Challenging Times Ahead

Since her appointment as University Librarian in August last year, Felicity McGregor's overall concern has been to maintain and continue to improve the standard of Library services and the availability of information resources to the University community. She reflects below on the challenges of her new position.

As all faculties and other units would appreciate, maintaining and improving Library services is increasingly challenging in the current financial and political environment. The Library has relinquished a total of eight positions since the reshaping process commenced. This includes my previous position of Deputy University Librarian, which was eliminated as a means of making some of the necessary savings. These losses mean that we are constantly...
challenged to make the very best use of our scarce professional resources to meet client demands in the rapidly changing environment of information technology and information access.

The previous organisational structure has been modified in order to distribute some of the responsibilities previously shared by myself and John Shipp. Lynne Wright, Manager, Client Services, has assumed responsibility for front-line services, which include the information and lending services, Law Library, Special Collections and information literacy. Neil Cairns, Manager, Technical and Corporate Services, is responsible for the information technology infrastructure which supports access to library resources, both on-campus and from remote sites. He is also responsible for the integrated library management system (Innopac), which enables the service support functions of acquisitions, cataloguing, interlibrary loans and systems to be carried out efficiently and effectively. Catriona McGurk has replaced Lynne Wright as Reference Librarian. She is responsible for coordinating the provision of information and reference desk services, faculty librarians and implementation of information literacy policies.

MAINTAINING QUALITY

Although John Shipp's resignation is an enormous loss to both the Library and the University, we are very fortunate to have staff of the calibre of Lynne and Neil to provide leadership and expertise across the broad range of Library functions. All of the Library staff are committed to providing the community with the best possible quality of service. They are required to constantly update their skills so they can help others locate information from an increasingly diverse range of formats and access points. Although it is sometimes difficult, with diminished numbers, to cover all the bases in the busiest periods, feedback from those using the Library indicates a high level of satisfaction with our services.

Leadership for a New Learning Environment

As Deputy, my primary responsibility was the overall coordination of services, staff management and development and financial administration. I see my new role as providing leadership in designing information services which will meet the needs of future library users, in a learning environment which will be very different from that of today. Consultation with the University community is more important than ever, if we are to meet your information needs in a rapidly changing environment. Developments in communications technology and the electronic availability of resources have made it possible for students and researchers to access library catalogues and databases from any location, provided they possess the necessary equipment and expertise. Although it is impossible to predict the impact of developments with any certainty, it is wise to prepare for a future in which the majority of required information will be available in electronic format and unmediated access will be the preferred mode of using resources.

One of the more immediate access issues confronting us is the continuing increase in the costs of acquiring publications in a context of decreased library funding. All faculties are facing the prospect of serials cancellations, this year or next, in order to remain within their bookvote allocation. The reasons for the problem are as follows:

- Overall bookvote funding has decreased. Although the bookvote was largely exempt from the reshaping reductions, reduced funding from international students is available this year, a proportion of which is directed to the bookvote.

- Publishers costs have increased, as they do each year, in almost all subject areas by amounts ranging from 10-25% (in the last few years, the effects of price increases have been cushioned, to some extent, by prepaying at favourable rates.)
• The devaluation of the Australian dollar has meant a further reduction of approximately 14% and there is no sign of an improvement in this situation.

Serials cancellations are always difficult for both academic and library staff. We are trying, therefore, to find more cost-effective alternatives to our present dependence on print subscriptions. Pilot projects being developed with the faculties of Science, Engineering and Informatics and with the Department of Nursing are described elsewhere in this bulletin. Although document delivery is not always a satisfactory alternative to subscriptions, it may provide some savings, while maintaining access at article level for the purposes of research and current awareness.

The Library Committee has endorsed this approach and encourages all academic staff to participate in relevant projects and surveys. Please see your Library Committee representative or myself if you would like more input into the consultative process.

We welcome your feedback.

Felicity McGregor

Using the Library Remotely!

VIEWING YOUR CIRCULATION RECORD
When you link to the Library Catalogue, choose the ‘view your circulation record’ from the main menu. From here you can:
• obtain a list of items you have borrowed and their due dates
• renew items
• check for outstanding fines
• view items you have placed on hold and their status

Items can also be renewed by telephoning the Loans Desk during Library opening hours on (02) 4221 3545. Items which are overdue or have a hold placed on them cannot be renewed.

