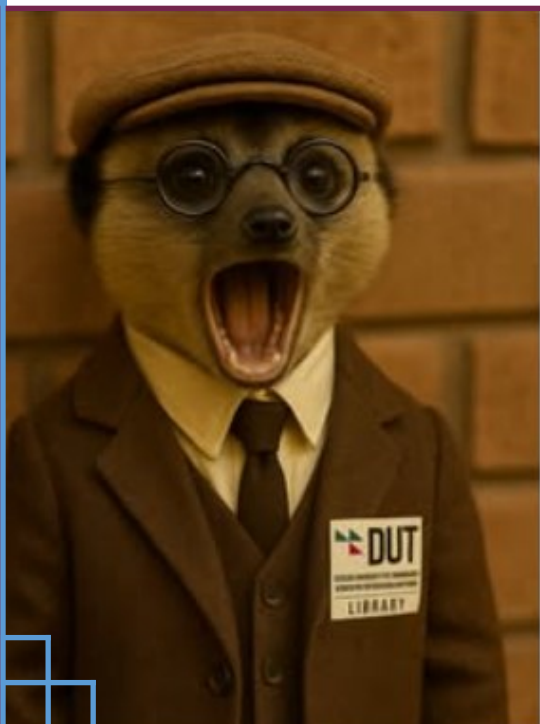


A photo of you, finding out that the library has access to THOUSANDS of Newspapers online via *PressReader* for “FREE”

For more details about accessing PressReader, contact your Subject/Faculty Librarian today!

Smart Library, Smart People.

<https://www.pressreader.com/catalog>



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Sawubona, lesi yisithombe sakho, usanda kuthola ukuthi eLibrary kunenqwaba yamaphephandaba atholakala mahhala uma usebenzisa *iPressReader*!

For more details about PressReader, contact your Subject/Faculty Librarian today!

Midlands Book Club Team Building at the PMB Botanical Gardens

The DUT Library Midlands Book Club hosted a vibrant and engaging literary picnic at the Pietermaritzburg Botanical Gardens, bringing together students for a day of literature, meaningful dialogue and recreational activities in a tranquil outdoor setting.

Set against the beautiful natural surroundings of the gardens, members gathered in a comfortable picnic area, where they relaxed on blankets and chairs and participated in a range of literary activities. The programme centred on book reviews, debates and open discussions on contemporary global issues, encouraging participants to exchange diverse perspectives and engage in thoughtful, respectful conversations.

A highlight of the day was the special guest appearance by a renowned poet from another student club, who captivated attendees with a series of powerful spoken-word performances. The event also provided an opportunity for Midlands Book Club members to showcase their own creativity through poetry readings, creating an inspiring and welcoming atmosphere that celebrated literature and artistic expression.

To complement the literary discussions, the programme featured a variety of interactive games and outdoor activities. Members participated in team-building games such as Spin the Cup and Stack the Cup, which generated plenty of laughter and strengthened friendships among participants.

By Ziyanda Zondi

Midlands Book Club Member

Those seeking a greater sense of adventure also enjoyed activities, including Acrobranch, zip-lining and obstacle courses, adding an exciting recreational dimension to the day. Beyond fostering a love of reading, the event strengthened social connections, encouraged critical thinking, and allowed students to unwind in a refreshing natural environment.

The Pietermaritzburg Botanical Gardens outing was one of the Midlands Book Club's most memorable gatherings, demonstrating how the Book Club continues to promote reading for pleasure, lifelong learning, creativity and student engagement beyond the classroom.

Through initiatives such as these, the DUT Library creates inclusive spaces where students develop confidence, build lasting relationships, and cultivate a deeper appreciation for literature.



Midlands Book Club
Team Building

Midlands Book Club Tea Party Inspires Reading & Connection

By Nqobizitha Langa

On 20 May 2026, the DUT Library's Midlands Book Club hosted a Tea Party at the Riverside Campus Library, bringing together members, coordinators and guests for an engaging networking and discussion session.

