The University has implemented a strategy of reviewing the Directorates (i.e. the non-academic areas) of the University every five years, in an initiative similar to the reviews of Schools in the Faculties. The University Library (including the Archives and Heritage Centre) is one of the first Directorates to be reviewed and this will take place in 2010.

The review of the University Library comes at an opportune time with respect to the changes in the future directions of the University of New England (UNE) in teaching, learning and research. The federal government agenda for learning and teaching and the demand driven funding of the University from 2012, together with the funding for research based on the performance assessment process using the Excellence in Research for Australia data, will drive changes in the University that will inevitably impact on all areas, including the University Library. New courses, additional on-campus students, increases in off-campus enrolments, and a greater number of students resulting from more extensive social inclusion initiatives require the University Library to review its resources and services. There will also be a need to review and reinvigorate support for researchers.

The review panel will meet from 1-4 June. The Library looks forward to the process which will provide an opportunity to identify new directions and strategies to position Library services and resources to continue our contribution to the academic and research focus of UNE.

AUQA panel comments favourably on the Library

The Australian Universities Quality Agency (AUQA) conducted their audit of the University of New England in July 2009 and the report was released in December. (http://www.auqa.edu.au/files/reports/auditreport_une_2009.pdf) The two themes for the audit were Flexible Learning and International Activities.

The Library was pleased to be mentioned favourably several times in the report. The range of support mechanisms for online students was noted and students had reported receiving ready help from the Library. The report remarked on Library staff receiving a Carrick Citation for Outstanding Contribution to Student Learning in 2006, for the creation of web-based information literacy tutorials (eSKILLS).

The Panel noted also that a student Learning Commons had been set up in the Library; and that the Library is reported as providing good support.

China: Country, Custom, Culture

In September 2009 a gift of over 100 books on China was presented to Dixson Library by the Confucius Institute Headquarters (Beijing) and the Consulate General of the People’s Republic of China (Sydney). The titles feature a variety of subjects and formats covering the sociology and culture of China, its national landscapes, arts and treasures, as well as a significant number of general and specialised dictionaries which will benefit the language student.

An exhibition has been prepared in honour of these gratuities. The books on display have been selected from the many given in the donation, accompanied by gifts given to the University by Chinese educational institutes and cultural organisations over the years. The exhibition is featured in several showcases on the ground floor of Dixson Library until the end of June and is well worth a visit.

The University Library is extremely grateful for these beautiful gifts and thanks the Chinese donors profusely for their wonderful and abundant generosity!

You’re an academic member of staff or researcher here at UNE. Who do you ask when you want a book to be purchased by the Library? Your friendly Library Liaison Officer. There is one for each discipline and their contact details are listed at: http://www.une.edu.au/library/services/staff/llo.php#item1.

Your LLO receives emails about new titles in your subject area and advertises them throughout the School. You can also talk to your LLO about new journal subscriptions to see if they will fit into your School’s Library allocation.

New learning commons site

The new Learning Commons pages were launched at the beginning of 2010. These pages provide members of the UNE community with access to a range of new online services.

The Learning Commons pages now include:

- an online news room with links to digital radio, TV and newspapers
- tools for free online conferencing, collaborative work and online chat.
- links to useful software downloads (such as Open Office).
- links to free software and online tools which students can use to produce and edit audio, video and multimedia.
- a photo gallery with pictures of the Learning Commons, the Library, the UNE campus and Armidale.

The new pages are Flash-driven, making use of interactive animations to provide a more user-friendly, colourful interface.

Our intention is to modify the site over time, providing new features in response to demand from the UNE community. We hope, for example, to be able to install a link to Google Wave when this product becomes available. Work is underway to add a live feed from a Web cam in the Learning Commons. We are also developing an application which displays the number of computers available for use in the Learning Commons area.

Students and staff can check out the new Learning Commons pages at: http://www.une.edu.au/learningcommons.

