AWARDS TO LIBRARY STAFF

Two Library staff members have recently received an Australian Learning and Teaching Council Citation for Outstanding Contribution to Student Learning, for their work on the Ask a Librarian chat service.

Jean McKay, Manager, Liaison Services, and Helen Bronleigh, Library Systems Coordinator, received the Citation “For taking learning support to students wherever they are studying, through the development and implementation of a unique library chat reference service”. Helen and Jean also received a Murdoch University Vice Chancellor’s Citation for Excellence in Enhancing Learning.

The Ask a Librarian chat reference service is a collaborative project between Murdoch University Library and Macquarie University Library. The libraries together worked with the MAMS Testbed Federation to develop a chat reference service with authentication through Shibboleth and smart assignment of calls.

Students and staff can ask questions using chat from wherever they are on campus or off campus. The collaboration with Macquarie means the service can operate for extended hours between 7 am and 9 pm Monday to Thursday; 7 am and 6 pm on Fridays and 7 am – 5 pm at weekends. Rockingham and Peel Library staff are now also participating, thus extending the service to all campuses.

Students’ feedback shows they value the timeliness of the service – “I love that you can ask a question and get an answer immediately and continue with my study” (from an external student). Ask a Librarian is available from the Library website at http://wwwlib.murdoch.edu.au/help/ask/

EBOOK LIBRARY TRIAL

WHAT EBOOKS SHOULD THE LIBRARY BUY?

Murdoch University staff and students may now view over 35,000 ebooks from EBL Library, via the Library catalogue. These ebooks are from a wide range of disciplines. A title is automatically purchased for the collection once usage reaches a pre-determined level. This allows the Murdoch community to choose the ebooks most relevant to their study and research.

Within two days of the commencement of the trial the EBL title Organic Reactions had been permanently added to the collection. You are able to print up to 20% of the text and copy/paste up to 5% of each ebook. Please let us know what you think about our EBL Library trial.

https://prospero.murdoch.edu.au/suggest/
ROBERTA COWAN PRIZE FOR INFORMATION LITERACY

Murdoch Librarians are invited to nominate students for the Roberta Cowan Prize for Information Literacy. The librarians recommend students they have got to know through their involvement in information literacy classes or other specialist interactions with the student. The prize donated by Dr Roberta Cowan, an adjunct senior lecturer at Murdoch and adjunct research staff member in the Library, recognizes the key role of librarians in developing students research skills.

In 2007 the prizes were awarded to two students – Suzanna Chow, who was nominated by Enquiry & Lending Services Librarian Amanda Heptinstall. Suzanna began her studies at Murdoch as a mature age student at Rockingham Campus, where her enthusiastic participation in Library information literacy classes ensured she developed skills which saw her graduate with a Bachelor of Asian Studies.

Lloyd Johnston the other prize winner was nominated by Emerging Technologies Specialist Librarian Kathryn Greenhill. Lloyd demonstrated throughout 2007 that learning about information literacy can be a two way process between librarians and students. He attended the Library’s Emerging Technology group meetings to give a perspective on how some students use online tools to find information, communicate and collaborate in a scholarly way. This information has allowed us to understand better how to serve the “google generation”.

MURDOCH BLOGS PILOT PROJECT

According to Emerging Technologies Specialist, Kathryn Greenhill, blogs are not only online diaries about what people have for breakfast. “They are a great way to take part in online conversations, clarify your thoughts and reach a wide audience”, says Kathryn. Murdoch University’s pilot blog project aims to provide a “get your own blog” service hosted by the university. “The platform that we have chosen, WordPressMU, is incredibly flexible and allows people great control to customise their blogs. They can collect statistics on who is viewing their pages, add in multimedia from sites like YouTube, pull in data from other sites via RSS, upload images or add audio files to create a podcasting blog – and of course write posts.

The Library will create five blogs in the project - a much wanted Library blog to share news, feedback and to encourage engagement; a Director’s blog; Grant Stone’s Special Collections blog; and two internal blogs – one for desk staff at the Murdoch campus and the other for communication between Rockingham Campus staff . The blog project will run during Semester 2. You can find out more at http://blogs.murdoch.edu.au

A recent donation to the Library is Home and Beyond : Generative Phenomenology after Husserl by Anthony Steinbock. This book was generously donated to the Library in memory of Steve Schofield, who recently completed his PhD in the Philosophy Programme at Murdoch. The donation came with the following poignant dedication :-

In memory of
Steve J. Schofield
Spirited philosopher, gifted phenomenologist, friend.