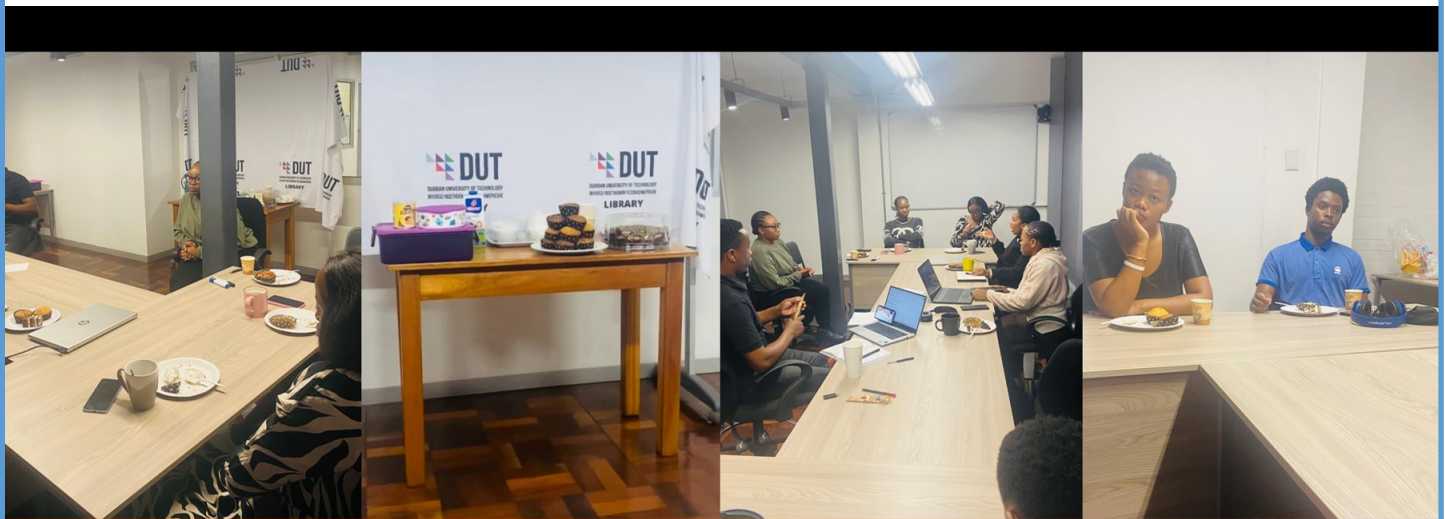
The event provided an opportunity for members to meet, exchange ideas and plan the Book Club's activities for the year ahead. Discussions focused on strengthening participation and developing programmes that will enrich the student experience across the Midlands campuses.

The Tea Party formed part of the library's ongoing efforts to encourage a culture of reading by creating welcoming spaces in which students can connect, share ideas and engage with a wide array of reading material.

Initiatives of this nature contribute to a vibrant learning environment and support the University's commitment to student success and lifelong learning. With an exciting range of

activities planned for the remaining year, the Midlands Book Club is well positioned to inspire more students to discover the joy of reading while developing the critical thinking and communication skills needed for lifelong learning.

Smart Library, Smart People.



Midlands Book Club Tea Session

DUT Regional Bookathon: Hosted at the LCC

The DUT Library, in partnership with DVC's Community Engagement Unit : Research, Innovation and Engagement portfolio, the International Centre of Non-Violence (ICON) and Ikusasalentsha, successfully hosted the inaugural DUT Regional Bookathon for primary schools. The event was held at the BM Patel Library Conference Centre (LCC) Fourth Floor on 23 June 2026. The Bookathon brought together learners in Grades 4 to 7 from Gezangane Primary School in the eThekweni region and Bambanani Primary School in Bergville, who showcased their talents in Debating, Spelling Bee, Read Aloud and Poetry competitions. The programme featured a keynote address by Dr Garey T. Davies, Associate Director of the Centre for Leadership and Intercultural Engagement at George Mason University, Fairfax, Virginia, USA. In his address, Dr Davies encouraged learners to embrace diversity, celebrate their cultural heritage and recognise the value of education in shaping future leaders. He also acknowledged the vital role that teachers play in nurturing literacy, curiosity and a lifelong love of reading.

The Bookathon recognised literacy, creativity and the transformative power of reading while providing learners with opportunities to build confidence, strengthen their communication

By Romeo Matumba

and critical thinking skills. *In addition*, the event demonstrated how libraries can serve as catalysts for community development by creating inclusive learning opportunities that inspire young people to read, think critically and express themselves with confidence.

