



Photo by Stefan Els

Digital Heritage collections

Can we measure impact?

Mimi Seyffert-Wirth
Stellenbosch University (South Africa)

Outline

- Background
- Our digital heritage repository
- What is impact?
- Ways of measuring impact?
- How can we increase impact?
- Conclusion

- Victoria College founded 1886
- Became Stellenbosch University 1918
- 10 Faculties
- 4 761 staff members
- 33 656 students (30% postgraduate, 70% undergraduate)
- Approx. 11% international students



A thriving Stellenbosch University



A transformative student experience



Purposeful partnerships and inclusive networks



Networked and collaborative teaching and learning



Employer of choice



Research for impact

Library and Information Service



forward together
sonke siya phambili
saam vorentoe

- 6 libraries on 3 campuses (Main, Engineering and Forestry Library, Music, Theology, Business, Medicine and Health Sciences)
- 102 staff members
- 1,2 million physical volumes
- 328 423 journal titles with full-text access
- 116 databases
- 14 000 e-theses and dissertations
- 2 749 workspaces
- 4 809 linear metres of manuscript collections

17 000 square meters





Our Digital Heritage Repository

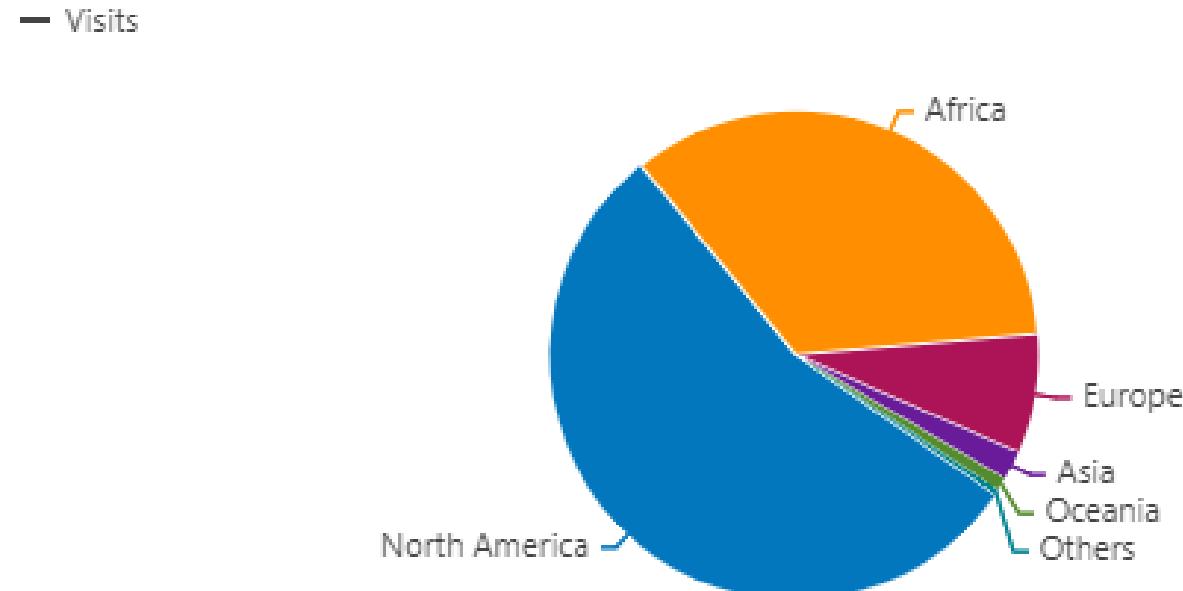


Stellenbosch
UNIVERSITY
IYUNIVESITHI
UNIVERSITEIT

forward together
sonke siya phambili
saam vorentoe

SUNDigital Collections

- Launched 2013
- Dspace 6.3
- 18 494 items in 46 collections
- 47 318 visits
- 122 180 pageviews
- 20 771 downloads
- 7 520 searches
- Matomo analytics (open-source plugin)



 SUNDigital Collections

About SUNDigital Collections

SUNDigital Collections showcase digital content from the Library and Information Service's unique digital collections and repositories. It offers a single connection point to various collections of primary resources as well as digital research output. In support of digital scholarship, sharing our valuable resources and promoting intellectual collaboration the Library and Information Service offers free online access to these digital collections. This initiative forms part of the Library's commitment to enriching its digital resources and supporting, developing and contributing to high-level scholarly publication output.

