Faculty of Natural and Agricultural Sciences (NAS)

Library Accreditation Report

The Plant Sciences Cluster:
Department of Plant Sciences
Department of Plant Production and Soil Sciences
Department of Microbiology and Plant Pathology
FABI

Compiled by SP Mabena
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Library support for the faculty of Natural and Agricultural Sciences (NAS)

The Library is a strategic asset of the University of Pretoria. Through its leading innovative library services the University of Pretoria Library Services (UPLS) strives to be an internationally recognised academic research library which makes a unique contribution towards the transformation of the academic endeavour. The UPLS consists of eight faculty libraries. The faculty of Natural and Agricultural Science library is one of them. The Natural and Agricultural Science library is situated at the Merensky library level 5.

The UPLS is available online at this, url: http://www.library.up.ac.za
The NAS faculty library web page, url: http://www.library.up.ac.za/natural/index.htm

Collection (print and electronic)

Most of the UPLS budget for resources goes towards electronic resources, i.e. a comprehensive set of 432 bibliographical databases. The criteria for purchasing the books and journal is by recommendations from the faculty members and the library’s collection development policy.

Financial data for the period of 2012 – 2013

E-resources

- E-Databases: R20 m+ was spent on e-databases annual subscriptions. E-Database includes: Scopus, Science direct, Web of Science (CABI), Proquest (Agricola).
- E-journals: R472 411 + was spent on e-journals subscription. These journals are also available in the lists of accredited journals e.g. ISI Web of Science list.
- E-Books: R86 567 + was spent on e-books.

Print Collection (books and journals)

- There are still up to date books and journals in print format on the shelves, which can be used inside the library and / or taken out.

Library facilities and equipment

- 70 Study cubicles available on level 5
- Research room on level 5 for postgraduate students
- 32 Computers for the students on level 5
- 3 Photocopiers, 1 scanner & 2 printers on level 5.
- Research commons on level 4 - This facility enhances the Library’s commitment to supporting postgraduates, academics and researchers in their research endeavours and contributing to the University’s research.
- Internet and Wi-Fi connections in the library
Inter-lending services

Inter-lending services allows libraries to borrow materials which are not available on their collection from one another, nationally and internationally. This service is available to faculty members and to postgraduate students, at their request.

Library training sessions

- The UPLS has recently acquired two state of the art training facilities with a total of 60 computers for hands on training.
- There is ongoing training on the referencing tools e.g. Refworks, EndNote.
- Copyright and plagiarism information session.
- Life skills for post graduate students hosted in the library's auditorium, level 3.

Digital projects

- The library supports Open Access. Therefore hosts a digital research repository UPSpace and an electronic thesis and dissertation repository (UPeTD).
- The total number of research articles and thesis and dissertation contributed by the NAS faculty community on UPSpace is 2727.
- It is currently also developing a research data archiving system.

Library staff – Information Specialists

Four full time information specialists are allocated to the NAS faculty to give research support. The following are part of the support they give:

- Information and literature searches
- Database and information literacy training
- Collection building
- Creating ClickUP (electronic student support system) pages
- Journal analysis and author citation analysis with the help of Thompson Reuters Web of Science, Incites and Scopus
- Patent searching
- Departmental visits when necessary.