Harare Institute of Technology Library & Information Services

"stimulating scholarship in innovation"

Title: The Establishment of Virtual Libraries within Boarding Houses: Cultivating Research and Facilitating the Creation of Research & Learning Commons

Macdonald Nhakura
(Sub Librarian)

HIT MANDATE

- TO DEVELOP, INCUBATE,TRANSFER & COMMERCIALISE TECHNOLOGY

Background

- The (HIT) Library established as a university library in 2005.
- It is an oasis of knowledge with a collection of materials ranging from printed books and journals, e-resource databases, government documents, audio visual materials like DVDs as well as newspapers.
- Library sitting capacity of (70) versus students (2777) and (850) staff members.
- More than 5000 electronic books through Ebsco-host e-book collection and e-Brary & more than 30000 eBooks through open access resources such Book boon, PDF-Drive etc.
- ICTS and Library Department at HIT work hand in glove scenario. The Activities dovetail into each other

Purpose of Study

- The aim of this research proposal is to investigate the potential benefits and feasibility of establishing research and learning commons within boarding houses located in close proximity to universities, which are commonly used by students
- The proposal seeks to identify the impact of creating such spaces on student learning, academic performance, and overall well-being. Additionally, the proposal will explore the key factors required for successful implementation and maintenance of these student-focused learning environments.

What are research commons

- The commons will provide a collaborative and inclusive space that caters to students' research, learning, and academic development needs. By offering a range of resources, services, and support, the commons aim to enhance students' academic success and promote a culture of research and scholarship.
- A novel concept known as Research Commons has emerged, wherein students are actively encouraged to engage in collaborative projects and engage in discussions pertaining to innovations. These collaborative projects are specifically referred to as HIT 200, HIT 300, and HIT 400.Certain students have successfully organised themselves into groups and arranged to reside in shared accommodations, thereby effectively fulfilling the necessary numbers for research and learning.
- This development has essentially transformed these accommodations into an extension of the library. With the assistance of Chat-GPT, library personnel are now able to collaborate with their colleagues and remotely address inquiries by connecting with subject librarians.

- In support of Learning and Teaching, the provision of Learning and Research Commons is mandatory and offered to HIT students and staff. The Research Commons is a place to collaborate and connect with fellow students and faculty on research projects. It is a place for workshop and presentation opportunities, and a place to discover what your peers and colleagues are researching. The space provides a collaborative environment in which students and faculty can come together to share and discuss research, as well as get support for all steps of the research process: searching, writing, publishing, and funding.
- A "learning commons" most broadly defined is a central facility, usually an academic library, that provides the space, technology and services to support learning. These learning spaces can include areas for group work, individual study spaces, instructional rooms, computer pools, multi-media labs and soft seating areas. Services may include learning, writing, library research, numeracy, and academic advising support for students; instructional development assistance for faculty, and technology and media support services for both students and instructors

- Boarding houses near universities are popular accommodation choices for students, offering convenience and proximity to academic institutions. However, these living spaces often lack conducive environments for collaborative studying, research, and academic support
- By introducing research and learning commons within these facilities, students can have enhanced access to educational resources and foster a sense of community, leading to a positive impact on their academic journey.

- . **Objectives:**
- - Investigate the existing challenges faced by students living in boarding houses with regard to studying, research, and access to learning resources.
- - Explore successful examples of research and learning commons in university campuses and analyze their positive impact on student learning outcomes.
- - Identify the essential components required for the creation and maintenance of effective research and learning commons in boarding houses.
- - Measure the impact of establishing such spaces on student academic performance, research engagement, and overall student satisfaction.
- To propose a framework which will be adopted by boarding houses for virtual libraries

- Methodology:
- a. Literature Review: Conduct an extensive review of academic literature, case studies, and reports related to research and learning commons in university settings, boarding houses, and student accommodation.
- b. Surveys and Questionnaires: Administer surveys and questionnaires to students residing in boarding houses and universities to gather data on their current study environments, preferences, and needs.
- c. Interviews: Conduct interviews with university officials, accommodation managers, and student representatives to gain insights into potential challenges and opportunities.
- d. Observations: Observe and analyze the study habits and interactions of students in existing research and learning commons facilities.

- Proposed Activities:
- a. Assess the physical space requirements, technology infrastructure, and resource availability necessary for establishing research and learning commons in boarding houses.
- b. Design and develop a blueprint for student-focused learning spaces, taking into consideration flexibility, accessibility, and inclusivity.
- c. Implement pilot programs in selected boarding houses, equipping the spaces with appropriate resources, and evaluate their impact on student academic performance and satisfaction.
- d. Collaborate with university authorities and accommodation managers to integrate the research and learning commons concept into accommodation packages for students.

- Implementation Strategies
  - Collaborations with educational institutions and libraries
  - Leveraging existing digital platforms and technologies
  - Staffing and support services for virtual library management

- Expected Outcomes:
- The proposed research aims to:
- - Enhance student learning experiences and academic performance through improved access to educational resources.
- - Foster a sense of community and collaboration among students residing in boarding houses.
- - Provide valuable insights for accommodation providers to develop student-friendly and research-oriented living spaces.

- The creation of research and learning commons in boarding houses nearer to universities presents a promising opportunity to enhance student learning experiences and academic performance. By providing a conducive environment for research, study, and collaboration, students can thrive in their academic pursuits while fostering a supportive community within their living spaces. This research proposal aims to explore the potential benefits of such initiatives and provide valuable insights for the improvement of student accommodations.

- In conclusion, the establishment of virtual libraries within boarding houses offers a promising avenue for cultivating research and facilitating the creation of research and learning commons. By leveraging the power of digital resources and collaborative living environments, students and researchers can enhance their access to knowledge, develop interdisciplinary skills, and foster a culture of intellectual growth. While challenges exist, careful planning and implementation strategies can overcome these hurdles, leading to a future where virtual libraries within boarding houses become integral components of educational and research landscapes.

Results from the Boarding houses in the vicinity of HIT

- There are 35 boarding houses registered with the Dean of students
- Their prices differ because of infrastructure developments
- They share two to 4 per room and sizes differ
- Prices range from 80 -120 usd per month
- 20 have unlimited wifi while others juice up as it finishes
- Only 8 have common reading spaces which can be converted into Research & learning commons

Comparison of Physical Library Usage vs. Virtual Library Usage

- This exercise compared the usage of physical libraries and virtual libraries within boarding houses in universities. It shows the percentage of students who utilize physical libraries for research and learning compared to those who utilize virtual libraries.
- Response: The results demonstrated a clear trend towards increased usage of virtual libraries compared to physical libraries within boarding houses. This shift can be attributed to the convenience and accessibility offered by virtual libraries, allowing students to access a wide range of resources anytime and anywhere. The findings highlight the need for universities to invest in virtual library infrastructure and resources to meet the evolving needs of students.

