Welcome to Issue 4 of the RCU Library Newsletter! In this issue we discuss collaborating with lectures for students' achievement. The issue starts with the new staff library orientation program and then highlights the essence of institutional repository. Also included is how the library works closely with faculties. The RCU theology campus library activities have also been covered. Finally, we have given space to some library patrons to express their various perceptions about the library activities. Throughout the document, we'll explain how teaming up with lecturers helps students do well in their studies.

The Library Helps New Faculty Members Get Up to Speed

On May 15, 2024, the university library hosted a "New Academic Staff Library Orientation for all lecturers who joined the institution in 2024."

The orientation aimed to introduce the new lectures to the Library resources and services that are to help them, as they embark on their teaching, research and learning activities. The orientation covered a wide range of topics to help familiarize the new lecturers with the library services. Librarians gave an overview of the library’s physical and digital collections, demonstrated search tools for finding scholarly materials and shared best practices for embedding library resources into course content.

A key focus of the exercise was to encourage new faculty members to take full advantage of the library's robust collection of physical and electronic resources. Lecturers were encouraged to incorporate e-CHERA in their teaching and to collaborate with the library in using it effectively. The session highlighted the library's research consultation services and subject librarian liaisons, which are available to provide tailored assistance to individual faculty members throughout the year.

With great success, the orientation familiarized the new lecturers with the breadth of the library’s resources. It also fostered strong relations between faculties and library, ultimately empowering student success through enhanced teaching and research.

The Legacy of Knowledge: Embracing the R CU Institutional Repository

RCU Institutional Repository (IR), a digital house of scholarly accomplishments, represents the essence of commitment to excellence in education and research. It is where institutional knowledge, is kept and is meant to safeguard the intellectual legacy of esteemed faculty and students for generations to come. Within the IR lies countless hours of dedication, exploration, and discovery of research papers, journal articles, and more, all waiting to be accessed and appreciated by the members of the university community. In the IR the fruits of academic labour find a permanent home as the Institutional Repository protects collective wisdom from being forgotten and ensures that scholarly work can reach a global audience regardless of geographical or institutional boundaries. Through the IR, the students can access a wide range of scholarly resources, which enriches their learning experience by exposing them to diverse perspectives, and cutting-edge research, ultimately empowering them to excel academically. However, the repository can only fulfill its potential with the participation of lecturers. As esteemed members of the academic community, your contributions are invaluable. We appeal to all academics to embrace the knowledge legacy of the RCU institutional repository by submitting their publications to the repository and enriching the scholarly excellence of the institution.

For further assistance regarding the IR contact the Content management librarian (Ms P Mabhena) or any other library staff member.

Library-Faculty Partnership for Academic Success

The library is thrilled to announce its partnership with lecturers to enhance student achievement. Together, the duo provides support and resources to help students succeed academically. Through partnering with lecturers in faculties the duet has been able to deliberate on issues beneficial in supporting students' academic performance. Most recently, the library department had the honour of taking part in the Faculty of Commerce’s dissertation writing workshop. The workshop was attended by the faculty of commerce’s lecturers as well as the library department. It provided a platform for discussing issues related to dissertation and research writing, with a focus on both the content and presentation of the final dissertation. The aim was to ensure that students receive comprehensive resources, support and guidance throughout their research process, especially in developing well-structured and high-quality research projects. The collaborative workshop was a significant step to ward enhancing student support
in dissertation writing. By leveraging the expertise and resources of both academic and library departments, students benefit from a more integrated approach to research assistance, leading to quality dissertations. This collaboration reflects the commitment of both parties to ensuring student success and academic excellence. We encourage students to take advantage of the library-lecturer partnership.

Here’s how Library-faculty partnership benefits students:

**Tailored Research Assistance:**
Our librarians are here to assist you in finding credible sources. We work with lecturers to curate resources specific to your courses, ensuring you have access to the materials you need.

**Customised Services:**
We tailor library resources, assistance, and support to meet your individual student needs including helping you master citation styles and refine search strategies to overcome coursework challenges.

**Embedded Library Resources:**
Lecturers are integrating library resources directly into your courses, making it easier than ever to access relevant materials and deepen your understanding of course concepts.

Contact person for these services:
Research and Support Services librarian (Mr B. Ncube)
Client services librarian (Ms. H. A. Ncube)
Faculty librarians

### Exploring RCU-Theology Campus Library

The RCU Theology Campus Library is full of academic and spiritual discovery, distinguished by its exceptional collection of rare theological manuscripts and historical religious texts. To support academic staff, non-academic staff, and students at RCU Theology Campus Library, Mr. M. Magazeni, the Assistant Librarian, ensures access to all theology resources. Theology Campus Library is more than a mere repository of books; it is a living museum housing invaluable artefacts such as early printed Bibles, Reformed Church in Zimbabwe books, and writings from influential theologians across centuries. Equipped with an impressive collection of digital and print resources, including academic journals, e-books, and multimedia materials, the library's special collection provides different methods of access to primary sources, essential for advanced theological research and study. Thus, the RCU Theology Campus Library stands out not only for its academic resources but also as a spiritual shelter where the past and present converge for deeper understanding and enlightenment. Visit the RCU theology campus library today and certify for information needs.

### Testimonials

**The library resources have been useful to me. There are books I have been using for my teaching and I've been recommending my students to make use of these resources as well. Though some core books have few copies which comes as a challenge to students. I wish students could make use of library resources more, rather than rely on artificial intelligence, that way we will know that they do research.**

(Lecturer 1)

**As a new lecturer who just joined the RCU community, I’ve been in the process of adapting to the new environment. Thanks to the New Academic Library Orientation program that got me to speed up with the library service and resources on offer. The workshop was eye-opening, and I am looking forward to collaborating with the library in the promotion of students’ academic excellence.**

(Lecturer 2)

**As a frequent library visitor, I appreciate the peaceful reading area, which is essential for concentration during my studies. The librarians are always helpful whenever I need assistance. The availability of both hardcopy books and online material makes it even more fascinating to use the library resources. The library undeniably plays a pivotal role in ensuring academic success.**

(Student)

### Editor's Corner

*Welcome to the Reformed Church University Library newsletter! We aim to keep you informed with library valuable updates, resources, and insights. Published monthly, our newsletter is available digitally via email, WhatsApp, and our website, ensuring easy access for all members. Stay connected with us for the latest news and events at RCU Library!*

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