Liz Burke has been appointed as the new Director of Library Services.

Prior to joining Murdoch University Liz occupied the position of Associate Librarian (Reader Services) at UWA, responsible for all eight subject libraries and the services delivered from each, including information and reference services and lending and enquiry services. Liz also contributed to the overall strategic direction of the UWA Library, including developments in the support of online learning communities, development of online learning objects and the setting of a strategic direction for information literacy and investigations into the most effective method of resource discovery.

Liz has enjoyed extensive experience in several academic libraries, including La Trobe University, Victoria University of Technology, RMIT and Phillip Institute of Technology. Liz holds a Bachelor of Social Science (Hons) (Library and Information Science) from RMIT, a Bachelor of Letters from the University of Melbourne, and a Master of Information Management and Systems from Monash University.

While at La Trobe and UWA, Liz was impressed by Murdoch University Library’s willingness to try new things, such as involvement with the AARLIN Project (development of the Library Portal), membership of BONUS+ (enabling mutual access to the books of the eight contributing academic libraries) and promotion of Web 2.0 technologies and the development of the Emerging Technologies Specialist position.

Liz sees challenges ahead for academic libraries in providing library services for teaching, learning and research in difficult financial times. She believes it is important to assess the relevance of existing services and to investigate their effectiveness and efficiency. Also exploring new services and surveying what other academic libraries are offering.

What’s Happening in the Library on Open Day?

On Sunday 30 August from 10.00am – 4.00pm visit the Library to open your mind ….

• Unlock the clues, a fun quiz taking you around the Library – you might win a Nintendo DS!
• Take a tour of the Library – what does happen behind those doors?
• If you are a Year 11 or 12 student free library membership is available for you
• Talk to Library staff about finding information for your research
• View Looking at Landscape – contemporary and indigenous artworks from the Murdoch University Art Collection
• Make a flag with Student Learning – My day at Uni
• Talk to Student Learning staff to find out how they can help your studies
• Take the Sir Walter Murdoch Historical Walk to learn more about the University’s namesake
• Join the discussion at the Philosophers Café – Does love make you happy?

Inside this issue

Welcome to New Director 1
What’s happening on Open Day 1
Web 2.0 2
Roberta Cowan Prize 2
Rockingham Stock-take 3
Staff Profile 3
Farewell to Kathryn Greenhill 3
Library News 4
Web 2.0: Easier, Faster, Friendlier

Murdoch Library staff have introduced students and staff to the delights of Web 2.0 in this six week program. Participants investigated free online tools (blogs, document sharing, citation management and social bookmarking) that could be used for study, research, teaching or improving productivity. Participants also explored Open Access and Creative Commons as additional ways of sharing information and knowledge more readily. “These tools are constantly changing”, says Murdoch’s Emerging Technologies Specialist Kathryn Greenhill. “We wanted to show people ways to learn about these tools. In the last three years, we have run in-house learning programs for both Library and Teaching and Learning Centre staff. The tools we learned about have changed the way some of us do our daily work. We have also created some library tools to take advantage of Web 2.0. We wanted to share this with the wider Murdoch community”.

There was an enthusiastic response to the sessions. One of the participants commented: “The beauty of this course is to encourage me to play and figure out what would be good/better than what I am currently using.”

Visit http://blogs.murdoch.edu.au/libraryweb2 if you would like more information about the program or contact Merrilee Albatis (m.albatis@murdoch.edu.au) for information about future sessions.

Roberta Cowan Prize for Information Literacy

Roberta Cowan, Adjunct Senior Lecturer, School of Biological Sciences and Biotechnology, and University Library, believes in the importance of libraries to students’ academic outcomes. Roberta has donated an annual prize for students who “through their achievements have demonstrated how they have benefited from their use of the Library and its resources – particularly where the student has gained knowledge in research skills from interaction with the librarians.” Two hard working students were awarded the Roberta Cowan Prize for Information Literacy this year.

Alia Alsibie, a second year Nursing student at Peel campus, initially struggled with LITE (Library Information and Technology Exercises) and had many difficulties to overcome. However she persevered and engaged with the Library staff, putting time aside to become proficient in using the many resources available to her through the library. Alia was nominated by David Hixson, a Librarian from the Peel Campus.

The other recipient was John McCarthy who started at the University as an OnTrack student. As a mature aged student, John found the new technologies and myriad resources overwhelming, but with perseverance and help from Library staff, John is now doing very well in his studies. John was nominated by Merrilee Albatis, the Information Literacy Coordinator at South St Campus.
The Rockingham Campus Library closed from 22 to 27 June 2009 in order to undertake a Stocktake of its joint collections. The stock-take was at the instigation of the Western Australian Library Board, but it seemed an appropriate time to stock-take all four collections, which have been in the joint use library building since 1998.

Each of the 100,000 items, whether owned by the University, TAFE, WA Library Board or City of Rockingham was physically scanned to make sure everything was accounted for.

The stock-take gave staff the opportunity to critically examine the collection, weed appropriate areas and identify areas that needed collection building. The end result is an up-to-date catalogue that reflects the collection and is focussed on client needs. After nearly twelve years of operation less than 300 items appear to be missing from the University collection.

