

The use and perceptions of Open Access resources by Legal Academics at the University of Cape Town (UCT) in South Africa

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INTRODUCTION





Section 32 of the South African Constitution



Social justice



South African context

27 accredited law journals

Only 5 open and visible



Alternative methods



METHODS



Case Study of UCT

- UCT is the highest rated university in South Africa (QS 2018 rankings)
 - It is a research intensive institution, thus the focus is on producing quality research
- Using data mining and bibliometrics, the following were determined:
 - the publishing practices of the law faculty were determined in the period 2011-2015
 - The usage practices of the law faculty when looking for scholarly legal journals

The publishing practices of the law faculty

- Three databases mined and the results grouped
 - InCites
 - SciVal
 - Department of Higher Education (DHET) accredited journal publishing lists obtained and collated from the UCT Research Office
- Journals marked as closed (subscription only), hybrid (option to make article open), open (free to reader)
- Limitations
 - SciVal and InCites only reflect publishing data for the journals indexed in Web of Science and Scopus, and the journals may not be DHET accredited
 - The study did not ascertain whether journal articles published in hybrid journals were published open

Usage statistics of the law faculty

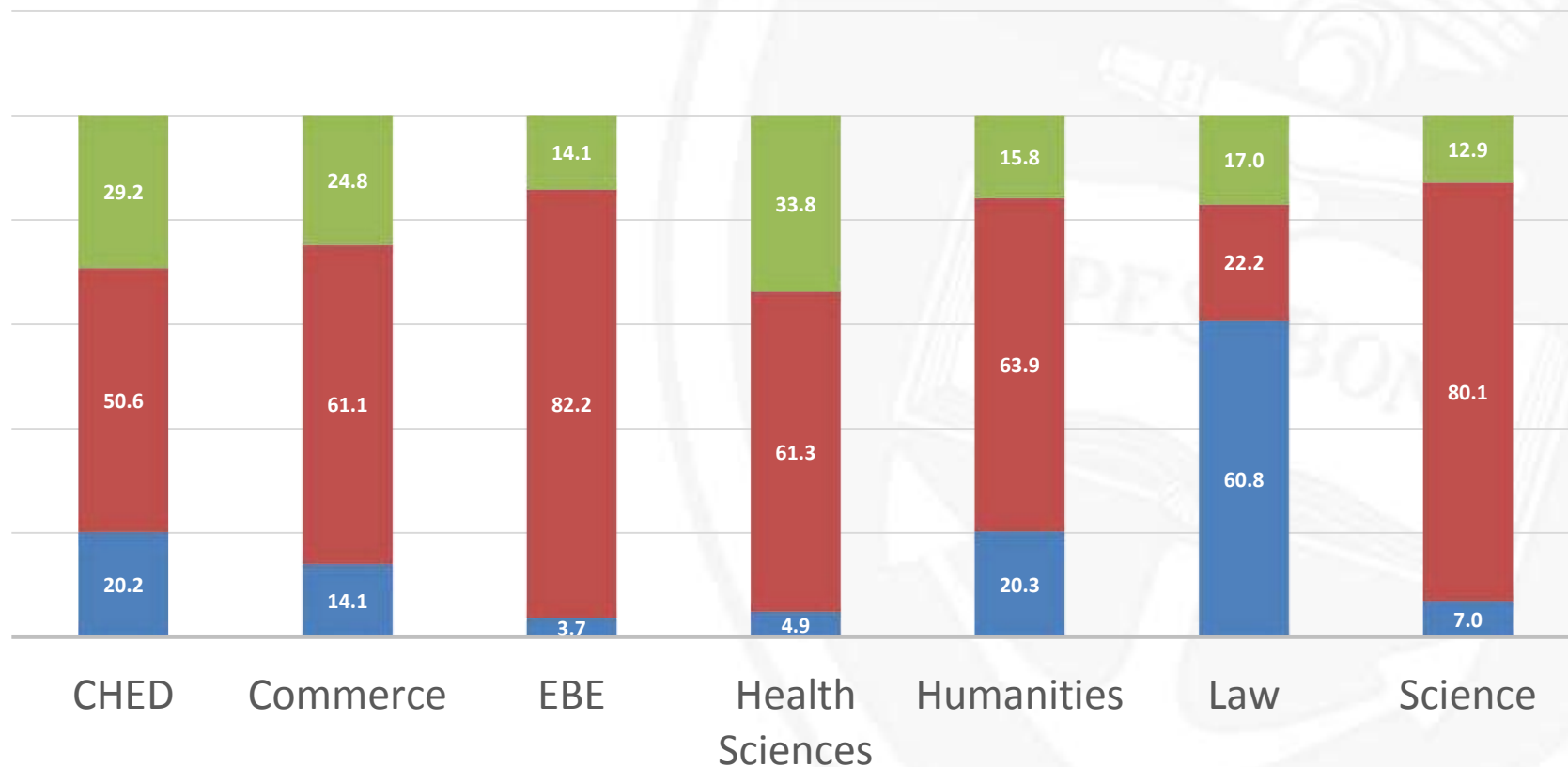
- Usage statistics obtained from three databases
 - SAFLII
 - Sabinet (aggregator platform of South African journals)
 - Juta
- Limitations
 - SAFLII, Juta and Sabinet are regional platforms, so the focus is only on South African legal journals
 - Statistics for SAFLII were only available from June 2017, so statistics from Juta and Sabinet had to be restricted to the same time period. This short period of time may not be generaliseable.
 - IP authentication was used to identify UCT, so those accessing from outside the UCT IP range may not be reflected.