By engaging learners at an early age, *this initiative ensures* a strong foundation for lifelong learning, supports the development of future leaders and promotes educational aspirations within local communities. It also strengthens partnerships between the University, Schools and Community organisations, *while* reinforcing the shared responsibility of fostering literacy and empowering young people through education. *By hosting events such as* the Regional Bookathon, DUT Library continues to extend its impact beyond the University by investing in literacy, supporting youth development and contributing to stronger, more resilient and knowledge-driven communities.



Library Spaces

The Durban University of Technology (DUT) Library continues to provide a range of dynamic and inclusive spaces that support both students and academics in their learning, teaching and research journeys. Our library spaces are thoughtfully designed to encourage creativity, collaboration and innovation, making the DUT Library more than just a place for books.

Library Conference Centre (LCC)

The recently launched Library Conference Centre at the BM Patel Library is a vibrant, multipurpose space that fosters engagement, innovative dialogue, and collaboration within the DUT community. It hosts events, workshops, and book club sessions aimed at promoting a culture of reading, storytelling, and knowledge exchange.

Makerspace

The DUT Library Makerspace offers a creative environment where innovation meets technology. Equipped with 3D printers, virtual reality tools and other design technologies, the Makerspace provides students and staff with hands-on opportunities to explore, experiment and bring ideas to life. It is a hub for innovation, encouraging problem solving, design thinking and practical learning.

Learning Commons

The Learning Commons provides flexible study areas that encourage group work, collaboration and peer learning. With comfortable seating, advanced technology and a supportive environment, it is an ideal space for brainstorming, project work and interactive learning.

24-Hour Study Areas

Understanding the diverse study needs of our students, the DUT Library also offers 24-hour study spaces on selected campuses. These areas are safe, accessible, and conducive to focused study, allowing students to study at their own pace at any time.

...Continues on page 29



Library Conference Centre

A quiet space on Campus to host

- ❖ Meetings
- ❖ Webinars
- ❖ Workshops
- ❖ Training Sessions

Bookings:

Contact Mr Thomas Zwane

Thomasz@dut.ac.za

Meet and Greet Session Durban Book Club

The DUT Library continues to promote a vibrant culture of reading, writing and lifelong learning through its Book Clubs, which operate across the Durban and Midlands campuses. By creating opportunities for students and staff to engage with authors, academics and experienced writers, the Book Clubs' serve as platforms for intellectual engagement, creative expression and knowledge sharing.

On 8 May 2026, the Durban Book Club hosted a "Meet and Greet" session at the Library Conference Centre (LCC), welcoming members of the University community to an interactive programme, designed to inspire a passion for literature and storytelling. The event featured poetry recitals, book reviews, music and an opportunity for Book Club Coordinators to meet members of the respective Book Clubs.

In their address at the event, -Dr Collence Chisita and Professor Tlou Maggie Masenya from the Department of Information Systems, offered messages of encouragement by highlighting the value of reading as a foundation for academic success, personal growth and lifelong learning.

The keynote address was presented by acclaimed author Bheki "Sir BK ACOR" Ngwenya, founder of Chorus of Rustics Publishers and Distributors and author of 30 books. Drawing on his publishing journey, he encouraged members to embrace both reading and writing as powerful tools for personal development and social transformation. He was accompanied by several emerging authors whom he has mentored, providing Book Club members with an opportunity to hear first-hand accounts of the publishing process and the

By Romeo Matumba

dedication required to become successful authors. The young writers also showcased their published works, inspiring aspiring authors within the DUT community.

Through initiatives such as these, the DUT Library continues to use its Book Clubs as vehicles for cultivating a reading culture while encouraging creative writing, critical thinking and meaningful engagement with literature. By connecting members with accomplished authors and thought leaders, the Library is helping to nurture the next generation of readers, writers and lifelong learners.

Smart Library, Smart People.



Join the Library Book Club & Enjoy Exclusive Benefits

The DUT Library Book Club offers a vibrant space for creativity and connection through book launches, keynote talks, talent showcases, debates, author discussions, poetry readings, and fun competitions. To join, simply complete the online form at <https://library.dut.ac.za>, scan the QR code on the right, or sign up at any library circulation desk

For more details, contact:

Romeo Matumba

Librarian: Marketing and Communication

Email:

muvhulawam@dut.ac.za

#ReadersAreLeaders

#WritersAreLeaders



Driving Open Research Through Transformational Agreements

By Romeo Matumba

The DUT Library continues to encourage researchers to take advantage of the University's Transformational Agreements (TAs), which enable eligible authors to publish open access in selected high-impact journals without paying Article Processing Charges (APCs). Negotiated through the South African National Library Consortium (SANLiC), these agreements support open scholarship, enhance research visibility and contribute to sustainable scholarly communication.

