

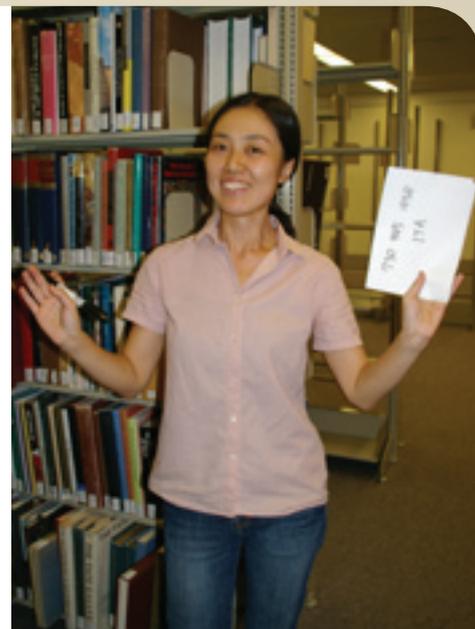


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# Library News

[www.library.uwa.edu.au](http://www.library.uwa.edu.au)



L to R: Damp EDFAA books being dried; EDFAA staff member Ryoko Fitch stock-taking the relocated collections.  
(Photos: Lorraine Ackroyd)

## After the flood: saving the EDFAA Library

**Where were you at 4.30pm on March 22nd 2010? If you were anywhere near UWA you will have vivid memories of the massive hail storm that swept across the campus. If you happened to be one of the people evacuated from the Education, Fine Arts and Architecture (EDFAA) Library just before the windows were smashed by a deluge of water and sand, then your memories are most likely even more harrowing.**

The entire EDFAA Library was devastated with all the lowest shelves submerged beneath a flood of muddy water. In some places the sand was more than a metre deep, burying shelves and overturned desks. Many books and journals were lost, but most importantly no-one was injured in the disaster.

Four months on from the flood we are focusing on the positive aspects of the recovery process and the plans to refurbish the EDFAA Library.

Teresa Chitty, Associate Librarian, Information Systems, has been closely involved in the entire process. "Two months on from the event we were working with insurers to advise them of exactly what had been lost from the collection. Then we had to calculate

all the other costs associated with the salvage and clean up operation – including staff time." Four months on, progress continues: "We've been working with Ferguson Architects on the refurbishment plans for the EDFAA Library," Teresa explained. "As they also designed the Science Library, we are looking at ways to improve upon the old set up using their ideas and experience. Every cloud has a silver lining and when the EDFAA Library reopens next year it will be altogether a better and brighter place for students, academics and Library staff."

Margaret Jones, who was Acting University Librarian at the time of the flood, said Library staff had done a tremendous job in salvaging and repairing thousands of items. "We've also now stripped the whole Library; the carpets, the furniture, computers, everything. The refurbishment plans are underway and it is hoped that work will be completed ready for first semester next year."

Library News sat down with Gina Sjepceвич, Acting Manager of the EDFAA Library, to talk about the flood recovery experience and the exciting plans for the future.

**Library News:** Gina, it was an incredible effort from all the people involved in

the recovery. How did you go about coordinating such a huge task?

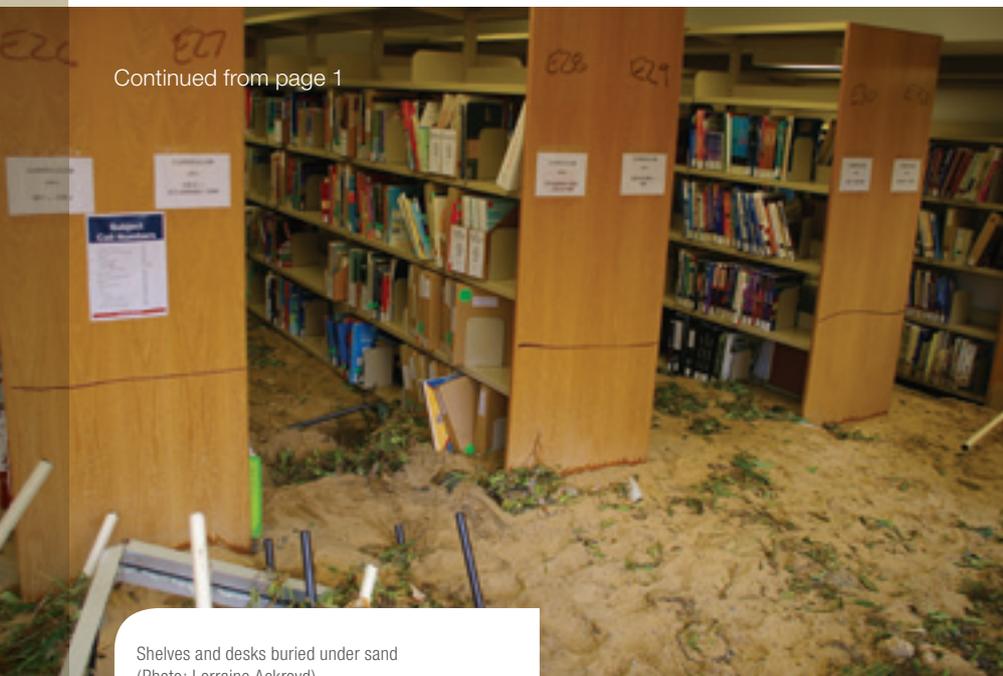
**Gina Sjepceвич:** It was important to get items out as quickly as possible before they started to go mouldy - it was a race against a different kind of biological clock! We got professional movers Keys Bros in, as the job was too big for Library staff alone. Since the lift well was full of water, we had no way of getting the items out other than by crane – stairs were not really a sensible option. We took out the Reserve Collection first of all and set that up in the Reid library straight away. Then we started work on the rest of the collection. The flood had destroyed everything on the lower shelf throughout the Library and the lower two shelves around the area where the windows gave way and the water entered.

