

LIBRARY SUPPORT FOR RESEARCH AT CAPE PENINSULA UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY: TRACKING CO-AUTHORSHIP AND COLLABORATION

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INTRODUCTION

Cape Peninsula University of Technology (CPUT) Libraries were tasked by the University's Executive Management to investigate published collaborative research at the institution. The project entailed tracking publication co-authorship and collaboration by researchers at CPUT. The focus of the project was investigating the country spread of co-authorship, and which countries researchers at CPUT collaborate with. The results show that while co-authorship with established partners in developed countries continues, collaboration with other African countries is increasing in importance to the extent that Nigeria has overtaken the United Kingdom as the country of origin of the largest group of co-authors that CPUT researchers currently collaborate with.

CO-AUTHORSHIP PROJECT BY COUNTRY COLLABORATION

A project whereby collaborative research undertaken by CPUT academic staff was measured and evaluated using the comprehensive Scopus citation database was undertaken by the Library Service. This entailed Faculty Librarians using the Scopus "author search" and "affiliation search" facility as well as interacting with their respective faculties. The results were published in a report to the Deans of faculties at CPUT. An analysis of the results indicated that of the international co-authors most (12% or 85 units) came from Nigeria, followed by the United Kingdom with 9% or 63 units of the total. Other co-authors came from the United States (7%), Sweden (3%) and Russia, Tanzania, Finland, Australia, and the Netherlands, all at 2% of the total. Internal (South African) co-authors constituted 44% or 297 units. Increased collaboration with African countries (specifically Nigeria) reflects the post-apartheid integration of South Africa into the African research environment, and also illustrates the increase in research publication activity of major African countries such as Nigeria.

THE SOUTH AFRICAN RESEARCH ENVIRONMENT AND RESEARCH OUTPUT AT CPUT

National:
The National Research Foundation, in its report "Scaling up the South African Research Enterprise 2011-2020" notes that while research output and activity is generally considered to be healthy, the country produces just 27 PhD's per million of population and contributes only 0,55% to the global research and development output based on 2009 figures. The report suggests that South Africa should increase publication output to at least 1% of global output in 2011. The fact that The Centre for Research on Evaluation, Science and Technology (CREST) at Stellenbosch University is currently undertaking a project under contract from the South African Department of Science and Technology (DST) to compile bibliometric profiles of research collaboration between this country and a number of foreign countries highlights the importance assigned to statistical investigation in this area.

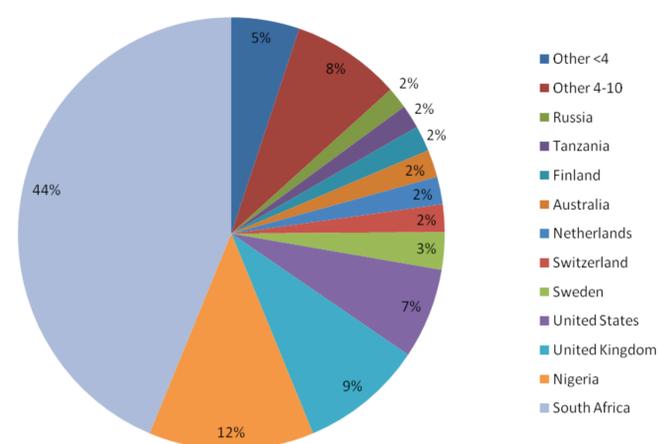
Cape Peninsula University of Technology:

CPUT has during the last decade moved from being a vocational institution to a fully-fledged university, and has consequently also moved to strengthen its research profile. In publication counts of South African institutions drawn from Web of Science, in the periods 1990-1994 and 2004-2008, CPUT, while not recorded in the earlier statistics, ranked 39th out of 40 in the later period (Kahn 2011). Publication output at CPUT has risen dramatically since 2008 (Hart G, Kleinveldt, L) and now occupies a leading position amongst South African universities of technology. The University's Research Report 2011 records the following output units submitted to the Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET) in May 2012:

- Journal articles (audited) 115.54
- Books/chapters (submitted) 8
- Conference proceedings (submitted) 88.43

The Faculty of Applied Sciences with 21% of the total recorded the highest output, followed by the Faculties of Engineering and Health & Wellness, both with 15%

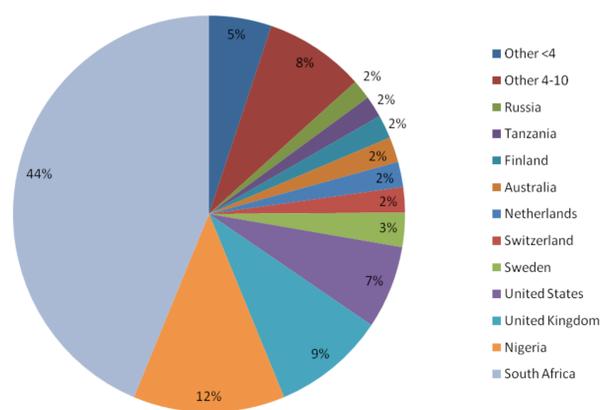
National and International article collaborations



CONCLUSION: TAKING THE PROJECT FURTHER BY CONSTRUCTING A DATA REPOSITORY

The bibliometric project undertaken by CPUT Libraries, while worthwhile in itself and acting as a precursor of further analytic investigation, has obvious limitations. CPUT Libraries are therefore proposing the construction of a data management facility to provide an active database and repository of articles by CPUT researchers using the Scopus citation database. The database, which will provide value to the institutional research enterprise, should be an Open Access facility, showcasing the rapid increase in research activity at the university, and will also facilitate increased cooperation between Faculty Librarians and faculty staff. The database should be accessible on the CPUT Libraries webpage.

National and International article collaborations



The format of the repository will consist of 9 fields

Field 1	Field 2	Field 3	Field 4	Field 5	Field 6	Field 7	Field 8	Field 9
Faculty	Department	Author	Subject	Title	Co-author/s	Institutions	Countries	Date

All fields will allow for alpha-numeric input excepting field 9 (date) which should be numeric only. By engaging in such proactive activity CPUT Libraries will not only maintain but enhance its position as an integral part of the research support structure at our rapidly developing university.

CPUT LIBRARIES SUPPORT FOR RESEARCH

Operationally, a two-tier system of support has been established, consisting of the Faculty Librarian group and a Research Librarian, with dedicated spaces reserved for the use of postgraduate students and researchers in the form of Research Information Support Centres, available at the Bellville and Cape Town campuses. While research shows that most researchers consider library support as good to adequate, shifts in researcher behaviour will have to be closely monitored and adapted to if the library is to continue as an indispensable part of the research landscape at CPUT (Hart & Kleinveldt 2011).



Library support for research at CPUT

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