This was a favourite title of Steve’s that helped him craft his PhD. He borrowed, lost, and replaced this title three times, only to lose it a fourth time!

Donated on behalf of all who laughed with him,
By M. W. Brown.
PUTTING THE LIBRARY IN YOUR SPACE

The Library has developed two applications to help you put the library in your space.

**LibX**
The first of these, the Murdoch University Library Toolbar, is a small piece of software called LibX that you download and install in your web browser. It lets you search the library catalogue directly from your browser toolbar, adds links to the library catalogue in other web pages such as amazon.com and Google, and lets you connect instantly from off campus to licensed resources without having to go to the Library webpages first. The Toolbar works best with the Firefox browser.

**Google Gadget**
The second application is a Library Search Google Gadget. If you have an iGoogle homepage, you can download the gadget and search the Library Catalogue or the Library Portal directly. You can also talk to a librarian using chat or email using the Ask a Librarian link on the gadget.

Further information on both of these tools is available from [http://wwwlib.murdoch.edu.au/mylibrary](http://wwwlib.murdoch.edu.au/mylibrary). We will be developing more tools in the coming months to help you take the library with you.

**Murdoch University Staff and Students can now Borrow from Five Leading Australian University Libraries**

In July the Library joined the BONUS+ consortium of libraries. BONUS+ provides access to over 3.5 million books which are available for loan to staff and students of the participating institutions: Deakin University; University of Ballarat; University of Melbourne; University of Newcastle; University of Technology, Sydney; and Victoria University.

The consortium was launched earlier this year, and Murdoch is the most remote member to date. Borrowing through the consortium is simple, as it’s based on the consortial software developed by III, our library system vendors.

After searching for a book in the Murdoch catalogue, borrowers are directed to the BONUS+ catalogue, and can request an item if it is available just as they would an item at another Murdoch campus.

The service is cost free to borrowers, who must be Murdoch staff and students, or members of the participating libraries. Membership of BONUS+ means that we are able to provide easy access to a wider range of resources than at present.
**NEW RESOURCES**

A number of new resources have recently become available to Murdoch library users. All may be accessed via the Library’s web pages.

**MIMS Online**

This database provides information on over 4,500 prescription and non-prescription drugs available in Australia. It is a compilation of information supplied by pharmaceutical manufacturers, government bodies and various non-government organisations. It will be of particular interest to Nursing and Pharmacy staff and students.

**SPORTdiscus**

SPORTdiscus indexes resources in a wide range of subject areas including sports medicine and sports science, health education, biomechanics, movement science, physical therapy, nutrition, exercise physiology, and other allied health topics.

It contains references to journal articles, books and book chapters, conference proceedings, and dissertations and theses. Users may search SPORTdiscus with other EbscoHOST databases such as CINAHL and Pre-CINAHL. Chiropractic and Sports Science students and staff will find it a valuable resource.

**New Palgrave Dictionary of Economics Online**

This resource replaces and expands the 1987 edition of the print dictionary. It contains over 1,850 articles by more than 1,500 of the world’s leading economists, including some Nobel Laureates in Economics.

**International Encyclopedia of Communication Online**

Published by Wiley-Blackwell in association with the International Communication Association, this encyclopedia is the online edition of the 12 volume print work and contains over 1,300 entries.

Subjects covered include communication theory and philosophy, interpersonal communication, journalism, intercultural and intergroup communication, and communication and media law and policy.

**TVNews**

TVNews provides access to the digitised video content of Australian TV news, current affairs and selected documentaries from the free-to-air networks.

There are currently almost fifty programmes including Four Corners, Media Watch, Compass, and Insight. TVNews is a collection of individual segments from each program, rather than entire programs. These segments are available within 24 hours of being screened.

TVNews is Screenrights-licensed so content may be screened in lectures and classes and made available through Lectopia.

**More Sage journal content now available**

In 2007 the Library subscribed to the Sage Premier database, one of the largest online journal collections in the humanities and social sciences.

The recent purchase of the Sage Journal backfile means that users now have online access from Volume 1 for 351 of these journals.

