Welcome to our New University Librarian

Barbara Paton took up her appointment as University Librarian at UNE on May 18, 2009. Barbara has extensive experience in leadership and management most recently as the Deputy University Librarian at La Trobe University.

Barbara has worked in the university library sector in Australia for more than 30 years with a focus on client services. Her responsibilities at La Trobe University Library included contributing significantly to the leadership and management of the University Library, strategic leadership in client services across the multi-campus institution, and coordinating information technology across the library.

Within the wider La Trobe University, Barbara worked collaboratively with other areas in initiatives such as the development of the first learning and teaching plan and in projects such as the selection and implementation of the University lecture streaming service.

Barbara was also Director, and Chair of the Management Committee, of the Australian Academic and Research Libraries Network (AARLIN), a consortium of 8 Australian universities (of which UNE is a member) collaborating to provide an information portal for their students and staff.

Prior to her appointment at La Trobe, Barbara held senior management positions in reference and information services at La Trobe University and the University of Queensland.

Barbara has been a leader in professional library activities in Australia. Her commitments have included elected terms as the national president of the University and College Libraries Section and the Reference and Information Services Section of the Australian Library and Information Association. She was Chair of the VDX Users Group in Australia and New Zealand from 2002 to 2005.

A word from the University Librarian

As I reach the milestone of 10 weeks as University Librarian, it is interesting to take stock of my early impressions of the University Library and UNE. In that time I have met a large number of University and library staff members and I have appreciated the warm welcome extended to me. The brief period of overlap with Jack Bedson, former Acting University Librarian and long standing member of the library staff was greatly appreciated, as well as the opportunity to join in the celebration of his career at UNE and wish him well for the future.

Wherever I have gone over recent weeks on campus and in various meetings with UNE staff, I have been impressed by the high reputation which the library and our staff have in the wider University. The change from a multi-campus metropolitan/regional university to a regional university with a strong connection to its local community and a mission to provide educational opportunities for both local and remote students is one that I welcome and find stimulating as well as challenging.

Recent achievements of the Library such as the opening of self submission to the UNE repository for research outputs (epublications@une), a joint initiative of the Library and Research Services, and the continuing success of the Learning Commons are reported on elsewhere in this newsletter.

We will be offering students and staff the opportunity to tell us how well the Library is doing in the provision of resources and services via the Library Survey that will be conducted in second semester.

There are challenges ahead to ensure that the Library continues to provide excellent services to students and academic staff for learning, teaching and research and I am looking forward to building that future with you.

Barbara Paton
University Librarian
On July 22, 2008 Julia Gillard, the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Education, was on campus to perform a number of opening ceremonies. One of these ceremonies was the opening of the new Learning Commons, located in Dixson Library. Although this was the official opening, the Learning Commons had been operating since the previous March.

To say that the Learning Commons has proved to be popular with users is an understatement. Students have voted with their feet by making full use of the facilities available. These facilities include computers with a very wide range of installed applications, Group Study and Problem Based Learning Rooms which are very popular with small to medium groups of students, audio/visual booths and in particular a media recording booth that has Skype capability and of course the ubiquitous copier/printers. As well, there are staff from the Academic Skills Office, Student Assist and Information Technology located in the Learning Commons. By having these service providers co-located in the Learning Commons users have come to appreciate the level of service that can be offered.

The Learning Commons has also been a venue for a number of events over the last 12-15 months. These have included:

- an e-Expo showcasing electronic resources available to staff and students of UNE;
- an exhibition on marine archaeology sponsored by the Italian Consul General;
- an Academic Skills Fair highlighting the range of services offered by Academic Skills and Student Assist for students;
- the Orientation periods that have occurred over the last 3 semesters; and
- Open Day, a very important date in the University’s calendar.

The last 15 months have witnessed the blossoming of the Learning Commons, from a construction site to a very valuable asset providing services to meet the University student’s information needs.

The Learning Commons: One Year On

Library Survey 2009

2009 will again see the Library conduct our Client Satisfaction Survey. Whilst it only happens every 2 years, the survey is very important for two reasons:

1. It’s our chance to get comprehensive feedback from students and staff which gives us a picture of what our patrons think of the library services and resources and how we can better meet your needs, and
2. Every year many university libraries in Australia and New Zealand use this survey tool allowing us to benchmark across the sector.

The report from the previous survey in 2007 is available on the library web pages http://www.une.edu.au/library/surveys/results.php along with our responses to the top 10 issues identified by students and staff for improvement. In the 2009 survey we’ll be aiming to get a clearer picture of some of the most pressing problems expressed in 2007. One example is accessing e-resources – that seemed to be an area of dissatisfaction. So we’ll be looking for more specific feedback on that issue to see if actions we have taken have improved patrons’ experiences.

The survey will be conducted in September/October 2009 and we hope you’ll help us increase our response rate again this year. Please go online and fill in the questionnaire yourself and offer encouragement to other staff and students to participate also.
e-publications@UNE “Self Submission” Goes Live

e-publications@UNE Self Submission http://e-publications.une.edu.au/cgi-bin/valet/submit.cgi?view=une has been available to the UNE research community since June 15, 2009 at which time it superseded the former PES research data collection system with which UNE researchers will have been familiar.