Tracking citations

If you need to track citations and don’t know where to start, check out ‘Citation counts and journal quality’ on the Library website at: http://www.une.edu.au/library/services/staff/citing.php. The most well-known tools are Web of Science, Scopus and Google Scholar. However, a growing number of other databases also provide citation tracking features.

Web of Knowledge contains the Web of Science (which includes Science Citation Index Expanded, Social Sciences Citation Index and Arts & Humanities Citation Index) and Journal Citation Reports (this measures journal quality). Web of Science has a citation tracker that searches references from over 10,000 high quality journals.

Scopus is a brand new tool for researchers to use. It is available from: http://www.scopus.com.ezproxy.une.edu.au/scopus/search/form.url. Like Web of Science, it is better for the Sciences than the Social Sciences, Arts & Humanities. Nevertheless, Scopus covers 16,5000 peer-reviewed journals (including 1,200 open access titles), 600 trade publications, 350 book series and has extensive coverage of conference papers. It is updated daily and is the ARC approved provider of citation information for the full Excellence in Research for Australia (ERA) initiative.

There is also a class ‘Citation Indexes: who’s citing whom’ being held in the Dixson Library Training Lab on July 2, 11.00am-12.30pm. Details and online booking are available at: http://www.une.edu.au/library/training/advanced.php#citation
Sylvia Ransom, Faculty Librarian

In March this year, Sylvia Ransom, Faculty Librarian for The Professions retired. Many of us have first-hand experience of Sylvia’s help with those many knotty problems that beset learners and researchers and general Library users, and have reason to be grateful for her intelligent help, her collegial attitude and her welcoming smile.

Sylvia has worked in Dixson Library since early 1986 in a variety of roles and she has also been involved in the Armidale community generally, with the Children’s Book Council and Musica Viva amongst others. She has also been an Equity Officer at UNE for the last 10 years, a reflection of her willingness to be involved and to give back to her community.

Don’t worry if you haven’t seen Sylvia around lately – she’s currently in Bhutan working as a volunteer there at the University, something she has long dreamed of doing and where she will be sharing her considerable skills and experience with others, something she is very well fitted for and which she will do with her usual grace, intelligence and good humour. Luckily, Sylvia considers Armidale her home so we will be able to welcome her back from her travels and accompany her on those long bushwalks, share a glass or two over a convivial meal and see her at the concerts.

Development of e-publications@UNE continues

UNE Higher Degree Research theses submitted to Research Services and processed via e-publications@UNE workflows are now generating records for addition to the Library catalogue, thus making the catalogue a single point of discovery for all UNE HDR theses.

With added impetus from ERA and the Higher Education Research Data Collection, the UNE repository of research outputs continues to grow rapidly with nearly 6,000 records now available for consultation.

For more information about e-publications@UNE visit: https://e-publications.une.edu.au/

Measuring shadows

The staff and volunteers at the Heritage Centre have been trialing dating techniques for old photographs in the collections. By measuring shadows cast by the sun at a given location, an algorithm is available to produce possible exact dates. The two photos here are from a series of 29 photograph albums created by the White sisters of ‘Saumarez’ Homestead near Armidale. Donated by the family to the regional archives at UNE, these images capture aspects of the late Victorian and Edwardian rural lifestyle experienced by the White family.

The photographs in question portray scenes from a recruitment rally in the streets of Armidale during World War One. The location of the photo was easily identified from the hotel in the background. A shadow of identifiable length was found in one picture and from this a number of possible dates generated from the algorithm. Once this date was calculated, we then searched the newspapers to locate the story.

On August 11, 1917, a recruiting team for the Australian Imperial Forces was invited to a series of functions in Armidale according to the Armidale Chronicle. This team included Victoria Cross winner Billy Jackson who lost his hand in action in France in 1916. The moment captured by one of the White girls clearly shows the recruiting team with Jackson in attendance.

Are you a Macintosh user?

