A strategic framework for Australia's research enterprise

On March 3rd and 4th this year, a Project Workshop entitled: *Australia’s Information Future: Innovation and Knowledge Management for the 21st Century*, was held in Canberra. The workshop was sponsored by nine universities and the CSIRO and was an initiative of the universities’ librarians, led by ANU Librarian, Colin Steele.

Fifty representatives drawn from organisations involved in Australia’s research enterprise agreed that concerted strategies and actions were required to ensure that Australian research remains competitive through having cost effective and timely access to the global network of information and knowledge.

The outcome of this workshop is a consultative document which seeks input from all interested parties prior to the confirmation of strategic objectives and the development of a national plan of action. The document: *Investment in Information and Knowledge Infrastructure: A Strategic Framework for Australia’s Research Enterprise* was prepared by Macquarie University’s Librarian, Neil McLean.
The framework proposes six strategic priorities:

A. INNOVATION AND TRANSFORMATION
1. Transform the way universities and other research agencies access and consume information and knowledge.
2. Seek innovative means of changing the present processes associated with creating, publishing, disseminating and archiving research information and knowledge.
3. Reform intellectual property rights management practices relating to the exchange of research information and knowledge.

B. IMPROVING PRESENT BUSINESS PRACTICES
4. Develop collaborative tactical responses for negotiating access within the existing global information and knowledge marketplace.
5. Maximise the opportunities for increased efficiency within, and between, libraries and information networks.

C. TECHNOLOGICAL ENABLEMENT
6. Ensure that Australia’s evolving technological infrastructure is leading edge in supporting the digital distribution and management of information and knowledge.

As noted in the paper, “concerted action will be required between researchers, librarians, private sector information providers, information technology experts, university managers and government funding agencies in addressing these priority areas for action”.

Given the present funding exigencies affecting the provision of serials and other research resources, this is a timely initiative and it is hoped that it will receive the fullest support and encouragement from the University of Wollongong community.

A copy of the framework is available from:
http://www.lib.mq.edu.au/McLean/investment/

If preferred, a copy can be obtained from Helen Mandl extension on 4176 or email helen_mandl@uow.edu.au

A summary of the workshop and further discussion of the issues affecting the research information infrastructure can be found at:
http://www.lib.mq.edu.au/general/publications.html

University of Wollongong theses on the UMI web site

You can now access the abstracts of all University of Wollongong theses and dissertations which have been registered with UMI at the following Web address:
http://wwwlib.umi.com/cr/uow-au/main

Searching
At the opening screen, searches can be performed by keyword, author or adviser.

A keyword search finds words which appear in the title or abstract.

For field searching, click on Main Search Page. Field searching allows broader searching by subject headings. For example, su(asia and history) will retrieve more results than performing this search by keyword. A list of subject headings can be obtained from: http://wwwlib.umi.com/cr/uow-au/subjects
Can I get the entire journal article? Format options in full text databases

"Can I get the entire journal article?" is one of the most frequently asked questions about the Library's electronic databases. The answer to this question is "That depends on the database". Many only provide a citation (or citation plus abstract) of the article. Full text databases, however, may provide the entire article, sometimes in a choice of formats. These formats include:

- Full text (the text of the entire article)
- Full text plus graphics (the text of the entire article plus thumbnail size graphics, which can sometimes be enlarged for separate viewing and/or printing)
- Page/image document format (the entire article, often in its originally published format - ie. as it appears in the print version of the relevant journal). In these databases, page/image uses portable document format or pdf.

With this last option your computer will require, in addition to your web browser application (Netscape, Internet Explorer etc.), a software application called Adobe Acrobat Reader.*

Full Text Databases
The Library now subscribes to several full text databases which offer a choice of full text format options (although the terminology used to describe these options varies between different databases). The major full text databases are:

ABI/Inform Global (covering business, industry and management topics) via Proquest

Hint:
- Look for the "Page image" option, represented by a camera icon, to view the article as it appears in the print version of the journal (using Acrobat Reader).

Expanded Academic ASAP (a multidisciplinary database) and Computer Database (covering computing and telecommunications topics) both via Infotrac/Searchbank

Hint:
- Look for the option to "View text and graphics and full content retrieval choices" and select the "Acrobat Reader - Full Content" retrieval option to view the article as it appears in the print version of the journal.

Note: the option to "View text and retrieval choices" is not quite the same as the full content option. Although the full text of the article can be displayed in Acrobat Reader it is not shown in its originally published format and often lacks any accompanying graphics.

Database Access
To access the databases mentioned above go to the Library web page http://www-library.uow.edu.au/Database/Dbas.htm and select the relevant database from the "Choose a Database" pull down menu screen (eg. ABI/Inform). Click on the "Submit" button and follow the prompts on screen.

For More Information
For more information about these or other Library databases, contact your Faculty Librarian or the Library Information Desk (ext. 3548).

* For more details about Adobe Acrobat Reader software check with your computer support officer or refer to the installation instructions available on the ITS web page at http://www.uow.edu.au/its/userguides/acrobat_mac_win.html
ACCESS THE LIBRARY OFF CAMPUS

It is now possible for University of Wollongong staff and students to access a large range of databases from outside the Library (this includes from your computer on campus, or using the Internet from home). Databases available include ABI/Inform (business and management), Current Contents (multidisciplinary) and a host of databases which are available from our Webspirs server, including Medline (medicine), Psyclit (psychology), Sociofile (sociology), APAIS (Australian Public Affairs Information Service) and the Business Australia set of databases.