Janice is the friendly, smiling face at Library Administration and is quick to put clients at ease, regardless of the issue at hand.

Janice began working at Murdoch University in 1996 and has been in the Library since July 1997, providing administrative assistance to staff and students.

Many staff and students have encountered Janice when inquiring about autoloaders, printing or copying, microforms, submitting theses, study carrels, publicity and a variety of other services.

Janice continually provides an enthusiastic and accommodating service to students and staff, and this in turn reflects positively on the Library and the University in general. Library Administration has relocated several times over the years, and Janice’s smiling face and infectious laugh are a welcome sight to those looking for Administration’s current location on Level 1 past the Sir Walter Murdoch Historical Walk.

Staff Profile:

Janice Pell

We have recently farewelled Kathryn Greenhill, our Emerging Technologies Specialist. Kathryn was jointly employed by IT Services and the Library from the start of 2008. Her role was to research and develop new technological tools likely to affect information provision, teaching and learning in higher education, and to train library staff and the campus community in their use.

Kathryn joined the Library in 2001 as a Reference Librarian. However, her talents and love of new social technologies lead to the development of new roles.

Kathryn’s passion to engage students and staff with new technologies resulted in her involvement with Web 2.0, Second Life workshops, the 23 Things program, and the more recently the Murdoch blogging project.

In the time Kathryn has been with the Library she has been in demand as a speaker at local, national and international venues. Kathryn won a VALA scholarship to travel to the US and Europe in early 2009, and has recently been awarded the Jean Arnot Memorial Fellowship for her paper given at the Educause 2009 conference.

Kathryn’s enthusiasm and belief in the opportunities social networking technologies can create infects those she meets. Her goal has been to spread the word and empower others. She believes in people helping themselves and she constantly works to this end. Kathryn is leaving to take up a position with the new state of the art Grove Library, and to devote some time to finishing her Masters thesis. To keep up with Kathryn’s activities go to her blog at http://librariansmatter.com/blog/

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Farewell to Kathryn Greenhill

Staff arrivals...

Liz Burke, Director of Library Services
Kate Freedman, Law and IT
Rob Rochester, Repository
Monica Smith, Law
Juliane Thorenz, Acquisitions
Andrew Trigg, Rockingham
Jeanette Ward, Rockingham

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...and departures

Amanda Heptinstall, Lending
Peck Keng Goh, Theology
Shelly McGuire (nee Gornell), Rockingham
Kathryn Simes, Lending
Kathryn Greenhill
Jean Arnot Memorial Fellowship for Kathryn Greenhill

Congratulations are due to Kathryn Greenhill, Emerging Technologies Specialist, who has been awarded the State Library of New South Wales’ Jean Arnot Memorial Fellowship. Her paper is entitled, Why Learning about emerging technologies is part of every librarian’s job. The Fellowship is awarded to a female librarian or student librarian for an outstanding original paper on any aspect of librarianship. It is named in honour of Jean Arnot, a librarian at the State Library of NSW for many years, who was active in women’s organisations and a pioneer in the campaign for equal pay.

Staff Publications on Display

The Library has established a display space to highlight the publishing achievements of Murdoch University staff. The display cabinet is located near the entrance to the Library on North Wing level 3, and will house recent books written, edited or contributed to by current academic staff. We are keen to expand the display so if you have publications you would like to donate, please contact your liaison or subject librarian.

Bonus+ Goes International

The number and range of books available to staff and students via BONUS+ continues to increase, with Massey University Library in New Zealand joining the consortium. Edith Cowan University Library has also recently announced it will be joining BONUS+, raising the number of BONUS+ partner libraries to nine. Delivery of books from Massey University Library, as for other BONUS+ libraries, will be within one week of requests being placed. BONUS+ continues to be popular with our staff and students, with the number of books requested rising to 1076 in the first 6 months of 2009.

BONUS+ is free and easy to use. Simply search for a book in the Murdoch University Library Catalogue and if we don’t have a copy or it is out on loan, click the BONUS+ button to request it from one of the other BONUS+ libraries.

Max Planck Encyclopedia of Public International Law (MPEPIL)

Max Planck Encyclopedia of Public International Law (MPEPIL) includes information on international organisations and international co-operation, as well as coverage of topical issues such as piracy, recognition and enforcement of foreign arbitral awards and the right to a fair trial. Articles cover a wide range of topics, ranging from anti-Semitism to self-determination and secret intelligence.

Oxford Reports on International Law

Oxford Reports on International Law is a collection of cases from international courts. The report series include: International Courts of General Jurisdiction; International Criminal Law; International Human Rights Law; International Investment Claims; and International Law in Domestic Courts.

These materials support the developing international focus of the Murdoch Law School.

New Resources for Rockingham

A new education degree specialising in physical education will be offered at the Rockingham Campus in 2010. Library resources to support this degree include a range of instruction manuals for a variety of sports including hockey, cricket, netball, volleyball and AFL. They also cover motor skills and physical education games and activities.