Summon: a resource discovery service to replace Metasearch

The Library will be introducing a new and enhanced resource discovery service in early 2011.

After evaluating the most advanced services currently on the resource discovery market, the Library has purchased the Serials Solutions product, Summon, as the replacement for Metasearch. Summon has been taken up by many other Australian university libraries.

Summon offers significant improvements over search engines such as Metasearch. Not only does it provide a single search across many of the electronic journals, databases and e-books which UNE subscribes to or owns as well as the library catalogue, it will also search across other types of databases such as e-publications@UNE allowing users to discover academic research papers and higher degree theses as part of the searches.

Furthermore, results are returned faster and can also be quickly sorted or narrowed to specific date ranges, full text and peer reviewed only, to exclude or include various subsets such as newspaper articles, or more specific subject analyses.

The Summon instance for UNE is being built and hosted by Serials Solutions in Seattle, Washington, with advice and assistance from Library staff. It should be ready for use by staff and students in time for first semester 2011.

Scopus

UNE now has Scopus as one of its prime databases for research. Scopus (an Elsevier product) was used to compile citation data and the 2010 final list of journal rankings for the Excellence in Research for Australia (ERA) initiative. It is broadly split into disciplines covering the Social Sciences & Humanities (from 2002), Life Sciences, Health Sciences and Physical Sciences (comprehensively back to 1960, a few titles back to the early 1800s).

What does Scopus provide?

Details of articles published in 18,000 titles from over 5,000 publishers, including peer-reviewed, open access and trade journals and extensive coverage of conferences. You can quickly check if an article you want is held at UNE, either in print or online.

Scopus is updated daily and includes in-press articles from over 3,000 journals. It links to scientific websites and patents from 5 patent offices. The lists of references cited by articles go back to 1996 and 80% of articles have abstracts.

Why use Scopus?

You can search for topic keywords, or a particular author or institution. You can limit the years searched, type of document (article, conference paper, editorial) and subject area. Scopus also tells you how many times an article has been cited and who has cited it.

You can print or email the references or send them to your EndNote library. You can also set alerts to find out about new citations of a particular article or author. There are RSS or html feeds and you can even download alerts to your iPhone.

Where is Scopus?

Click on Scopus in the list of Most Popular Databases on the left of Journal Articles and Databases at http://www.une.edu.au/library/resources/articles/index.php. Scopus and Science Direct are now sharing a platform, so you can search each separately or together on the SciVerse Hub. For help using Scopus contact your Faculty or Liaison Librarian. Details are at http://www.une.edu.au/library/about/faclibs.php.

Westlaw International

Westlaw International includes Westlaw Australia and gives access to Case Law, Legislation, Law Reviews, Treatises, and Directories organised by topical and jurisdictional libraries, business information and news.


The external review of the University Library was conducted from 1-4 June 2010. This was the first review of a Directorate under the University’s new protocol for reviews of Directorates.

The review panel comprised Ms Anne Horn, University Librarian, Deakin University (Chair); Ms Heather Gordon, Director, Library & Information Services and Deputy Head, University Services Division; James Cook University, and Mr Don Boadle, recently retired from the position of Director of CSU Regional Archives and as a senior lecturer at Charles Sturt University as external members, together with Dr Trevor Brown, Deputy Head, School of Science & Technology, Dr Corinne Buckland, Lecturer, School of Education and Ms Anne Rocznio, Director Research Services. Ms Caroline Girvin provided support to the panel as Executive Officer.

The Panel made eighteen recommendations covering collections, electronic resources and discovery tools, organisational structure and staffing, services to academic staff and students, the profile of the Library in the University, interactions with other directorates such as Information Technology and Teaching and Learning Centre, Library resources, and discovery of resources in the Archives and Heritage Centre.

The Library provided a response to the recommendations and an action plan has been drawn up. The Review has been a very positive and constructive outcome for the University Library with initiatives identified for ongoing contribution to University directions and strategies.


Consulting with clients and stakeholders

The Library has a variety of communication channels with faculties, schools and academic staff. These include Faculty and Liaison Librarians’ informal interactions with academic staff and attendance at school meetings, the University Librarian’s attendance at meetings of Academic Board and its committees, other library staff participating in various committees and groups, meetings of Library Liaison Officers from the Schools, and the Law Library Committee.

The Library Advisory Committee was established in 2010 as a forum where developments in library services for teaching, learning and research and proposed new or revised directions and policies could be discussed with academic staff and students and feedback sought. The forum also provides an opportunity to set library services and resources in the wider context of the University, the higher education sector, and the publishing sector. Equally importantly, the forum provides academic staff and students with the opportunity to raise issues with the Library and provide feedback on existing services, policies, priorities, etc. The Library Advisory Committee fulfills the role of the “user group” that the Vice-Chancellor requested each Directorate to establish.

The Committee has representatives from Schools and Directorates, and from undergraduate and postgraduate students as well as key members of Library staff. The terms of reference of the Committee and papers from the two meetings held in 2010 can be viewed on the Library website at http://www.une.edu.au/library/about/lac.php.

E-books at UNE

The Library has been actively purchasing electronic books for several years, and the usage statistics show convincing evidence that they are proving very popular with users. For instance, the number of e-books accessed by users has jumped from around 2,500 in 2008, to over 20,600 so far for 2010.

The majority of the Library’s e-book stock has been purchased as one-off titles, but considerable numbers are becoming available as part of subject packages alongside e-journals offered by publishers such as Gale, Wiley, Springer, Elsevier and Informit.

