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FROM THE LIBRARY DIRECTOR'S OFFICE

It gives me pleasure to welcome you to the second and final issue of the RUL Newsletter for 2007. We want to showcase the many ways in which your Library plays an integral role in supporting the core functions of research, teaching and learning.

The responsibility of providing a Library that will enhance and support scholarship poses challenges for the leadership. We must ensure that the community is aware of the myriad information and services available through the Library and that everything we do adds value to the scholarly work for which Rhodes University has an international reputation.

Since arriving at Rhodes there have been numerous occasions where I have shown visitors my good fortune in having the best "desk clock" available at a glance out of my window across the Quad and towards the Clock Tower. Perhaps not running as fast as the hands of the clock tower, the life in the Quad is governed by its own clock, with each change of season reminding us that the academic year is proceeding at a steady pace.

In recent weeks, the Library



has become extremely busy as exam tension builds. During this period, the Library extends its hours to meet the demands of delivering information, services and space. For this, we depend upon and appreciate the services of our Circulation Desk Staff, post-graduate Student Assistants and Student Technical Officers who maintain the printers and photocopiers.

A new Library initiative is a collaborative project with the SRC to address noise levels caused by increasing numbers of students using the services and facilities in confined and limited spaces. *The Quiet Library Campaign* will be extended into 2008 for O-Week when the new students are introduced to the Library.

In this issue, you will read about audio-books which provide staff and students with the means to stimulate the imagination and delve

into a fascinating world of sound. Follow the URL link back seven decades and share the excitement of hearing African music sound recordings gathered from across our continent by the Tracey family and archived at ILAM.

The Cory Library recently hosted the launch of Scott Balson's book "Children of the Mist". On display at the same function was a Griqua Church Register from Kokstad dated 1866-1898 (part of Cory stock) which details the marriage between Adam Kok and Martha Davies in May 1881.

This year, Enoch Nontyi celebrates 35 years of service at Rhodes—we congratulate

him on this achievement. Read about the sterling work done by the Stack Attendant Team to ensure that you can find your books on the Library's shelves.

Staff are engaged in putting the Library and its innovations on the map at local, regional and national level in workshops, committees and associations.

We trust that you will enjoy these pages about the Library. We welcome suggestions for future issues.

IFLA : DURBAN : 2007

Gwenda Thomas, Vathiswa Nhanha, Caroline Moshesh and Fiona Still-Drewett attended the 73rd World Library and Information Congress of the International Federation of Library Associations, held in Durban in August.

Justice Albie Sachs gave an inspiring keynote address, emphasizing the importance of the library and information profession. Gcina Mhlophe, “the mother of books”, steered the colourful and vibrant opening ceremony.

This was the first time that South Africa has hosted this world library conference and was an opportunity for local librarians to meet and exchange ideas with 4000 delegates from around the world.

Papers that were of special interest to the Rhodes librarians were those on Information Literacy, Preservation and Conservation of Archival Material, eLearning, Staff Development, Document Delivery and Resource Sharing.



Attendance at the IFLA conferences is crucial for staff to remain informed and aware of new trends in library services and library and information technology.

24/7 SHORT LOAN

Electronic Short Loan, accessible from the Library's OPAC, is a collection of readings which have been recommended by lecturers, and which are available electronically.

When a lecturer submits a list of readings for Short Loan, Library staff identify those which are available on our subscribed databases, and create records for the readings on OPAC with links to the full-text articles on the databases. The OPAC records are then added to the lists of Short Loan material accessible under the lecturer or Course names, as well as under title on OPAC. This fa-

cilitates 24 hour access to important readings, and alerts students to the wealth of material available electronically through the Library's subscriptions.

Search by Collection

- ▶ [Cory Library Catalogue](#)
- ▶ [Short Loans by Lecturer](#)
- ▶ [Short Loans by Course](#)
- ▶ [Electronic Short Loan](#) ←
- ▶ [Electronic Books](#)
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24 HOUR
ELECTRONIC
ACCESS TO
IMPORTANT
READINGS

DIGITISATION AT ILAM

The International Library of African Music (ILAM) has been making great strides in the digitisation of their sound collections this year. ILAM is a partner in the South African Music Archive Project (SAMAP) and RU Library staff are assisting ILAM with the management of the project.

A team of ILAM staff, with the assistance of eight students, has so far created approximately 8000 sound files and accompanying metadata records. These are already available via the SAMAP website (<http://aboutdisa.ukzn.ac.za/samap/ilam.htm>). The project will continue into 2008 and it is hoped that sufficient funding will be made available to complete the digitization of the entire sound collection by the end of 2009. ILAM's vision of cataloguing and digitising their collections of Hugh Tracey's unique recordings, thus preserving and making them accessible to the world at large, is fast becoming a reality.



