Food for Fines

Murdoch University students and staff were able to pay their fines in food to help the needy. The Food for Fines campaign ran from the 3rd to the 24th October 2011. Coordinated by Subject Librarians Sue Hele and Pam Matthews, students and staff were invited to wipe their overdue book slate clean by donating food items. Each item donated cancelled up to $2 in fines, to a maximum of $20. Contributions from all were welcomed, including those who did not have outstanding fines. Collected food was donated to Foodbank Western Australia, a non-denominational, charitable organization, providing food assistance to people in need around WA.

We received an appreciative response from David Warren at Foodbank, who asked us to pass on “thanks to everyone involved, including those fantastic students who forgot to return their books on time!”

Food and Drink Policy Relaxed on Level 3 of the Library

Feedback from students in a recent survey about the new Learning Common space was that you want to be able to eat and drink in this common area. As a result, the Library will trial a relaxing of the Food and Drink Policy on Level 3, the entry level, of the Library - with the exception of Reserve.

Now you can bring covered drinks and cold food with you to study or relax between classes.

Please remember to dispose of your rubbish responsibly in the bins located in this area or around Bush Court.
Staff and students working and studying in Dubai now have a dedicated Library Homepage. Delivery of this seemingly simple service has utilised technology solutions that do not require onerous and time-consuming maintenance of a separate website. The Dubai-specific Library homepage solves problems associated with our varying geographical locations. Dubai even has its own Facebook page. http://www.facebook.com/murdochdubai

In response to this initiative, Professor John Grainger, Pro-Vice Chancellor/Executive Vice President Murdoch University - Dubai International Study Centre wrote: “thank-you to you and your team for developing a dedicated Library Homepage for MUiD – it is an excellent innovation that adds value for all our staff and students in Dubai and further enhances relationship building between the two campuses.”

Murdoch staff and students studying in Singapore and Malaysia are now the focus of the next geographically-specific developments in the Library’s ongoing efforts to personalise services.

It’s All about Murdoch International Study Centre Dubai!

The Vice-Chancellor’s Afternoon Tea with Library Staff

Professor Richard Higgott, the newly appointed Vice-Chancellor shared afternoon tea with Library staff. It was a fantastic opportunity for all those who attended to meet Professor Higgott and to hear about his vision for the University.
Murdoch students experience the joys of Children's Book Week

Children's Book Week is an annual festival of children's literature which libraries, schools and community organisations celebrate in a number of ways. This year Rockingham Library created a stunning display based on the 2011 theme One World Many Stories and hosted productions by Patch Theatre of The Emperor’s Nightingale and Goldilocks to which local children were invited.

To tie in with Children's Book Week, Rockingham Library held a special workshop for Murdoch Education students. The workshop aimed to give participants an understanding of the Children’s Book Council of Australia (CBCA) book awards, the significance of Children’s Book Week, and an overview of shortlisted and winning books past and present.

Throughout this highly interactive workshop, students were presented with a range of techniques to improve their storytelling including the use of realia from the Curriculum Resource Collection (CRC). Students were then asked to choose a CBCA book and bring the story to life. The resulting series of story snippets based on books such as My Uncle’s Donkey was riveting, surprising, funny and compelling.

The workshop ended with lecturer Kit Lawson, reading a chapter from Great Expectations, to show how storytelling magic can be invoked with more classic literature. The workshop was a huge success with students discussing the possibilities and opportunities which come from presenting books in inspiring ways.

Staff profile:
Claire Fletcher

What does Energy, Engineering, Information Technology (IT), Physics, and Philosophy have in common? Claire Fletcher. Claire in her role as Subject Librarian works with staff and students liaising with academics, selecting books and other resources for the collection, and keeping up to date with latest developments in these fields. If that’s not enough for you there is more….. Claire also coordinates the Library’s Government Publications Collection, is extensively involved in creating and maintaining many of the Library’s online Subject Guides and more recently completed a guide focusing on the services the Library provides for the unique needs of Open Universities Australia students. Claire is particularly fond of identifying new technologies and finding innovative ways of using them to deliver information to our clients.

Having graduated with a BA in Media Studies in 2006 from Murdoch University, Claire certainly knows both sides of the service counter. Adding a Diploma in Library & Information Studies from Curtin University in 2010, Claire is well-equipped in understanding the student experience.

Claire enjoys working with people and helping them solve their problems. The variety, the subject areas and issues that she deals with, are particularly satisfying for Claire.

Library clients may encounter Claire in person at the Reference Desk, or online via email or the Ask a Librarian chat service.
New and forthcoming electronic Resources in the Library

The Library has acquired a number of electronic resources to add to the extensive collection available to Murdoch students and staff. They are accessible via Findit, the Library catalogue, and the Library's Databases page:

ProQuest Dissertations and Theses in full text

Almost all theses indexed in the ProQuest Dissertations and Theses A&I database are now available in full text. This is a major source of research outputs in a wide range of subjects.

Film Index International

Film Index International is produced in collaboration with the British Film Institute and is a major international biographical and film review database for entertainment films from silent movies up until the present.

Gaming Technologies ebook collection

This is a collection of 14 books on gaming technologies and their use in education. Titles include Gaming for Classroom-Based Learning: Digital Role Playing as a Motivator of Study and Biologically Inspired Artificial Intelligence for Computer Games.

Complete Dictionary of Scientific Biography

This electronic equivalent of the 26 volume print reference source comprises biographies of mathematicians and natural scientists from all countries and from all historical periods. It illustrates the development of science in terms of the knowledge gained and how this has influenced our understanding of nature.

Statesman’s Yearbook Archive

The Yearbook summarises the political, social and economic events and trends occurring throughout the world. The first edition, published in 1864, included outlines of constitution and government, revenue and population, and trade and commerce in some of the Australian colonies. The 2011 edition includes world population developments, international and national organisations, and reports on countries of the world ranging from Afghanistan to Zimbabwe.

Sage Research Methods Online (SRMO)

SRMO allows researchers to explore methods and concepts to help them design research projects, understand particular methods or identify a new method, conduct their research, and write up their findings. Since SRMO focuses on methodology rather than disciplines, it can be used across the social sciences, health sciences, and more.