As part of the continuing development of the UNE’s institutional repository, e-publications@UNE http://e-publications.une.edu.au/ Simon McMillan (Library), Graham Pearson (Research Services) and John Vandenberg (Contract Specialist) have developed a research outputs Self Submission module which will be both a replacement for the Publications Entry System (PES) and the foundation for growth of the UNE institutional repository, e-publications@UNE.

The Self Submission facility developed here at UNE represents ground breaking work in the area of research outputs management and is believed to be unique in Australia.

Self Submission as a single integrated interface provides UNE researchers with an efficient mechanism to lodge research outputs metadata and related digital objects in one process and in doing so meets a number of objectives. As well as building the UNE institutional repository, the e-publications@UNE system will retain the data required to meet a number of Government and University monitoring activities, including the annual Higher Education Research Data Collection (HERDC) and the ERA process (being trialed this year with a full process announced for next year).

Benefits that e-publications@UNE will provide for the University are improved efficiency in the collection, and better control and exposure, of UNE research outputs with improved opportunities for attracting research funding. A further benefit of e-publications@UNE is the long term preservation of outputs by systems designed to ensure that the digital objects representing research outputs remain accessible through time as the technologies involved move forward.

Cherry Gordon email: cgordon5@une.edu.au, Research Outputs Liaison Officer, as well as contributing to the evolution of Self Submission as a user-friendly interface, will be working with UNE researchers, and the Research Office, to provide support in respect to e-publications@UNE and Self Submission as part of the UNE research environment.

New online electronic resources . . .

Kodansha Encyclopedia of Japan

The New Palgrave Dictionary of Economics

The Statesman’s Year-Book

Sage eReference Handbook Series

Profile

New Health Sciences Librarian

The newly appointed Health Sciences Librarian commenced her job on July 6, 2009. Leonie Sherwin worked in the Department of Defence Library at Oakey in Queensland before coming to UNE and prior to that she worked at the University of Southern Queensland, predominantly with health sciences students and staff. Leonie has experience in information literacy, electronic repositories, and all matters pertaining to the running of a library. Being one of only two staff you needed to be very multiskilled. As Oakey Library is also part of a national network, resource sharing, interlibrary loans, and collection weeding were also part of her job.

Leonie is a welcome addition to the Professions team, with liaison responsibilities for Nursing and Rural Medicine, as well as the usual rostered service desk shifts. Leonie can be contacted on x3194 or email: lsherwin@une.edu.au

Law Library Refurbishment

Over the last six months the Law Library has undergone several refurbishments. Starting in December 2008 with the installation of new carpet this was closely followed in February 2009 with the purchase of nine new public access computers. Then in June, two TV’s were installed, with PC’s attached, for the multipurpose use of digital signage, group research work, watching legal videos or DVD’s or for catching up with the latest news programs. There have also been two group seating areas set up and fitted out with appropriate furniture to provide students, researchers and staff with a more attractive and congenial place to sit while making use of the Law Library’s resources. The Law Library staff welcomes the UNE community to come in and check out the updated facilities.
What can you call an exhibition of some of the more interesting items sourced from the University collections? The New England Regional Art Museum (NERAM) is hosting this selection of objects, documents and artworks normally only available for viewing at the University.

These collections are the repositories of lifetimes of research activity by staff and have been developed as teaching tools and a way to expose various cultures to our students. This exhibition should be seen as an invitation to all, to explore what the University has to offer beyond the confines of one’s own disciplinary science.

Photos here show items from the Museum of Antiquities, Zoology Museum and the UNE Art Collection. Also on display are items from the NCW Beadle Herbarium, Museum of Education and the UNE & Regional Archives. The exhibition will run through to September 27, 2009.

Between its construction as the White family residence and the donation of the property to provide the foundation of the New England University College in 1938, Booloominbah saw an earlier community use as a Convalescent Home for wounded soldiers between 1916 and 1919. The owner, Mrs Sarah White lived down one end of the house while many recovering soldiers were tended by a team of nurses in the rest of the home. Miss Elsie White of ‘Saumarez’ was a keen photographer as well as a worker in Booloominbah during this time. Her photo album provides us with many scenes now hard to imagine over ninety years later.

Many of these photos document fancy dress, sporting activities, car tours and groups posing with Mrs White and the nurses. Little would appear to distinguish these subjects from the later generations of students in the same building. But look closely at the walking sticks, stiff poses and empty sleeves. Captured here is a reminder of the immense impact of World War One on young Australians.

This photo album is currently on display as part of the Penguins Gizzards and More Exhibition at NERAM. An electronic copy of the material is available at the Heritage Centre for researchers.

What’s New in Electronic Music Resources . .


Garland Encyclopedia of World Music is now available as a fully searchable online database. It is an eminent reference for ethnomusicology, covering music for all the world’s peoples. There are comprehensive essays, audio tracks, videos, photographs, drawing and musical scores. One excellent feature is that users are able to create their own themed playlists of video and audio. The ten volumes of the encyclopedia are split into regions, with overviews of musical traditions and themes, as well as descriptions of specific genres, practices and performances. Music’s cultural role within community activities such as dance and ceremonies is also comprehensively illustrated.

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