Graph 2: Impact of Virtual Libraries on Research Productivity

- This exercise illustrated the impact of virtual libraries on research productivity within boarding houses. It compares the number of research papers or projects completed by students who have access to virtual libraries versus those who rely solely on physical libraries.
- Response: The results revealed a significant increase in research productivity among students with access to virtual libraries. The ease of accessing digital resources, online databases, and scholarly articles has facilitated extensive research opportunities and enhanced the quality and quantity of academic output. These findings emphasize the importance of establishing virtual libraries within boarding houses to foster a culture of research and academic excellence.

- This graph measures student satisfaction with virtual libraries within boarding houses. It presents a rating scale depicting the level of satisfaction students experience in terms of resource availability, ease of navigation, and overall user experience.
- Response: The graph demonstrates high levels of student satisfaction with virtual libraries. The availability of diverse resources, user-friendly interfaces, and efficient search functionalities contribute to a positive user experience. These results highlight the success of implementing virtual libraries within boarding houses and their role in cultivating a research and learning commons environment that aligns with the needs and expectations of students.

Utilization of Virtual Libraries by Disciplinary Areas

- This exercise showcases the utilization of virtual libraries within boarding houses across different disciplinary areas. It presents the percentage of students from various academic fields who actively access and utilize virtual library resources.
- Response: The results indicates varying levels of virtual library utilization across disciplinary areas. It reveals higher usage among students in research-intensive disciplines such as science, engineering, and social sciences, while humanities and arts disciplines show relatively lower usage. These findings suggest the importance of targeted promotion and support for virtual library resources to ensure equitable access and utilization across all academic disciplines.

Response 1: Interview Response
Interviewee: RSD Librarian

- Question: How has the establishment of virtual libraries within boarding houses impacted research and learning at our university?
- Response: The establishment of virtual libraries within boarding houses has had a significant impact on research and learning at our university. Students now have easy access to a vast array of digital resources, including e-books, scholarly articles, and online databases. This has greatly facilitated their research process, allowing them to explore a wider range of sources and enhance the depth and quality of their academic work. Furthermore, virtual libraries have created a collaborative and interactive learning environment, where students can engage in online discussions, share resources, and collaborate on projects, fostering a sense of community and knowledge sharing among the boarding house residents.

Response 2: Questionnaire Response

Question: How often do you utilize the virtual library resources provided within your boarding house?

- **Response options:**
- Daily, Several times a week, Once a week, Rarely, Never
- **Response**: Several times a week
- Additional comments: The virtual library resources within my boarding house have become an essential part of my academic routine. I rely on them regularly to access course materials, research articles, and supplementary resources. The convenience of having these resources readily available from my room allows me to study at my own pace and work on assignments more efficiently. I appreciate the effort put into establishing the virtual library within the boarding house, as it has greatly enhanced my learning experience.

Response 3: Interview Response
Interviewee: Undergraduate Student

- Question: How has the establishment of virtual libraries within boarding houses influenced your research practices?
- Response: The establishment of virtual libraries within boarding houses has revolutionized my research practices. Previously, I had to rely solely on physical libraries, which often had limited hours and resources. With the virtual library accessible from my boarding house, I have the flexibility to conduct research at any time that suits me best. The wide range of digital resources and databases available has expanded my research horizons, allowing me to explore diverse perspectives and find relevant sources more efficiently. Overall, the virtual library has empowered me to become a more independent and effective researcher

Response 4: Questionnaire Response
Question: How would you rate the accessibility and user-friendliness of the virtual library resources within your boarding house?

- Response options:

Excellent, Good, Average, Below average, Poor

- Response: Excellent
- Additional comments: The virtual library resources within my boarding house are incredibly accessible and user-friendly. The platform is intuitive, making it easy to navigate and locate the resources I need. The search functionalities are robust and efficient, saving me valuable time when conducting research. Additionally, the virtual library's 24/7 availability ensures that I can access materials whenever I need them, regardless of the time of day. I am highly satisfied with the accessibility and user-friendliness of the virtual library resources provided.

Interviewee: Student part 4

Question :What is the most ideal scenario in allocating students to boarding houses?

- Response: The Dean of students should have a criteria of registering all boarding house owners and create a database. The students should be allocated as per class ,programme and part so as to facilitate further discussions after school.

Theory (TAM)

- The Technology Acceptance Model (Davis, 1989), or TAM,
- The Technology Acceptance Model (TAM) is designed to measure the adoption of new technology based on customer attitudes.
- Posits that there are two factors that determine whether a computer system will be accepted by its potential users (1) perceived usefulness, and (2) perceived ease of use

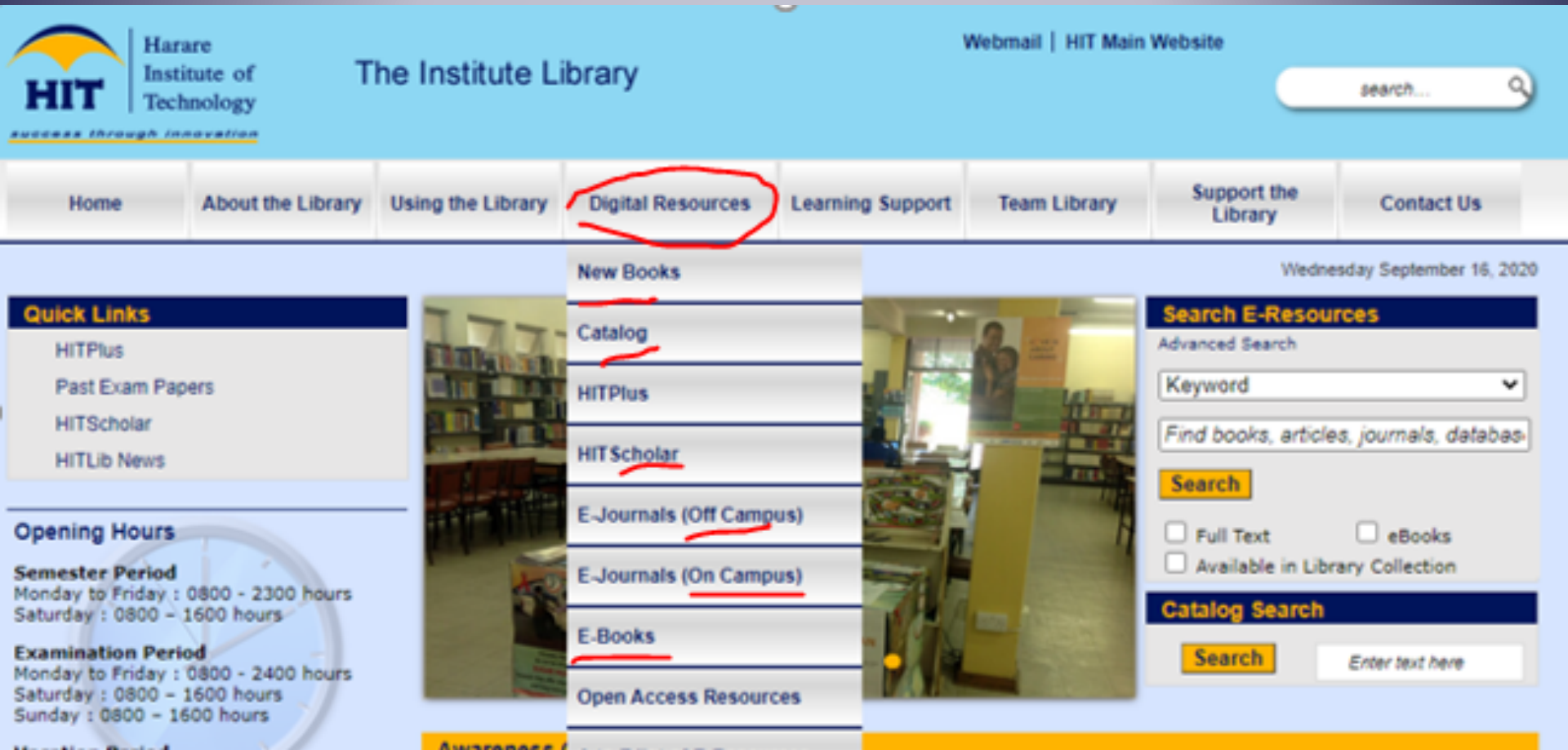
The Digital Library is open 24/7!