FINDINGS: PUBLISHING PRACTICES

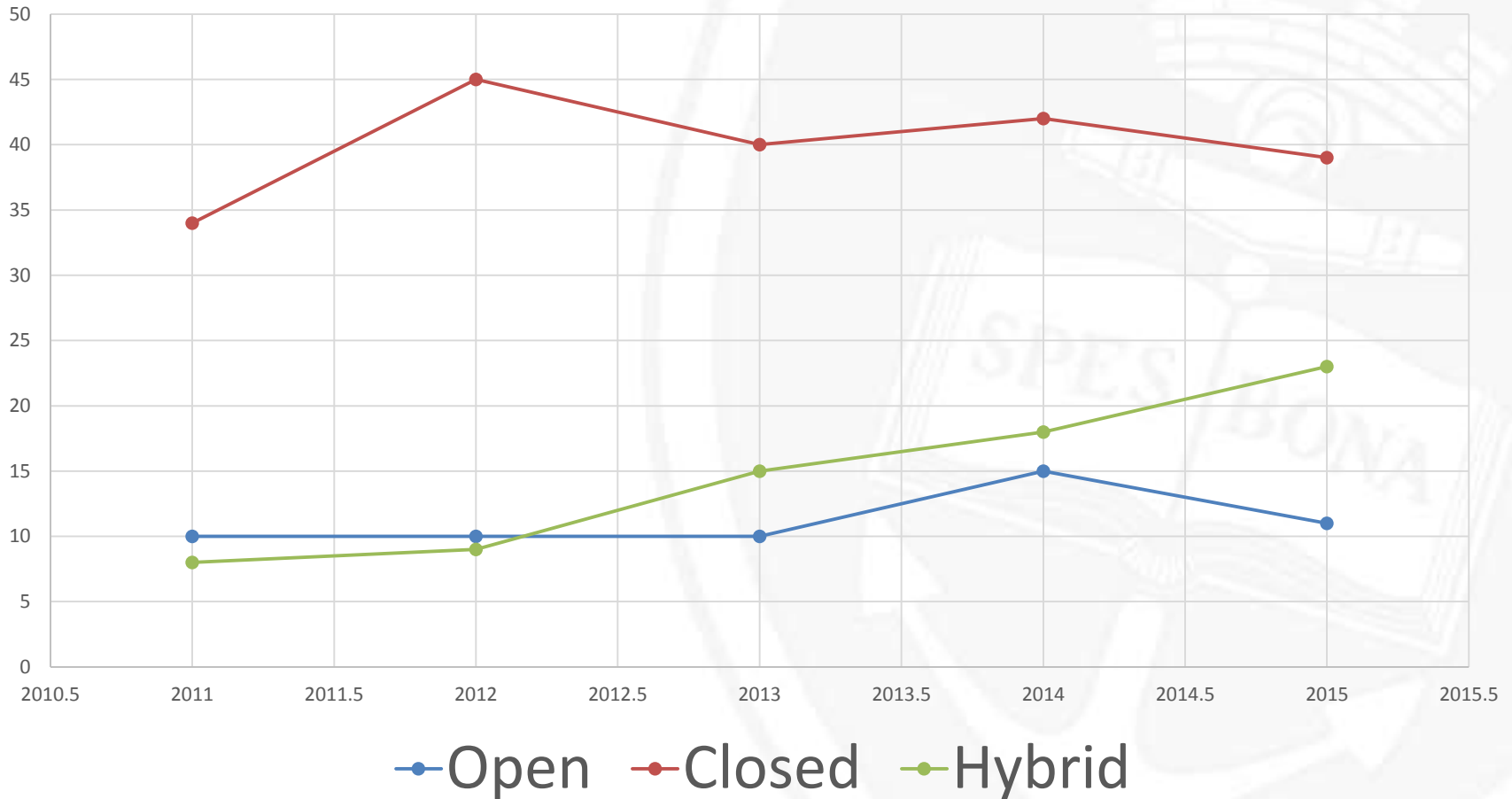


Percentage of journal publishing models of all faculties at UCT (from left): Centre for Higher Education and Development (CHED), Commerce, Engineering and Built Environment (EBE), Health Sciences, Humanities, Law and Science

