Over the past decade there has been a growing push to make the world’s research output accessible to everyone via the web. One of the main initiatives developed to allow this to happen has been the ‘institutional repository’, which has been designed to preserve and provide access to the intellectual output of an institution and its researchers.

Studies indicate that there are many benefits to be gained from the institutional repository. The work of individual researchers is made more visible because institutional repositories provide increased opportunities for discovery compared with citations on standard web pages. Institutional benefits include increased global visibility and brand awareness, with an associated impact on recruitment and funding opportunities. The repository can also provide an avenue for improving community access and engagement with the University’s research. There is growing evidence of improved citation rates and enhanced possibilities for collaboration and supervision.

The Library has been developing the Murdoch Research Repository to showcase Murdoch’s research. Repository staff have been working with academic staff members to enter their publications into the repository and, where copyright permits, to add the full text of their articles so that everyone can access them.

The Murdoch Research Repository can also provide individual researchers and their research centres access to up-to-date lists of their publications online, which can be used for personal and University promotional initiatives.

Although still in its early days, papers in the Murdoch Research Repository are being downloaded from all around the world. Over 60% of downloaded articles are discovered by people searching Google or Google Scholar.

The Murdoch Research Repository is also the new home for digital copies of theses produced by Murdoch students. Theses and the articles by Murdoch researchers that have been added to the Repository can be found at http://researchrepository.murdoch.edu.au/
In the March 2010 edition of Library News, we published an article about the first honours graduate from Murdoch University’s Peel Education Campus. We have since learned that the first honours graduate from Peel was Krystle Hiller. We apologise to Krystle and wish her success in her current positions.

Oops! We were wrong

Rockingham Regional Campus Library has recently launched its new website. Designed and developed by Liah Cable from Information Technology Services at Murdoch University with the help of Rockingham Library staff, the site reflects Rockingham’s coastal lifestyle and offers something for everybody. The new site features easy to navigate pages with the latest information on the library and its resources. A blog keeps people informed about Library events such as school holiday programs and tax help. The website continues to provide access to the catalogue where people can request material from other libraries, renew loans and keep track of their reading history using the “My Library” tool.

A challenge in developing the website was the need to provide information to Rockingham Library’s three stakeholder groups: Challenger Institute, Murdoch University and the Rockingham Community. For Murdoch students there is Rockingham-library specific information as well as access to the Murdoch Library Homepage.

“The new webpage relates closely to the Rockingham environment and leaves a lasting impression of our professional and client focused service” says Deb Hamblin, Manager of Regional Library Services, Murdoch University.

Have a look at Rockingham’s new website at: http://rockinghamlibrary.murdoch.edu.au

Dive in at Rockingham Library

Murdoch University welcomed 30 Chinese students and their three teachers Ma Jun, Sun Jian-qiang and Wang Jian-sheng to the South Street Campus on July 19. The students and teachers were from Western Australia’s sister state in Zhejiang Province, China, and were on the South Street Campus for a ten day study tour. Library staff conducted tours of the Library to highlight the collections and services offered and also discussed the students’ views on tertiary libraries.

The study tour was part of a sister university agreement between Murdoch and the Zhejiang University of Technology (ZJUT) which was signed on May 6, 2010 in the presence of Dr Elizabeth Constable, Minister for Education and Tourism. While at Murdoch the students engaged in study programs in Biology, Arts and Communication, and participated in a wide range of educational and cultural activities.

Welcome to Chinese students from WA’s sister state

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Robert Cowan Prize for Information Literacy

This annual prize is donated by Dr Roberta Cowan, Adjunct Senior Lecturer, School of Biological Sciences and Biotechnology and Research Staff member of the Library. Roberta, herself a librarian, established this award to recognise, highlight and promote the role of academic librarians in developing information literacy skills in the student community. Liaison and reference librarians are asked to nominate students they have observed as being keen library users over a period of time.

The prize is awarded to a student who demonstrates sustained use of the Library and who has gained knowledge in information literacy skills from interaction with a subject librarian.

This year the prize was awarded to Dmitri Pugaev, a PhD student in Mineral Science. Dmitry’s proactive approach to acquiring skills in information literacy and his enthusiasm in exploring a vast array of scientific resources ensured his nomination by Jenny Smith, the Liaison Librarian for Science and Engineering.

Dmitri Pugaev

Art Exhibition: Bellies and Breasts – Pregnancy, the True Wonder of Nature

Visitors to the Peel Education Campus Library were recently presented with an unusual art display created by third year Nursing Students. The artworks were produced as part of the unit Maternal and Newborn Health. Students were required to research an artist, then create an artwork inspired by their research to present to their peers.

The idea behind the art works came from the unit coordinator, Caroline Nilson, who emphasizes that one of the main objectives of the exercise is to, “explore emotions and develop empathy and caring, and to embed a sensitivity that is central to ‘being with woman’ during her childbearing experience”.

Students were required to produce an artwork of ‘bellies and breasts’ using papier-mache on a base of chicken wire. The results were incredibly varied, ranging from cubism to breast casting, and generated much discussion amongst visitors to the library.

Staff Profile:
Sandra Maxwell

Sandra, the Serials and Electronic Resources Supervisor, works ‘behind the scenes’ at Murdoch University Library. Her primary responsibility is to coordinate the ordering, receipt and processing of the Library’s journal subscriptions, including titles for the Rockingham Regional Campus Community Library. With changing journal technologies, she has extended her expertise to ensure that online journal resources are made accessible to users in a timely manner, and that any access problems are resolved promptly.

Sandra and the Serials team also provide a thesis binding service to Murdoch staff and students and are responsible for processing all the Library’s print resources. They also play a key role in ensuring that low use multiple copies of older material in the collection are removed from the shelves to make room for new materials, services and facilities.

Sandra is also an active and valued member of the Library staff Social Committee and began her career in libraries more than 30 years ago at Strathclyde University Library in Scotland.

Staff arrivals…
Natalie Arcus, Liaison Services
Claire Fletcher, Liaison Services
Matthias Liffers, Emerging Technologies

...and departures
Lisa Nichols, Liaison Services
Juliane Thorenz, Collection and Liaison Services
Indian Ocean Donation

The Library has acquired a collection of Indian Ocean materials generously donated by Dr Kenneth McPherson, foundation director of the Indian Ocean Centre at Curtin University and formerly President of the Australian Association for Maritime History. Books included in the collection have been book plated to acknowledge the gift.

Databases go mobile

Several Library databases now have mobile-enabled interfaces. They include IEEE Xplore, IOPscience and the EBSCOhost databases. Search for database title ‘mobile’ on the Journal Articles and Databases page.

(more) Scientific American now online

The popular magazine Scientific American, featuring the latest trends in science and technology, is now available to Murdoch users from 1948 to present.

New Endnote Guide

Endnote is a tool to help you manage your references and bibliographies. Check out our new Endnote guide, available on the Library website under Information Skills.