On and Off Campus

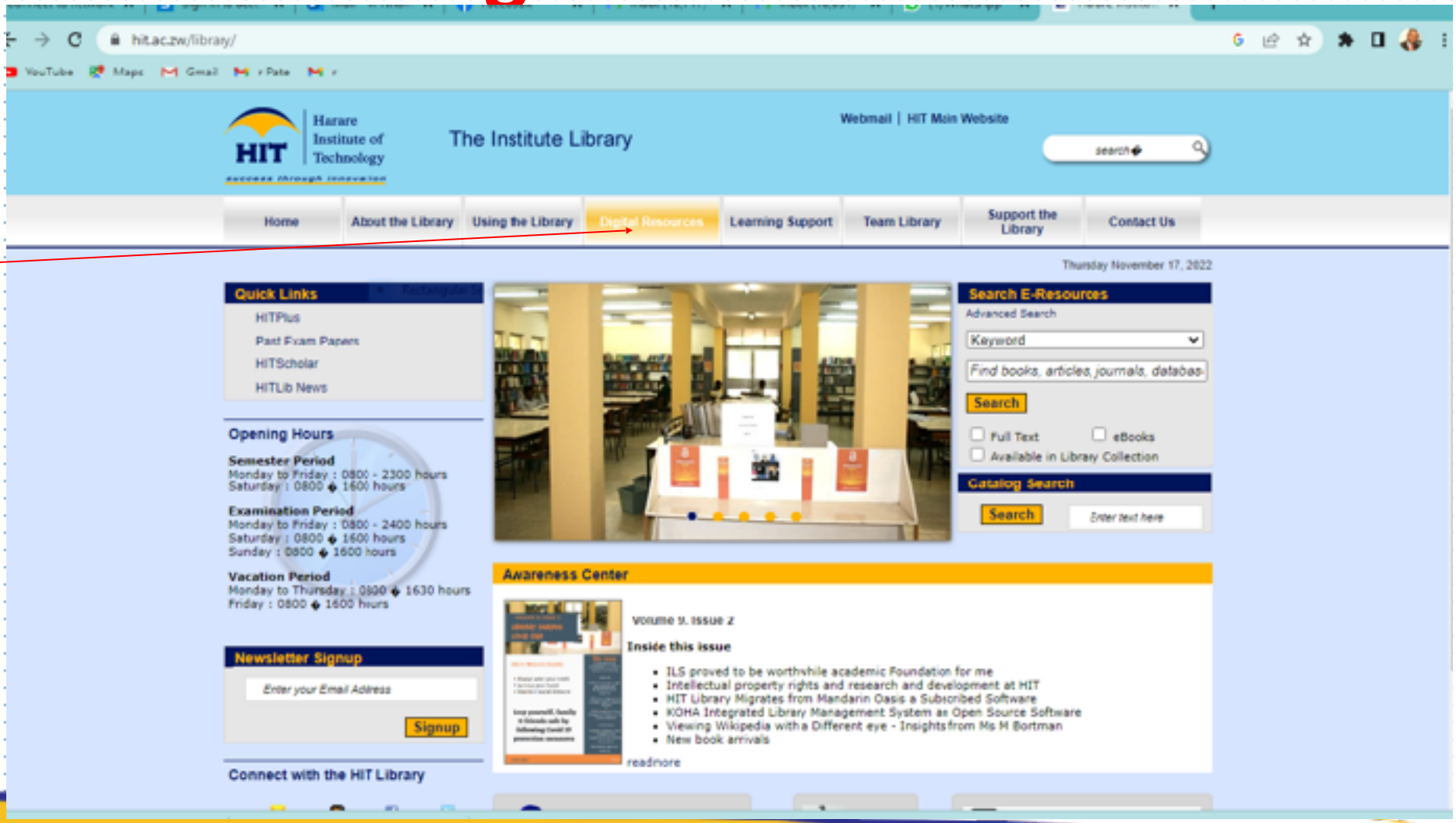
Simply Visit:

