From the University Librarian’s Desk

The end of 2012 has come with a rush. The introduction of trimesters has put an end to the gentle transition into the end of year tasks which we formerly experienced, and a review of the year’s activities reveals a constant level of engagement and productivity.

The introduction of trimesters and increase in student enrolments (20% in on-campus students and 24% in off-campus students) have led to observable changes in the use of library resources and services, and resulting demands on service delivery. The Dixon Library has maintained standard hours for teaching periods for all three trimesters in 2012. Additional staff resources have been required to provide adequate staff levels across the spread of opening hours during the year, and this has been supported and resourced in the University.

Evidence of increases in levels of activity in the library and use of services has been identified in the number of people visiting the Dixon Library and bookings for group study rooms and problem based learning (PBL) rooms. There was also growth in the use of Summon, the library’s online service for discovery of and access to electronic and print resources, downloads from electronic journals and use of electronic books.

The library has continued its strategy to increase the number of electronic resources available. It is anticipated that more than 76% of the 2012 information resources budget will be expended on electronic journals and books, already exceeding the target of 75% for 2013 that had been recommended by the 2010 Library Review.

Making a contribution to the University’s research directions continues to be an important component of library services. Growing the services to support researchers has been a major goal of the Learning and Research Services Librarians, and ongoing collaboration with Research Services in ensuring the University’s compliance requirements in reporting research outputs continued to be a focus for the staff managing the institutional repository, e-publications@UNE.

The library participated for the first time in the annual international Open Access Week in October by scheduling a series of information sessions to promote open access to research outputs. Regrettably the week coincided with the two week break between the end of Trimester 2 examinations and the commencement of Trimester 3, a time when academic staff were marking or taking the opportunity to catch up on research or just take a break, and attendances were low.

A key focus in the second half of the year has been the development of a Master Plan to guide the ongoing refurbishment of the Dixon Library over the next 10 years. This project is outlined in more detail in the newsletter.

Barbara Paton
University Librarian

Research Support Services

Learning and Research Services (LRS) have consolidated their Researcher Support Service throughout 2012. Robyn Drummond, Manager, Academic Services from the University Library at the University of New South Wales recently provided professional development training to enhance the LRS librarians’ skills in supporting the research needs of staff and postgraduate students at UNE.

The library’s Researcher Support webpages remain a key focus of the service and have been redesigned in the LibGuides format by Lisa Gurney. This guide contains a comprehensive range of information and tools for established researchers and early career academics.

Early career academics and postgraduate students will find information on how to get content published, manage a research library and use and set up alerts in key databases, while established researchers will find the sections on tracking and maximising research impact, collaborative research and managing a research profile of great interest. The Researcher Support webpages can be found at: www.une.edu.au/library/services-for/faculties

The librarians have continued to provide advice and assistance to researchers and support staff in submitting outputs to e-publications@UNE, the University’s repository which provides open access to UNE research outputs and the documents for UNE’s ERA and HERDC submissions. Prior to this year’s round of academic promotions LRS librarians provided assistance to a number of staff by preparing researcher profiles. These profiles included the h-index score, identification of articles with the highest number of citations, average citations per paper, impact factor of journals and a listing of ERA journals when research had been published in ERA titles.

During 2012 the library presented a series of library sessions to help meet the needs of researchers. The EndNote classes in particular were well attended and many individual trouble shooting consultations were successfully undertaken. In addition, a number of Citation Index classes were conducted demonstrating the features of the Web of Science and Scopus databases.

The Researcher Support Service continues to be developed and feedback is encouraged to ensure the library develops a quality service supportive of those involved in research. To book a consultation or provide feedback please contact one of the librarians at:

www.une.edu.au/library/services-for/faculties

Open Access Week

The University Library joins instututions and libraries around the world in October this year to mark International Open Access Week. In a nutshell, open access (OA) means free and unrestricted online access to research papers. Government and other research funding agencies increasingly require authors to provide open access to publications produced as a result of their funding.

An example of this is the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC), Australia’s leading expert body on public health and medical research, from 2013 requires that any publications arising from a NHMRC supported research project must be deposited into an open access institutional repository within a twelve month period from the date of publication. e-publications@UNE, the institutional research repository of the University of New England was established specifically to support the provision of open access to the University’s research output.

