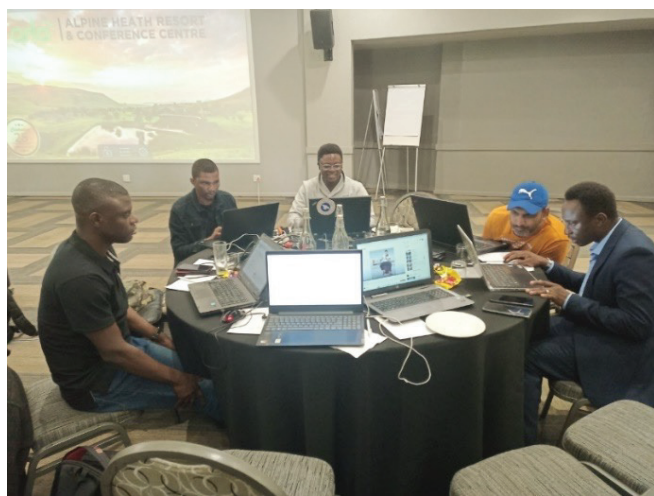# RPS NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER EDITION

DUT CONTINUES TO INVEST IN CAPACITY BUILDING

An academic writing retreat was again organized for emerging researchers by the Directorate for Research and Postgraduate Support. The retreat was held at the Alpine health Resort, Drakensburg between the 26th and 30th September 2022. The 5-day retreat which was hosted face-to-face was attended by over 40 emerging researchers from the Durban University of Technology. The event was facilitated by 6 established and well published senior researchers who were contracted for their specialty in their various disciplines and according to the research needs of the emerging researchers. During the retreat sessions, the facilitators helped emerging researchers in postgraring and restructuring their individual papers for the purpose of making them publishable by the end of the session. The emerging researchers in attendance range from disciplines such as Management/Social Sciences, Arts and Humanities, Engineering/Information Technology, Applied Sciences, and Health Sciences. By the end of the retreat, some of the papers brought by the emerging researchers were ready to be submitted to suitable DHET accredited journals identified by the researchers in conjunctions with their facilitators. Many other retreat attendees also indicated that their papers would be ready in the next few days after the retreat. It is expected that the retreat will contribute heavily to research outputs at the university.

Source: Theophilus Adedokun.

DUT HOSTS SCOPING REVIEW WORKSHOP FOR POSTGRADUATE STUDENTS

In its quest to aspire towards the ENVISION2030 goals, improving innovation and research skills of staffs and students is paramount. To achieve this goal, the Research and Capacity development held a training to facilitate the improvement of research and innovation at DUT. Prof. Musekiwa who is an associate professor of Biostatistics at the University of Pretoria had a virtual training with DUT students on how to conduct a scoping review. The aim of the workshop was to train researchers on how to achieve research excellence in their focus area through engaging the use of scoping review.

During the workshop, Prof Musekiwa highlighted the differences between scoping review and other reviews such as literature and systemic reviews. According to him, a scoping review is a multidisciplinary and under-utilized research method, it is a type of research method that allows you bring together all relevant information as one specific research question. Detailing the critical intricacies that are involved in scoping review using the PCC (Population, Concept and Context) principles, the workshop was an interactive engagement as postgraduate students were allowed to do a presentation of how they have successfully conducted scoping review as taught by Prof Musekiwa. In addition to the two-day training, staffs and postgraduate students were engaged in signing up and registering to scoping review platforms and as well as how to identify journals that can publish using a scoping review protocol. To learn how to conduct a scoping review, see here
SCOPING REVIEW WORKSHOP - Day 1-20220906_120907-Meeting Recording.mp4

RCD: POSTGRADUATE TRAINING ON FORMATTING THESIS FOR RESEARCH PUBLICATION

The research and postgraduate support (RPS) planned a training workshop to encourage postgraduate students into actualizing DUTs aims of academic excellence and great research output. It became imperative that researchers are equipped with proper research writing tips to produce accurate research engagement. The training was hosted by postgraduate librarians at the DUT. Ms. Sara Mitha started the training by discussing tips on how to create a professional document that meets the standards of DUT academic writing, as every thesis submitted in DUT is made available on DUT open scholar. To achieve this feat, there is a need for continuous training of postgraduate students and academic staff towards writing a polished thesis that are of unbeatable standards. The second session of the training was done by Ms. Avenal Finlayson, who taught postgraduate students on how to maximize the use of Microsoft Word to format their documents, this training session included teachings on how to use Microsoft Office, software for data analysis as well as basic use of EndNote for clear referencing. To learn more on how to format your thesis, click here:
Word for thesis_ Tips on formatting your thesis document-20220824_100538-Meeting Recording.mp4

RESOURCES FOR ACADEMIC RESEARCH: HOW TO USE THE E-LIBRARY AND RESEARCH SOFTWARE

Improving research output by engaging in consecutive training of staff and students is one of the major objectives of the research capacity development (RCD) unit. This objective is part of the DUTs ENVISION2030 which is to promote creativity, innovation, and adaptive changes to the world. To fulfil the objectives of RCD, the training of students becomes paramount. The postgraduate research librarians took on the training of postgraduate students on how to effectively use the library to improve their search for data resources, literatures, database, and software management. The virtual training led by Ms Lindiwe Gumede via Microsoft Teams, taught postgraduate students how to use the e-library for research purposes and the different software available to students. During the training, Ms Gumede engaged the postgraduate students on how to use the institutional database available, where they can view, read, and download previously conducted research from other institutions. In addition to the training on the use of e-library, the librarians trained students on how to use the Adobe digital editions for strategies on active learning, writing and references. The postgraduate librarians use this opportunity of trainings and workshops to regularly update postgraduate students on new software acquired by the University to ensure continuous academic progress. To learn how to use the e-library and research software, click here **Resources for your research_ Library databases, literature and software-20220810_100431-Meeting Recording.mp4**

ENVISION2030

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