**LN:** How many people were involved in the recovery process?

**GS:** It was all hands on deck! After UWA Facilities Management staff had ensured the area was safe and pumped out as much water as possible, volunteers from all over the Library came and worked with Keys Bros on salvaging items. We had another team working at the Reid library drying and cleaning items as they came over. Keys Bros had a team assembling shelving in the old Geology Library and Map Room. Luckily these areas were available as those collections had recently been moved to the new Science Library. Material was coming over faster than they could put the shelves up!

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Shelves and desks buried under sand  
(Photo: Lorraine Ackroyd)

Then the process of taking the inventory of salvaged stock started. Staff from across the Library again volunteered to help. All up they put in about 1400 hours of work.

EDFAA staff worked in the Reid Library to get the reserve collection up and running and establish services for EDFAA students. This was achieved within a week and the assistance of Humanities and Social Science Library staff was invaluable. We were able to have the rest of the salvaged collection available to students about three weeks following the flood, which is a really pleasing achievement.

Everyone in the Library really pulled together to tackle this. In addition, we had many offers of help from students, ex-staff and community members. This is a really positive aspect of the experience.

**LN:** How much material was actually saved?

**GS:** We moved about 62,800 books to the Reid Library. At least 11,700 were lost in the flood. We also lost 2726 bound volumes of serials – that's about 3665 years worth! Overall we lost about 15-20% of the collection. Plans are proceeding to replace stock and rebuild collections where they have been impacted by the flood.

**LN:** Obviously this has been a really difficult time for the EDFAA Library staff team. How are they going?

**GS:** The team have coped extremely well and adapted to the new circumstances in our temporary workspace in the Reid Library. We have set up a variety of temporary procedures to continue

services from our new location. Staff have been quick to see this as a challenge and latch on to the positives that can be found in such a situation.

**LN:** And you've been working on the new plans for the restoration of the EDFAA Library?

**GS:** Work is just starting on plans for the refurbishment of the library. It's a very exciting stage. We put together a pretty comprehensive wish list! Amongst many ideas we hope to have improved and increased student study spaces, and make better use of the natural light that is available in the building. As we are working with Ferguson Architects, who designed the Science Library, some of the same ideas and principles will also work their way into the EDFAA refurbishment.

**LN:** Do you have any personal thoughts on this whole disaster recovery process?

**GS:** It has certainly been an experience. The first few weeks were very intense and quite exhausting. I think the experience was quite traumatic for the EDFAA staff that were in the Library at the time. The water was already ankle deep as they were evacuating students. It all happened very quickly.

We've learned a great deal about the collection and the Library system. It has also provided a great opportunity to rethink the way we would like to do some things in terms of collection management. It's certainly wiped the slate clean in many respects. While there is always some uncertainty and anxiety in these situations, there are enormous positives and the focus is now clearly on those.



The leather binding of *The Formulary* (Photo: D'Raine Images)

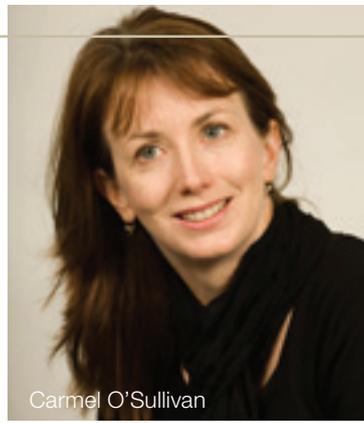
## Treasures of the Library, no. 2: *Formulary of English Chancery Writs*

This volume is at least 750 years old, and still retains its medieval binding – wooden boards attached with strips of leather. It is the oldest book in the Library's collections.