The Dixson Library now has 3 Macintosh computers available for use on the first floor near the photocopying area.

The operating system is Snow Leopard and the configuration will be familiar to users who have accessed the computer labs in the School of Education.

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New Sundeck Furniture

The Dixson Library has recently upgraded the furniture on the sundeck with chairs, tables and a swinging seat. Now you can read or work outside or just take a break in the fresh air. Open 9am to 4pm weekdays

New online products . . .

Engineering databases
The new Bachelor of Engineering Technology aims to contribute towards addressing the national skills shortage of engineering graduates in two major areas - Civil and Environmental Engineering. To support these students the Library has purchased two engineering databases.

The Engineering Collection
This Australian database covers all broad engineering fields, including civil engineering, engineering of railroads and roads, mining and related operations, and sanitary and municipal engineering. The Engineering Collection provides access to full content from a range of journal articles, conference papers, working papers and other grey literature sourced from the Engineers Australia library collection and is produced in collaboration with Engineers Australia. Full text publications start from 1973.

The ASABE Technical Library
includes journal articles, technical reports, conference papers, textbooks, and reference works. In addition, the Technical Library includes the ASABE standards for agricultural and biological engineers, technicians and researchers. These materials provide immediate access to up-to-date research in the field of agricultural and biological engineering and should be of interest to a wide range of researchers at UNE.

You can find the Engineering Collection and the ASABE Technical Library from the Library home page under Research Guides - Engineering.

Bibliography of British and Irish History
BBIH represents a partnership between the Institute of Historical Research, the Royal Historical Society and Brepols Publishers. BBÏH provides bibliographic data on historical writing dealing with the British Isles, and with the British Empire and Commonwealth, during all periods for which written documentation is available - from 55BC to the present. It is the successor to the Royal Historical Society Bibliography of British and Irish History. There are three updates per year. Current number of records: 479,541.

SPORTDiscus
Bibliographic database providing citations, abstracts and full text articles covering both serial and monographic literature in the following areas of sport: recreation, exercise physiology, sports medicine, coaching, physical fitness, the psychology, history and sociology of sport, training, and conditioning.

Forensic Bibliographic Database: FORS
FORS is a multidisciplinary database covering literature relevant to examination of evidential materials, analytical methods and interpretation and presentation of findings. Coverage includes drugs and toxicology, forensic biology, forensic chemistry, forensic medicine and pathology, digital evidence, documents and firearms examination, arson investigation, image processing, fingerprints etc. Content covers techniques used in analytical laboratories, including toxicology and body fluid identification. Relevant to forensic scientists and other professionals involved in crime investigation and expert testimony provision.

Physical Education Index
PEI offers abstracts which feature a wide variety of content, ranging from physical education curricula, to sports medicine, to dance. Other coverage includes sport law, kinesiology, motor learning, recreation, standardized fitness tests, sports equipment, business and marketing, coaching and training, and sport sociology/psychology. Health education and physical therapy are also covered.

Encyclopedia of Forensic and Legal Medicine
Increasingly, high profile criminal and civil legal actions around the world highlight the interactions between medicine and the law. Forensic and legal medicine describes the body of knowledge that encompasses this interaction. The terms generally embrace forensic pathology and clinical forensic medicine. The aim of this Encyclopedia is to provide a reliable starting point for validated information across these fields.

This resource is a reference work available through ScienceDirect:


or by doing a search in the University Library's catalogue for each individual title: http://biblio.une.edu.au.ezproxy.une.edu.au/cgi-bin/chameleon

Woman Reading

We hope you like the new look info@library with the thematic ‘woman reading’ statue on the front page. This statue graces the lawn in front of Dixson Library and took up her position there in May 2008. The Australian sculptor, Patricia Lawrence, created the original ‘woman reading’ in plaster in 2007. The statue replica was cast by Crawford’s Casting Pty. Ltd., an art foundry in Sydney.

For more information about the statue please see the UNE News and Events archived article at: