What is this project about?

Epilepsy SA approached the UCT Knowledge Co-op for assistance with the development of an electronic client database system. Manual reporting was becoming too time consuming. They required a system that would manage their client base and track all services offered, then compile reports of all activities. The reports are required for management and to provide funders with an understanding of Epilepsy SA's efforts. In addition staff would need to be trained to use the new system.

The UCT Knowledge Co-op approached the Honours Outreach and Community Involvement Programme (HOCIP) based in the Information Systems (IS) department. Ewan James was recruited to dedicate his community service to this project.

The project

He set out to review, test and stabilise/debug parts of the existing, but non-functional system from a previous project. As the system could not be debugged and there was no time for a complete re-write he decided to build an Excel based system to automate many of the tasks associated with compiling reports - at no cost. Since the reports require clean data, a simple input form was created using Visual Basic for Applications (VBA).

A lot of time was spent in trying to understand the needs of the community partner and through that develop a solution that suited these needs. With a bit of staff training and a simple yet effective system the student made it possible for Epilepsy staff to produce monthly reports and make changes to the system in the future.

The project was completed in **December 2012.**

Keywords: Information systems, system development, HOCIP, computer training

To **reference** this Project Portrait, cite UCT Knowledge Co-op as the author.

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The Knowledge Co-op at the University of Cape Town

The UCT Knowledge Co-op aims to make it easier for community partners to access UCT's skills, resources and professional expertise. It helps initiate joint projects that benefit both the community partner and the university. The Co-op links community groups with appropriately qualified staff and students at UCT, and supports both partners throughout the project – from initial planning to final product.

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