DUT currently participates in Transformational Agreements with Elsevier, Springer Nature, ACM Open, Emerald, Wiley and Taylor & Francis, providing researchers with access to reputable publishing opportunities while removing one of the most significant financial barriers to open access publishing. Researchers are encouraged to check whether their preferred journal is covered under these agreements before submitting their manuscripts.

Publishing through a Transformational Agreement offers benefits that extend well beyond cost savings. Open access articles are freely available to researchers, policymakers, industry partners and communities worldwide, increasing their visibility, readership and citation potential. Greater accessibility also promotes interdisciplinary collaboration, strengthens international research partnerships and supports the wider dissemination of knowledge to address local and global challenges.

The agreements have already resulted in millions of rand in APC savings for DUT researchers while increasing the global reach and impact of the University's research outputs. By removing publication costs, they allow researchers to focus on producing high-quality research and ensure that their findings are accessible to anyone, regardless of institutional or financial constraints.

Transformational Agreements also advance the principles of open science by promoting equitable access to publicly funded research and accelerating the exchange of knowledge. This contributes to a more inclusive research environment, where scholarly outputs can inform teaching, innovation, policy development and evidence-based practice.

The DUT Library remains committed to supporting researchers throughout the publishing process by providing guidance on eligible journals, publisher requirements and responsible publishing practices. Through ongoing awareness initiatives and personalised support, the Library continues to help researchers maximise the visibility, accessibility and impact of their scholarly work.

Researchers are encouraged to explore the publishing opportunities available through the University's Transformational Agreements before submitting their manuscripts. For more information on participating publishers, eligibility requirements and the publishing process, visit the DUT Library website or contact your Faculty Librarian.



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For more details, contact E-Resource Librarian, Rajen Eswarlal
eswarlalr@dut.ac.za

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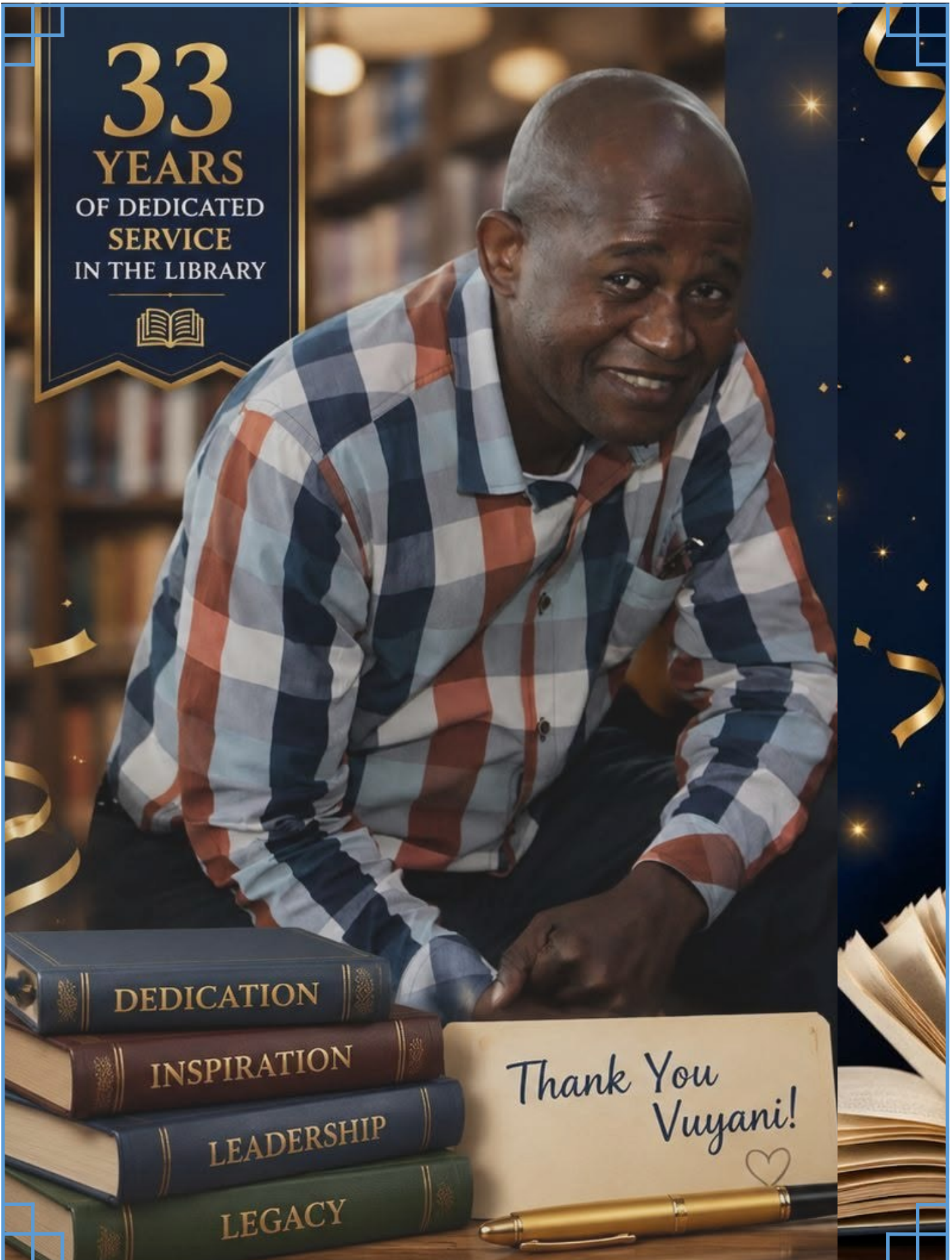


