Technological Challenges the Regional Libraries are facing

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UNISA regional libraries:

- Western Cape
- Eastern Cape
- Gauteng
- Kwazulu Natal
- Limpopo
- Midlands
- Mpumalanga
- Ethiopia
Technology available at the Branches

- PC’s for staff
- Millennium Catalogue
- Training rooms
- Library commons
- RFID
- LCD Screen
- Audio-Visual facilities (Monitor, VCR, DVD, Music system)
Common Challenges:

- Bandwidth – very slow
- Card station – not available in many offices
- RFID – Student come with paper cards
- Group training – Databases training not possible
- Library Commons – software for harmful sites
- Technical Assistance – Library staff not equipped
- Technical problems – Reliance on ICT (Pretoria): turn around time
RFID: Self issue
RFID

- Card station
  - Many students only have the paper student card
  - Less student use RFID machines

- Drop off box
  - Cannot carry all the books returned on the week-ends
  - Books being damage
Library Trainings
Library trainings

- Access to Unisa training repository
- Bandwidth - slow response (databases trainings)
Library commons

- Lack ITC support: Hardware and Software
- Lack of printing and photocopying facilities (other regions)
- No Internet access (other regions)
- No software to see what students are doing on the PC
Conclusion

- Improve the bandwidth for the regions
- Supply card station for each RSC
- Appoint IT technician or person with computer skills for each RSC