A COLLABORATIVE PARTNERSHIP: LIBRARIES AND CAREERS SERVICES

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A collaborative partnership: Libraries and Careers Service

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Introduction

• UCT’s mission and strategic plan is committed through innovative research and scholarship to grapple with key issues of our natural and social worlds

• Teaching and learning action plan

• FYE project
Measuring Quality

• Throughput rates as measure of success but not necessarily of quality

• Option of introducing national exit tests across the board

• Development of global tests

• Securing employment within six months of graduating
But what should we be testing for?

Growing importance of focus on graduate attributes

Sheffield Learning and Teaching Strategy for 2011-16: The development of cultural agility, flexibility and the ability of our graduates to compete strongly in the global labour market
Educational attributes of 50 top universities

World-class and aspiring universities recognise that they must offer a curriculum that produces graduates that are not only career-ready but who also have broad knowledge across disciplines; leadership skills; cultural awareness; the capacity for life-long learning; and who are active global citizens.
Improving the Teaching/Research nexus

• Meaningful research opportunities provided even at first-year level

• Students design own research projects or work closely with academics on their research projects

• Students gain experience at all stages of research projects, including writing proposals and presenting findings
Academic Libraries

• Academic libraries are evolving from their passive role as information repositories to proactive participants in the academic process

• Glynn and Wu (2003) discuss the increasingly important role of library liaisons and their outreach activities with teaching faculty and academic departments

• To date, student services divisions are an unexplored area for librarian outreach and information literacy instruction
Career Services

• Aims to enhance the quality of UCT’s graduates and help ensure they are equipped with the skills to complete in a global workplace

• Enable UCT student to make informed choices about their future, fulfil their career ambitions and make a meaningful contribution to the communities in which they live and work
Foot in the door

- Meeting with new Executive Director: UCT Libraries (Gwenda Thomas)
- New Director: Careers Services (David Casey)
- Probed for ways to facilitate additional collaborations between the UCT Libraries and the Career Services
Expanding role as library liaison

• Instruction - O’Sullivan (2002) discusses making “information literacy relevant in the real world”

• As part of their professional responsibilities in the career services office, career advisors assist patrons with their career planning needs

• Being more familiar with the resources that UCT Libraries have to offer a unique and useful services can be offered to students
Expanding role as library liaison

• Collection Management

• Identify the library’s core collection

• Weed the collection

• Defining core collections: essential for a modern, effective, and efficient career services library
Expanding role as library liaison/careers advisor
Physical space

• Social & learning spaces in Teaching & Learning building

• Pop-up careers service

• Primarily a student centered environment – supported by pedagogical, technological, social trends and research

• Flexible

• Collaborative
Library and Information Studies Centre (LISC)

- Personal and professional development planning (PPDP)
- Primarily a modules designed for LIS students to facilitate their academic, personal and career development
- Better understanding of their personal performance, manage themselves effectively and develop to become a more reflective learner
- Effective career plans
- Begin the process of Professional Development
Conclusion

• Other partnerships

• Libraries are relevant to student needs outside of academic coursework

• Libraries have assumed a greater role of educational leadership by reaching out beyond academic departments, bolstering their status on campus
Thank you!

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