

Dear Colleagues and Students

The 23rd of April is earmarked as the International World Book & Copyright Day! It is celebrated by librarians all over the world!

Incidentally did you know that it is believed that 23rd of April was not only William Shakespeare's birth date (he was baptised on the 26th of April 1564), he is also said to have died on 23rd April 1616! This could mean that William Shakespeare celebrated his 450th birthday in April 2014!! Congratulations to William Shakespeare!!

At the CUT we celebrated this day with a colloquium on "Copyright" which was presented by Denise Nicholson, an expert from the Wits University. The presentation focused on copyright issues, Open Access publishing, as well as Authors' rights.

The library is grateful to the 51 CUT staff and students who found time to listen to the presentations and participate in the lively discussion that ensued.

Yours faithfully

JM Kabamba
University Librarian

Some pictures taken during the colloquium



Significance of World Book and Copyright Day

To map the significance of this event in context perhaps it should be noted that one of the most important discovery in human civilisation is the Book. We cannot emphasise enough the essence of books, in whatever form they might be, to educate and disseminate information and knowledge in the manner hitherto unknown. In an academic environment in particular the reading of books is critical to assimilate, question, examine and advance scholarship. The Book is most probably the most powerful tool to preserve, share and develop upon human discoveries, inventions and experiences. Books are also the foremost instruments to channel human imagination from one generation to the other across the globe. In the words of the Director General of UNESCO: "Books embodies the human capacity to conjure up world of reality and imagination and express them."

On the other hand the Copyright is designed to ensure that the originators of intellectual works are afforded opportunities to be compensated or receive recognition and/or financial reward for their works. In essence the purpose of the copyright is to grant exclusive right to the creator of original work to use and distribute his/her works for a limited period of time. In this regards the copyright provides the legal framework for the creators of original works to benefits from their works and by implication encourages authors and others to produce more literary or scholarly works. In other words the copyright is a form of intellectual property that inherently promotes creation of new works and ensures that originators profits from their works. It therefore makes sense that the Book and Copyright are celebrated concurrently in concert. The Book provides the content while the copyright regulates use of such content.

Perhaps more importantly for the CUT was the timing of this colloquium. During the Library Week celebrations in March this year the library unveiled the Institutional Repository. This colloquium served as a source of insights into the mechanisms and challenges the library is likely to encounter as it endeavours to secure copyright protected materials to be captured for CUT Institutional Repository.

South Africa's World Book Day poster

