Enhancing the Library Website

In today’s electronic and digital environment a library’s website is a virtual entrance to a range of services and resources. It’s vital to dedicate effort and resources to the evaluation of feedback and usage analysis of this ‘entry point’, similar to the librarians of old preparing graphs and charts of loans, gate entrances, and book return statistics.

In 2011 the Library rolled out a new website with a redesigned structure, utilizing the University’s new branding and Content Management System. This year a project was initiated to evaluate how the Library’s website was being used and by whom.

Through a combination of usability testing by individual students and academics, usage statistics analysis, and a general survey seeking feedback from a wide variety of constituents, the Library’s website is being enhanced with improved navigation, design and structure.

Roberta Cowan Prize for Information Literacy

Congratulations to Leslie McKinlay (PhD candidate), and Beryl Francis (Honours student), who received the Roberta Cowan Prize for Information Literacy at the 2012 Awards Night. Awarded to students nominated by a librarian for demonstrating the ability to effectively use the full resources of the Library, the Award recognises the development of research skills and achieving successful academic outcomes.

In this issue

Enhancing the Library Website 1
Roberta Cowan Prize for Information Literacy 1
Murdoch Research Repository Supporting Australia’s Cultural History 2
Online Subject Guides 2
Self Service Improvements 2
Library Staff Awards, 2011 3
Staff profile: Jenny Watts 3
National Year of Reading Bookclub 3
Significant New Library Resources 4
Online Subject Guides

Need help with an assignment? Looking for information on how to have your thesis bound? Or you need guidance on how to cite references in your assignment? This information and more is available via the Library Subject Guides. They have a great new look and contain even more amazing resources to help you with your assignments, finding information and getting help. Just look for your subject area on the Subject Guide Index Page and you will discover a fantastic resource, a "one stop shop". You can return to these guides as many times as you like and access them anytime or anywhere.

Self Service Improvements

No time to wait? You can use our customised Self Check Machines in the Library to borrow library materials and still make that lecture or tutorial on time. You can also use these machines to borrow DVD's for that Friday night chill out time. Just follow the on-screen prompts to learn how. Or if you are not sure how to use them, ask Library staff at the Enquiry Desk just inside the Bush Court entrance and they will be happy to show you how. Three Self Check Machines are available inside the entrance to the Library.

Murdoch Research Repository Supporting Australia’s Cultural History

Launched in September 2009, Murdoch’s Research Repository is an open access digital collection of research created by Murdoch University staff and students. A surprising enquiry in August this year came from an actor, Dan Spielman, who was researching a role for a new TV drama on bakers during World War 1. Dan had come across a reference to a Murdoch PhD thesis and contacted the Repository Team for further details.
Library Staff Awards, 2011

George Buick Library Achievement Award, 2011

This Award recognises outstanding achievement by an individual or team in any area of service or activity. Named in memory of the foundation University Librarian, George Buick, recipients demonstrate a consistently high standard of performance, produce excellent outcomes, initiative and effective team behaviour.

The Award recipient for 2011 was Bernadette Gargan, Reference & Information Services Librarian supporting Chemistry, Law and Mineral Sciences, for her motivation and dedication in delivering solutions and services to Library clients...”nothing fazes her”.

Nada Nadanasabapathy Library Innovation & Outstanding Service Award, 2011

This Award recognises outstanding and innovative service to the Library by an individual or team in any area of service or activity. Named in honour of the second Murdoch University Librarian, Nada Nadanasabapathy, recipients demonstrate an innovative approach to problem solving, display awareness of current trends and developments, flexibility and creativity, and initiative.

The Award recipients for 2011 were the Library Systems Team: Helen Bronleigh (Library Systems Coordinator), Ida Thompson (Library Systems Officer) and Michael Fineberg (Library Systems Officer) for “thinking outside the box” in providing solutions and support for web-based Library services, customising student interfaces and providing productivity improvements for staff and students.

National Year of Reading Bookclub

As part of the National Year of Reading, Murdoch Library is hosting an online bookclub. We’re reading eight Australian books which were chosen as part of a national project. The books are selected because, as a group, they describe what it’s like to live in the eight different states and territories of Australia. The books also provide a great way for our international and transnational students understand a little more about Australian culture.

We’ve got copies of all the books in print and e formats available for you to borrow and we’d LOVE to hear from you on our Facebook page – find us by searching for ‘National Year of Reading at Murdoch Uni Library’!

Staff profile:
Jenny Watts

Having recently completed her Graduate Diploma in Information Studies and Library Science (Curtin), Jenny joined Rockingham Campus Community Library in mid-2011. With her previous career in teaching, Jenny has brought a range of skills to her role in the Library. This fits well with the course profile at Rockingham delivered by the School of Education, and she is able to help students in many practical ways such as choosing literature that will engage children in the classroom.

Jenny has also taken on responsibility for organising most of the children’s activities in the Library: Children’s Book Week, school holiday activities and National Simultaneous Storytime. Jenny works closely with the Murdoch enabling classes including On Track, TLC120 and TLC110. She ensures students are able to find resources in the Library.

Jenny is often the friendly face at the Helpdesk or the librarian responding to queries on Ask a Librarian. She can help with a wide range of requests, both academic and recreational. Jenny is also busy developing the Library’s collections for Murdoch University, Challenger Institute and the Public Library. Recently, Jenny has participated in a series of Leadership workshops which have given her a broader view of Murdoch University and also some time to reflect on team dynamics and communication.
Significant New Library Resources

1. **Comprehensive Renewable Energy** (e-book) – this reference work encompasses the entire field of renewable energy and unites the different areas of research through deep foundational reviews. It will help users apply context to the diverse journal literature offering and assist in identifying areas for further research.

2. **CCH ebooks** - Covers a wide range of legal topics including accounting, bankruptcy and insolvency, corporate and securities, conveyancing and property, corporate governance and compliance, discrimination, employment and HR, environment, family, industrial relations, insurance, intellectual property, litigation and court practice, occupational health and safety, privacy, and social security law.

3. **Conference Proceedings Citation Index** accessed via Web of Science, helps researchers access the published literature from the most significant conferences, symposia, seminars, colloquia, workshops, and conventions worldwide. This resource offers a complete view of conference proceedings and their impact on global research, enabling users to track emerging ideas and new research.

4. **Ecopsychology** - this e-Journal examines the psychological, spiritual, and therapeutic aspects of human-nature relationships, concern about environmental issues, and responsibility for protecting natural places and other species. It places psychology and mental health disciplines in an ecological context and recognizes the links between human health, culture, and the health of the planet.

5. **OneSource Global Business Browser** – this database provides information on global public and private companies, executives across all levels and functions, reports and market research, and company financials.

6. **The Veterinary Clinics of North America** – Equine practice, Exotic animal practice, Food animal practice, Small animal practice – four world class journals covering over 3,000 clinical review articles and table of contents and abstracts to 49 medical clinics.

7. **Oxford Biblical Studies Online** - provides a comprehensive resource for the study of the Bible and biblical history. The integration of authoritative scholarly texts and reference works with tools that provide ease of research into the background, context, and issues related to the Bible make this a valuable resource for students, scholars, and clergy.