Assisting students with disabilities

Partnership between CPUT Disability Unit & CPUT Libraries

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Overview

- Right of every individual to be educated (Article 24)
- Access to information & communication services (Article 21)
- Policies regulating schooling and Higher Education (HE)
- Progressive access into HE for previously disadvantaged students, including students with disabilities
- LIS transformation charter June 2009 – “Nothing about us without us”
Background

- Disability Unit established
  - Oct 2008 Bellville campus
  - Jan 2009 Cape Town campus
- 2009: Partnership between Unit and Library to support students with disabilities

- 2008/8
- 2009/65
- 2010/117
- 2011/162
- 2012/210

Graph showing the increase in support over the years.
**Types of disabilities at CPUT**

- **Physical disabilities:**
  - Immobility
  - Hemiplegic, paraplegic and quadruplegic

- **Sensory disabilities:**
  - Hard of hearing and deafness
  - Partially sighted and blindness

- **Learning disabilities:**
  - ADHD/ADD
  - Dyslexia
Number of students with disabilities (2012)

- Impaired mobility: 53
- Para-quadriplegic: 6
- Hard of hearing: 16
- Deaf: 8
- Partially sighted: 23
- Blind: 1
- Learning disabilities: 82
- Dyslexia: 82
- ADHD/ADD: 20

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Types of Assistive Technology used by the Disability Unit (cont.):

- Lab with 12 computers, specialised software programs, scanners, printer, magnifier, special large font keyboards
- 24-hour lab with 8 computers with specialised software and 1 scanner
- 2 computers with specialised software in library

Satellite campuses:
- 1/2 computers with specialised software and 1 scanner in each of the three libraries

IATUL conference: Cape Town, SA
April 2013
## Assistive technology in use

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>HARDWARE</th>
<th>DISABILITY</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Big screen</td>
<td>Partially sighted/ Learning</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adapted fingerboards</td>
<td>Partially sighted/ Physical</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scanners</td>
<td>All disabilities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>SPECIALISED SOFTWARE PROGRAMMES</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zoom Text</td>
<td>Partially sighted</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jaws</td>
<td>Blind</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Claro Read/ Claro lighting/ Wynn</td>
<td>Learning</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dragon Natural speaking</td>
<td>Physical / Learning</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Positive elements identified by students with regard to academic support in CPUT libraries

**POSITIVE ELEMENTS**

**Access to learning material**
- Hardware (scanners)
- Specialised software programmes
- Printers
- Assistance
- Orientation

**Environment**
- Working space
- Open hours
- Internet
- Physical access (30%)

Research
- Articles
- Books
- Dictionaries
- Assistance
Challenges identified by students with regard to academic support in CPUT libraries

CHALLENGES

Environment
- Signage
- Equipment used by other users
- Physical access (70%)
- Working space for “Speech to Text”
- Adapted furniture
- Security of equipment

Administrative
- Information re students with disabilities
- Continuous training of staff in software programs

Financial
- Audio books
- Expansion of specialised equipment
Working relationship

- Space allocation
- Staff to support students – trained
- Disability awareness weeks
- Exhibitions in libraries
- Disability issues displayed on screens in libraries
- Information pamphlets on disabilities
- Casual day
- Audio files and e-Books
The way forward

- Space design utilising Universal Design principles
- Ongoing specialised training
- Adapted hardware and specialised software in libraries
- Improved signage
- Librarians take the lead: One-on-one training
- Extended collection of audio files and e-books
- Focussed collection development
- Awareness activities
The outcome of this partnership

“together we did more”
Questions?

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