



What 37000 citations can tell

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A longitudinal study at the Tshwane University of Technology (TUT) used citation analysis to analyze the reference list of 480 master's and doctoral (M and D) theses and dissertations submitted at TUT between 2004 and 2007. The purpose was to determine what types of information sources M and D students at TUT use most, how the patterns of use differ across the seven faculties of the university, and to what extent the Library and Information Services (LIS) keep or provide access to the journals that are mostly used by M and D students. More than 37000 citations were analyzed over the four-year period. The study found several similarities but also some distinct differences in the use of information sources across the seven faculties of TUT. It also identified more than 60 different information sources used by M and D students. With regard to journal use, the study found that out of 3641 different journals cited, most journals were only cited once over a period of four years. However, a small percentage of journals were highly and/or frequently cited.

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