



#### FROM THE DESK OF THE EDITOR:

Welcome to the last edition of *Infomania* for this year. We are sharing experiences and activities that took place in the last semester of 2025 and hope you'll find the newsletter informative.

This issue offers a glimpse into our collection activities and the evolving landscape of resources in academic libraries.

The Jotello F. Soga Library participated in a variety of events and activities, which are highlighted in this issue.

We also extend our greetings to our editor and colleague, Tertia Coetsee, who is retiring by the end of December 2025, and wish her all the best for her future plans.

**Tertia Coetsee (Editor)**

#### All to do with Library Collections

by Myleen Oosthuizen

Library resources are at the heart of a library. When the nature of this core pillar in libraries changes, so do the behaviors of its users and the processes and activities involved in using, marketing, monitoring, and providing awareness services for these collections. |

Globally, the decline in the use of print material in favour of e-resources leads to the re-evaluation of collections. New curriculum possibilities have been developed, as electronic resources can be embedded into student modules for quick access via university portals and subscriptions. The libraries assist in creating Reference Guides for modules, linking e-resources and e-platforms in modules on Learning Management Systems.

Libraries have adopted multiple access options for textbooks, including full-text links, within curriculum modules to increase student access. Publishers notice declines in the buying of print textbooks, and new access opportunities that lead to new publishing models. Libraries and institutions are not allowed to purchase multiple access or e-copies of textbooks, forcing students to buy e-copies or e-access periods, to these textbooks. Libraries can scan sections of textbooks (no more than 10%) and apply for copyright permission to be used in Learning Management Systems, thereby decreasing the cost to students in cases where the 10% threshold is sufficient.

Budget restrictions, combined with the Open Science movement, influence information-seeking behavior, leading to a tendency to identify Open Educational Resources (OER). As excellent OER develop and find their place in educational curricula, especially as supporting reading material, budgets can be stretched to enable access to essential resources and new developments. Library staff must develop skills to address the exclusion of predatory open resources, which have become a new field of concern, without detracting from the value of OER use in curricula.

Awareness of Library resources to students and academic staff is an integral part of collection development and access activities. The cost of, and the time required to identify open educational and essential resources, call for sharing their availability

within the Faculties. The nature of these activities can be tailored to different student groups, including undergraduates, postgraduates, lecturers, researchers, and various fields of research. A new field in awareness of resources and products, as well as their use, is the development of User Experience (UX) audits and surveys to enhance the value and effectiveness of library acquisitions, processes, and spaces.

As lengthy discussions and related implications can be derived from the topic of collections, this discussion can be rounded up with an overview of the activities undertaken by the Jotello F. Soga Library in this area during 2025.

With the evaluation and weeding of the book collection and the relocation to level four, new opportunities arose for the reuse of spaces. The Veterinary Library is currently redesigning level five in collaboration with the Faculty of Veterinary Science to address changes in user needs. The OER subject guide gains value, and library staff provide additional input throughout the year to address skills and identify new open resources. Awareness of collections was done for undergraduates with the hosting of the Amazing Race, which took students through different processes, areas, and resources to complete “quests” to be able to complete the Amazing Race and win prizes, as presented at the end of the Teaching & Learning Week (posted in our July edition). A new E-book platform, Thieme MedOneVet, was approved for the Veterinary Faculty, with subscriptions running from the completion of the trial and acquisition of this valuable resource, which will enhance resource use in our LMS without the need for copyright requests.

More awareness and collection-related activities will be planned for 2026 to add value and optimize the use of our precious collections.

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### **Library visit from the great-granddaughter of Dr Jotello Festiri Soga by Myleen Oosthuizen**

The Jotello F Soga Library had the privilege of receiving a visit yet again from a great-granddaughter of Dr Jotello F Soga, the first South African to qualify as a veterinarian, and the person after whom the library was named in 2008 with the Centenary Celebrations of the Onderstepoort Complex, consisting of the OP Research Institute, OP Biological Products, and the Faculty of Veterinary Science.