Professor Mark Perry, a recent appointment in the School of Law, launched the Open Access Week sessions with a presentation entitled Getting it out there in which he spoke of the benefits to researchers and authors of providing open access to their publications. Much of Prof Perry’s extensive research publication output is already available via open access, and he was able to give a first-hand account of its benefits. By providing immediate access and reaching a wider readership, open access to publishing can result in more citations and have greater research impact.

Other presentations during the week covered aspects of publisher agreements, licensing arrangements, and deposit of content into e-publications@UNE, highlighting some of the institutional and publisher considerations in OA publishing. With OA journal publishing emerging as a force which challenges the dominant subscription-based model of publishing and rapidly growing its relative annual share of published journal articles, it is important that UNE researchers understand the different publishing models and make publishing decisions which serve their best interests long term.

Library presenters were able to introduce emerging authors to the benefits of the growing international OA movement by providing an overview of open access at a Postgraduate Research Conference organised by the Faculty of the Professions, which coincided with International Open Access Week.

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FOCUS ON the Learning and Research Services Librarians

Dedicated to meeting your research needs...

Celia Munro
Learning and Research Services Manager

Pauline Jenkins
Learning and Research Services Librarian
- School of Arts
- UNE Business School
Pauline is currently working closely with the English Language Centre staff to provide sustainable, appropriate research skills training which integrates with language development. Pauline is available to assist staff and postgraduates with research questions, as well as practical support in uploading research publications into UNE’s online repository, as are all the team.

Lisa Gurney
Learning and Research Services Librarian
- School of Environmental & Rural Science
- School of Science and Technology
- School of Behavioural, Cognitive and Social Sciences (Acting)
Lisa has been particularly active in the researcher support service, creating the web pages and updating the support documents relating to uploading publication output into e-publications@une. She has also worked closely with several academic research teams working on literature reviews, including systematic literature reviews.

Allison Hall
Learning and Research Services Librarian
- School of Humanities
- School of Education
Allison has been instrumental in leading the move to put face-to-face classes on the web for access by all students. Most recently she has created an online presence for the ebook class using the LibGuides software as the framework.

Crystal Plowman
Learning and Research Services Librarian
- School of Health
- School of Rural Medicine
Crystal has been seconded to DEHub to the end of the year and returns to the library in January 2013.

Debbie Kelly
Learning and Research Services Librarian
- School of Law
Debbie manages the Law Library. She also works at Dixson Library on the Service Desk and participates on the live Chat service each week.

Leonie Sherwin
Faculty Librarian, The Professions
Leonie has again been filling roles both as Faculty Librarian, The Professions and directly supporting the Schools of Rural Medicine and School of Health. Leonie has been active in developing awareness of Open Access issues for academic researchers and presented at several presentations recently for UNE academic staff.
Kim Harris

Kim Harris is well known to most of the UNE community and has worked in the University Library since 1995. Whilst Kim has worked in many areas within the Library, it is her work as a reference librarian which has made her well known to many staff and students. Kim worked with several Schools supporting the work of Faculty Librarians before taking on the role of Law Librarian. For the last 5 years, Kim has filled the position of Faculty Librarian, Arts and Sciences where she has been very active in supporting staff and students as well as leading a team of librarians in support of learning and research.

Kim has also extended her work beyond her Faculty Librarian role. Most recently she was nominated as Chair of the Textbook Reference Committee and worked with academics and the United Campus Bookshop to streamline activities, and work on the call for tenders for on campus bookshop services. Kim has been a highly respected, pleasant and fair minded colleague and will be missed by many. We wish her a long and happy retirement with her family.

Sharyn Lansley

Sharyn retired as Executive Assistant to the University Librarian on 3 July 2012. Sharyn joined the Dixon Library as Executive Assistant in May 1996. Prior to this she held appointments in the University as Administrative Assistant to the then Director of Estates and Facilities (now Facilities Management Services), Executive Assistant in the Beef CRC, and was a casual staff member in Personnel Services.

Over Sharyn’s 16 years in the University Library, four University Librarians had the honour of her support and detailed knowledge of UNE. Karl Schmude (1996 – 2000), Eve Woodberry (2000-2008), Jack Bedson (Acting UL 2007-2009) and Barbara Paton (from 2009). Sharyn’s superlative administrative abilities, good humour and adaptability are demonstrated by her ability to work closely with such different working styles and personalities. All university librarians have had extensive professional involvement beyond the University and Sharyn’s support for their activities was critical to their achievements.

Sharyn was the lynchpin in Library Administration, being the first port of call for the myriad of routine building problems in the Dixon Library and the library’s link with Human Resources. Library staff and managers relied on her in-depth knowledge of policies and procedures relating to personnel matters, and for her caring approach to staff.

