

University of Cape Town
Universiteit van Kaapstad
Univesithi Yasekapa



UCT Libraries





Welcome to UCT Libraries

UCT Libraries are a world-class network repository of knowledge and innovative research. UCT's main library, the Chancellor Oppenheimer Library, and its seven branch libraries offer a diverse array of study and research materials, as well as professional and expert assistance for finding information and conducting research.

UCT Libraries are aligned to the UCT faculties and have several areas of specialisation, including the Academic Archive; African Studies; Digital Scholarship; Scholarly Communication and Publishing; Centre for Higher Education Development; Government Publications; Commerce; Engineering & the Built Environment; Health Sciences; Humanities; Law; and Science.

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Agile and responsive to sustaining disruptive innovation, user needs and global trends, UCT Libraries – a network of libraries in contemporary and historical settings – seamlessly connect you to the spaces, resources and tools required for a successful academic/research journey and intellectual experience. We are proud to be your partner.

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Ujala Satgoor
Executive Director: UCT Libraries



Did you know?

1. This giant repository of books and journals is stored on 53 km of shelf space.

2. UCT Libraries is a cashless environment.

3. You can access library resources off campus 24/7 via the UCT Libraries website.

4. Library tours are available on request.

5. Leganto is a simple and flexible tool to easily create, maintain, evaluate and share course reading lists and also expands access to UCT Libraries resources and beyond.

6. Ibali is a UCT Libraries platform that showcases digital collections representing the wide range of research topics explored at UCT.

7. There are two publishing presses: UCT Libraries Press and UCT Press.

UCT Libraries by numbers

- 220 000+ e-books
- 92 000 e-journal titles
- 174 high-quality electronic databases



Search and Discover

UCT Libraries' multi-platform cloud-based search tool. Primo offers staff and students a world-class information-finding solution. It provides simple, one-stop search for books, e-books, videos, articles, digital media and more – from any device, from any location. Primo also helps you manage your research. Sign in to access additional features, including renewing books, saving records, exporting citations, and more. Access Primo at www.lib.uct.ac.za

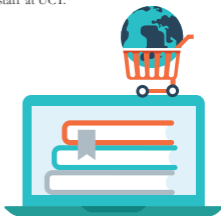


Digital Services

The Digital Scholarship Services (DSS) department offers a variety of research data management (RDM), open scholarship and digitisation services to students and staff at UCT.

Research Data Management

Our research data services address the entire data life cycle, from data management planning to archiving and publishing data according to the FAIR principles (findable, accessible, interoperable and reusable). It also provides support to postgraduate students and researchers in setting up their data management plans through UCT DMP. <http://dmp.lib.uct.ac.za/>



Geographic Information Systems (GIS)

IT support is available through DLS. The goal is to help UCT staff and postgraduate users develop their GIS skills to perform sound data capture, geospatial analysis and map production. www.gis.uct.ac.za

Digitisation

Specialist digitisation of physical, legacy media formats serves to preserve the library's unique collections and to make them accessible and reusable for future research. <http://www.digitalservices.lib.uct.ac.za/dls/services/digitisation>





Open Access

Open access content can be freely accessed by anyone in the world and is free of most copyright and licensing restrictions.

UCT Libraries are advocates for open access publishing, providing resources for researchers to make their work freely accessible in various ways.

www.openaccess.lib.uct.ac.za

Open Repositories

- OpenUCT is the institutional repository which showcases UCT's open access scholarship: <https://open.uct.ac.za/>
- ZivaHub is an online repository that allows you to make your research citable, shareable, discoverable and reusable. <https://zivahub.uct.ac.za/>
- UCT Open Science Framework is a free, open platform to support research and enable collaboration <https://osf.io/institutions/uct/>
- Zenodo.org is a free, open-access repository for research outputs. <https://zenodo.org/communities/university-of-cape-town/>

Two Presses

To expand and advance African scholarship, there are two open access scholarly presses, namely: UCT Libraries Press and UCT Press. The former mainly publishes open journals and open textbooks, with the latter publishing research monographs.



