

Library's contribution to the joint news on R, I and PG Matters letter

i. Strategic priority areas of 2023

In congruence with the University's Core Strategic Theme 3: *Research for impact* and the Library's strategic objective to *Increase our leadership role in digital scholarship and research support at the Institution*, the Library supported and advocated for open science and scholarship at the University as well as offered researcher empowerment workshops called #SmartResearcher workshops in the first quarter of 2023.

a) Library as an advocate for open science and scholarship

Stellenbosch University Library and Information Service continues to advocate for open science and scholarship through open access publishing. The Library believes that OA publishing enhances the visibility and impact of scientific research. Through its membership of the South African National Library and Information Consortium, the Library have signed some progressive agreements referred to as transformative agreements with the following publishers: Association for Computing Machinery (ACM), Cambridge University Press, Emerald, Institute of Mechanical Engineers (IMechE), IOPscience extra, SAGE Publishers, Sponsoring Consortium for OA Publishing in Particle Physics (SCOAP³), Elsevier ScienceDirect, Springer Nature, Wiley Publisher, Multidisciplinary Digital Publishing Institute, Royal Society of Chemistry and Springer.

Subject to varying conditions and restrictions, these agreements provide opportunities for SU researchers to publish open access articles in these publishers' journals. The full list of titles can be accessed here at https://sanlic.org.za/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/All_ReadandPublish_Titlesupdated27-02-2023.pdf

For those researchers who are concerned that the journals where they publish are not on the list, note that negotiations with other publishers are on-going.

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b) Library's researcher empowerment through #SmartResearcher workshops

The Library's researcher empowerment workshops, #SmartResearcher workshops continued in the month of February and March. The [#SmartResearcher workshop series](#) offers information skills training for researchers and covers the entire research process. Workshops conducted in this period included finding government statistics, how to conduct a literature review, systematic reviews, useful tools and applications for research, introduction to Special Collections, data management planning,

research data management tools, resources and training, data sharing and dissemination, data management planning, copyright issues in theses and dissertation writing, Mendeley for reference management and academic networking, tips on theses and dissertation formatting, and data visualisation and data analysis.

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ii. New upcoming engagements



a) Review of Mendeley as SU's recommended reference management tool

In order to improve the standard of its services to researchers, the Library continuously evaluates its research offerings to either improve or discontinue some of them. Mendeley has been a recommended reference management tool at SU for more than 5 years. Many technical glitches with the tool have been experienced and librarians and IT technicians have been struggling to solve some of the issues. With Mendeley no longer supporting Mendeley Desktop and the move to Mendeley Reference Manager, the Library saw an opportunity to review Mendeley as the recommended reference tool at SU. A survey to gauge the views of researchers was held in March. The views expressed by researchers in this survey would be considered before a final decision is made. Once a decision to either remain with Mendeley or move to another reference tool has been taken, it will be communicated to all stakeholders.



b) Library supports new forms of teaching, learning and research through virtual meeting rooms

Recently, the Library opened two Virtual Meeting Rooms in its Carnegie Research and Learning Commons areas. The two rooms were opened in response to the changing pedagogies and research approaches. In particular, the Carnegie Research Commons' Virtual Meeting Room is restricted to master's and doctoral students as well as researchers and academic staff while undergraduate students can also use the Learning Commons' Virtual Meeting Room. Bookings can be made on our [online](#)

[bookings page](#). The rooms are bookable up to a maximum of two hours per client a day. Clients are to bring their own devices to attend or facilitate meetings and own headphones are a requirement. These rooms are only available for individuals, not groups.