https://www.hit.ac.zw/library/

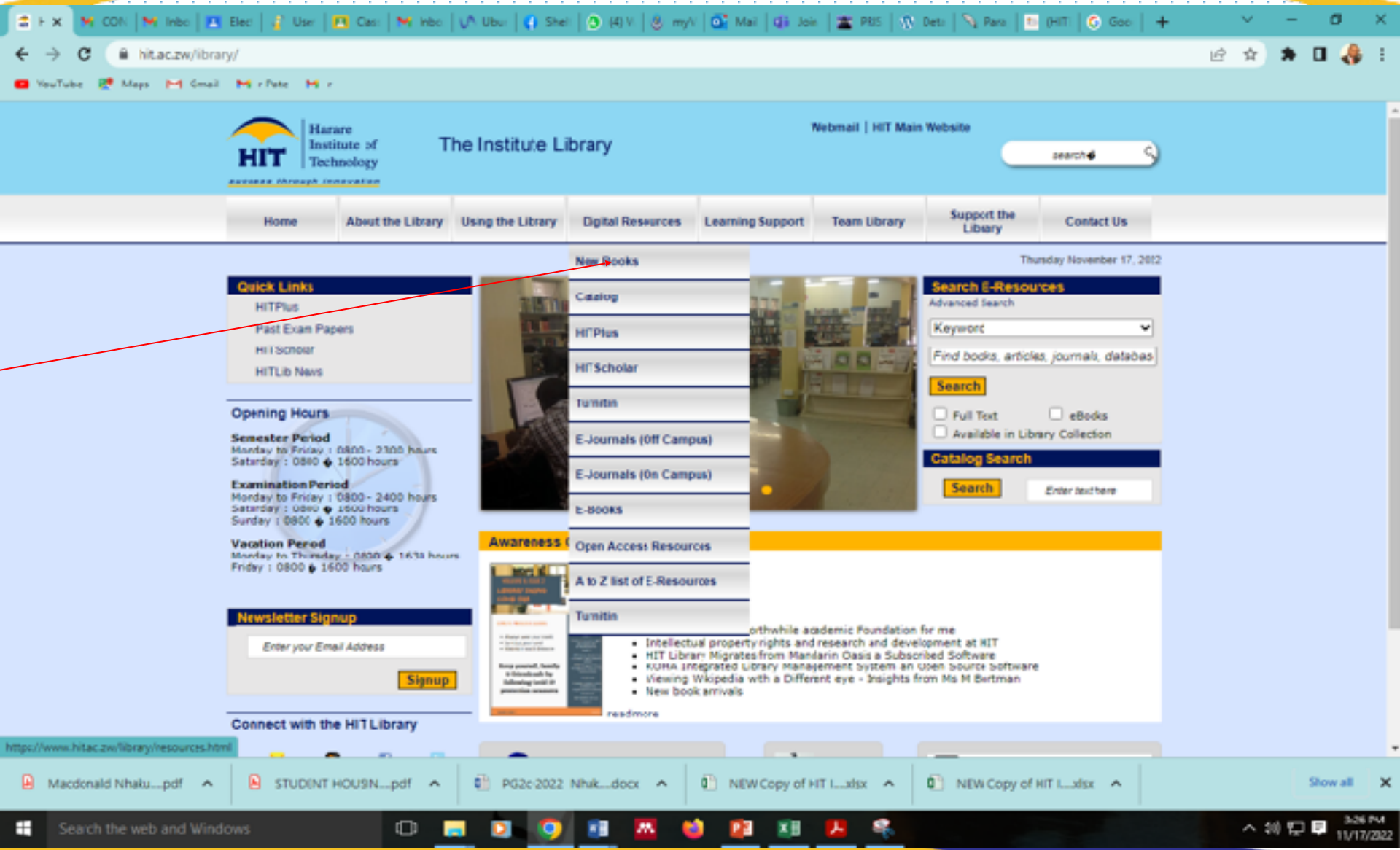
Digital Resources



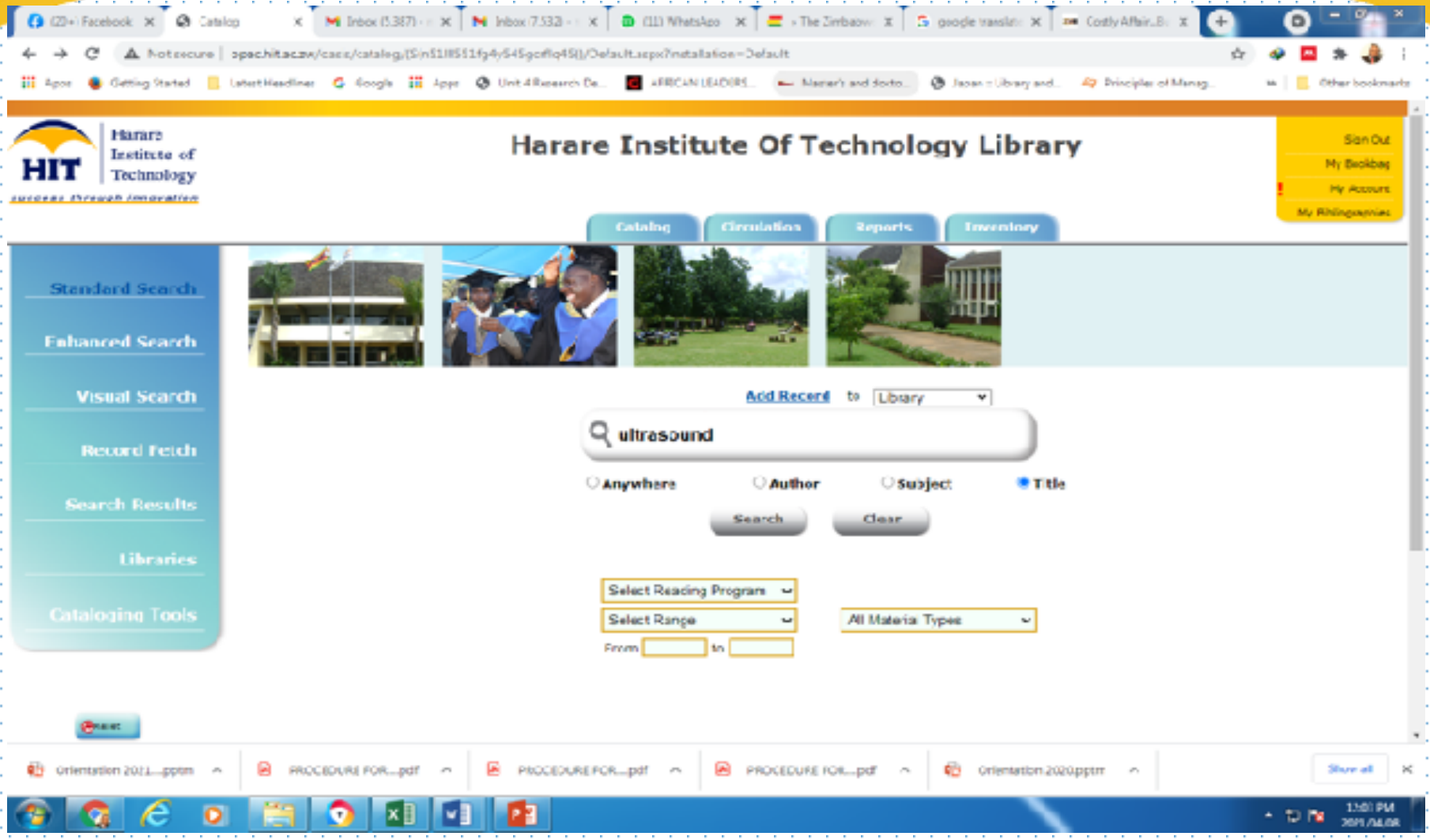
Digital Resources



NEW BOOKS


hit.ac.zw/library/
Harare Institute of Technology
HIT
The Institute Library
Netmail | HIT Main Website
search
Home
About the Library
Using the Library
Digital Resources
Learning Support
Team Library
Support the Library
Contact Us
New Books
Catalog
HITPlus
HIT Scholar
Turnitin
E-Journals (Off Campus)
E-Journals (On Campus)
E-books
Open Access Resources
A to Z list of E-Resources
Turnitin
Thursday November 17, 2022
Quick Links
HITPlus
Past Exam Papers
HIT Scholar
HITLib News
Opening Hours
Semester Period
Monday to Friday : 0800 - 2300 hours
Saturday : 0800 - 1600 hours
Examination Period
Monday to Friday : 0800 - 2400 hours
Saturday : 0800 - 1600 hours
Sunday : 0800 - 1600 hours
Vacation Period
Friday : 0800 - 1600 hours
Search E-Resources
Advanced Search
Keyword
Find books, articles, journals, databas
Search
Full Text
eBooks
Available in Library Collection
Catalog Search
Search