Contact us

www.lib.uct.ac.za
libraries@uct.ac.za
021 650 3703/04



[@UCTLibrary](https://www.facebook.com/uctlibraries)



www.instagram.com/uctlibraries



Seven branch libraries

1

Bolus Herbarium Library contains a great wealth of early botanical works, including the writings of early 17th-century travellers who visited southern Africa and explored its flora.

2

Brand van Zyl Law Library has one of the best legal collections in Africa, with holdings of more than 85 000 volumes, including a rare antiquarian collection.

3

Built Environment Library, which first occupied two wooden huts, now serves the School of Architecture, Planning & Geomatics and the Department of Construction Economics & Management.

4

Bongani Mayosi Health Sciences Library, founded in 1912, was the first university medical library in South Africa. It's also now home to the Impilo Junction, a 24/7 study space for students that was added in 2017/18.

5

Institute of Child Health Library, based at the Red Cross War Memorial Children's Hospital, was established in 1974 and caters primarily for the academic staff, researchers and students of the Department of Paediatrics and Child Health and the hospital staff.

6

Hiddingh Hall Library is the university's first purpose-built library and serves the Centre for Theatre, Dance & Performance Studies and the departments of History of Art and Fine Art, as well as the Centre for Curating the Archive.

7

WH Bell Music Library is the first completely self-contained, functionally designed music library in Africa and serves the South African College of Music and the Centre for Theatre, Dance & Performance Studies.



Special Collections is the conservation and preservation library and academic archive of UCT Libraries, with an array of rare and unique offerings.



Published Collections

- African Studies Collection
- Government Publications
- Rare and Antiquarian Books

Primary Collections

- Manuscripts and Archives
 - Audio Visual Archives
 - Modern Photographic Archives
- www.specialcollections.uct.ac.za



The Jagger Library and Reading Room Fire

Special Collections had been housed in the Jagger Library until 18 April 2021, when the Reading Room and departmental offices were gutted by a fire that also destroyed collections. The Jagger salvage and recovery project has guided the ongoing rehabilitation of the collections since 2021. The department is currently engaged in ongoing recovery, with materials in various stages of remedial conservation and preservation. www.lib.uct.ac.za/jagger-recovery.

Research Support Services

In 2025, Special Collections launched its improved hybrid research support services, with librarians and archivists available to assist all bona fide researchers with access to surviving and new resources kept in Special Collections.

Reading Room services are currently available on an appointment-only basis, owing to the dispersed nature of the collections in storage across campuses. Please contact Special Collections to allow staff to check whether resources are available and to retrieve them from remote archival stores. Researchers can contact lib-spcoll@uct.ac.za to inquire about the availability of materials and to arrange a time to visit the Deneb House Reading Room.



Spaces

There are a variety of spaces available that cater to the needs of students at each step of their academic journey.

The Library Learning Lounge and the new Chris Hani Library Learning Lounge are bring-your-own-device, and collaborative learning spaces. The venues are Wi-Fi enabled, with plug points for electronic devices. Study rooms are available for group discussions.

The Vincent Kolbe Knowledge Commons is a fully equipped and staff-supported undergraduate learning facility, including nine study rooms and access to computer/printing facilities for research, writing and printing assignments.

The Research Commons caters for the information and workspace needs of master's and PhD students, postdoctoral research fellows and academic staff.

The Hlanganani 24/7 study space offers a safe and comfortable environment for about 140 students and staff, where they can access all the library's electronic resources. The space is accessible via the Hlanganani Plaza after hours and at weekends. Hlanganani Junction is a research engagement space.

Impilo Junction is a 24/7 study space and training venue at the Bongani Mayosi Health Sciences Library, seating up to 60 students. Brand van Zyl Law Library is a 24/7 study space that provides seating for more than 100 students.

Facilities



copy/print
scan self-
service
checkout



+ - 450 PCs



Wi-Fi
access



24/7 study
spaces and
study rooms