A display celebrating the life of former Chancellor of Murdoch University, Sir Ronald Wilson, has been set up in the Murdoch Campus Library.

Sir Ronald played a significant role in the establishment of the Law Library at Murdoch and maintained an ongoing interest in the development of the collection. The Sir Ronald Wilson Human Rights Collection is named in his honour.

The display brings together the diverse elements of Sir Ronald’s life, including his early years in Geraldton, his time as a pilot in the Royal Australian Airforce, his legal career, and his involvement with Murdoch University.

The display is in Link Level 3 of the library until 23 September 2005.

**30 YEARS OF COLLECTING IN...**

To commemorate the founding of Murdoch University in 1975, the Library is creating a series of displays during second semester which reflect 30 years of collecting at Murdoch. The displays will include a key work for every year from 1975 – 2005 in specific subject areas and will be located on level 3 of the Murdoch Campus Library. Further details are available on the Library’s website.

**EXTENDED OPENING HOURS A SUCCESS**

During First Semester this year, the Murdoch Campus Main Library extended its opening hours in response to concerns expressed about limited opening hours in 2004. Use of the Library during the extended hours (10 – 12am on Saturdays and Sundays; 9.30 – 11 pm Monday to Thursday) gradually increased throughout the semester. As a consequence it was decided to continue with the extended hours in Semester 2. A decision about future hours will be made towards the end of the year.

During extended opening, the Library operates as a “study hall”, that is, there are no services provided, but people may use collections, computers and copying facilities. From 8.30pm till closing time on Monday to Thursday there will be two security staff in the Library to ensure the safety of people, and the facility as a whole. Anyone leaving the building in the evening (or at other times) may request University Security to escort them to their car, bus stop etc using the call button just outside the Library’s front entrance.

This year the main Library at Murdoch Campus opened early on Saturdays during Semester 1 assessment so that students had somewhere to wait before their exam started. The Library was well used and will open early again on Saturdays during the Semester 2 assessment period.
**ROCKINGHAM RECOVERS**

The Rockingham Regional Campus Library is back to normal two and a half months after a leaking roof wreaked havoc in the upstairs level of the library. The damage occurred in late April when heavy rain over several days resulted in major leaks on one side of the library building. This in turn caused damage to electrical equipment and the closure of rooms and offices.

Staff from the library and the Rockingham campus worked hard to minimize the effects of the flooding amidst continuing rainfall. As a result, the upper level was closed for only seven days and the damage was confined to the audiovisual room, the e-library and several meeting rooms on level 2. The non-fiction books, which are also housed on level 2, thankfully escaped unscathed and several pieces of equipment were salvaged.

During the closure, library staff ensured patrons maintained access to the resources upstairs by running a book collection service. Only a week after the leaks occurred students and the public were able to head upstairs again.

In the two months since then, the roof has been fixed, ceilings have been repaired and painted, all working upstairs computers have been reinstalled, carpets have been cleaned, and the meeting rooms have been reopened for use. Rockingham’s library is back to normal, although the staff still get a bit jumpy every time rain is forecast.

**Retirees**

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This year sees the retirement of three long standing members of the Library staff.

Heather Kirton has worked at Murdoch Library for over 14 years. Many library users will have encountered Heather at the Enquiry and Loans Desk, but her primary contribution has been in the area of ordering serial and electronic resources in all subject areas and making them available to library users.

Colin Parry joined the Library in 1991 to assist with the move into the newly completed South Wing of the building. At the time Colin viewed this as a short term job. Almost fifteen years later he is retiring! Most recently Colin managed the shelving operation in the Library and also worked in the Vet Library where he was very well known by Vet School staff and students. Colin was a popular staff member and colleagues will miss his good nature and humour.

En Kho began her long career in libraries back in 1964 at the University of Queensland. She later joined the Reid Library at UWA where she supervised the Loans area and later managed Document Delivery. En retired from UWA, but was enticed back into the workforce to fill a skills shortage in Murdoch’s Document Delivery section. For over 10 years En’s energy, enthusiasm and strong work ethic benefited Murdoch Library as she acquired thousands of documents for Murdoch researchers. En’s cheery face and positive approach will be missed, as will the wonderful feasts she served up single handed for the whole of the Library.

