Client usage of the renovated Library has more than justified the University's investment in the enhanced facilities and services. Walk past or enter the Library at any time of the day and you'll notice students engaged in a range of activities supporting their learning needs from quiet study, group work and printing to rehearsing a presentation.

Entry statistics for the first half of the year show a massive 42.5% increase on 2007 figures and a 7.5% increase on the highest previous usage which occurred in 2002. The Link between the Library and the Student Central Computer Laboratories next door in Building 17 has proven to be convenient for 6% of clients who choose to enter the Library in this way. The Link allows faster access from the multi-storey car park and easy movement between computer and information facilities and services in both buildings.

Staff on service points will attest that the Library is busier than ever with heaviest use from Monday to Thursday. Usage on Friday drops away a little, in line with the general patterns of attendance on campus. Earlier opening hours have encouraged the 7% of total users who make use of the building between 8am – 9am. Saturday and Sunday are proving popular as students take advantage of the myriad of study spaces.

Facilities are getting a workout as students direct their assignments and required reading to printers and photocopiers. Enhanced group study spaces are particularly popular. Rooms on the Ground Floor can now be booked online and are in constant use throughout the day. The group work tables on Level 2 are well used for collaboration on assignments and learning tasks. Labs on Level 2 offer a hands-on learning experience for those arriving for an information skills session and additional computer workstations at other times. Worth mentioning is the high level of laptop usage within the Library as students take advantage of power equipped desks to use their own equipment. Assisting students with implementing laptop access to the University’s wireless network has been a major component of the work done by our student Rovers.

It’s nice to know that in addition to the study spaces and electronic environment printed material continues to be in high demand. Overall loans are stable and a higher percentage of students are borrowing books. The ability to renew a book twice before returning it has filled an identified need as has the email notice sent the day before the book is due.

Client usage of all spaces and services is being monitored and reviewed as the extended building settles into its new state.
IN DEMAND: SHOALHAVEN CAMPUS LIBRARY

Resource based disciplines such as nursing, medicine and education are driving the growth of the Shoalhaven Campus Library. Additional shelving was recently added to house the expanding Graduate School of Medicine and Nursing collections.

Demand for information resources resulted in a 45% increase in loans in 2008 as compared to the same period in 2007. The number of persons borrowing at Shoalhaven has increased by 40%. In part the increase has been driven primarily by the new nursing students who are traditionally heavy library users. Usage of the computer access centre and group study rooms is high, particularly since the location of nursing tutorials in the library building. A booking system has been introduced to deal with the demand. The Shoalhaven Library has also provided laptops for loan, to meet the increasing requirements for online access.

The Shoalhaven nursing building is almost complete and with another first year intake in 2009 the Library expects to welcome growing demands on our services and collection.

STAFF PROFILE: JANELLE SMITH

Position: Manager, Shoalhaven Library

When did you start at UOW? 1 July 2008

What did you do before you started at UOW Library? Diploma of Education at Shoalhaven Campus. I worked at Shoalhaven Campus Library in 2006 as Information Services Librarian and before that I was the Manager of Dapto District Library for ten years. My background is public libraries in a wide variety of jobs including Children’s and Young Adult Librarian at Auburn Municipal Library, Technical Services Librarian in Cairns and Branch Librarian with Parramatta City Library. I have also taught Library Technicians at TAFE.

What’s the best thing about your job? Having just done a teaching degree I love teaching information literacy sessions with students who are interested and engaged. At least they appear to be, nothing like casual teaching where students literally swing from the ceiling. I also love the variety of tasks and personal connection with clients that you get on a small campus.

What question are you asked most? Can we please book a group study room?

What question would you like to be asked? Which database and search strategy can I use to find information on my topic?

What qualities does a good librarian need? Great communication skills, patience, persistence, flexibility, a capacity to embrace change and a sense of humour.

What are you reading now? A ‘Delicious’ magazine, ‘Breath’ by Tim Winton – not as good as ‘Dirt Music’ but still a great read and ‘A fine young man : what parents, mentors, and educators can do to shape adolescent boys into exceptional men’ by Michael Gurian.

What’s your favourite film? ‘The Castle’

What’s your favourite way to spend a Saturday? Going to Gerringong markets to buy fresh produce, spending time in the garden, walking the dogs on Werri Beach and having a barbeque on our deck including a nice bottle of wine.

If you could change one thing about your Library, what would it be? With more nursing students starting in 2009, I would double the number of group study rooms.
TONI LANYON WINS VICE-CHANCELLOR’S AWARD

Noise, dust, heat, cold - working on the front line of client services during last year’s extension project was never going to be easy. As Team Leader, Client Services, Toni Lanyon was ready for the challenge. Her ability to motivate others, create enthusiasm and sustain professional and responsive services was recognised in June with the presentation of a Vice-Chancellor’s Award for Outstanding Service for General Staff. In spite of the building obstacles, Toni sought opportunities to reassess services and processes. Improvements were then launched to coincide with the new facility. Some of Toni’s recent achievements include extending service hours, introducing student-mediated services such as room booking systems, improving client communication, optimising space utilisation and enhancing borrowing conditions.

ANNETTE MELDRUM ACCEPTS THE LIBRARY’S FIRST ALTC CITATION

Our Library has been recognised nationally for its outstanding contribution to the quality of student learning. The Australian Learning & Teaching Council (ALTC) recognition acknowledges the impact of a long standing, highly effective and innovative partnership targeting the integration of information literacy skills within the curriculum.

Faculty Librarian Annette Meldrum, in conjunction with Holly Tootell (School of Information Systems & Technology), was awarded the prestigious citation on 5 August 2008 at the ALTC awards ceremony. The citation was awarded “for developing leadership through a sustained and responsive team-based approach to curriculum development in a core ICT subject, targeting assessment and student engagement”. It is the first ALTC citation received by the Library – Annette is leading other UOW Librarians in developing video and online interactive learning tools to improve students’ use of information resources and research.

Annette and Holly have devoted 5 years of hard work to incrementally improve student engagement and information literacy in the Informatics subject “Information Technology and Citizens’ Rights”.

UOW was the only university to be awarded 10 citations for the 10 applications put forward.
NEW EBOOK: INTERNATIONAL ENCYCLOPEDIA OF COMMUNICATION

This recently published and extensive encyclopedia contains entries ranging from extended exploration of major topics to short definitions of key terms. It is designed for expert and newcomer. The electronic version includes numerous links and cross references in an easy to navigate interface. The equivalent of eleven printed volumes, the encyclopedia covers areas such as media policy, instructional communication, intercultural communication, journalism, media production and visual communication.

Access the encyclopedia via the Library’s Catalogue or Databases page.

JOURNAL NEWS:
CELL – NOW ONLINE

Launched in 1974, Cell has been at the forefront in publishing original, high-impact biological research. Its aim is to publish findings of unusual significance in any area of experimental biology. In addition to primary research articles, there are also review and opinion articles on recent advances in research. The Library has held Cell in print but it is now available from your desktop. Along with other Cell Press titles, access includes the archive of full text articles back to the first issue.

Cell can be accessed via the Library’s Catalogue or the Science Direct database.

NEW FORMAT LIBRARY_INFO4U

The Library client newsletter underwent a revamp in August, utilising a HTML design to communicate helpful information to clients. The newsletter incorporates an easy to read template and supporting images to ensure the reader absorbs information quickly and easily. Join Library Info4U via the Library News box on the Library homepage.

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