Most of the titles purchased individually are available directly on the internet (without the need for hand held devices) via one of two platforms : EBook Library and MyiLibrary. The range of titles available is controlled by the publishers, and while there are many titles currently accessible in this way, university textbooks are not generally being released.

Advantages for students

- Immediate access to titles, compared to the delay in waiting for physical items to be located, retrieved (possibly from other users) and sent via post.
- e-books can be searched for relevant terms in seconds, and annotations made in the online copy for personal use.
- Improved access to titles for students with print disabilities.
- e-book titles cannot be lost, stolen or misshelved in the physical collection, and are therefore available as long as the platform is live.

Exceptions

Some e-books may not be best suited to the needs of users. Reading on screen may prove cumbersome for users who are reading large sections of works, such as works of literature or textbooks; while the physical nature and portability of some items may be part of their value to the user e.g. curriculum materials, atlases and other heavily illustrated materials, field guides, etc. The library will continue to purchase print books when requested.

Demand-driven purchasing

A new aspect which has developed with e-book platforms is demand-driven acquisition. A subset of the vendor’s e-book catalogue relevant to the needs of the institution is added to the library catalogue. Users can click on the link in the catalogue and gain access directly to the full text. After an agreed number of accesses to a particular title, that title is automatically ordered. The advantage of this method of collection development is that library funds are spent on books that users have proven interest in reading. Safeguards are set in place to prevent exorbitant spending or accidental duplication.

Recently purchased e-books

From Sage eReference, Wiley Online Library, ScienceDirect and Oxford Reference Online

Visit the e-books page to find new titles in these packages http://www.une.edu.au/library/resources/ebooks.php
Retirement of Russell Nicholson

Russell Nicholson retired on 29 September (on his sixtieth birthday!) after 21 years in the Dixson Library.

Russell joined the University of New England in August 1989, taking up appointment as Lending Services Librarian in the Dixson Library. During his appointments as Lending Services Librarian and Deputy Reader Services Librarian, Russell was responsible for lending services, the reserve collection, services to off-campus students and interlibrary loans and document delivery services. This involved participation in the implementation and operation of relevant modules of the VTLS and then Virtua library management system. Russell was also instrumental in the design and implementation of the Library’s electronic reserve and online examination papers. Through these developments he worked closely with information technology staff in the University.

Just over 3 years ago, Russell moved to a new position as Electronic Services Development Manager. In addition to his previous role with electronic reserve and the library management system, at this point Russell became involved with the institutional repository for research outputs, including higher degree theses. This was the era of the RQF (Research quality Framework) and the ERA (Excellence in Research for Australia), with Russell working in collaboration with Research Services along with Simon McMillan. A new team was established with external funding to populate the repository, and under Russell’s guidance the team met targets to ensure the University was able to comply with the requirements of the ERA.

Russell is now leaving all this behind. The attractions of vintage cars, overseas travel (following a test walk in the UK earlier this year) and more time for relaxing with friends have prevailed.

Russell was farewelled at a function on 29 September where current and former library staff, and staff from across the University wished him health and happiness in his retirement.

Old weather records for future research

Staff of the Heritage Centre were pleased to accept the donation of detailed property weather records recorded in the Dumaresq area dating from 1877.

The donor, Mr Richard Belfield had identified the modern relevance of the old family collection to the global warming debate and was keen to assist by providing the meticulous data collected by his ancestor Algernon Belfield of Eversleigh.

In addition to providing the records for permanent storage in the UNE Heritage Centre, Mr Belfield volunteered to participate in the digital reproduction of all the volumes to enable early access to the data by interested researchers at the University of Newcastle. While donors of archival documents have always been encouraged to prepare material for transfer prior to archival storage, this was the first occasion where the preparation has included a complete digital reproduction to assist future research.
New facilities in Dixson Library

The replacement of several very old IT work desks located on the ground floor Learning Commons was recently completed when an L-shaped chest high bench was installed. The location of this new facility gives Library laptop users one of the best work vistas on campus with its panoramic views of the central courtyard, Booloominbah, lawns and trees. The bench is complemented with comfortable high chairs and power access for users is conveniently located.

A second IT workstation pod populated by new large screen Macintosh computers has been installed on the first floor of the Library. This doubles the previous number of Macs in the Library to 6.

A new black and white MFD has been located on the second floor of Dixson to bring printing and scanning convenience for library users working on that floor.

Wireless network expanding

Work has commenced on the installation of a fibre backbone from the lower ground floor to the second floor of the Library. This is the first phase in bringing switches to each floor to enable ongoing expansion of IT facilities on other floors and in preparation for further refurbishment in 2012. The new fibre will be immediately used to improve wireless reception on the top floor of Dixson after additional access points are installed.

It is hoped that the second phase of the fibre installation which will bring an IT switch to the first floor, will be completed either before year-end or early in 2011.

Laptops for loan

Laptop computers are available for loan in the Dixson Library and the Law Library. Staff and students can borrow a laptop for up to 4 hours. Each laptop is wireless (Wi-Fi) enabled and fully equipped with MS Office. Whilst laptops cannot be removed from the building, they allow patrons to use a computer throughout the building at locations they choose and during busy times they expand the number of computers available for use.

Laptop secure storage

Laptop storage lockers are now available in the Library foyer. Laptops can be recharged whilst they are stored.

Improvements since the Library Survey

The results from the 2009 Library survey identified a number of areas for improvement and the Library has been working on strategies to address these.

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