Annie Welsh and her husband, Chris, visited the Library during October 2025 while

on vacation in South Africa, before leaving for a visit to the Kruger National Park and Cape Town. Other visitors attending this casual friendly occasion was Heloïse Heyne (previous curator of the SA National Veterinary Museum, and previous curator of the Gertrud Theiler Tick Museum at Onderstepoort), Livio Heath (Programme Manager at the Agricultural Research Council and newly appointed chair of the South African Veterinary History Society (VHS), Antoinette van Schalkwyk (researcher at the Agricultural Research Council – Onderstepoort Veterinary Institute), Anthony Craig researcher at the Agricultural Research Council – Onderstepoort Veterinary Institute), and Myleen Oosthuizen (Manager of Jotello F Soga Veterinary Library).

Lively interactions and the sharing of information on the family tree of Dr. Jotello F. Soga, family memories, and historical facts from the life of Jotello Soga were shared in his remembrance. Annie and Chris were taken through the library and an informal history background of Veterinary Science in South Africa. All in all, it added to a heartwarming and pleasant afternoon to be remembered.

*Annie and  
Chris Welsh  
at the bust of  
Jotello F Soga,  
created  
by sculptor,  
Lusanne Peens,  
and  
standing in the  
University of  
Pretoria  
Jotello F Soga  
Veterinary  
Library*





*From left to right: dr Anthony Craig, Chris and Annie Welsh, Heloïse Heyne, dr Antoinette van Schalkwyk, Myleen Oosthuizen, and dr Livio Heath.*

band followed with classic favourites, and after a delicious lunch, the dancefloor came alive.

Overall, the DLS year-end function was a joyful celebration of heritage, collaboration and community — a truly vintage affair that brought Sophiatown to life.

### Images of the Veterinary Library attendees and DLS colleagues



## Department of Library Services greets 2025 with a stylish End Year event

by Myleen Oosthuizen, based on

### DLS Marketing Unit description

The Director of the DLS thanked staff for their dedication and teamwork throughout a challenging year. She also announced the winning entry of the DLS tagline competition, unveiling “*Transforming Minds, Shaping Futures*” as the department’s new guiding statement.

Entertainment included lively musical games, showcasing hidden talents and plenty of laughter, with prizes awarded to participants. The best-dressed male and female awards were well deserved, as staff fully embraced the Sophiatown theme. A live



All dressed up and enjoying the South African Vintage Style. Maria Mtsweni (left), and Myleen Oosthuizen together with Sagren Naidoo from the Health Sciences Library, and Mathuloe Moshidi, all enjoying the Sophiatown vibe.

## New e-books in our collection

by Tertia Coetsee

Zoo animal and wildlife immobilization and anesthesia. 3<sup>rd</sup> ed 2025. Gary

West, Darryl J Heard, Nigel Caulkett(Eds)

<https://UnivofPretoria.on.worldcat.org/oclc/1485002522>

Invertebrate histology. 2021. Elise E LaDouceur(Editor)

<https://UnivofPretoria.on.worldcat.org/oclc/1157473940>

Prospects of fungal biotechnologies for livestock. Volume 1, Fungal

bioengineering in livestock health management. 2025. Arti Gupta

<https://UnivofPretoria.on.worldcat.org/oclc/1530623229>

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## Heritage Day 2025

By Tertia Coetsee



Heritage Day is a public holiday in South Africa, celebrated on 24 September. On this day, South Africans are encouraged to celebrate their culture and the diversity of their beliefs and traditions in the wider context of a nation that belongs to all its people.

We dressed in traditional clothing representing your own, or another culture, and everybody brought a traditional dish. All enjoyed a lovely time of sharing cultural practices.



From left to right: Tertia Coetsee, Maria Mtsweni, Myleen Oosthuizen, and Mathuloe Moshidi.

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## Saying Goodbye

By Tertia Coetsee

Dear Friends and colleagues, I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude as I embark on my retirement journey after 31 years of service to the Department of Library Services. As I reflect on the past 31 years, I am filled with a sense of appreciation for the invaluable experiences, friendships and memories that have enriched my professional life.

Working at the Veterinary Library has been an incredibly rewarding and fulfilling experience. Coming daily to a campus where animals roam around on the pastures and camps reminded me of my fond memories of growing up on a farm. This also gave me a background in diseases and the husbandry of animals. Something that I could build on during my years on the Onderstepoort campus. I have been privileged to work with many colleagues.

As I bid farewell to the Faculty of Veterinary Science, I carry with me wonderful memories that will forever hold a special place in my heart.