MEET THE LIBRARY STAFF

RU Library Services employs 4 Stack Attendants for the Main and Cory Libraries. These men have the important task of reshelving books and periodicals and keeping the shelves in good order so that items can be easily located by library users. Between them they have notched up many years of service and during 2006 they reshelved nearly 90, 000 items. Mr.Nontyi is due to receive an award this month for 35 years of service to Rhodes University.

Pictured here are, from the left, Mr.V.V.Gacula, Mr.M.K.Nondlwana, Mr.T.E.Nontyi and Mr.A.Booi



SEPTEMBER IN STELLENBOSCH

Anne Moon and Eileen Shepherd attended the 2-week long Library Academy of the Research Libraries Consortium in September in Stellenbosch. They were exposed to the research process from academics' and researchers' points of view, learned about new technologies, such as blogging, and were able to network with colleagues from similar institu-

tions. They were challenged to consider new/revised ways of supporting researchers and students and were given insight into the scholarly publishing arena and the information and research problems facing South Africa and the developing world. All participants in the Academy are expected to produce a paper in the Library and Information Sciences field.



Other institutions participating in the Academy were the University of the Witwatersrand, the University of KwaZuluNatal and the University of Cape Town.

QUIET LIBRARY CAMPAIGN

Library management met recently with student representatives to discuss collaborative approaches to contain high noise levels in the Library, especially at exam times when it is overcrowded.

The Noise Control Committee decided to focus initially on the November exam period. Sue Abraham (Graphics Unit) designed the eye-catching upright banner, which

stands in the entrance foyer with the bold 'Thank you for supporting our QUIET LIBRARY CAMPAIGN'. Reaction to the banner has been mostly positive.

The SRC are promoting this campaign through various media channels, so we hope to gain positive student support.

Technical Officers, sporting bright, identifiable t-shirts, address noisy students on their paper rounds and in the photocopy room. All Library staff are encouraged to assist.

We hope to achieve a quiet, studious environment in the Library, while retaining a welcoming and friendly atmosphere.

**A QUIET PLACE
TO WORK**

AUSTRALIAN LIBRARIES MEET 21ST CENTURY USER NEEDS

RUL staff member, Jeanne Berger, recently visited a number of academic libraries in Australia while on long leave. She was particularly interested to see how libraries have adapted to 21st century user needs.

The University of Queensland's Biological Sciences Library was refurbished in 2006 at a cost of \$13.5m. The new Library now "caters for diverse learning experiences where printed and digital information is combined in an en-

tirely user-focused environment". Usage of the Library in the first half of 2007 more than doubled.

New facilities added to the Library include 6 meeting rooms, fitted with plasma screens, projectors and whiteboards, for group study and project work. There are 3 electronic classrooms for library workshops, but when not in use students have access to the computers in these rooms. "Social space" is provided for by a cafeteria attached to the



A "cat"alogue at the Queensland University of Technology Library

Library.

A roaming assistance service provided by professional staff has been introduced. Posters around the Library also advertise a cell phone number which students can "sms" for assistance from wherever they are in the Library.

"CHILDREN OF THE MIST"

The Cory Library hosted a book launch for Scott Balson's book *Children of the Mist: the lost tribe of South Africa* on 15 October. The book was a result of 35 years of research into the history of the Griqua people. Although presented as a work of fiction, the book gives a factual account of the Griqua history. Scott is a well known Australian author who



has also lived in South Africa. The launch was well attended by almost 40 invited guests. Prof. Maylam from the History Department introduced the author. The launch was an opportunity for the Cory library to celebrate and support the writings of South African histories in line with the library's main purpose which is to support research in Southern African history.

CORY
LIBRARY
HOSTS
BOOK
LAUNCH

HEARD ANY GOOD BOOKS LATELY?

.Are you aware that Rhodes Library has a growing collection of audiobooks? In an attempt to promote the use of this collection, audiobooks were the focus of our September Library display. A computer monitor was set up so that users could listen to a sample of material through headphones.

A few statistics: of the 54 items currently in stock, 38 have been issued at least once, and 12 titles have gone out since the September display was mounted. 63% of the borrowers were students, and 37% were staff.

Audiobooks are perfect for those long car journeys during the vac, since the loan period is

2 weeks, with renewals allowed.

Take a look at our current Library display, featuring the 2007 Rhodes Classics tour to North Africa and Sicily.

GREAT HOLIDAY
LISTENING!!