Enter text here
Awareness
Intellectual property rights and research and development at HIT
HIT Library Migrates from Mandarin Oasis a Subscribed Software
KUHA Integrated Library management system an Open Source software
Viewing Wikipedia with a Different eye - Insights from Ms M Bertman
New book arrivals
readmore
Newsletter Signup
Enter your Email Address
Signup
Connect with the HIT Library
https://www.hit.ac.zw/library/resources.html
Macdonald Nhaku....pdf
STUDENT HOUSIN....pdf
PG2c 2022 Nhuk....docx
NEW Copy of HIT l....xlsx
NEW Copy of HIT l....xlsx
Show all
Search the web and Windows
3:26 PM
11/17/2022

OPAC

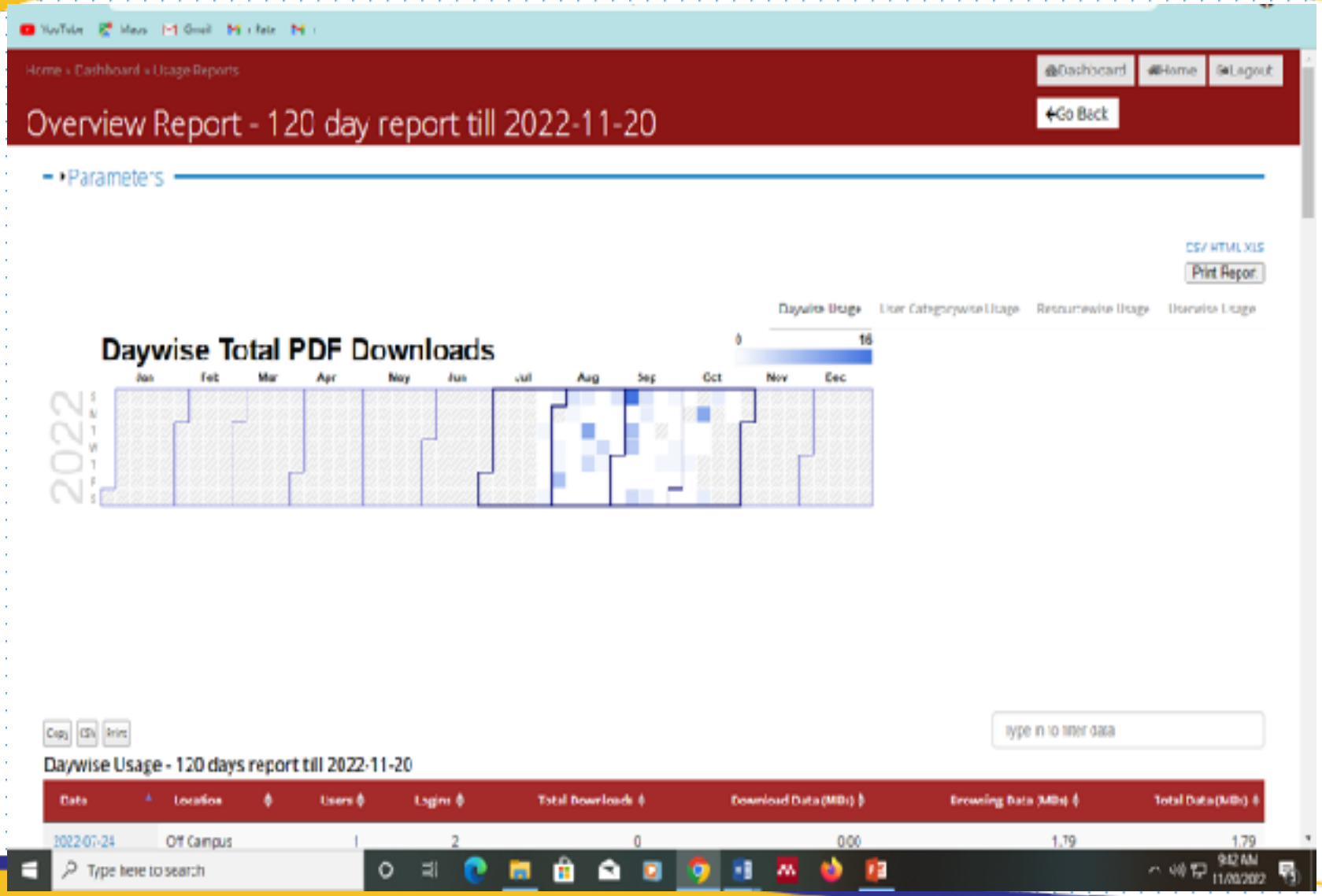

Harare Institute of Technology
Harare Institute Of Technology Library
Sign Out
My Backbag
My Account
My Bibliographies
Catalog
Circulation
Reports
Inventory
Standard Search
Enhanced Search
Visual Search
Record Fetch
Search Results
Libraries
Cataloging Tools
Add Record to Library
ultrasound
Anywhere
Author
Subject
Title
Search
Clear
Select Reading Program
Select Range
All Material Types
From
to