### Veterinary colleagues (old and new) who all worked together with Tertia.



*From left to right: Myleen Oosthuizen, Amelia Breytenbach, Susan Marsh, Marguerite Nel, Tertia Coetsee, Antoinette Lourens, Maria Mtsweni, and Mathuloe Moshidi*

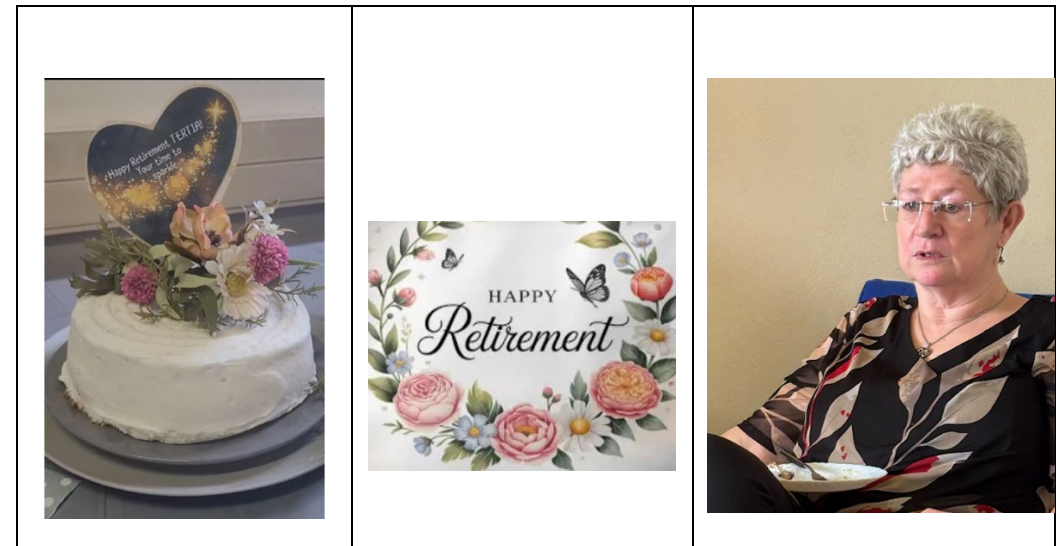
### Farewell occasions and End Year Greetings

by Myleen Oosthuizen

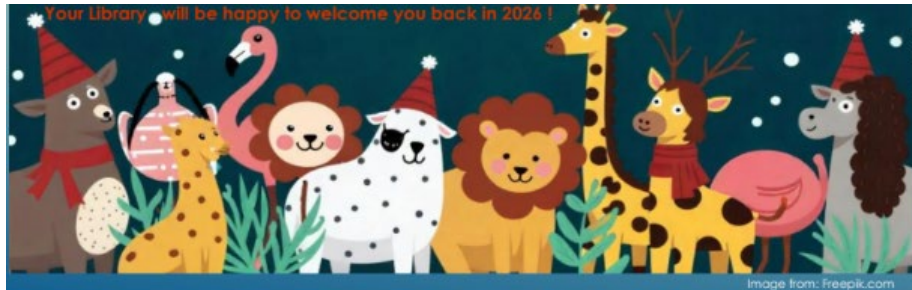
2025 was a year of many occasions, and one of them was saying farewell to a colleague and friend in the Jotello F Soga Library. Tertia Coetsee started working at the DLS in June 1994 as a cataloger in the Merensky Library on the Hatfield campus and moved to the Onderstepoort campus in 1997.

Tertia filled the position of Information Specialist for the departments of Paraclinical Sciences and Veterinary Tropical Diseases. She was fortunate to attend a few international conferences and attended a three-month Leadership course from February to April 2012 at Purdue University, sponsored by the Carnegie Foundation.

We wish Tertia a relaxing and joyful retirement with her husband Martin (*and their beloved cat, Kerneels* 😊)



The Jotello F Soga Veterinary Library wish all our readers a joyful and relaxing festive season with family and friends. We will be back in 2026!



Our staff is available online for support  
<http://www.library.up.ac.za/vet>



Myleen Oosthuizen  
Faculty Library Manager



Tertia Coetsee  
Information Specialist



Mathuloe Moshidi  
Information Assistant



Maria Mtsweni  
Interlending Specialist