SENDING ELECTRONIC REQUESTS FOR INTERLIBRARY LOAN ITEMS
The Library’s Quicksilver service is available to academic staff and postgraduate students.

Eligible clients can submit interlibrary loan requests via the electronic request form available on the Library web page (http://www-library.uow.edu.au).

Intending clients need to complete a Quicksilver registration form available from the Library Information Desk, the Interlibrary Loans department or on the Library web page by selecting the Document Delivery icon. The completed registration form must be returned to the Interlibrary Loan department where a PIN number will be assigned to each client. The PIN number allows clients to submit requests via the Library web page.

For further information, please contact the Interlibrary Loans department or Shauna Miller on (02) 4221 3552 or email: shauna_miller@uow.edu.au

EMAILING YOUR RESERVE BOOK LISTS
Academic staff may forward requests by e-mail for books to be placed in Reserve.

Send lists to:
• RESERVES@uow.edu.au
• or jennifer_malins@uow.edu.au

All email requests should include:
• Title, author and edition required
• Call numbers
• Course code and name
• Session required
• Lecturer’s name and contact number

Book lists for Spring session received by Reserve Staff on or before 29th June will be available in Reserve first day of Spring session (if held by the Library and not checked out or overdue).

Reserve items which are journal articles or folder material still need to photocopied and brought to the Library.

For further information, please contact Jenny Malins, (02) 4221 3331 or email: jennifer_malins@uow.edu.au
Space Changes

During the December-January period, the Law Library was re-located from the first floor to the western end of the ground floor, formerly occupied by Special Collections. The move was necessary to permit the expansion of the main monograph collection, which was almost at full capacity. In order to accommodate most of the Law collection in a discrete area, a number of other changes were made:

- The main monograph collection has been redistributed to allow for expansion. This involved moving every book in the collection. The move was accomplished with minimum disruption to Library clients, thanks to the excellent planning and the dedicated effort of a team of Library staff, mainly from Loans plus some student assistants.

- The Reserve Collection area has been expanded to accommodate Law reserve and loose-leaf materials.

University Librarian Felicity McGregor, Deputy Vice Chancellor Peter Robinson, Dean of Creative Arts Sharon Bell and Dean of Law Helen Gamble discuss the changes to the Library.

- Approximately half of the Reference collection, including long runs of indexing and abstracting serials, plus lesser used and duplicate law materials are now housed in compactus shelving on the second floor.

- The Special Collections material (maps, music, audiovisual materials) has been relocated to the south eastern side of the ground floor, previously occupied by the Reference Collection.

- One seminar room has been converted to the Special Collections office, however, this will be replaced and additional group study rooms constructed on the first floor, in the area previously occupied by Information Technology Services computer laboratories.

- Faculty Librarians have moved to an office area near the Law Library and Law Library staff are located in offices adjacent to the collection.

- The area previously occupied by Faculty Librarians has been converted to a much-needed Teaching Laboratory, a facility which enables Library staff to conduct hands-on skills classes within the Library.

- Some of the Catalogue terminals, previously housed in a room near the central stairs, have been redistributed throughout the Library to make way for a Multimedia Lab. This houses equipment needed to access multimedia computer software, which now forms part of the Library's collection, the full text electrical
engineering database IEL, and computers for accessing the Internet.

The moves have also permitted the relocation of the Disabilities Access Room to an improved office space next to the InfoLab on the ground floor.

Some of the moves have involved changes to service provision, particularly for the Law Faculty. Negotiations continue with both staff and students to agree on improvements which will maintain a high quality service to Law, while meeting the Library’s reshaping requirements.

With the completion of these internal space changes and the completion of the IT Resources building next door, we hope that a lengthy period of noise and disruption, including floods, building evacuations and loss of power and water supply, is at an end.

The Future of Serials

A number of faculties on campus are facing major serials cancellations to remain within budget allocations. This situation has arisen as a result of general budget constraints placed on all academic institutions, inflation, price increases and the fall in the Australian dollar.

Earlier this year Library staff presented a paper to the Library Committee outlining options to address these problems. Issues relating to electronic journals and document delivery were covered, as well as consortia deals with other libraries to achieve bulk purchase of access to electronic information. Options for more immediate solutions were also considered. A number of projects were proposed to maximise the library’s ability to meet the needs of academics and students in the areas of research, teaching and learning within an environment of decreasing purchasing power and funding.

