Julia Gillard Opens Learning Commons

Deputy Prime Minister Julia Gillard officially opened the Learning Commons in the Dixson Library on July 22nd in a visit to UNE during which she also opened the new Oorala Centre and the School of Rural Medicine.

Commonwealth Capital Development Pool (CDP) funding of $3.1 million financed the development of both the physical Learning Commons, which became operational in March this year, and the e-Learning Commons of virtual library services to both on-campus and off-campus students.

The Deputy Prime Minister – who is also Minister for Education – inspected the Commons, taking great interest in the integration of services and facilities. The Learning Commons brings together access to library services, the IT Help Desk, Student Assist, and the Academic Skills Office Learning Centre. The Commons also provides physical and electronic infrastructure for both distance-education and on-campus students. It has meeting rooms and informal group discussion areas, electronic media booths, problem-based learning rooms and a Medical Reserve to support the Joint Medical Program, and social spaces including lounge areas and a coffee and snack facility.

In her speech to launch the Commons Ms Gillard said she was impressed by its “sense of space and light” (in contrast to the law libraries of her own university days), and the opportunities for students to use “the best of technology” and work together in groups. She said the Government believed it was “important for students to have access to the learning tools of the 21st century”. Introducing Ms Gillard, former University Librarian now Pro Vice-Chancellor (Academic Services), Eve Woodberry, said the Learning Commons represented “a change in philosophy” – a recognition of the more “social” way of learning of today’s students.

Among many benefits to students the Commons is an attractive computer hub – centrally located, well lit and air-conditioned, with a large number of well maintained workstations, printing and copying options, professional assistance, and the security of being in a popular location with many other people. For these reasons the Commons has become the University’s principal computer lab for student use day and night.
A sculpture titled Woman Reading now graces the lawn in front of the Library. Her elegant proportions and smooth surfaces were created in bronze by sculptor Patricia Lawrence and were cast at the Sydney art foundry Crawford’s Casting.

“Sitting outside reading is a pastime I enjoy,” the sculptor told UNE journalist Jim Scanlan, and Woman Reading embodies that sense of quiet enjoyment.

Lawrence has exhibited her sculptures regularly in Sydney and Canberra. Her work is in both private collections and public places – including a sculpture in front of the Chancellery Building at the University of NSW and another at Westmead Children’s Hospital. Woman Reading is the second of her outdoor sculptures to adorn educational settings in Armidale: a pool at The Armidale School is home to The Trout.

Vice-Chancellor Professor Alan Pettigrew and his wife Ann had the initial vision of bringing Woman Reading to UNE. “When we saw it we thought it was perfect not only for a university, but for this particular site at UNE,” Professor Pettigrew said. The sculpture was purchased through the Dixson Library’s General Endowment Fund which is made up of monetary donations to the Library where donors have not specified how the funds should be spent.

Crawford’s Casting is the foundry that made the statue of an Australian soldier that was mounted on Sydney’s Anzac Bridge in 2000, and that of his New Zealand counterpart mounted on the bridge earlier this year. In casting the “Woman” from Ms Lawrence’s plaster original, the foundry used two different methods: “lost wax”, which allows for fine details, and “sand moulding”, which, the foundry’s Matthew Crawford said, “provides an excellent result for larger, flat surfaces”. The cool, green figure that sits in front of the Dixson Library was formed from molten bronze poured at temperatures of 1,200 degrees (lost wax method) and 1,100 degrees (sand moulding).

Mr Crawford said the success of the complex casting process had “exceeded our expectations”. “When you get a result like this – one that makes people think you must have poured it in one shot – it brings a smile to your face,” he said.

Jim Scanlan’s full UNE News article can be read at http://blog.une.edu.au/news

Eve Woodberry appointed Pro Vice-Chancellor (Academic)

Library staff congratulate and farewell Eve Woodberry on her appointment as UNE’s Pro-Vice Chancellor (Academic). Eve served as an energetic and progressive University Librarian since November 2000 and her many achievements have been reflected in issues of info@library. Eve will not be far removed from Library matters, as the University Library is part of her portfolio as PVC(A).

The process of advertising for and appointing a new University Librarian has commenced. Jack Bedson continues as Acting University Librarian until that appointment is made and a new Librarian takes up duties.