**Database Access**
To access the databases, go to the Library’s web page at http://www-library.uow.edu.au Click on the link to databases and then follow the appropriate links. It is a good idea to bookmark those databases which you use frequently.

**Logins and Passwords**
For information regarding logins and passwords, and further information about accessing the databases, please ask for the handout ‘Off campus access to remote databases’, available from the Library Information Desk. Due to licensing agreements with the various vendors, it is important that you do not share the login and password information with those who are not staff or students at this University.

**Training**
If you would like to learn how to use the Library’s range of electronic databases, the Library offers regular ‘Databases Getting Started’ workshops free of charge. For a full schedule of Library workshops you can follow the Services and Training link from the Library home page, collect the Workshops Brochure from the Library Foyer, or contact the Library Information Desk.

For further information relating to database access or other Library issues please contact the Information Desk on 02 4221 3548.

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**Off-Campus Access to Library Resources**

**Making Connections**
If you have a computer with a modem, you can access the University’s networked computer facilities by establishing a student computer account. Information on the procedure for establishing an account, and the hardware and software required to make a connection, can be obtained from the Information Technology Services (ITS) Call Centre on (02) 4221 3775. Information is also available from the ITS Web site [http://www.uow.edu.au/its/].

**Modem Access**
Modem dial up numbers for the Sydney, Wollongong and Berry areas are provided below. Please note that students outside these areas will be required to pay STD charges when using these numbers. As an alternative to paying these charges, there are a number of commercial Internet Service Providers (ISPs) who can provide Internet access with a local call connection cost. The University of Wollongong has selected OzEmail as the preferred supplier of off-campus dial-in access to the Internet and the University’s networked computer facilities. Information on the OzEmail service can be obtained from the ITS Call Centre or Web site.

news@library is published in both Autumn and Spring Session 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_mcguirk@uow.edu.au

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LIBRARY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

The Library Consultative Committee, which replaces the Library Committee, has been established to provide a forum for communicating library policies and services to clientele and as a source of feedback to Library staff from representatives of students and academic staff.

Representatives from each faculty, the student body and Academic Services Division have been elected to the Committee which is chaired by the University Librarian, Felicity McGregor. It is pleasing to see a number of members from the previous Committee re-elected.

The Committee will be asked to: contribute to the development and review of policies, objectives and priorities for the provision of library and information services; advise on information resource requirements to support key research, teaching and learning; provide input into planning for future library and information services which meet the goals of the faculties and University.

To facilitate effective dissemination of information, minutes of meetings and the outcomes from discussion topics will be posted to the Library’s web page at: http://www-library.uow.edu.au/About/libcomm.htm. Brief minutes will also be compiled by the secretary and distributed, in the body of an email, to each representative who in turn can circulate them to their colleagues.
Academic Outreach: supporting academics in accessing electronic resources

The Reference Services Team has responded to the increasing use of electronic resources by academic staff at the University with a new Academic Outreach program. Faculty Librarians have embarked on this program during autumn session and aim to reach all academic staff by the end of the year. Through visits to individual academics, faculty librarians aim to assist academic staff with access to relevant electronic information from their desktop and hope to increase awareness of resources in discipline areas.

A popular service to date has proved to be helping academics to set up email receipt of electronic contents pages of relevant journals.

Faculty of Arts Librarian, Jacqui Birchall, working with Dr Stephen Brown, History and Politics, as part of the Academic Outreach program

Gateways to research resources

The AVCC recently announced the Janus Project – an initiative of the National Scholarly Communications Forum which brings together the AVCC, the Academies, the CSIRO, the National Library, the Council of Australian University Librarians (CAUL) and the Committee of Australian University Directors of Information Technology (CAUDIT). The project envisages the establishment of a set of Collaborative Information Centres or Janus centres.*

The Government has provided funding of $455,000 from the Higher Education Innovation Project (HEIP) to develop a business model for an integrated, collaborative approach to research collections and information and to conduct a pilot phase to test the concept in three disciplines: agriculture, chemistry and philosophy. The project is strongly endorsed by the AVCC.

When developed, the centres will provide a focus for national collaborative purchasing in their disciplines and one-stop shops for access to research information in those disciplines.

The project will build on the many developments, trials and achievements of research communities both nationally and internationally. Further information on the Janus project is available from:

http://www.anu.edu.au/caul/janus/

*Janus is the Roman god of gateways or doorways.

Serials Survey

As part of the Academic Outreach program, librarians will be speaking to academics regarding completion of the Serials Survey. Individual academics in all faculties are asked to identify journals titles which support their teaching and research needs.

This important project will allow information to be fed back to faculties and departments for decision making purposes. The data will also assist the Library in analysing the relevance of new electronic products.
Academic Outreach: supporting academics in accessing electronic resources

The Singapore National Library Board launched the National Academic Outreach Programme in 2003 to support academic institutions in Singapore. The programme aims to enhance access to electronic resources and services for academic staff and students. This initiative is supported by the National Library Board and the Association for Academic & Research Libraries in Singapore (AARL) and the Association of University Affiliated Libraries (AUFLA). The programme offers academic staff and students access to electronic resources and services.

Gateways to research resources

The programme includes access to a range of electronic resources such as journals, databases, and information. The programme also offers training and support to help users effectively utilize the resources.

The programme is available to all academic and research institutions in Singapore. It is aimed at enhancing access to electronic resources for academic staff and students in Singapore.