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Jan 1972
George Buick appointed University Librarian

Feb 1972
Plans released for the first stage of Murdoch University’s building program, including a $1.8 million Library

Feb 1973
V. Nadanasabapathy (Nada) joins Murdoch as Chief Cataloguer. Cataloguing of books commences; books stored in the old Law Library at UWA

Nov 1974
40,000 catalogued books transferred to the new Library building from Noalimba Reception Centre where they have been stacked in every available space, including the toilets

Feb 1975
New Library opens for the first intake of 500 undergraduates with 50,000 volumes

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Rockingham after the flood
In 1972 the newly appointed University Librarian George Buick produced a concept plan for the new library which began:

“The building we are planning is a library, not a monument, a cathedral of learning nor, though it has some of the characteristics, a warehouse...it should not from its architecture give the impression that it is something separate from the university...because of its close relation to all activities carried on by the university it will naturally be the focus of university life... this requires that its location be in the centre of the university...”

The library was one of the initial four buildings to be erected in time for the commencement of teaching in February 1975. Outside the library building in Bush Court is a plaque marking the highest survey point of the campus, unveiled by the then Governor General, Sir John Kerr, in September 1974 at the opening of the university.

The library building’s architecture is similar to that of the other main university buildings – 3 storeys, constructed of grey blocks with wide eaves, jarrah rafters and verandah walk ways with picture openings that provide views across the campus to the Darling Ranges. There was no attempt to design an iconic library building, rather in keeping with George Buick’s proposal the library is integrated into the visual fabric of the university. Apart from the installation of self-opening doors in the 1990s the entrance has remained as it was in 1975. Following the recent revamp of other buildings fronting onto Bush Court where colour has been used as a defining element, the library entrance is soon to be redesigned.

George Buick continues:

“The building itself should be ‘educational’ by evidence of clear logical plan and layout... [it] should be interesting and should entice reluctant students into its precincts. Decorative objects should help to develop aesthetic awareness and, without being didactic, should contribute to the learning process...”

The simplicity of the look and feel of the original design has been maintained as the library building has more than doubled in size, it remains a light and pleasant space. The library has benefited from the strong design aesthetic of the three university librarians between 1972 and 2005, each with their particular style. The original orange carpet and chairs were replaced in the early 1990s with a grey / burgundy theme; in recent years bold colours on some walls have helped to define areas within the library.

George Buick would be well pleased with the range of ‘decorative objects’ in the library. Nada, the second university librarian, was an active member of the University’s Art Acquisitions Committee and the library has been home to wonderful art works over the years. This month the foyer in the Library’s South Wing has been refurbished as a gallery space to showcase works from the university’s collection (further details available at http://www.ccpr.murdoch.edu.au/art/).

Community membership was fostered by George Buick who in April 1973 told a seminar on public library services in WA that the new Murdoch University Library would welcome and encourage the community, not just students to use its facilities. This was unusual at a time when most university libraries were impenetrable to outsiders and George Buick’s proposal was debated heatedly at the seminar. When it opened Murdoch University offered free membership to the local community; there is now a charge for general community

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Murdoch University Library: the Founder’s vision and 30 years on

(Continued from page 3)

members although many groups are still offered free membership including high school students in years 11 and 12 and their teachers.

Murdoch students and staff are now able to access much of the collection online and from off campus; the library’s collection development policy indicates preference for digital resources and this is the preferred mode of access for many. However the library building remains well used and following requests for improved opening hours, the library in 2005 is trialing extended opening with study hall conditions later in the evening and on weekend mornings.

George Buick again:
“...though the university will not teach in all subjects ... the library should provide some materials so that at least some basic questions can be answered... besides the intellectual-factual side of a student’s development and studies, the student should have the opportunity to develop and be aware of the aesthetic-emotional side. It follows that the library should provide and make provision for the materials which will contribute to this.”

In 1975 the original collection of 50,000 volumes included books on topics that could be considered ephemeral to the university’s teaching & research but in keeping with George Buick’s intention to foster the ‘aesthetic-emotional side’. Many of these titles were casualties in the first journal cancellations in the early 1980s once development budgets were used up – ‘Punch’, National Geographic, Atlantic Weekly etc; also the separate collections of children’s literature and of fiction for recreational reading were disbanded. Today students have access to the Internet to investigate topics that fall outside the Library’s areas of collection development.

George Buick concluded:
“Libraries have traditionally dealt with books...books are no longer necessarily objects of bound pages and paper... There will be a need for some group use [and]... a coffee shop...it is questionable how useful reading is until some kind of dialogue has taken place...since their invention coffee-shops have provided the venue for this dialogue. Above all we must keep in mind that the library acquires, organizes, prepares for use and services recorded information to support the curriculum, research, administration and to encourage open and free enquiry developing out of student and staff studies and curiosity...With the least necessary concession to the needs of security and preservation there should be no impediment to the use of the library...We shall recognize that learning is enhanced when there is reinforcement of one medium by another and that different students make different response to different media.”

