Information without boundaries through use of Electronic Resources at Walter Sisulu University (WSU), Nelson Mandela Drive site campus, Mthatha:
a case study

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Introduction

• Academic libraries have drastically changed from traditional print materials to electronic resources.

• E-Resources are currently very important as they give information that is up to date, information that can be accessed anywhere, at anytime, crossing geographical boundaries (Sudharmah, and Khan, 2009).

• Users do not wait for library to open.
Map shows Walter Sisulu University Campuses in the Eastern Cape
Walter Sisulu University

Mthatha Campus
- NMD site
- Zama site

Butterworth Campus
- Ibika site

Queenstown Campus
- Whittlesea site
- Grey Street

Buffalo City Campus
- Posdam
- Chiselhurst
- College Street
- Cambridge Street
WSU Students 2014 Enrolments across all sites

- Cambridge street - Buffalo City: 35%
- Chieselhuirst - BC: 20%
- College Street - BC: 14%
- Ibika - Butterworth: 8%
- NMD - Mthatha: 5%
- Posdam - BC: 3%
- Queenstown: 13%
- Zamukulungisa - Mthatha: 2%
Electronic resources in context

- **Electronic resources**: resources in which information is stored electronically and which are accessible through electronic systems and networked.

- E-Resource is a broad term that includes a variety of different publishing models, including OPACs, CD-ROMs, Online Databases, E-journals, E-Books, Internet Resources, Print-On Demand (POD), etc.
WSU and E-Resources

- WSU as multi campus institution subscribes to e-resources or online databases in order to provide information without boundaries.
- Installation of Wi-Fi connection hot spot to all campuses contribute to the use of e-resources.
List of WSU online databases

- EBSCO Host
- Science Direct
- ProQuest
- SA E-publications
- Juta Law
- Emerald
- IEEE
- Nexus

- Web of Science
- Access Medicine
- Access Engineering
- Sci-Finder
- Web of Science
- Jstor
WSU E-Resources usage statistics from January to June 2014

EBSCO usage stats

- January: 4%
- February: 7%
- March: 17%
- April: 30%
- May: 18%
- June: 24%
WSU ProQuest usage stats

- January: 0%
- February: 2%
- March: 11%
- April: 24%
- May: 24%
- June: 31%
Science Direct e-journals usage stats

- January: 16%
- February: 13%
- March: 29%
- April: 10%
- May: 5%
- June: 27%
WSU Marketing Strategies for E-Resources

- e-mails
- Information literacy programmes
- Posters
- Information Road Shows
- Faculty boards
- One on one to academics
- Library orientation
- Collaboration with Research units
- Social media like facebook
Objectives of the study

- To understand students' use of e-resources at NMD site campus.
- To know if students are trained on how to access e-resources.
- To determine students’ challenges towards using e-resources.
Methodology

• Case study approach
• Based on a structured questionnaire

Response rates
• Questionnaires distributed = 300
  • Response received = 196
  • Percentage of response = 58%
Students attended Library Orientation at NMD site

Have you attended library orientation

- Yes: 71.43%
- No: 28.57%
Information Literacy training on how to access information in the library and electronically

Have you attended any information literacy classes?
- Yes: 39.29%
- No: 60.71%
Knowledge on how to access e-resources
Training on how to access e-resources at NMD site
Which databases that are frequently used.
Students that have accessed My Account for e-resources off campus

Do you have access to electronic databases at home

- Yes: 4.08%
- No: 95.92%
Students with PCs to access Wi-Fi at WSU libraries

Do you have your own computer or laptop with internet

- Yes: 25.51%
- No: 74.49%
Recently WSU Science Extended programme had issued Tablets to students.
Challenges of WSU towards use of e-resources

- Lack of big Computer labs with enough PCs
- Computer literacy skills to academics and students
- Lack of co-operation from Lecturers to release students for e-resource trainings
Conclusion

- There is a lot of trainings needed in order to ensure that users access information without boundaries.
- Maximum usage of electronic resources depends on the effective marketing or promotion.
- ICT infrastructure should be improved, Wi-Fi should be installed in their residences.
Thank you

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