DUT Library Staff Contribute to Scientific Knowledge Production

The DUT Library has made significant strides in University Systems, Processes, and Sustainability Perspectives, with Smart Librarians fostering a strong research culture by publishing 9 articles, 7 of which appeared in Q1 high-impact international open access journals between January and June. Publications by librarians are highlighted below.

- ⇒ **Carte, S., Moodley, S. R., & Moonasar, A.** (2026). Navigating the future of library systems: A case study of Durban University of Technology's review of its library system. *Information Technology and Libraries*, 45(1). <https://doi.org/10.5860/ital.v45i1.17398> (QI International journal, DHET List)
- ⇒ Kayode, A. E., Singh, S., & **Badenhorst, P. P.** (2026). ICT for indigenous knowledge dissemination and education in Africa: A systematic review. *African and Global Issues Quarterly*, 7(1), 198–221. (DHET Approved)
- ⇒ Khan, F., Govender, N., **Mitha, S. B.**, et al. (2026). The lived experiences of women with polycystic ovary syndrome and its psychological challenges: A systematic review and meta-synthesis. *Archives of Women's Mental Health*, 29, 39. Springer Nature. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s00737-025-01636-4> (QI International journal, DHET List)
- ⇒ **Matumba, M.**, Rajkoomar, M., & **Phaladi, M. P.** (2026). Digital marketing in academic libraries: A systematic literature review using PRISMA method. *Digital Library Perspectives*. Vol. ahead-of-print No. ahead-of-print, 1–16. <https://doi.org/10.1108/DLP-10-2025-0211> (QI International journal, DHET Approved)
- ⇒ **Moonasar, A.** (2026). Healing through bibliotherapy: Fostering wellness among academic librarians. *Journal of Library Administration*, 66(4), 375–387. <https://doi.org/10.1080/01930826.2026.2678133> (QI International journal, DHET Approved)
- ⇒ **Mpungose, B. P.**, **Phaladi, M. P.**, & Chisita, C. T. (2026). Barriers to the effective transfer and retention of tacit knowledge within postgraduate supervision in South African higher education institutions. *Education Sciences*, 16(2), 336. <https://doi.org/10.3390/educsci16020336> (QI International journal, DHET List)
- ⇒ **Omarsaib, M.** (2026). Entering postgraduate supervision through the door of axiology: Reflections of a novice postgraduate supervisor. *Innovations in Education and Teaching International*. <https://doi.org/10.1080/14703297.2026.2619476> (QI International journal, DHET List)
- ⇒ **Omarsaib, M.**, Mncube, L. S., **Mitha, S. B.**, & Mohamed, G. M. (2026). Internet of things and academic libraries: A global perspective. *Information Discovery and Delivery*. Vol. ahead-of-print No. ahead-of-print, 1–13. <https://doi.org/10.1108/IDD-01-2026-0003> (QI International journal, DHET Approved)
- ⇒ **Phaladi, M. P.**, & Mamorobela, S. P. (2026). Enhancing knowledge absorptive and protective capacity in South African state-owned enterprises through training and development practices. *Knowledge*, 6(2), 1–18. <https://doi.org/10.3390/knowledge6020009> (DHET List)