What would George Buick think of university library buildings and collections in 2005? His vision for Murdoch University Library embraced new technologies; his determination to provide for different learning styles would make him well satisfied with the current direction of the library that he planned over 30 years ago. The coffee shop that he indicated in his concept plan was implemented by Nada when Sir Walters opened in the Library courtyard in 1994 – Murdoch was one of the first university libraries to include a coffee shop and Sir Walter’s (pictured) is a popular facility.

Group study areas have been increased though there is unmet demand and currently there is a proposal to design and implement the first stage of a refurbishment, which would include a variety of study areas, computers, training rooms and importantly, learning support by librarians and staff from the Teaching & Learning Centre. Though his most favourable surprise would probably be 24 x 7 access to resources by students located anywhere who (mostly) experience ‘no impediment to the use of the library’.

George Buick’s Concept for Murdoch University Library appeared in edited extracts from the Murdoch University Planning Board’s submission to the Australian Universities Commission for the Triennium 1973-75.

Jean McKay, Manager, Liaison Services

April 1985
ALIEN (Automated Library Enquiry Network) officially commissioned by VC Prof Peter Boyce. Now possible to search the online catalogue for 250,000 titles by author, title and subject. Card catalogue is phased out.

1986
Implementation of Client Centred Work Groups provides a subject focus to Library services. With proactive specialist service to academic staff & students. Continues today as Liaison Librarians

1988
Library provides access to databases on CDROM

1990
Law Library opens in its original location in the Library Link. Successful Law Library Fund Raising appeal raises $1.7m

1992
Library expands to the new South Wing building. Low Library shifts to Level 3 & 4 in the South Wing
Murdoch University Library has had three University Librarians or Directors since it opened in 1975.

W. George Buick was appointed as University Librarian in January 1972 by Murdoch University’s Planning Board. George Buick was a graduate of the University of Adelaide and the Graduate Library School at the University of Chicago. He was awarded a Carnegie fellowship which enabled him to tour the US to study state and public library practices. He held positions in the State Library of South Australia, was the Deputy Librarian at Australian National University, and the foundation librarian at the University of Papua New Guinea.

George Buick came to Murdoch enticed by the prospect of leading the development of library services to support the University’s program of interdisciplinary studies. He was passionate about building a library that was the ‘heart of the university’. Technological innovation was always at the forefront of his plans for the Library and Murdoch was one of the first in the country to provide online public access to its catalogue.

George Buick’s egalitarian approach to life pervaded the attitude of the Library and its staff and his knowledge and love of fine art meant the Library became a repository for sculpture and the visual arts. The Library has honoured George Buick by naming its major library staff achievement award after him. This award, started in 1996, recognizes outstanding achievement by an individual staff member or team of staff in any area of library service or activity.

V Nadanasahapathy (Nada) joined Murdoch as Senior Cataloguer in 1973, became Deputy Librarian in 1982 and finally University Librarian in 1984. Nada was a well known and popular figure on the campus not only to Library staff but also academics, administrative staff and students. He was an innovator who kept abreast of trends in information management and would implement his ideas often in advance of colleagues. The early and successful adoption of new technologies to provide efficient and effective library services, which continues today, is due chiefly to Nada’s foresight and leadership.

In 1986 Nada implemented a total reorganization of the Library’s staff to provide a specialist and proactive subject focus to library services. This continues today with outreach liaison librarians. Nada was responsible for the University recognizing the particular requirements for a law library which resulted in a hugely successful Law Library Fund Raising in 1990 and the subsequent establishment of an excellent law collection and facility.

Nada had a strong personal interest in the arts, was a member of the University’s Art Acquisitions Committee and ensured that the Library was a central location for displaying art works. He was instrumental in developing a coffee shop in the courtyard created by the new south wing of the library building and Sir Walter’s Café opened in 1994.

The current Director of Library Services, Margaret Jones, came to Murdoch in 1994 as the Manager of Information Services. She was appointed Acting Director of Library Services in 1999 following Nada’s retirement, and Director in July 2002.

Margaret continues the trend for innovation. Under her leadership the Library has consolidated its digital directions – the collection provides access to over 25,000 electronic journals, the Library was an early implementer of VDX (virtual document exchange) for document delivery, the Australian Digital Thesis project and the AARLIN Library Portal project. Margaret also continues the respectful and inclusive management style of the earlier directors – Murdoch University Library has been and continues to be a much valued work place.

