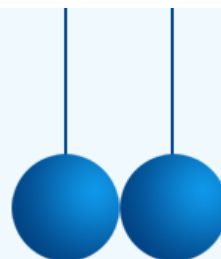


OPENUCT INITIATIVE

opening scholarship



OpenUCT 2013 Review

2013 was a memorable year of action, progress, delays, excitement and activity. The year ended on a high with the university's "Draft proposal for an Open Access Policy at UCT for taking forward open scholarship and open education as part of UCT's commitment to scholarly communication, e-research and digital content stewardship as strategic issues" being supported by the Senate Executive after wending its ways backwards and forwards through the paths of institutional committees. The policy, to be debated at full Senate in early 2014, will require that UCT scholars and students deposit journal articles, theses and dissertations into an approved repository, and encourages UCT staff to make available the full range of scholarly and teaching outputs.

At the same time there were a multitude of advocacy, awareness and other communication activities, with 2013 seeing over 40 events - talks, interactions and presentations focussing on various aspects of the open scholarship and open education agenda. The events were primarily aimed at the UCT community, engaging staff and students about open licensing and open access as well as providing a platform for discussion around how opening up scholarly resources can affect those outside the university environment who don't have access. Events were run through existing programmes such as the Research Office's Emerging Researcher and PERC programmes, the UCT Libraries' Savvy Researchers' series, CHED's Teaching with Technology programme, and the Post-Graduate Office's events series. In addition, we were actively involved in the global "open weeks", [Open Education Week](#) and [Open Access Week](#), in March and October, respectively. Open Access Week this year, for the first time, included an Open Educational Resources (OER) Hackathon, where interested students and staff stopped by to help contribute to OERs and learn about what it takes to make a resource open.



Beyond UCT, the OpenUCT team was also actively involved in a wide range of conferences, workshops and seminars, presenting at regional, national and international levels. These presentations centred around many topics including the 'opens' – open scholarship, open education, open access publishing, open licensing – as well as measuring impact, looking at altmetrics and online visibility. In South Africa, these events included the Cape Higher Education Consortium's Digital University event which we co-convened as well as ongoing involvement with the Council for Higher Education on open education policy. Global participation included conferences in Amsterdam, Netherlands and the University of Illinois, USA as well as online participation on a panel at Columbia University, New York, USA.

OpenUCT continued to have a strong web and social media presence. An all-time peak in interaction on the OpenUCT site (www.openuct.uct.ac.za) came during Open Access Week, with 244 unique visitors to the site on the first day of the week, 21 October 2013. The Guidelines for Academics' Online Presence continued to be the most viewed and downloaded document from the site. For the UCT OpenContent site (<http://opencontent.uct.ac.za>), when comparing the period from 1 January – 30 November 2013 to that same period in 2012, unique site visitors to the site increased by ~14% (42 064 in 2012 to 48 078 in 2013), while overall site visits increased by ~9% (52 171 in 2012 to 56 689 in 2013). The location of total site visitors changed from just over 50% coming from South Africa in 2012 to ~41% in 2013. However, other world regions saw an increase in 2013, indicating a growing international audience for UCT's OpenContent.

In terms of online engagement, the latter half of the year has seen a steady increase in followers on our main social media channels, Twitter (up ~69%) and Facebook (up ~11%). We tweet under an OpenUCT handle as well as being active individually. We are followed and retweeted by several individuals and organisations active in the open sphere.

Partnership activities continued in 2013 with the most important being the launch of the Poverty & Inequality Content Curation Initiative in March 2013 in collaboration with UCT's Poverty and Inequality Initiative, headed by PVC for P&I Professor Murray Leibbrandt, and the UCT Institutional Planning Division. The principle objective of this initiative is explore mechanisms for curating scholarship produced with UCT's P&I research community in order to ensure maximum impact and visibility. The first phase of work, completed in December 2013, was centred around a situational analysis to gain a sense of: who the content producers are; which formats or genres of scholarship are being shared; what the principle drivers or constraints are in the curation endeavour; extent of curatorial intervention possible in phase two of the initiative.

As part of the OpenUCT's remit to engage with the broader open scholarship agenda, we have also been involved in activities related to open science, open development, open data as well as the intersection between openness and copyright. We hosted the Open Science for Development Workshop (held at the UCT Research Office) in September 2013, a two-day workshop brought together a diverse group of over 20 scientists, methodological experts and researchers to scope possible research areas of open science for development. We had also participated in the first Open Science for development workshop in London in June 2013. We supported the joint 3rd Global Congress on IP and the Public Interest – Open A.I.R. Conference on Innovation and IP in Africa (held at the UCT Graduate School of Business from 9-14 December). We contributed through roles as programme convenor, leader of the openness track and as members of the support team.



OpenUCT continued to provide grants for the creation and adaption of open education resources and this year had one round of grant giving bringing the total number of grants given in the last two years up to 59 grants. Other activities undertaken during the year were technical activities, and research projects, the subject of another blog posting to come.

All the good work during the year was undertaken by a small team, working in collaboration with partners throughout the university. The team saw changes during the year with the departure of Shihaam Shaikh for a large publishing company. Shihaam's expertise is a great loss to UCT, and reflects the downside of soft-funded contract positions. We were fortunate that Michelle Willmers was able to join the team as project manager given that the Scholarly Communication in Africa Programme (SCAP) was coming to an end. Sarah Goodier ended her period as an intern and joined the team as a scholarly communication officer. Uvania Naidoo was an intern for three months and at the end of 2013, Kyle Rother (who was awarded Best LISC student of the year) joined the team as an intern. A finer group of people would be hard to find.

by OpenUCT



Add comment

Your name

Subject

Comment *

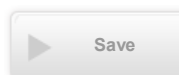
Text format Filtered HTML ▾

[More information about text formats ?](#)

Web page addresses and e-mail addresses turn into links automatically.

Allowed HTML tags: <a> <code> <dl> <dt> <dd>

Lines and paragraphs break automatically.



Preview

[Home](#)

[About Us](#)

[Output](#)

[Events](#)

[Blog](#)

[Support](#)

[Contact Us](#)

This site and its contents are licensed in terms of a [Creative Commons Attribution Share Alike](#) license, unless specified otherwise - Open UCT 2012.

A [Drupal Website](#) by 2Stroke Interactive