Inter-Library Loan (ILL) Service

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Are you looking for a book, article, or resource that's not available at DUT Libraries? Don't worry, we have you covered! Our Inter-Library Loans (ILL) Service allows you to access materials from other libraries across the country and beyond.

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ILL is a loan arranged with another library in order to assist DUT Library users to obtain a required item that DUT Library does not have. Searches are made on OCLC WorldShare, a co-operative database to check whether the item requested is available for loan from another library nationally or internationally.

Who may use the ILL Service?

All registered staff and students of the Durban University of Technology.

Where should I look before applying for an ILL?

First look in the [Library's catalogue](#) to see if the item you need is available in any of the DUT libraries. If not available, contact your Subject/Faculty librarian or ILL staff. More details are available here: <https://library.dut.ac.za/services/inter-library-loans/>

Durban: Ms Nomkhuleko Mendy Sibisi **Email:** nomkhulekos@dut.ac.za

Midlands: Mr Nqobizitha Langa **Email:** nqobizithal@dut.ac.za

Alternatively, contact Subject or Postgraduate Librarians in your faculty

Service Hours:

Monday to Friday: 08:00– 16:00



Predatory Publishing

What constitutes predatory publishing

Predatory or rogue journals are publications which publish scholarly work without engaging in proper scholarly publishing practices. They seek profit over contribution to scholarship.

Predatory Journals:

- Don't follow best practice in scholarly publishing
- Abuse the gold open access model and obligate the author to pay publishing cost
- Scam publishers, who are deceptive and show unethical behaviour
- Make false claims of high impact factors for their journals

Accredited journal list

To avoid publishing in predatory journals, ensure that you consult the accredited journal list

[Click Here](#)

How to know if you are being targeted by a predatory journal

- A common strategy is where you will receive emails from these journals promising quick publication
- Target researchers through mass-email spams in attempts to get them to publish or serve on editorial boards.
- Check the website – is it professional?
- Are there language, grammatical errors on the journal homepage?
- Is the peer review process clearly stated?
- Is publisher contact information provided?
- Is the editor and editorial board evident?
- Predatory journals list reputable individuals without their consent on the editorial board. Often, they are not even aware that their names have been used

Consequences of publishing in these journals

- Cost to you and the institution
- Your reputation and your institution is compromised!
- Once published, you cannot resubmit your article to a reputable publisher!

Remember!! Important to check the quality of a journal before submitting your work! Always check if the journal is indexed, peer reviewed and whether it has a legitimate impact factor

For more information, contact postgraduate librarians listed below:

Ms Sara Bibi Mitha: saram@dut.ac.za
Ms Patricia Badenhurst: patriciab@dut.ac.za
Mr Themba Nkuna: Themban3@dut.ac.za



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21

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

What are the membership categories and the fees per category?

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

Individual membership is for a person who obtains membership in their personal capacity. Individual membership fees for 2026 is R750.

Individual members who are full-time undergraduate students, interns, unemployed, retired or who volunteer their services at a LIS related institution qualify for a discounted rate, which is R310 for 2026. Proof of status is required.

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

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

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



Some of the benefits include:

- ⇒ LIASA is the SAQA accredited Professional Body for the LIS sector in South Africa and therefore, upon application and meeting the requirements, LIASA can confer a designation.
- ⇒ Regular communication via the mailing list LIASA Online.
- ⇒ Four issues of LIASA-in-Touch, our information-filled magazine for the LIS professional; paid-up members have access to the electronic version, even before the printed copy is posted (when possible) to the members and stakeholders.
- ⇒ Discounted rates for meetings, seminars.
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- ⇒ Subscription to the LIASA Online Career Centre to receive emailed notifications immediately once a vacancy has been added.
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