The need to read

an unexpected demand of the new generation of users at the Cape Peninsula University of Technology (CPUT)

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CPUT

- CPUT: 34000 students, 1800 staff
- CPUT Libraries: 10 Campuses = 105 staff
- CPUT vision focuses on technology
- Variety of campuses
Faculty structure

- Business
- Engineering
- Informatics & Design
- Health & Wellness Sciences
- Education & Social Sciences
- Applied Sciences
Language enrolments

% Home Language Non-English

- GRANGER BAY CAMPUS
- MOWBRAY CAMPUS
- GROOTE SCHUUR
- CAPE TOWN CAMPUS
- BELLVILLE CAMPUS
- TYGERBERG HOSPITAL
- ATHLONE CAMPUS
- WORCESTER CAMPUS
- WELLINGTON CAMPUS

% Non-ENG
Our students’ educational history

- Huge inequalities in schooling
  - Apartheid legacy
  - Socio-economic problems
  - Differences between nine provinces
  - Discrepancies in the level of infrastructure in different schools

- Non-existence of school libraries in many schools – township & rural schools
Intervention triggers

- Fundani: Student Learning Unit
- Libqual+ 2008
- Deans’ Forum
Steps taken

- Old vs. new collection development policy
  
  *In response to the reading needs of the users, of the book budget will be top-sliced...for purchasing of fiction books or light reading material*
User survey 2012

- Branches: Athlone, Cape Town, Granger Bay, Groote Schuur
- Survey done in test week before vacation
- Questions – close & open-ended
- PR interns – structured interviews
- One on one consultations
- Random selection of users in the library
- Results captured on Kwiksurveys
Why do you read?
Reasons for reading fiction

1. Academic purposes/research
2. Leisure & enjoyment
3. Improving language
4. Some students do not use the fiction collection or library for reading
Overall results

- Academic: 44%
- Leisure: 29%
- Language: 22%
- Do not read: 5%
Overall results

- Voluntary reading: 44%
- Leisure: 29%
- Language: 22%
- Do not read: 5%
- Academic: 5%
Reading patterns per campus

Athlone | Cape Town | Granger Bay | Groote Schuur
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Academic: 18 | Language: 2 | Leisure: 20 | Do not read: 10

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Home language

Reasons for reading fiction

Academic
Leisure
Language
Do not read

Afrikaans
English
Other
Xhosa
Conclusion

- Technology is desirable, but so is printed material.
- Fiction has a place even in collections at Universities of Technology.
- In Africa there is a unique population within the new generation of library users.
Introducing the African “para-digital native”

- Approaches technology use as someone raised in a technology based world
- Still needs the print media where unable to afford technology socio-economically

The Library needs to cater for the needs of all groups!
Thank you

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