■ Closed ■ Hybrid ■ Open



Journal publishing patterns of the UCT Law Faculty 2011-2015



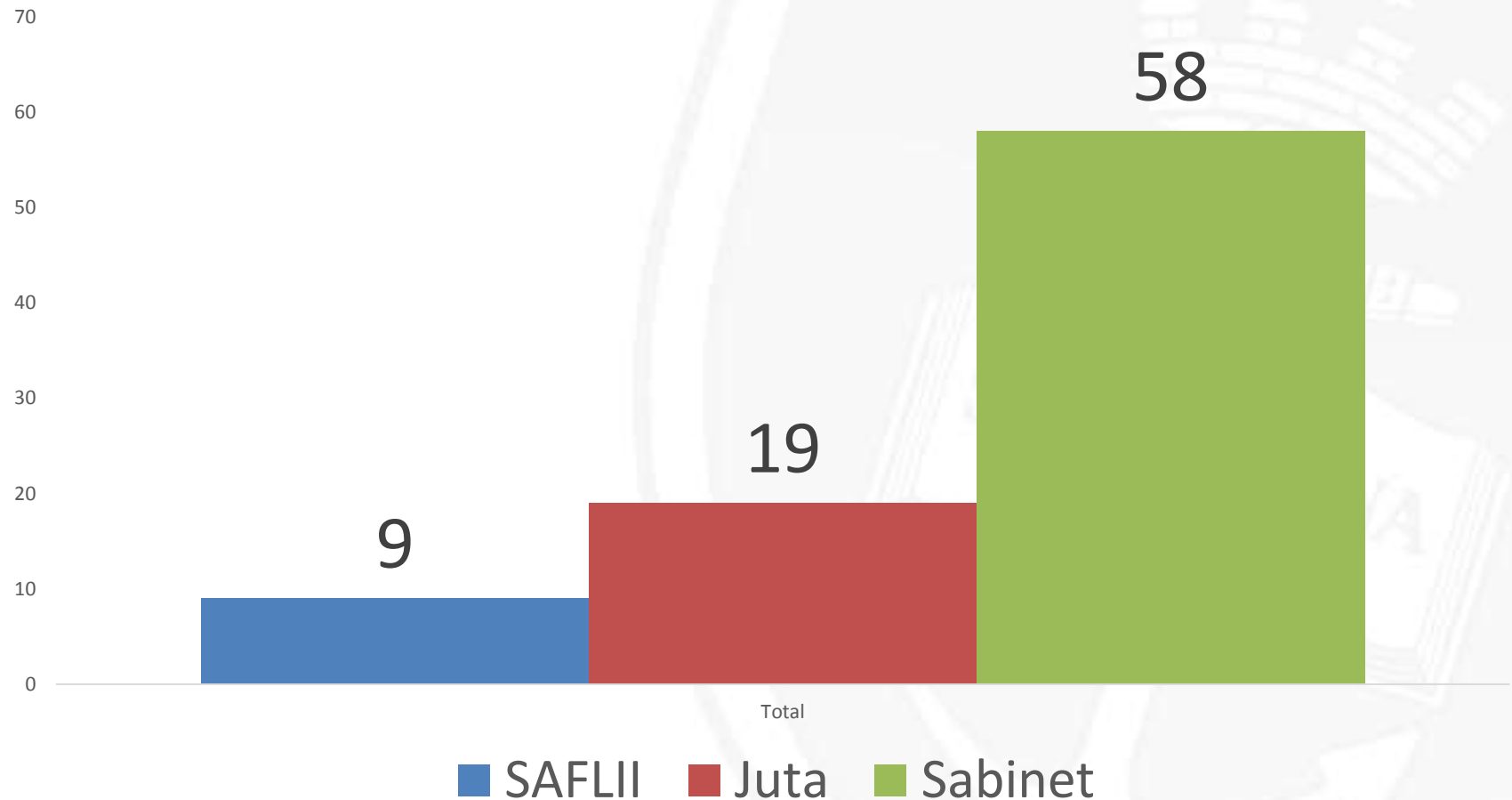
Top 10 journals published in

Journal Title	Number of articles
South African Law Journal	39
Acta Juridica	31
Industrial law journal	28
Stellenbosch Law Review	21
South African Crime Quarterly	16
Potchefstroomse Elektroniese Regsblad/ Potchefstroom Electronic Law Journal	14
South African Journal on Human Rights	12
SA Mercantile Law	9
The South African Journal of Environmental Law and Law Policy	8
Journal Of African Law	7