Jean McKay, Manager, Liaison Services

| 1993 | Theology collection formed at Murdoch by combining the libraries of Perth Theological Hall and the Anglican Institute |
| 1994 | Innovative Integrated Library Systems replaces ALIEN |
| 1994 | Sir Wolters Cafe opens in the Library courtyard |
| 1995 | May 1995 Library launches its website World wide Web used for unmediated access to databases |
| 1996 | 1996 Library collection reaches 500,000 volumes |
| 1997 | 1997 Rockingham Regional Community Campus Library opens (partners Murdoch University, City of Rockingham, Challenger TAFE) |
**Murdoch University Library - Staff Reflections**

We asked staff in the Library to give us their impressions of Murdoch in the 1970’s and to reflect on what has changed in the past 30 years.

Two staff who were at Murdoch when the Library opened in 1975 are still working at the University – Grant Stone, now the Library’s Manager of Scholarly Resources, was in the Acquisitions Section back in 1975 and De Stanton, who started work as the Cataloguer of audiovisual materials, has moved on to become the Coordinator of the University’s website.

De remembers library staff as friendly people from varied backgrounds – there was a joke that George Buick, the inaugural University Librarian, selected potential staff with a goal to have as many nationalities as possible in his library. The multiculturalism promoted during the Whitlam era certainly flourished at Murdoch and anyone who worked in the Library in the 1970s and 80s remembers the extravagant international dishes that were part of any staff get together.

A number of other staff still working in the Library joined Murdoch in the late 1970’s. They have vivid memories of the followers of Bhagwan Shree Rajneesh, colloquially called ‘orange people’, using the Library to listen to audiocassette recordings of their guru made by a Library staff member on a visit to India.

Library staff were also a colourful lot – there are memories of a display of how to put on a sari conducted on the top of a desk, and of two staff in particular who favoured wearing ugg boots most of the year.

The workplace was different then, with a far paler version of occupational safety and health regulations. One staff member reflects “I went through my first pregnancy inhaling. As you walked past the cataloguing area you could see smoke coming up from behind some desks, cigarettes were lit on bar heaters. Later smoking was banned in the work area but was allowed in areas like tea rooms and toilets.”

Another remembers the atmosphere of the workplace as “easy going but functioned well, we had much more autonomy ... communication was easier and there were less divisions”. Staff remember the building as fresh, new and modern with a relaxed and unconventional approach – the ‘in’ colour was orange on chairs and carpet.

Most staff remembered Nada who was appointed Chief Cataloguer in 1973 and went on to become University Librarian in 1984, retiring in 1999. Nada is remembered for his patience and guidance and for the frequent social gatherings he arranged at his home to which all staff were invited.

Reflecting on the biggest changes - all noted the impact of technological change, from the pre-computer days in 1975 to the fully electronic environment of today. When the card catalogue became redundant there was a ceremonial burning of the last cards in the library carpark. Changes in work practices have occurred, with a reduction in staff numbers and the employment of more student casuals. The library building has doubled in size and services and collections have been relocated, sometimes ending up where they were in 1975. Some commented that the fresh feel has gone and it’s no longer as relaxed, with more meetings and more accountability, although subject specialization by librarians has developed close relationships with academic units.

The future – there was talk about the proposed merger with Curtin. Staff were keen to ensure that the Library maintains its special place in the Murdoch community. The Library has an important role providing a human face to the university, a place where people can find help. Inclusion in Murdoch’s teaching, learning and research endeavours is paramount and it is essential to forge relationships with our academic staff, our researchers and students, and to engage with local communities.

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**Timeline of Events**

- 1997: Library amalgamates with TLC to form Office of Educational Services under directorship of the University Librarian. Disestablished in 2001; Library & TLC now work closely within Division of Academic Affairs
- 1999: Nada retires as University Librarian, Margaret Jones becomes acting Director
- 1999: LITE (Library & IT Exercises) offered as part of Foundation Units. LITE now on WebCT platform
- 2000: GOS libraries form Murdoch, Macquarie, Flinders, Griffith & La Trobe, later became Innovative Research Universities Australia Libraries & includes University of Newcastle
- 2000: Library adopts policy of preference for acquiring resources in digital format. Major rationalization of serials involves cancellations & some new subscriptions
IN MEMORY OF LISA JONES

The Library has recently purchased a book in memory of our colleague and Murdoch student Lisa Jones.

The selection of The Earthscan Reader in Environmental Values reflects Lisa’s commitment to the environment, wildlife conservation and sustainable tourism. A bookplate will be placed inside the book to recognize that it was purchased in memory of Lisa.