Sharyn will be missed a great deal by library staff and other friends and colleagues in the University. She was farewelled at a function on 3 July 2012 after being seconded in an acting capacity to the position in September 2011. Sharyn also held positions in Student Administration and Services in 2010-2011 as Customer Services Officer and Graduation and Timetabling Officer.

Prior to joining the University, Tanya was employed for twenty years in a number of positions within the Department of Justice and Attorney General (NSW Courts) working across the Armidale and Walcha Court Houses. Her extensive administrative, organisational and judicial experience included providing support to Judges, Magistrates, Coroners and Registrars. Most recently Tanya was Senior Clerk at the Armidale Court and Registrar at the Walcha Court. Tanya has joined the Library for a different and quieter, if not less demanding and busy life than her years in the NSW Courts.

Tanya Simmons

Tanya commenced her appointment as Executive Assistant to the University Librarian on 17 September 2012 after being seconded in an acting capacity to the position in September 2011. Tanya also held positions in Student Administration and Services in 2010-2011 as Customer Services Officer and Graduation and Timetabling Officer.

Allison Hall

Allison is well known to staff and students at UNE, most notably in her role as Loans Coordinator. What has been less widely known is that for several years Allison has also worked part time with the Learning and Research Services team. Allison is now working full time as a very productive member of the team of LRS librarians.

Allison works closely with the School of Humanities and the School of Education, the latter being added to her responsibilities when she joined the team on a full-time basis. Working full time in LRS has allowed Allison to explore a broader scope of support strategies and technologies, including expertise in online training, new technologies for online training (including creating help videos and screen captures), and more opportunities to support research at UNE.

Staff appointments and retirements

Communication Plan

The 2010 University Library Review recommended that the library develop a communication plan in relation to the provision of library services to academic staff and students.

In support of this recommendation the library established a working group and project plan for the development of a Library Communication Plan. To date, the working group has identified and investigated key stakeholder groups and conducted a survey throughout the University community.

The results from these investigations have contributed to a Stakeholder Research Report which will provide the background to objectives, key messages and strategies and that will be included in the Communications Plan. It is anticipated that the plan will be available on the library website by the end of 2012.

Collection Development Policy

The Review of the University Library in 2010 recommended that the library develop a Collection Development Policy. This policy has now been finalized following comment from the Library Advisory Committee, and is available at:

Gara Hydro scheme donation

In September the Heritage Centre received a donation of research material used to tell the story of the old hydroelectric scheme on the Gara River. The donated material contains the photographs and articles used to produce display boards at the reserve as well as a National Parks publication. It represents the work of many volunteers who worked on the site giving Armidale one of its most interesting walking trails.

The landscape around the picnic reserve at Blue Hole contains many hints left from works creating electric power for the town of Hillgrove as early as 1894. Generating electricity from an invention called the Pelton wheel, the Hillgrove and Armidale Water Power Electric Company dammed the river at Blue Hole and diverted some of the flow into a race that eventually falls dramatically into a downpipe known as a penstock and rotates the Pelton wheel.

Exciting for the Heritage Centre is the fact that this work assists in understanding the context of many other photographic items in different collections. Although the original dam was washed away, the site remained a popular tourist attraction and picnic spot up to this day. Many people visited and photographed the dramatic scenery of the Gara River plunging off the tablelands into the gorge country below. The historical hydroelectricity donation complements these other items in telling the whole story of the site.

Patiently compiling the past

Much staff time in the Heritage Centre is spent providing access to the various historical collections that have accumulated over more than 50 years. This reference activity frequently reduces the time for cataloguing incoming material or improving the finding aids associated with high access collections. The local community, who have donated much of the material now in store have come to the aid of researchers and staff giving time as volunteers listing material or digitizing images to provide improved access.

These projects enable staff and researchers to cross match names and events across many sources of information that was previously impossible. The work ranges from the card index of surnames mentioned in the early years of the Armidale Express, to the detailed provisional listing of teaching material transferred by the Ursuline nuns as they closed the Armidale convent. Detailed cross referencing of the photography of the Armidale Express has commenced, as has the cataloguing of the content of the Armidale Chronicle.

