

# Johannesburg Amateur Historical Society



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## Site Updates

Re-added our old interactive map, this time with some new locations and the current location of our office! Will hopefully add more locations in the coming months and feel free to email us any submissions or ideas!

## Latest Posts

### Articles:

An Untold History of the Rand Rebellion by Simon Wessels [Read More]

Our New Meetup Space by Simon Wessels [Read More]

### Events:

Yearly Membership Conference 31/04/2021 [Read More]

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### Out of Character

Blog 1: Literature Review

The ubiquity and global acceptance of the internet today has meant that for many people, its existence goes relatively unquestioned. But what today seems mundane and normal was once something dreamt and theorised by scientists and futurists who wondered how technology would change the future and how it would shape the people who used it everyday. The three readings to be discussed, two by the author Jorge Luis Borges and one by American engineer Vannevar Bush, both come from the early 20th century at a time when the pace of technology, and especially that of the new field of computing, was moving rapidly. With new technology came questions about how information may exist in different forms, with Borges exploring the realm of data and information and Bush looking at how technology would increase the accessibility of knowledge and how people processed information. While these ideas at the time were relevant and interesting, with the creation of the internet their ideas gained new meaning and seemed to relate directly to the current existence of both data and information online.

The Library of Babel by Borges describes a theoretical space where infinite hexagons of books, containing randomised letters and punctuation, contain all possible writings of the past and future (Borges, 2018). While Borges obviously had no idea of how the internet would exist in the future, his core idea of infinite books has not only been simulated online, but holds relevance to the vast amounts of data held on the global web. And in many ways the problem presented by Borges

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Welcome our Newest Board Member: Simon Wessels

Written by Simon Wessels

To all members:

Give a big welcome to a newest board member, elected at the last conference. Most members should be well aware of Simon, who has been a key member of the society for the last five years. For those who don't know Simon as well as they should we shall give a rundown.

Simon is a local dentist based in Bez Valley with a practice nearby, having studied at the University of Pretoria. While not a historian by study, as expected in this society, he has always taken a keen interest in history. Growing up in Springs nearby, he was always particulary interested in the Rand Rebellion and the general history of the mine boom and miners strikes.



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## Wits University

Braamfontein

Originally founded in 1896 in Kimberly, The University of Witwatersrand became officially established in 1922 in Braamfontein. It is one of the oldest universities in South Africa and hosts a few different museums on its large campus. It hosts two provioncial heritage sites including the main facade of its great hall, as well as a selection of historical and scientifically important artifacts

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