Congratulations Eve!
New Equitrac Charging System
For Printing & Copying

Library patrons will know that a new charging system has been introduced in the Library to replace the former U-Swipe card system which ended late last year. The Equitrac system is a University wide system which has been introduced along with the new Multifunction devices (ie MFDs) that have replaced the old photocopiers and printers used for public access copying and printing. These MFDs have additional functionality not previously available with the printers/photocopiers they replace, including scanning material and emailing scanned files.

The new Equitrac system is based on the use of Student and Staff ID cards to identify a user and release copying and printing jobs. It caters for both credit card use and cash payments for those undertaking public copying. Staff making use of Library MFDs or printers will need to swipe the Equitrac units on each public MFD/printer so that their print/copy job can be released. Each staff card should have a UNE cost code already assigned to it (all Faculty & Departmental Resource managers were asked to supply this information prior to Equitrac’s activation) and all copying/printing done will then be charged to this cost code.

UNE staff are able to change the cost code to which their card has been associated by requesting this from ITD. However, each ID card can only be linked to one cost code so academic staff with their card linked to a Departmental cost code who wish to charge copying/printing to a particular SP, RE or academic pursuits fund(s) will need to have this tracked by their Department and charges journalized to the appropriate account. The Library can no longer handle ITJs and load credit onto a card and Staff can only hold one card in accord with Financial Services policy.

UNE Staff can however use “visitor cards” which the Library will hold to cater for any private copying they wish to make. These cards can be requested from the Library Service Desk and are primarily designed to cater for Library patrons who are not UNE staff members or students. The visitor card can then be used to create a visitor Equitrac account with credit added to it by using a personal credit card via the web gateway, or by cash via the Pay Station located in Dixson Library. Minimum transaction amounts apply to both methods of adding credit: $10 for credit cards; $5 for the cash Pay Station.

The detailed instructions for using the new Equitrac system can be located at the following Web addresses:


Instructions on how to use the Pay Station are located at the unit itself and should guide anyone wishing to make use of the device.

e-publications@UNE now LIVE

http://e-publications.une.edu.au/vital/access/manager/Index

Early in July, the UNE’s digital repository, e-publications@UNE, went live with the addition of an active link from the Library home page.

Following the initial impetus provided by RQF, a sustained effort by Library and Research Services staff means that e-publications@UNE will not only properly support the University’s ERA engagement, but also signals UNE’s commitment to the Open Archives Initiative which has its roots in an international movement to enhance open access to scholarly information.

e-publications@UNE provides a web environment for collecting, preserving and exposing UNE research outputs to the world. The harvesting of e-publications@UNE metadata for Google, Google Scholar and similar search engines will ensure that the UNE research community receives the best possible exposure and recognition of their work.

At this point over 600 research article records are available in the production repository. Many of these records meet the ideal of including a link to the actual article. The addition of a further 500 RQF items now in the final stages of processing will allow additional attention to be given to the next stage of development of the repository, the inclusion of UNE theses. The thesis effort aims to add new theses as they become available, in parallel with a program to include, and better expose, the considerable body of the UNE theses completed in earlier years.

Information Services Manager

Celia Munro has taken up the position of Information Services Manager, the position recently vacated by Julia Leong. Celia is returning to UNE and to Dixson after an absence of over 8 years. Previously the Faculty Librarian for EHPS, Celia went to Newcastle University in 1999.

We welcome Celia back in her new role and look forward to working with her.
What's new in electronic resources . . .

**ScienceDirect**

*Science Direct* is the platform for Elsevier journals. Elsevier is a highly respected name in the publishing industry, especially, but not only, for Science. Dixson Library now subscribes to the full text of 227 journals and over 550 eBooks (mostly reference books) via Science Direct. Indexing with abstracts is further available to over 2,000 journals and 6,000 books.

Special features including the ability to personalise your access to *Science Direct*, including saving searches for later use; setting up alerts on your searches or specific journals or articles citations, whether we subscribe to the full text or not; setting up quick links to articles or journal contents pages and RSS feeds. You can also preset your email and display preferences, saving you time.

A new features is “Quick Searches” for the top 25 articles by subject/discipline area. Archived back to 2004 they are run on a quarterly basis.

2Collab is a social bookmarking and research collaboration feature. Aimed at researchers, it offers facilities to bookmark articles from any database or journal, web pages, blogs, images and so forth as well as the capacity to share them with other researchers. Groups (and resources) can be set up in the system as public or private groups so that material can be shared. Anyone can join the public groups. Postgraduate students and early researchers might be particularly interested in this resource.


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