Studying Australia: a resource guide to Down Under

International Week in August provided the perfect opportunity for the Library to launch a new web resource developed by a team of librarians with the support of University funding. The Studying Australia website is designed to provide access to a wealth of Australian resources and to increase cultural awareness of Australia. It has particular value to international students and to others undertaking studies about Australia.

Collaboration with Study Abroad students and staff of Colgate University, New York State, was an important part of the project which was funded by a Strategic International Links Grant from the UOW Internationalisation Committee. Colgate University students will provide feedback on the Studying Australia website during their study of Australia’s indigenous heritage, environment and history at Wollongong during Spring Session.

Academic staff are encouraged to recommend Studying Australia to students undertaking subjects requiring Australian resources. The site is available from the Library’s eresources link on its homepage or directly at: http://www.library.uow.edu.au/eresources/subjects/oz/index.html

The Library’s project team was led by Suzanne Lipu, the Research Training Librarian. Suzanne welcomes feedback via email: suzanne_lipu@uow.edu.au.

INSIDE

2. WUC Sydney Campus Library opens
2. Desktop Delivery is here!
3. Research Publications output reaches new high
3. Measures to fill the void
3. EndNote - learn it online!
4. New Electronic Resources
WUC Sydney Campus Library opens

With an initial setup of only five hundred titles, four computers and a small group study area, the Wollongong University College Sydney Campus Library is definitely the smallest as well as the newest of the University’s libraries. The library will be expanding into larger premises when it moves to the College’s new Sydney location in 2004.

A new library needs a new Librarian, and we welcome JoAnne Witt to our team. Since graduating from UTS, JoAnne has worked in a variety of libraries including Lidcombe TAFE Library, Hornsby Shire Library and most recently the TAFE NSW Education and Training Information Service. Her final research task, before joining the University of Wollongong Library, was to determine the wood and architectural style of the bookcase* in the boardroom of the NSW Director General of Education!

"I feel very lucky to be assisting with the growth of this new library, working with University of Wollongong Library staff, College teachers and students. When students and staff first visit the library they express surprise at the small number of books. This rapidly changes to delight when I show them what they can access electronically! One of my main tasks is to foster students’ information literacy skills. There is a bit of a myth that all young people are Internet savvy, however librarians know that many struggle to find the information they require, whether in hardcopy or online."

* The bookcase was Edwardian Baroque and made from cedar.

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For more information contact Document Delivery on 02 4221 3549/ 4765, or by email at: ill@uow.edu.au
Research Publications output reaches new high

Coordination of the University’s Higher Education Research Data Collection (HERDC) project kept Library staff members Brian Cox and Shandell O’Neill busy during mid 2003. With the assistance of Collection Officers in the faculties and research institutes, over 1270 items were obtained from academic staff.

The items had to be published in 2002 and 71% of these met the DEST categories of research related books, chapters, refereed journal articles and refereed conference papers. This represented an increase of 37% on the previous year.

“The Collection Officers are the key liaison point for academic staff in this process with Library staff verifying and collating evidence for each item”, says Brian Cox. “It is a joint effort that ensures the University receives the appropriate funding for our academics’ research efforts”.

Measures to fill the void

Library and information managers recently joined forces with research and teaching staff in the cathedral city of Durham, England, to discuss the challenge of measuring the contribution of libraries to student learning outcomes. Library measures to fill the void: assessing outcomes was the theme of the 5th Northumbria International Conference on Performance Measurement in Libraries and Information Services. Measuring the value and impact of electronic services was a particular focus of this biennial conference which attracted representatives from over 20 countries.

Benchmarking with the Best was the title of a paper presented by Felicity McGregor, the University Librarian. Other presentations covered topics ranging from the theoretical basis of measuring performance to the practical application of measures and surveys, including measurement of overall organisational outcomes.

EndNote – learn it online!

A tutorial to assist staff and students with using EndNote is the latest online learning resource to have been developed by Library staff. The tutorial’s release is timely as the University’s site licence for EndNote helps to increase student interest in learning how to use the software to store references and create bibliographies. The online tutorial offers a welcome complement to the Library’s classroom delivery of EndNote training.

The tutorial was developed by Suzanne Lipu (Research Training Librarian), Beth Peisley (Science Faculty Librarian) and Irene Mar (Web Development Officer). It is available on or off campus via the Library’s Help/Training pages at:


Please note that copies of the EndNote software can be borrowed for one week from the Library’s Reserve Collection for installation onto home computers.
New Electronic Resources

**Encyclopaedia Britannica Online**
A great research tool, and not just an encyclopedia!
- 24,000 biographies
- 22,000 illustrations
- detailed maps of 196 countries
- hours of sound, animation and video clips
- 100,000 authoritative articles on a host of subjects
- 150 journals and magazines
- links to 250,000 rated and reviewed websites
- and there's more...

Encyclopaedia Britannica, probably the most recognised name in encyclopaedias, claims to be the world’s most comprehensive reference product. The Library’s online subscription ensures that you can take advantage of this huge resource 24/7. Access via Ezproxy means that the encyclopaedia can be accessed off campus as well as from your campus office or lab, and within the Library.

Encyclopaedia Britannica is a great resource for obtaining background material or a broad overview of a topic. It can also provide the answer to determining that required detail! Advanced searching capabilities make it an invaluable research tool and articles can conveniently be emailed or printed. With easy navigation using hyperlinks, and the inclusion of multimedia features, Encyclopaedia Britannica is a truly exciting reference product.

**Coming Soon...**

**Deeper into the Web of Knowledge**
Coverage of the Web of Science database now extends from 1965 in the case of Science and Social Science titles and from 1975 for Arts and Humanities. The increased coverage was enabled through special discounts associated with the Systemic Infrastructure Initiatives (SII) Fund, and the decision by the AVCC, to fund access to Web of Science on the Web of Knowledge platform. The funding of additional backfiles for participating universities recognises the need for Australian researchers to be able to search for citations within the influential scholarly journals contained in this database. The Web of Science is available from the Library’s Databases page and allows researchers to learn who is citing work they are interested in, and the impact they, or their colleagues, are having on the global research community.

**Mergent Online**
Global public company information will soon be made available to the Library’s clients through Mergent Online following an extensive trial of this product earlier in the year. The Library will subscribe to International Company Data, a module providing extensive coverage of Australian and Asian companies as well as other companies based outside the United States.

Company data is extensive and users will be able to customise reports on individual companies or create comparisons of the performance of several companies. The Library’s subscription will include all the industry reports which are typically regional, including titles such as: Biotechnology in Asia Pacific; Insurance in US and Canada.

*news@library* is published in Autumn and Spring Sessions each year. Comments and suggestions on this newsletter should be forwarded to the Editor - Catriona McGurk by telephone on 02 4221 4330 or by email to catriona_mcgurk@uow.edu.au