Specific Projects

The Library is now working closely on projects with three faculties - Science, Informatics and Engineering. The short term aim is to assist these faculties to reduce expenditure prior to the renewal of subscriptions and to trial alternative access mechanisms to information they currently receive in print. The medium term aim is to profile these faculties teaching and research needs to obtain data on which to base future purchasing and collection development decisions. This will include data on journals currently used for teaching and research and identifying journals for receipt via interlibrary loan/document delivery mechanisms.

As part of this project the Library is surveying the usage of a number of high cost journal titles primarily used for research purposes. 1996-1998 copies of selected titles have been removed from the shelves and their usage will be monitored for 3-4 months. Journals removed from the shelves for the period of the trial can still be used by staff or students (signage at the usual location indicates how to request items from the Serials section or Information Desk).

Tables of contents for these titles are now e-mailed to identified academics in the Science and Engineering faculties in a parallel trial of alternative means of access to these journals.

For further information on these projects, please contact:
Elizabeth Peisley, (02) 4221 4176
email: elizabeth_peisley@uow.edu.au
or
Pam Epe, (02) 4221 3165
email: pam_epe@uow.edu.au

The full text of the Future of Serials paper presented to Library Committee is available at http://www-library.uow.edu.au/PAPERS/Serials.htm

news@library is published in both Autumn and Spring Sessions each year. Comments and suggestions on this newsletter should be forwarded to the Editor - Catriona McGurk by telephone on 4221 3332 or by email to catriona_mcgurk@uow.edu.au.
Library Opt for Searchbank Databases

Following an extensive trial of several databases offered by the Information Access Company's Searchbank service, the Library has now subscribed to two major databases. A substantial proportion of both databases is available in full text. Expanded Academic Index also offers graphics for many articles. Daily updating of both databases ensures currency.

By subscribing to these databases, the Library has extended the range of information resources available from the desktop, furthering its vision to provide information and retrieval tools beyond the Library walls wherever possible.

In order to fund these resources, the Library has cancelled subscriptions to General Periodicals Ondisc and Computer Select which were only available to single users in the Library and which provided similar coverage.

**Expanded Academic Index ASAP Int’l Ed.**

From arts and the humanities to social sciences, science and technology, this database meets information needs across all academic disciplines. Access academic journals, magazines and newspapers - many with full text and images! The number of records indexed is rapidly approaching 3 million.

**Computer Database**

Use this database to find computer-related product introductions and news as well as reviews in areas such as hardware, software, electronics, engineering, communications and the application of technology.

**Accessing SearchBank**
Both databases are available through a web interface. Access is available from any computer on campus with an Internet connection and a web browser such as Netscape. Planning is under way to offer off-campus access in the future.

You may reach the Searchbank Introductory screen at [http://www.searchbank.com/searchbank/uow](http://www.searchbank.com/searchbank/uow)

Click on the Proceed button. Choose the database you wish to search. Logins and passwords are not required.

**Searching SearchBank**
Two search modes are available.

*EasyTrac* offers subject and keyword searching.

*PowerTrac* offers the facility to search in various index fields and to combine sets.

Articles can be printed in full size through the web browser, or downloaded in PDF (Portable Document Format) and printed through Adobe Acrobat Reader, which is freely available via the Internet. Articles printed from PDF files contain original formatting.

It is also possible to print, download or email results.

Feedback on use of both databases have been extremely positive. Users have found the search software easy to use and like the results!

For further information on the use of these databases, contact Neil Grant - Electronic Services Librarian, on (02) 42 213547 or email neil_grant@uow.edu.au

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**Research Edge**
Copies of the Research Edge book are on sale at the UniShop. The book is a comprehensive guide to information skills for postgraduate students at all levels. Price: $25.00
Bellambi Coal Company

Important Acquisition

The University Archives, through the efforts of Mr Ray Brown of the Black Diamond District Heritage Centre, Bulli, recently acquired an important collection of material relating to the former Bellambi Coal Company and associated enterprises such as the Federal Coke Company. These records (cat. no. D185) date from the 1860s and are the only substantial collection of Illawarra coal company archives at present housed in a public collection. Despite the very long tradition of coal mining in Illawarra - the first mine was opened at Mount Keira in 1849 - and the important role coal mining has played in the local economy, no substantial archival collection of this nature has previously been made readily accessible to researchers and the general public.