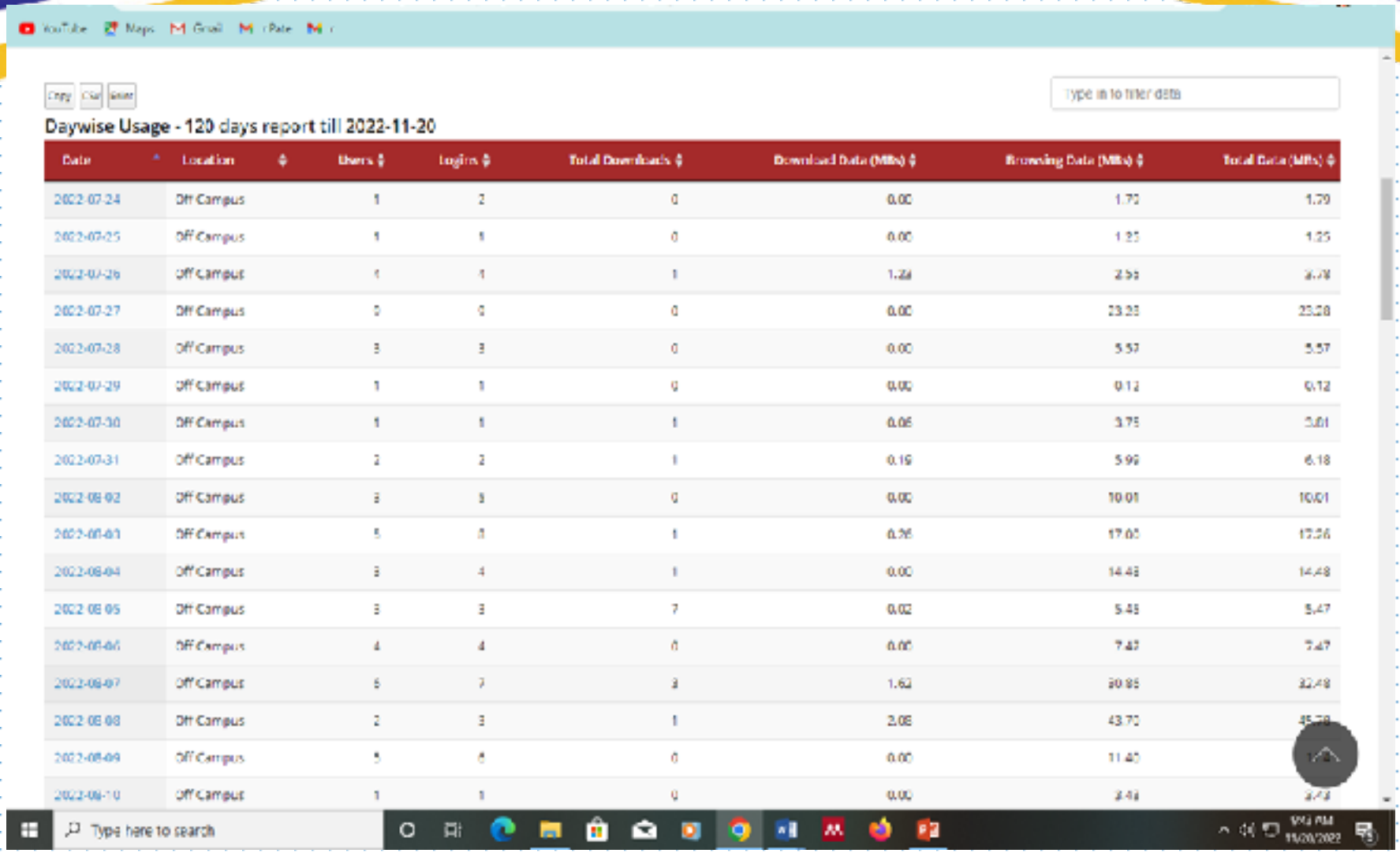
Catalog

Not secure | opac.hit.ac.zw/oasis/catalog/(S(10sll44ycbcntzqv24)q045))/default.aspx?installation=Default
Harare Institute of Technology
Standard Search
Enhanced Search
Visual Search
Search Results
Libraries
The Innovation and Technopreneurial University
www.hit.ac.zw
From
to

