Library support to the Department of Food Science, University of Pretoria

August 2007

The Academic Information Service (Library of the University of Pretoria) is responsible for the management of academic information and knowledge, and for leading the University in information and knowledge innovation.

The library for Natural & Agricultural Sciences offers library, learning and research support to all members (researchers, lecturers and students) from the Faculty of Natural and Agricultural Sciences.

Our passion is to enhance and ensure that our clients have access to the best quality of world-wide and local information for the development of an empowered quality of life.

We strive to be the leaders in academic information support and to make a difference in the outcome of education and research. By combining the best technologies with our skilled and competent human resources we strive to deliver a seamless information service of excellence to meet the needs of the diversity of our clients.

An Information Specialist is assigned to each department. As a result of this policy the Information Specialist assigned to the Department of Food Science has designed a web page for use by the students, researchers and lecturers of the School of Agricultural and Food Sciences.

This web page is a selective dissemination of information relevant to the Department. It is regularly updated and used for training purposes.

The web address is: http://www.ais.up.ac.za/natural/eresources_agricultural_food.htm

During 2007, 4 group training sessions were arranged for students of the Department. The Information Specialist also assists researchers, staff and undergraduate students with individual sessions. She has an open-door policy for the Department.

Journal subscriptions:

The Library currently subscribes to 3 146 paper journals. This collection has been in steady decline as our policy changed to e-access

The Department of Food Science subscribes to 23 paper copy journals, which totals R52 345.41, depending on the exchange rate.

The Department also has access to the complete print collection in the library covering subjects such as microbiology, chemistry, biochemistry, agriculture and many more.

The Department also has access to the 25 full text journal platforms with 31 400+ titles. Open Access platforms are also important collections.

Book Collection:
An annual amount is allocated to each department for extension of the book collections. For the past 2 years the Information Specialist has focused on requesting additional funds for the Department to add more titles to the focus research areas.

The latest edition of the Encyclopedia of Food Science and Nutrition is also received.

In 2006 54 new book titles have been received for the amount of R60 482.94. In 2007 funds were restricted due to budget constrains, but currently 22 titles are on order for 2007. The estimated price is R26 663.88.

**E-Books**

The acquisition of electronic books is in an experimental phase: licensing, ownership, archiving, reading devices and other aspects have to be sorted out before we can embark on wholesale implementation. Bandwidth issues also need to be resolved.

The Library currently subscribes to five substantial packages: Safari, Pepweb, Knovel, Books@Ovid and MDConsult.

The following reference works relevant to the Department are available online: McGrawHill Encyclopedia of Science and Technology, World of Learning, Oxford English Dictionary, Oxford Reference Online and Pharos dictionaries. Many electronic books are available for free on the internet, bringing the number of e-books available for our clients to 131 423 titles.

**Databases**

The Library currently has access to 151 bibliographic databases and 25 full text databases covering journals and reference works.

The core databases for the Department are linked from the customized library webpage. FSTA, CABI, ISI Web of Science, Scopus, Cambridge Scientific Abstracts, Science Direct, Africa-Wide, Ebsco Host and Biological Abstracts are the key databases.

The Department also has access to the ISI Journal Citation Reports to select the best impact journals for publishing.

**Document supply**

It is not possible for any library to be self-sufficient due to the exorbitant cost of information resources. Hence the library has a variety of arrangements locally and overseas with libraries, consortia and document delivery services to provide access to collections. Our efficient interlending system enables our researchers to submit article or textbook requests online.

**Physical access to other libraries in South Africa**

Researchers and postgraduate students with a good track record may obtain a letter of introduction to another South African university library for geographical reasons or for access to other collections.

**Institutional Repositories**

A research university is not in the first place a consumer of information but a producer of new information in the form of research articles, patents, theses, dissertations, conference papers, lecture notes etc. The library plays a stewardship role with regard to these knowledge outputs by archiving these items in electronic format and by providing open access for the international research community. This is an excellent way to provide visibility to UP research and researchers.
UPeTD, the online collection of theses and dissertations, (University of Pretoria Electronic Theses and Dissertations, http://upetd.up.ac.za), was launched in 2000. The collection contains 478 theses and 796 dissertations (Dec. 2006). Usage is high with 2,571,685 files downloaded between November 2005 and October 2006. The Department of Food Sciences has currently 51 titles in this collection (August 2007). Restricted access can be arranged as requested by the postgraduate candidate and the supervisor. An embargo period will be determined.

UPSpace (https://www.ais.up.ac.za/dspace/), an interdisciplinary research repository built on the DSpace platform, houses 41 collections of both digitally born and digitised items ranging from material of historical and archival value. Prof Amanda Minnaar’s inaugural address is included in this collection: https://www.up.ac.za/dspace/handle/2263/1844//simple-search?query=minnaar

openUP (http://www.ais.up.ac.za/openup/) is the collection of research papers published by UP affiliates and is still in the development phase. Copyright clearance is negotiated with publishers before articles are submitted to openUP.

The AIS is an active partner in the University's combating of plagiarism. A web site has been created where UP policy is interpreted and guidance is provided for staff and students (http://www.ais.up.ac.za/plagiarism/index.htm). A printed brochure is available and plagiarism awareness forms an important part of information literacy training sessions.

Physical facilities

2281 study seats are available.

Attached to the Main Library is a Study Centre with 1037 seats which is open for 18 hours per day. Two weeks prior to and during exams this facility is open 24 hours per day.

The Library has 219 open workstations for clients and 143 in computer rooms which are also used for training. In the Main Library an internet café provides paid access to an additional 24 work stations. Some work stations are dedicated for specific tasks while others offer everything from library resources to Internet access and a variety of software. Wireless access has been activated during 2007.

The students and researchers of the Department have access to 22 computers on Level 5, the faculty library. A scanner is also available for use by our clients. We strive to maintain a quite research environment for the students and researchers of our Faculty.

The Learning Centre on level 3 of the library focuses on the learning needs of undergraduate students. It combines physical facilities with products and services to offer an integrated learning environment where students have easy access to paper and electronic resources and the expertise of trained librarians. The physical layout is an attempt to promote collaborative learning.

The photocopying service is outsourced to Minolta and regulated with a service level agreement. 108 photocopying machines and 32 network printers are spread over the library.

The Reserved Collection buys at least one copy of each prescribed and recommended book and makes it available to students for short 2-hour loans.

A subset of the reserved collections is available in electronic format, known as e-reserves. The collection consists of journal articles and book chapters. In cases where the library does not have electronic access to journal articles/book chapters clearance is obtained from DALRO or other copyright clearance centres.
Examination papers dating back to 2000 are available to students in electronic format and can be searched on the library catalogue by course code, examiner’s name or date. The Department of Food Science has always support the library with updating this collection with the latest exam papers.

‘Mrs Theron goes out of her way to provide new, relevant information to our staff members and students, and to inform us about new databases and search engines that are relevant to our field of study. We are extremely satisfied with her professional inputs and services to our department, academic staff members and students’. (Dept Food Science).

Reference