

## 5.7 Significant Development And Achievements In Library Services

### Kobo E-Readers

Five hundred Kobo touch e-readers were bought for the library through funding from the teaching development grant. The three Faculties were each issued with 10 e-readers, and the Teaching and Learning Development Centre was issued with 23. The remaining 447 were available for use by students and staff. Access to e-books is made possible through these readers.

### Openathens Usage

The library subscribed to OpenAthens from the 1st of June 2015. OpenAthens is an access management system which simplifies off-campus access to subscription-based content by giving users a single username and password, instead of having different passwords for different databases. Both staff and students are required to register on OpenAthens to be able to access databases off-campus.

### Calibre and Adobe Digital Edition (Ade) E-Book Management

With the purchasing of the Kobo e-readers and e-books, the library had to have e-book management software to be able to have a link between the e-books and the e-readers. The library is therefore using Calibre and Adobe Digital Edition e-book management software. Calibre is a free open source e-book management software which allows the library to easily load e-books from their source to the Kobo e-readers. It also allows one to find book metadata based on existing title/author or ISBN information. Calibre automatically downloads various types of metadata and covers for downloaded books. ADE is also an open source software which is used as a platform for the use of the Ebsco e-books in particular. Both Calibre and ADE have made it much easier to manage the e-book usage.

### Marketing Department Interns (Faculty of Management Sciences)

A group of eleven young people with disabilities were placed at Mangosuthu University of Technology (MUT) in April 2015. They were registered for the End-User Computing Learnerships Programme. This is a collaboration project between the Education & Training Development Seta that facilitates the qualification, the Disabled People's Society of South Africa which provides the financial support, the Durban University of Technology which facilitates the training component, and MUT which provides the workplace training. Ten (10) students were placed at the MUT Library Services and one was allocated to the Finance Department. A total of eleven (11) students were trained and empowered.

### Handy Café

The net-book area in the library is reserved for students who want to use databases for research purposes and information access. During busy periods students are allocated one hour at a time. To control and monitor the time spent by each student using the net-books Handy Café was implemented. It is an Open Source software meant to manage, monitor and control internet access. The software was installed in all the netbooks.

### Library E-Books-(Ebsco, Amazon, and Oup)

The library purchased 140 000 e-books from Ebsco and 14 e-textbooks from Amazon, Ebsco and the Oxford University Press (OUP). These e-books are accessible through any of the electronic devices via the library website as well as through the Kobo e-readers.

### Smartdraw Subscription

The library subscribed to SmartDraw. The software assists with conducting surveys and other teaching and learning processes.

### Open Access

The library investigated and uploaded links of invaluable Open Access databases for access to MUT students and staff. These databases are freely available to all and users could access them directly at any time without IP authentication.

## 5.8. Significant Developments and Achievements in Research

### Research, Innovation and Technology Transfer Strategic Plan

The objectives of the Research, Innovation and Technology Transfer Strategic Plan for 2013 – 2017 are:

- Objective 1: Ensure that the research niche areas are aligned to MUT's mission and strategic priorities and are supported by a critical mass of researchers and allocation of resources;
- Objective 2: Identify and nurture core fields of research activity for which MUT has strategic advantage;
- Objective 3: Review the role of the professoriate in developing academic and research leaders in areas where the University has strengths at the undergraduate level and develop strategies aimed at widening research participation and productivity;