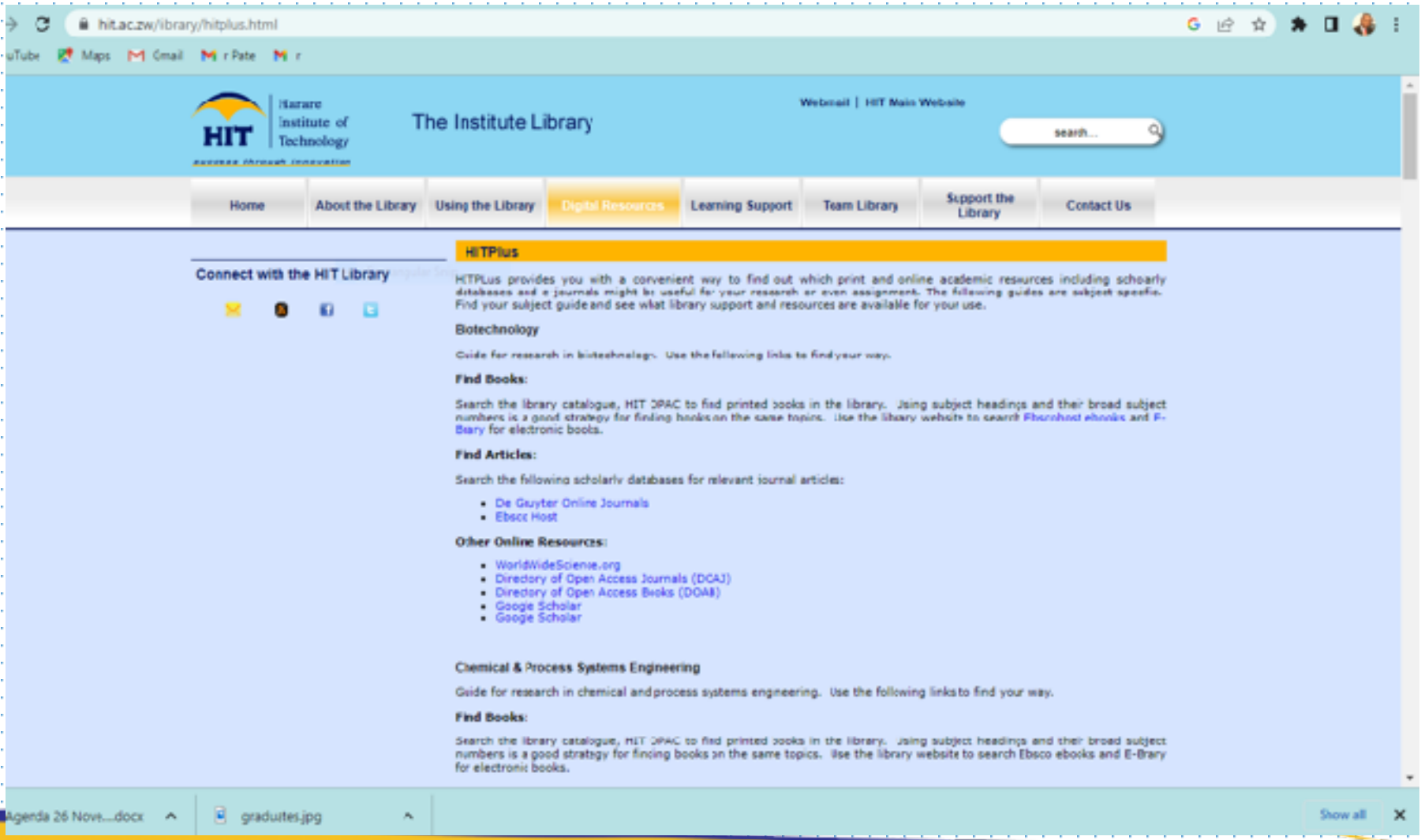
Off campus connectivity

Downloads off campus



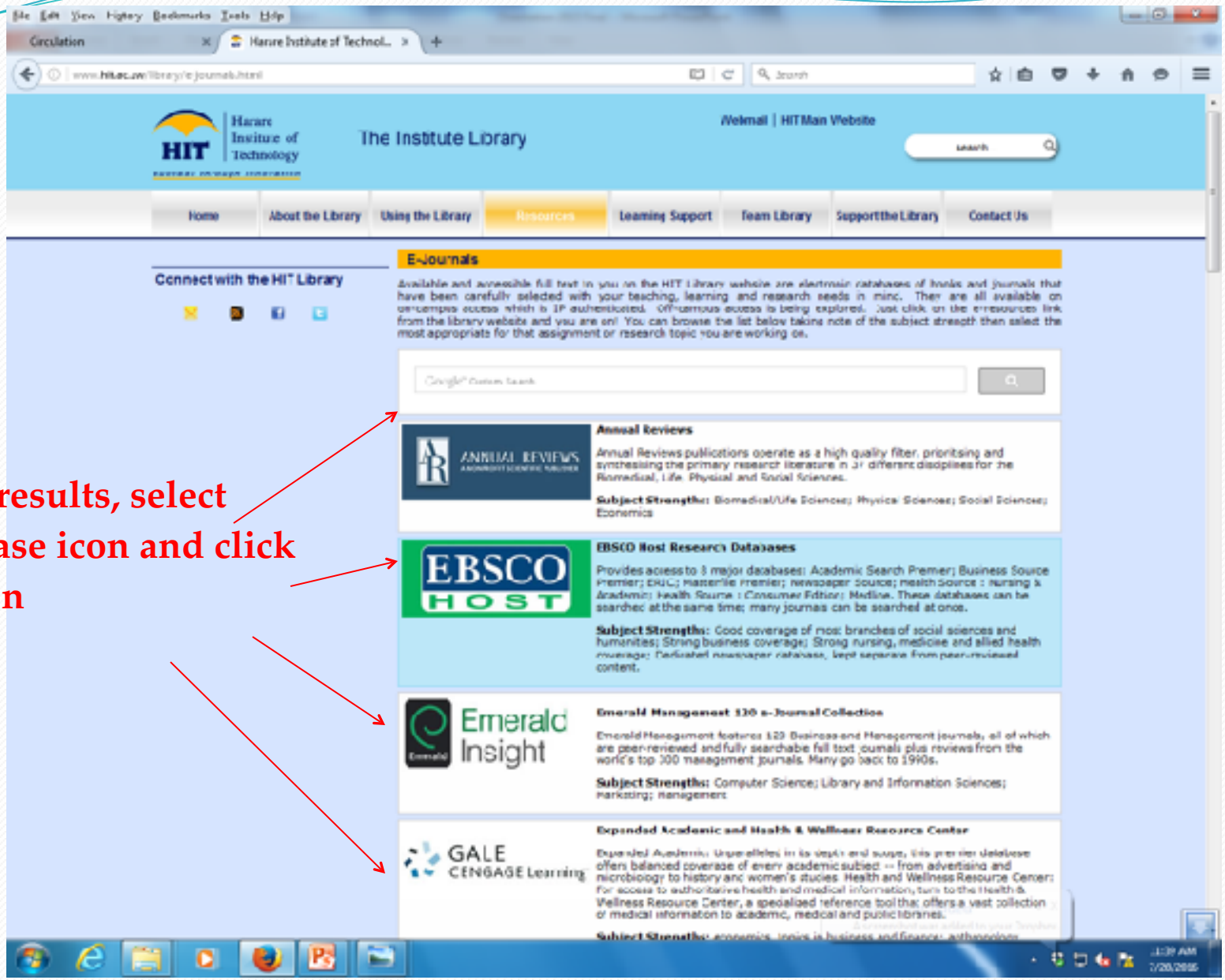

Copy
CSV
Excel
Type in to filter data
Daywise Usage - 120 days report till 2022-11-20
Date
Location
Users
Logins
Total Downloads
Download Data (MBs)
Browsing Data (MBs)
Total Data (MBs)
2022-07-24 Off Campus 1 2 0 0.00 1.72 1.72
2022-07-25 Off Campus 1 1 0 0.00 1.23 1.23
2022-07-26 Off Campus 1 1 1 1.24 2.53
2022-07-27 Off Campus 2 2 0 0.00 23.28 23.28
2022-07-28 Off Campus 3 3 0 0.00 5.57 5.57
2022-07-29 Off Campus 1 1 0 0.00 0.12 0.12
2022-07-30 Off Campus 1 1 1 0.06 3.75
2022-07-31 Off Campus 2 2 1 0.19 5.99 6.18
2022-08-02 Off Campus 3 3 0 0.00 10.01 10.01
2022-08-03 Off Campus 5 5 1 0.26 17.07
2022-08-04 Off Campus 3 4 1 0.00 14.48 14.48
2022-08-05 Off Campus 3 3 7 0.02 5.45 5.47
2022-08-06 Off Campus 4 4 0 0.00 7.47 7.47
2022-08-07 Off Campus 6 7 3 1.62 30.85
2022-08-08 Off Campus 2 3 1 2.08 43.70
2022-08-09 Off Campus 5 6 0 0.00 11.40
2022-08-10 Off Campus 1 1 0 0.00 2.44
Type here to search

HIT PLUS


hit.ac.zw/library/hitplus.html
Harare Institute of Technology
The Institute Library
Webmail | HIT Main Website
search...
Home
About the Library
Using the Library
Digital Resources
Learning Support
Team Library
Support the Library
Contact Us
Connect with the HIT Library
HITPlus
HITPlus provides you with a convenient way to find out which print and online academic resources including schoarly databases and e journals might be useful for your research or even assignment. The following guides are subject specific. Find your subject guide and see what library support and resources are available for your use.
Biotechnology
Guide for research in biotechnology. Use the following links to find your way.
Find Books:
Search the library catalogue, HIT OPAC to find printed books in the library. Using subject headings and their broad subject numbers is a good strategy for finding books on the same topics. Use the library website to search Ebscohost ebooks and E-Brary for electronic books.
Find Articles:
Search the following scholarly databases for relevant journal articles:
De Gruyter Online Journals
Ebscc Host
Other Online Resources:
WorldWideScience.org
Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ)
Directory of Open Access Books (DOAB)
Google Scholar
Google Scholar
Chemical & Process Systems Engineering
Guide for research in chemical and process systems engineering. Use the following links to find your way.
Find Books:
Search the library catalogue, HIT OPAC to find printed books in the library. Using subject headings and their broad subject numbers is a good strategy for finding books on the same topics. Use the library website to search Ebsco ebooks and E-Brary for electronic books.
Agenda 26 Nove....docx
graduates.jpg
Show all