An extensive amount of time has been committed in creating over 4000 images depicting the photographic work of the White family of Saumarez. This complements earlier work of scanning the glass plate negative collection of Solomons Photographers. Another volunteer undertaking is the cataloguing of historic Armidale Teachers College library collection. Like the on-line resources of larger institutions such as the State Library of NSW or State Records Authority, more searchable material is being added to a suite of research tools available for reference at all times.
**Dixson Library Master Plan**

In June 2012 the architects Woods Bagot Pty Ltd were appointed as consultants for the development of the Dixson Library Master Plan. The Master Plan will guide the staged refurbishment of the Dixson Library over the next 10 years as budget allocation becomes available.

Woods Bagot described the project as an exciting opportunity for the University of New England to redevelop the Library as a 21st century facility that will be a magnet for academic, social and cultural activities on campus.

The consultation process with Woods Bagot Pty Ltd has been in progress since July 2012, including:
- Tours of the Dixson Library, Law Library and campus
- Meetings with Facilities Management Services
- Workshops with library staff and a variety of UNE academic staff and ITD staff
- Meetings with undergraduate and PhD students
- Open-house meeting for all library staff and students
- Web-based survey issued to all UNE staff and students
- Ongoing teleconferences with library staff

Plans are currently in place for the south-western corner of the Learning Commons to be developed as an Informal Learning Space which will be a multipurpose collaborative learning area where students can congregate, share ideas, socialize, and receive assistance from Advisers, Support Staff and peer assisted Learning. Funding has been approved from the Higher Education Participation and Partnerships Program (HEPPP) for this project which would be a key component in the first stage of the library redevelopment.

Keep an eye on the library web site for the final report from Woods Bagot which we expect to be completed by the end of 2012.

An interesting article on the Woods Bagot website about the future of the university library can be found at:


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**Current Exhibitions in the Dixson Library**

**Patrick White's Country Cousins** continues until March 2013

The genesis of the exhibition lay in the discovery last year amongst the thirty photograph albums given to the UNE Heritage Centre by White’s Sauanerez Homestead cousins, of a delightful childhood photograph of the Nobel laureate decked out as the Mad Hatter.

In 1972 at the Sydney Town Hall meeting protesting against a proposal to convert Moore Park into a sports center, White recalled:

> I must have stood in this Town Hall for the first time in 1917, I would have been five years old. I was brought here to a fancy dress ball dressed as the Mad Hatter from Alice in Wonderland. Sometimes in 1972 … waiting to plunge on towards the city, where so much has been torn down … I feel there is some kind of Mad Hatter’s party going on – in the name of progress.*

Through his 1972 speech and David Marr’s masterly 1991 biography of White, his Town Hall debut as the Mad Hatter was well known but no photograph had ever been found. Marr was delighted in 2011 when he learnt that UNE had such an image. The album featuring Patrick White as the Mad Hatter has been on tour to Canberra and Sydney, a much admired component in the National Library of Australia’s exhibition entitled *The Life of Patrick White.*

The album has recently returned to Armidale and will join *Patrick White’s Country Cousins* in the Dixson Library. In January, February and March there will be a changing selection from the thousands of images which comprise the Sauanerez Homestead albums.


**Griffith Taylor’s Antarctica** continues until March 2013

This exhibition celebrating UNE’s collection holdings relating to the 1912 Scott expedition to the South Pole continues until March. The exhibition includes manuscripts, photographs, artwork, scientific instruments and recreational objects connected with one of the most famous and heroic voyages of discovery of all time.

This material was presented to the University by Thomas Griffith Taylor after he opened the new Geography building at UNE in 1960.

Interestingly, Armidale has another link to the Scott Expedition through Frank Debenham who taught science at The Armidale School in 1907, who was mortal of Scott’s expedition and later became the founder-director of the Scott Polar Research Institute at Cambridge in 1925. His image can be seen in the exhibition.

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**Upcoming Exhibitions**

**The Pella Exhibition**

In October 2011, the Near Eastern Institute Archaeology Foundation in Sydney donated twenty-eight artefacts excavated at Pella in Jordan to the UNE Museum of Antiquities. Early in 2013 these will go on display in the Dixson Library in a temporary exhibition being curated by Art Collection Manager, Michelle Arens, and Dr Pam Watson from Archaeology and Paleoanthropology.

**75 Years of UNE**

2013 is the seventy-fifth anniversary of the founding of the New England University College. Bill Oates (University Archivist), Michelle Arens (Art Collection Manager), and Ian Stephenson (University Curator) will be co-curating a special exhibition to celebrate this significant milestone.
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Celia Munro
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Ian Stephenson
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