**OPEN DAY**

**Discover the Learning Common on Open Day 31 August 10am - 4pm**

Prospective students, their families and other visitors are welcome to join in two Library activities on Open Day. Come along and complete our ‘Discover the Learning Common’ quiz where you will find out all sorts of things about the Learning Common’s facilities and services. The first correct entry drawn will win a Nintendo Wii.

‘Discover Murdoch University in Second Life - walk, fly and teleport around Murdoch University Island in Second Life. Use one of our university avatars in a library PC lab to explore the beach, waterfall and lecture auditorium. Ride a kangaroo, swim with a turtle or just chill out under the gum trees’.

This is a collaborative project between the Library, School of IT, Teaching and Learning Centre and central IT Services. Second Life has been used for several projects – including a job interview simulation, library workshops, international presentations and a Forensic Science Role play – complete with digital trace evidence.
**IEEE Explore**

Interested in adaptive locomotion of a multilegged robot or cognitive radio? How about tracking multiple humans in crowded environments or research on electronic voting? Explore myoglobin facilitated oxygen diffusion to the heart and many, many more topics by searching the digital library IEEE Xplore. IEEE Xplore has the world’s highest quality technical literature in electrical engineering, computer science and electronics.

This very powerful database includes full text articles in journals, transactions, letters, magazines, conference proceedings and standards published by IEEE (Institute of Electrical & Electronics Engineers) and IET (Institution of Engineering and Technology).

With more than 1.8million documents, IEEE Xplore has comprehensive coverage from 1988 onwards and selective coverage from 1913 onwards. Also included are multimedia guides for help with searching, setting up regular alerts, RSS feeds and for a detailed exploration of the database.

IEEE Xplore is fully searchable through Inspec – which, like IEEE Xplore, you can access via the Library’s web pages.

**Research Repository**

Work continues on the development of a digital research repository to showcase the research outputs of Murdoch researchers. The repository is intended to be interoperable with the University’s new research system, when that is implemented. A new repository manager, Neil Godfrey, has joined us from USQ where he has been involved in the RUBRIC Project. Neil’s experience in the repository arena will be welcome and will enable us to progress this important initiative.

**Author Series at Rockingham**

Over the past few years Rockingham Library has been holding a series of Author talks. These authors have included Liz Byrski, Debbie Singh and Monica McInerney, to name a few.

In August Debra Adelaide spoke about her newest novel *The Household Guide to Dying*. Her talk was part of the national “Books Alive” promotion to encourage more Australians to read for enjoyment.

Dr Debra Adelaide is an author, book reviewer, editor and academic who has published 11 books, including novels, anthologies and reference books on Australian literature. She completed a PhD on Australian women’s writing at the University of Sydney in 1990.

Her novels *The Hotel Albatross* (Vintage: 1995) and *Serpent Dust* (Vintage: 1998) were published to critical and commercial success. She is currently a senior lecturer in creative writing at the University of Technology, Sydney.

Rockingham library will continue to offer its Author talk series to University staff and students as well as interested community members. It has provided a fantastic opportunity for community engagement.
In September you will have an opportunity to tell us which Library services are important to you and how well we provide them by participating in the 2008 Library Client Survey. This survey, last run at Murdoch in 2006, is administered in most other Australian university libraries.

Our participation allows us to not only find out what things are important to you and where we can make improvements, but also to compare perceptions of our services and resources with those of other Australian universities.

The results from the survey will be posted on the Library’s website – check our 2006 results [http://wwwlib.murdoch.edu.au/about/survey/2006/](http://wwwlib.murdoch.edu.au/about/survey/2006/). Complete the survey online from our website and when you have finished you can opt to go into a prize draw.

**The Common Quenda**

Quentin (or is that Gwenda) Quenda’s thirst for knowledge came to a temporary end in early July as s/he was captured in the Learning Common and taken away for a six week retreat at the Kanyana Fauna Refuge.

Quentin has been a frequent visitor to the Learning Common and journal collection on North Wing 2 of the Library, though he normally inhabits Sir Walter’s courtyard.

Quentin’s irregular eating habits finally got the better of him. He is expected back in August, recovered and refreshed, to resume his scholarly pursuits among the J500s and 600s. Or hopefully, to resume the common life of a quenda (Isoodon obesulus, southern brown or southern short-nosed bandicoot) in the grounds near the Library.