The collection includes correspondence, minute books, wage and production sheets, personnel records, maps, mining leases, publications, and reports dating from the 1860s, with the most substantial part covering the period 1890s-1940s. Supplementing the archive is a 1909 illustrated publication The Mines of the Bellambi Coal Co. Ltd. Southern Coal District, New South Wales, which presents a pictorial outline of the company’s operations. This book is characterised by perhaps the best images (with regards to quality and content) available of workings both above and below ground on the southern coalfields during this period.

Some illustrative material from the Bellambi Coal Company archive, along with other items relating to the coal mining heritage of northern Illawarra, are at present on display at the Black Diamond District Heritage Centre, Bulli Railway Station. Opening times: Sunday, 10am - 4pm.

HIST325 Students

Archives Project

During the latter part of Autumn Session 1997 a group of thirty students from HIST325 (Theory and Method of History) carried out work in the University Archives on a variety of assignments and research projects. Archival material from the collection which was accessed included the records of the Illawarra Ethnic Council; transcripts of the Commission of Inquiry into the Appin Mine Disaster of 1979; World War II reminiscences of Robert Coleman; the papers of World War I soldier William George Agate; material pertaining to the Australian Peace Council and the Peacemaker magazine; the diaries of Francis McCaffrey; records of community radio station 2VOX FM; and a Hill End storekeeper’s account book dating from the 1870s.

The archival assignments followed on the presentation of a seminar to the students by the Archivist, outlining methods of accessing archival collections in Australia, along with a brief description of the University Archives’ significant holdings. Course coordinators Drs. John McQuilton and Stephen Brown commented on the success of the exercise and indicated that it would become a permanent feature of HIST325.
Rare Books
The University of Wollongong Library holds a small, though varied collection of rare books, pamphlets and ephemera, numbering some 900 individual items. All are accessible via the online catalogue. The Rare Books Collection, housed in the Archives Reading Room on the ground floor of the Library, comprises publications dating from as early as 1582 (Boccacci's Il Decameron), through to limited edition art books such as Morris West's The Heretic - A Play in Three Acts (Sydney, 1988), scientific treatises including William Whitson's A New Theory of the Earth (London, 1696), and more recent material. All books in the Library's collection published prior to 1800 have recently been transferred to Rare Books. Recent acquisitions include Charles Wilkes' Narrative of the U.S. Exploring Expedition (Philadelphia, 1845) and Karl Scherzer's Round the World Voyage of the Austrian Frigate Novara 1857-9 (London, 1865). These latter works were featured in the Library's Magnificent Voyages exhibition during 1996. Information on the Rare Books collection can also be accessed from the Archives Web site at {http://www-library.uow.edu.au/archives/archives.htm}.

The adjacent image is an engraving entitled 'Forest, Illawarra, NSW' taken from the Wilkes volumes. It is based on an original drawing by American artist Alfred T. Agate who visited the region during December 1839 and January 1840, accompanied by geologist James Dwight Dana.

RAAM Database!
New Archives Search Engine
The Register of Australian Archives and Manuscripts has recently been launched on the Web by the National Library of Australia (http://enzo.nla.gov.au/products/raam). The RAAM database contains records describing non-government archives held in Australian archival repositories and libraries, including the University of Wollongong Archives. RAAM is designed to provide researchers with sufficient information to enable a decision to be made on whether to follow up on accessing the material. The database includes some 20000+ references, pertaining to the following: Collections of manuscript and archival material held in Australia, whether of Australian origin or not; Single unpublished items provided they are primary sources, e.g. a letter, a deed, a diary; Photocopies or microfilms of Australian manuscript or archival material, including non-government overseas material relating directly to Australia; and Personal records held in government archives. The search engine attached to RAAM makes it a valuable tool for researchers.

Aerial Views of Campus
Buildings & Grounds Display
A collection of large aerial photographs of the University of Wollongong campus, which form part of the Archives collection and have for many years been stored in the roof of the Pentagon (Communications Centre), were recently resurrected and incorporated within a wall display located on the ground floor of Buildings and Grounds (building 31). The photographs date from the 1950s and show the transformation of the site from an apple orchard with a coal company railway line running through the middle of it, to the present sprawling complex of buildings and associated educational facilities. The adjacent aerial view of campus was taken in 1973. The Wollongong University College is seen in the bottom left-hand corner, with the Wollongong Teachers College top right.