The Library has implemented an exciting new service this year called Findit. Findit lets you discover information on any topic from the Murdoch University Library collections. It searches all the items in the Library Catalogue as well as most of the Library’s online journal articles and newspapers. It also includes content from the Murdoch University Research Repository.

Findit presents search results in a single combined list with the most relevant results displayed first. The results can be further refined using the filtering and sorting options offered. For example, you can limit your results to just journal articles, books, or scholarly publications, or further refine your results using the subject terms or publication date.

Findit replaces the Library Portal. It searches a much greater range of resources at a time, and response times are significantly faster.

We welcome your feedback on Findit. Send your comments to findit@murdoch.edu.au
The Library Website has had a makeover. Designed with the assistance of the Office of Corporate Communications and Public Relations, the new website is now consistent with the University’s branding and colours.

The web review project team also took the opportunity to review the structure and content, and have created a smaller and easier to navigate website. We also introduced a more intuitive address: library.murdoch.edu.au

Central to the design of the homepage is the new Findit discovery search box, which lets you search immediately across the Library’s online and printed resources.

The new design is gradually being rolled out to other web based library applications, including the Library Catalogue, Databases, our subject guides and the Research Repository.

We welcome your feedback on the new website. Look for the “Give Feedback” link at the top right of each page.

Check out our new website

Research Repository makes it into the top 500

Murdoch University’s Research Repository has been ranked at number 447 of 1120 institutional repositories in the January 2011 edition of “Ranking Web of World Repositories”.

This is the first time Murdoch has appeared in the listing and it has made an impressive debut, appearing in the top 50% of world institutional repositories.

“Ranking Web of World Repositories” is produced by the Cybermetrics Lab, a research group belonging to the Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas (CSIC), the largest public research body in Spain. Repositories are ranked using a composite index that combines activity indicators (size, rich files and Scholar) and impact (link visibility). More information can be found at repositories.webometrics.info

info
The Murdoch University Research Repository is available at researchrepository.murdoch.edu.au/

Learning Common Phase 2

The Learning Common has expanded onto Link Level 3 of the South Street Campus Library. The new area includes more than 60 new power outlets for laptops, improved space for newspaper reading, study booths and casual seating for group discussions.

Two mobile workstations with built in PCs, wireless connectivity and wide screens which can be connected to students’ own laptops, will soon be added to the area.
Future researchers embrace library training

Murdoch University is working collaboratively with high schools in Kwinana, Rockingham and Mandurah to provide students with a unique insight into university life. Students have selected to enrol in the unit TLC110 Learning for Tomorrow, which not only counts towards their secondary education but also towards a degree at Murdoch.

The campus libraries at Rockingham and Peel have been supporting this project by providing information literacy training, including tips on using the Library’s new search service, Findit. The students have embraced the training and have provided positive feedback.

Lecturer Janean Robinson commented that the innovative program aims to make the transition into university smooth and non-threatening and is particularly relevant to students due to a strong focus on local issues. She noted the library provided “transferable skills which would be invaluable for the students as future researchers”.

Staff Profile:

David Hixson, Librarian Peel Campus

David’s role at the Peel Campus is to facilitate the information needs of Murdoch University nursing staff and students and ensure they receive a friendly and quality service. He particularly enjoys the collaborative approach of working with the staff at the School of Nursing and Midwifery and values the multicultural nature of the nursing program, with its mix of domestic and international students and the resulting collaborations and friendships that develop amongst these groups.

David also works with students studying with Peel Campus Library partners, Mandurah Senior College and Challenger Institute of Technology.

David is a Murdoch graduate, having completed an undergraduate degree in Asian Studies while working part-time in the Library, and has since worked at the South St and Rockingham Campuses before moving to Peel.

The Library goes Mobile!

You may have noticed the Library Catalogue now includes QR codes, like the one pictured above. A QR code is like a two-dimensional barcode. It can be used to encode text, a URL or other data so it can be quickly and easily read by a QR code reader.

We’ve started experimenting with them at the Library as a way for you to grab information from a screen and put it on your mobile. Free QR code reading software is available for most phone platforms. Check your manufacturer’s website or app store.

When you’ve installed the QR app, simply point your phone’s camera at the code. The code above will take you to the Findit mobile search page. On the Catalogue, the QR codes will give you the location and call number of the item on your mobile so you don’t have to write them down.

The Library is also on the new Murdoch University mobile webpage, m.murdoch.edu.au. You can search the Library using Findit, find contact details and opening hours, and get quick access to citation guides.

More ways of using the library on your mobile can be found at library.murdoch.edu.au/Getting-help/Library-apps/Library-on-the-Go/.
New Resources in the Library

Timebase
Timebase includes current Australian legislation with daily updates for all Federal, State and Territory jurisdictions and related materials. It also provides point-in-time views of selected legislation, and a case annotation service.

Justis
Justis is a full text online legal library of UK, Irish and EU case law.

GMID enhanced
Economic Observer has been added to Euromonitor’s Global Market Information Database (GMID). This provides a range of short-term macroeconomic indicators across 52 countries and allows analysis of economic trends and developments in real time.

Royal Society of Chemistry (RSC) Journals
RSC publishes a series of high impact electronic journals that are dedicated to the rapid publishing of innovative chemistry. The Library now subscribes to nearly 30 of these journals.

More ebooks for Library users
The Library recently purchased three new ebook collections.

Palgrave Connect: Business and Management 2010 collection (127 titles)
Palgrave Connect: Media and Culture 2010 collection (40 titles)
WATERnetBASE
Over 220 ebooks on management of groundwater, harbours, lakes, and wastewater, from engineering, agricultural, biological, and environmental perspectives.

Individual ebook titles will appear in Findit, or you can access the collections from the Databases page library.murdoch.edu.au/Find-information/Databases

Support for Science Fiction collection
The Murdoch University Science Fiction/Speculative Fiction Collection Trust Fund, initiated by Chris Creagh with the help of the Development Office, is raising funds to help preserve a collection of science fiction materials currently housed in the Library’s storage area. The collection includes rare books, comics, fanzines, t-shirts and personal writings from the science fiction community of Western Australia and Australia. The donation form is at library.murdoch.edu.au/forms/donation_scifi_collection.pdf and all amounts over $2 are tax deductible.