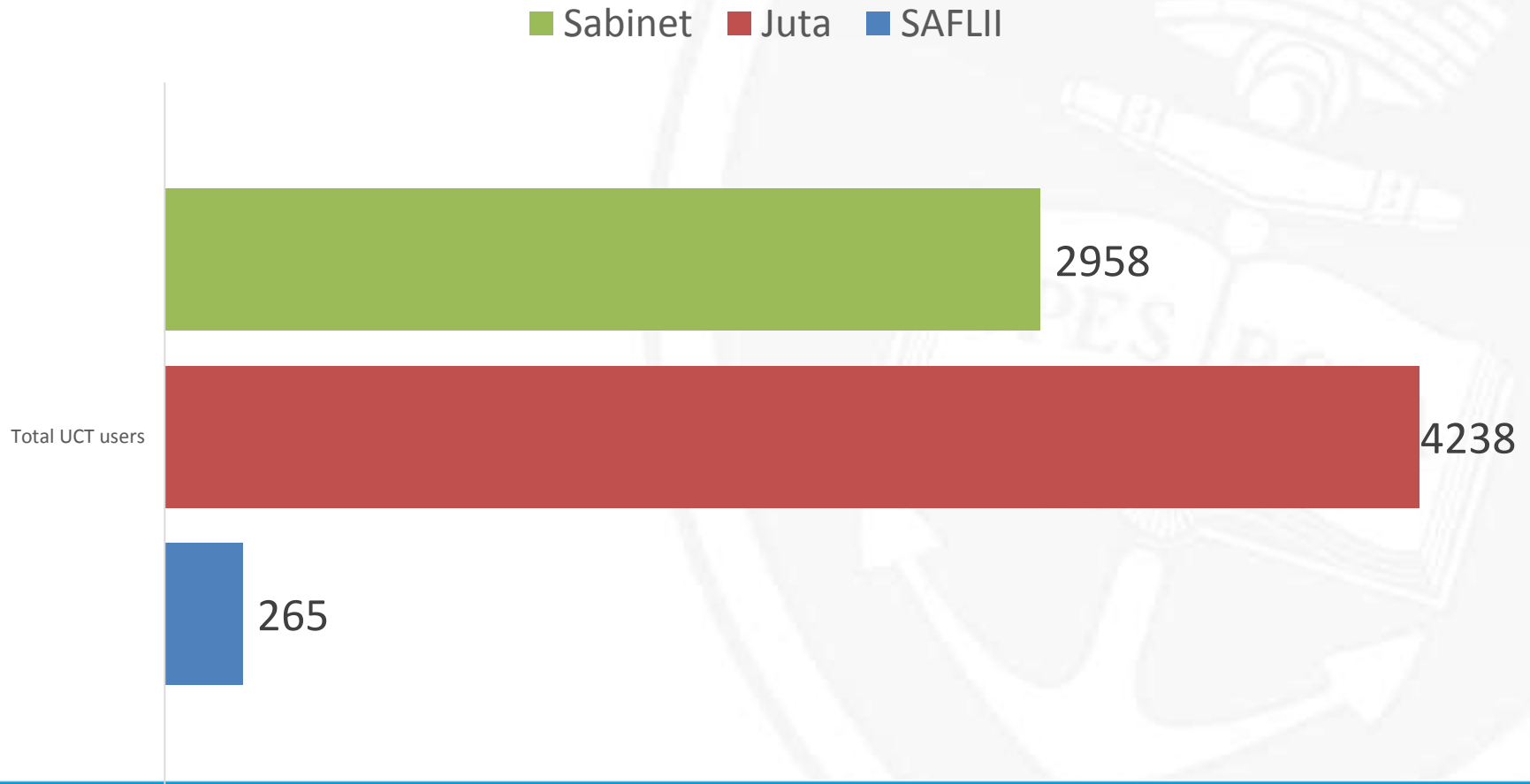
FINDINGS: USAGE PRACTICES



Amount of Law Journals in each database



Amount of unique users from UCT accessing the journals on the Sabinet, Juta and SAFLII databases from June 2017-September 2017



Comparison across three platforms

Journal name	SAFLII	Sabinet	Juta
Potchefstroom Electronic Law Journal	163	0	N/A
Constitutional Court Review	37	0	42
Law, Democracy and Development Law Journal	24	8	N/A

DISCUSSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS





Research Visibility Series



Legal academics finding out how invisible their work is



So now what?

- Law Librarians can assist academics through advising them about ways to self-archive, or advising on publishing alternatives.
 - law librarians are positioned perfectly to assist academics in self-archiving and research profiles, including that of non-institutional repositories such as SSRN, Researchgate and Academia.edu.
- Through using their connections in the faculty, law librarians are able to start to change the perceptions of legal academics with regards to publishing, specifically in terms of the visibility of the research being published.

- Check where journals are indexed – Scopus / WoS / Google Scholar
- Use JIF / CiteScore to find new journals
- Use think /check/ submit to check credibility
- Use ORCID for name ambiguity

Publishing

- Use Sherpa / Romeo to determine your ability to archive in OpenUCT
- If not sure – use author agreement of journal
- Archive to promote visibility of your research

Archiving in OpenUCT

Impact measurements

- Use altmetrics tools to determine your impact measurement
- Engage, engage, engage through online tools to boost measurement
- Benchmark

Online presence

- Pick a research site / social media, and keep it up to date.
- Link to your research in OpenUCT from that site / account
- Engage with other academics in your field



ANY QUESTIONS?