Communities in SUNDigital Collections

Select a community to browse its collections.



Archives

Archives



Finding aids

Finding aids for manuscript collections

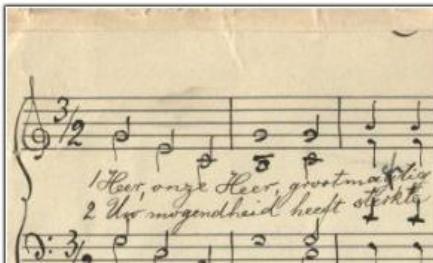


History

African and Southern African history



EEN WOORD AAN DE VEDELE
JEUGD, der, DC ESTERH.
Zult gy u niet o Jeugd! Eliklagen,
Gy die in uw Jeugd uw bestre daan



Search 

BROWSE

All of SUNDigital Collections

Communities & Collections

By Issue Date

Authors

Titles

Subjects

By Date Created

MY ACCOUNT

Login

Register

DISCOVER

Author

Naude, Beyers, 1915-2004 (1509)

Pretorius, Andre, 1935-2006 (953)

Marks, David (724)

Coates, Albert, 1882-1953 (614)

Thom, Hendrik Bernardus, 1905-1983 (399)

Slabbert, F. van Zyl (Frederik van Zyl), 1940-2010 (257)

Manuscripts Section, Stellenbosch University Library and Information Service (240)

Marloth, R. (Rudolf), 1855-1931 (176)

Hamabit (147)

Research output vs. primary resources

- Institutional repository – research output
 - Views/downloads
 - Citations
 - Bibliometrics
 - Altmetrics
 - Potential to increase ranking
 - Knowledge in service of society
 - SDGs
- Digital Heritage repository
 - More difficult to measure / demonstrate



Rudolf Marloth collection

Botanical illustrations of the flora of South Africa
Important notes to illustrators

Measuring impact

- Google Scholar (Borrego, 2020)
- Outlinks from other websites
- Institutional repository
- Study use and users
- Share metadata to other platforms (e.g. HYMAP)
- Acknowledgements (Bangani, 2024)

Increasing impact

- Increase visibility
- Search engine optimisation
 - Sitemaps
 - Mapping Google metadata fields to Dublin Core metadata fields
 - Registering with harversters / registries
- Engagement with public – e.g. social media (Burkey, 2022)
- Feedback mechanisms
- Wikimedia (Kelly, 2019)
- Quality metadata - Automatically evaluating the quality (Lorenzini et al, 2021)
- Persistent identifiers

Bibliography

- Borrego, A. 2020. Measuring the impact of digital heritage collections using Google Scholar. *Information Technology and Libraries*, doi:10.6017/ital.v39i2.12053,
- Burkey, B. 2022. From bricks to clicks: how digital heritage initiatives create a new ecosystem for cultural heritage and collective remembering. *Journal of Communication Inquiry*, 46(2) 185–205, doi:10.1177/01968599211041112.
- Kelly, E.J. 2019. Assessing impact of medium-sized institution digital heritage on Wikimedia projects. *Journal of Contemporary Archival Studies*, 6:25, available from: <https://elischolar.library.yale.edu/jcas/vol6/iss1/25>.
- Lorenzini, M., Rospocher, M. & Tonelli, S. 2021. Automatically evaluating the quality of textual descriptions in cultural heritage records, *International Journal on Digital Libraries*, 22:217–231, doi:10.1007/s00799-021-00302-1,

Thank you
Enkosi
Dankie

Photo by Stefan Els