

**Mr Isak van der Walt**  
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Isak van der Walt serves as the Digital Scholarship & Innovation Manager for the Department of Library Services at the University of Pretoria. Since 1999, he has specialized in academic ICT and information services at the university. As the head of the Digital Services and Systems unit, Isak strategically oversees projects to enhance the value of UP and Library Services.

With over two decades of experience, Isak's expertise in emerging trends in academic librarianship is extensive. He is a recognized speaker, having presented at over 60 national and international conferences and workshops.

As a co-founder and project lead of South Africa's first Academic MakerSpace, Isak has been instrumental in driving innovation. He also pioneered the implementation of Africa's first Robot Librarian, known as Libby. His current endeavour is establishing a Digital Scholarship Centre at the University of Pretoria to promote new forms of scholarly output and research discovery.

Isak contributes to the Research Data Management steering committee, offering technical advice on RDM. Additionally, he serves as the Technical Lead for the South African Sustainable Development Hub (SASDGHub), where he is leading an AI project to enhance research discovery.

His role expands as the Acting Deputy Director for the Department of Library Services, managing Digital Scholarship, Scholarly Communications, Open Scholarship, and Special Collections. Isak's embrace of disruptive technologies and commitment to innovation solidifies his reputation as a vanguard in the academic community.

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