Lisa died in the Boxing Day tsunami while working on a sustainable tourism research project on sea turtles in Phra Throng, Thailand.

Her Masters studies at Murdoch were focused on community tourism planning.

Lisa was also a valued colleague of the staff of Murdoch University Library where she worked as an attendant on the Enquiry and Loans Desk.

The kind assistance of Dr. Jim Macbeth in identifying an appropriate book is appreciated.

Electonic Reference

Did you know that many of the library’s reference books are now purchased in electronic format?

The flexibility of access to electronic reference books is an improvement on print versions, which are not available for loan and must be used within the library.

To find electronic reference books, go to the Library homepage and select Electronic Reference from the Shortcuts menu.

Newly added titles include:

- Kirk-Othmer Encyclopedia of Chemical Technology
- Encyclopedia of Chromatography
- Encyclopedia of Religion
- Encyclopedia of Biological Chemistry

Other titles available include:

- Encyclopedia of Physical Science and Technology
- The Oxford Companion to the History of Modern Science
- Dictionary of E-business : A Definitive Guide to Technology and Business Terms
- The Oxford Companion to Shakespeare
- The Concise Oxford Companion to English Literature
- Encyclopedia of Forensic Sciences
- Oxford Dictionary of National Biography
- Dictionary of World Philosophy
- The Oxford Companion to the Politics of the World
- Handbook of Health Psychology
- Encyclopedia of Social and Cultural Anthropology
- The Oxford Companion to English Literature
- Encyclopedia of Forensic Sciences
- Oxford Dictionary of National Biography
- Dictionary of World Philosophy
- The Oxford Companion to the Politics of the World
- Handbook of Health Psychology
- Encyclopedia of Social and Cultural Anthropology

Clements Collection

The Library has received a collection of oral histories from the oral historian and peace activist, John Clements.

The collection includes interviews undertaken from the 1950's to 1980's with a broad range of people from politics, the media, arts, the labour movement and various social movements.

The collection was launched with an afternoon tea attended by members of John Clements’ family and library staff involved in making the interviews available.

| 2001 | Access to databases from off campus fully enabled |
| 2004 | Peel Education and TAFE campus library services commence |
| 2004 | Murdoch joins Australian Digital Thesis Program |
| 2005 | Library collection reaches 640,000 volumes and 25,000 electronic journals |
| July 2002 | Margaret Jones appointed Director of Library Services |
Campus Librarian Appointed to Council

Rockingham Campus Librarian Deb Hamblin has been appointed as councillor for the Safety Bay Ward in the City of Rockingham until May 2009. Deb has long been a dynamic force in the Rockingham community, and is a member of a number of committees involved in community development and safety.

In her new role, Deb hopes to encourage and promote education and training in the Rockingham area, with a particular focus on youth. Having lived in Rockingham for over 20 years she has a wide range of knowledge and experience that will aid her in these goals. Deb will no doubt continue to be a positive influence in both the Library and the City of Rockingham.

Library Quality Review 2004

In 2004 the Library was the first academic support unit to be reviewed under the University’s new policy of reviewing on a regular basis all parts of the University which provide support for teaching, learning and research.

As part of preparing for the review, Library staff were involved in developing a report outlining the Library’s role and resources, and providing a self assessment of performance over the past few years. Plans for the future were also identified.

The review took place over three days in late September. The review panel comprised Mr Greg Anderson, Library Director from the University of Newcastle; Ms Lynne Benton, Acting Vice President and University Librarian, University of Newcastle, and Professor Brian de Garis, Head of the School of Social Sciences and Humanities, Murdoch University. During the three days the panel visited the Peel and Rockingham campuses and spoke with Library staff, academic staff and students, as well as members of the Rockingham Library’s Policy Advisory Committee, and representatives of Challenger TAFE staff and students, and members of the public. At South Street the panel spoke with library staff, and academic staff and students representing a wide range of Schools as well as teaching and research areas.

The results of the review were received in December, and a number of recommendations for change were made, as well as some commendations. A number of commendations related to staff and their dedication and consistent level of service; the information literacy program and reference services, and the joint library at Rockingham.

The recommendations ranged widely from reviewing committee structures and roles, to increasing opening hours through the introduction of a “study hall” environment for late evenings and early weekend days. The Library has assessed the recommendations, and they have been approved by Academic Council.

A number of recommendations have been implemented, including extending opening hours on a trial basis during 2005.

We are very grateful to the review panel for the hard work they put in on our behalf, and look forward to the next review in 2009!