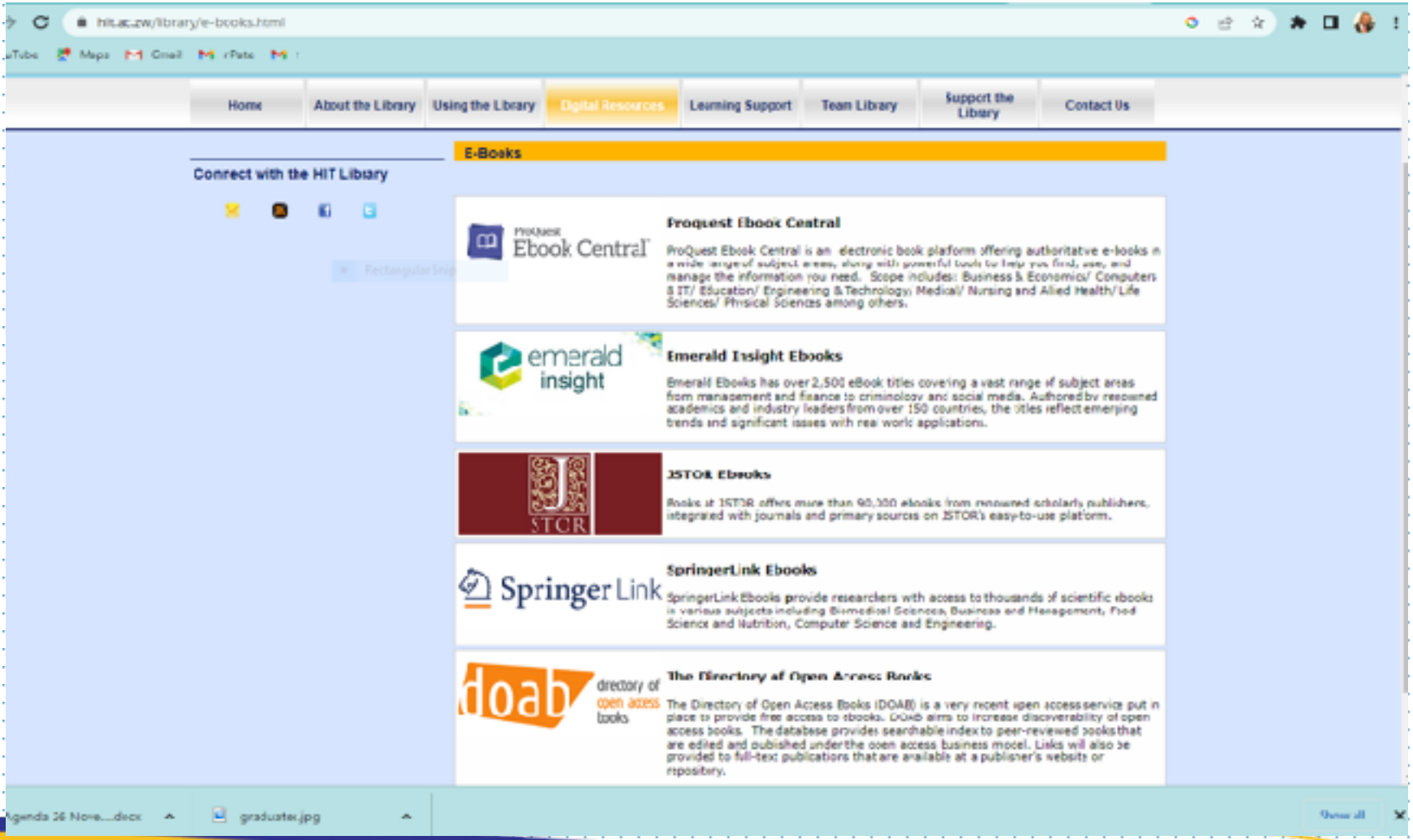
Anti Plagiarism Software

E-JOURNALS OFF/ON CAMPUS



View results, select database icon and click to open

E-BOOKS


hit.ac.zw/library/e-books.html
Home
About the Library
Using the Library
Digital Resources
Learning Support
Team Library
Support the Library
Contact Us
Connect with the HIT Library
E-Books
Proquest Ebook Central
ProQuest Ebook Central is an electronic book platform offering authoritative e-books in a wide range of subject areas, along with powerful tools to help you find, use, and manage the information you need. Scope includes: Business & Economics/ Computers & IT/ Education/ Engineering & Technology/ Medical/ Nursing and Allied Health/ Life Sciences/ Physical Sciences among others.
Emerald Insight Ebooks
Emerald Ebooks has over 2,500 eBook titles covering a vast range of subject areas from management and finance to criminology and social media. Authored by renowned academics and industry leaders from over 150 countries, the titles reflect emerging trends and significant issues with real world applications.
JSTOR Ebooks
Books at JSTOR offers more than 90,000 ebooks from renowned scholarly publishers, integrated with journals and primary sources on JSTOR's easy-to-use platform.
SpringerLink Ebooks
SpringerLink Ebooks provide researchers with access to thousands of scientific ebooks in various subjects including Biomedical Sciences, Business and Management, Food Science and Nutrition, Computer Science and Engineering.
The Directory of Open Access Books
The Directory of Open Access Books (DOAB) is a very recent open access service put in place to provide free access to ebooks. DOAB aims to increase discoverability of open access books. The database provides searchable index to peer-reviewed books that are edited and published under the open access business model. Links will also be provided to full-text publications that are available at a publisher's website or repository.
graduates.jpg

OPEN ACCESS

hit.ac.zw/library/open-access-resources.htm
HIT
The Institute Library
search...
Home
About the Library
Using the Library
Digital Resources
Learning Support
Team Library
Support the Library
Contact Us
Connect with the HIT Library
Open Access Resources
The library provides you a list of links to open access resources which include open access publishers, directories, toolkits, portals and more. You can also have access to lists of Multi disciplinary, Multi disciplinary, Science and subject specific resources.
Directory of Open Access Books (DOAB)
The Directory of Open Access Books (DOAB) is a discovery service for peer reviewed books published under an open access licence. DOAB provides a searchable index to the information about these books, with links to the full texts of the publications at the publisher's website or repository.
Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ)
The Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ) lists free, full text, quality controlled scientific and scholarly journals, covering all subjects and languages.
Directory of Open Access Resources (OpenDOAR)
The Directory of Open Access Resources (OpenDOAR) aims to provide a comprehensive and authoritative list of academic open access repositories for end-users who wish to find particular archives or who wish to break down repositories by locale, content or other measures. Users can search for repositories by the following regions: Africa, Asia, Australasia, Caribbean, Central America, Europe, North America, and South America.
WorldWideScience.org
WorldWideScience.org is a global science gateway, providing one-stop searching of over 90 national and international scientific databases and portals from more than 70 countries. Users can search and translate 400 million pages of science and technology information. Resources available via WorldWideScience include DOAJ and all the Journals Online projects (IOLs).
Free-eBooks.net
Free-eBooks.net is the internet's #1 source for free eBook downloads, eBook resources & eBook authors. Read & download eBooks for Free: anytime!
Show all