The manuscript contains copies of various English legal documents. They were intended to serve as models for use by administrative officials, rather like forms and form letters today. It was written in the fourteenth century and exhibits many of the typical features of medieval manuscript books: rubricated capital letters, pricking and ruling, fly leaves, and quires arranged with facing "hair sides" and "flesh sides".

*Formulary of English Chancery Writs*,  
c. 1350

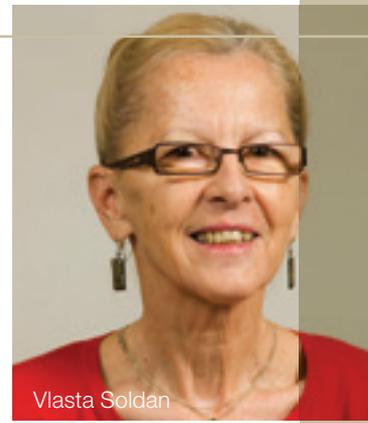
Vellum manuscript (c. 300 folios),  
The University of Western Australia  
Library, Scholars' Centre, Rare Book  
Collection 347.8



Carmel O'Sullivan



Jane Leahy



Vlasta Soldan

## Welcomes...

### Dr Mary Davies

Dr Mary Davies has just taken up her position as UWA's new Librarian and Director (Information Management). Dr Davies is an information management expert who transformed the e-learning and research information management systems of King's College London.

UWA Senior Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Professor Bill Loudon, said that Dr Davies' appointment would provide strong direction for the University's library collections and information systems and her expertise in information technology will be invaluable for the University.

"Dr Davies will assist our University, through its library and information services, to maintain its position as an intellectual resource to students, staff and the broader community."

### Merrilee Albatis

While holidaying in Penang the last thing Merrilee thought she would be doing is applying for a new position, but that's exactly what she did after seeing an advertisement for an Associate Manager in the Science Library. "I had heard about what an amazing learning space the new Science Library was," Merrilee explained, "so I decided to complete an application. This was no small feat given the lure of shopping and eating in Malaysia!"

With a degree in Science, Merrilee says that she has "come back to her roots" and is enjoying working with the Science Team in supporting the students and staff within the Sciences and the wider University.

### Carmel O'Sullivan

Carmel returned to UWA at the end of May, taking up her role as Manager, Science Library in a part time capacity. Her daughter Eva was born in June last

year, and she is already well travelled. "My husband Simon was on sabbatical at the University of Victoria in Canada," Carmel explains, "so we took my 5 year old son and Eva there and stayed for 7 months." Highlights of the stay included a white Christmas in Quebec City, and whale spotting on a boat trip up the Inside Passage.

Carmel says that she is happy to be in the completed Science Library after overseeing so much of the early design and building work. "I am currently learning to juggle the demands of work and family while maintaining the appearance of being vaguely sane!"

### Jacob and Jasper

As reported in the last issue, Library News editors Lucy Cammell and Aik Aung were heading off on maternity leave. We are now very pleased to welcome Jacob Cammell and Jasper Aung into the extended Library family!

## ...and Farewells

### Vlasta Soldan

Vlasta recently announced her retirement after working in the Library for more than twenty years. Dedicated and hardworking, she contributed enormously to the development of the collections in terms of ordering, receiving, copy cataloguing, and processing.

Vlasta will be missed by all her colleagues, and we wish her all the best in her new life.

### Jane Leahy

The Library is saying farewell and bon voyage to Jane Leahy after eighteen years of service. Jane's association with UWA goes back even further, to her student days, when she graduated with a Bachelor of Arts majoring in English.

Jane first came to the Library in 1992, taking up the newly created position of Manager of the Cataloguing Section. During the next ten years Jane managed the section through a period of incredibly rapid change as information technology and the internet revolutionised library practices.

In 2002, Cataloguing and Acquisitions were merged into Information Resources Access Management (IRAM) with Jane taking on the role of IRAM Manager. Since then, IRAM has undergone radical changes in the management of Monographs and Serials, as well as taking on the responsibilities of the Information Resources Budget and new services such as Document Delivery, Course Materials Online, and the Institutional Repository. Jane was absolutely instrumental in the success of all of these projects and always provided outstanding leadership and support for her staff, both technically and personally.

Beyond the UWA Library Jane has played a leading role in collaborative projects for WAGUL, as chair of the Joint Purchasing Groups who negotiate consortium contracts for the supply of books and serials.

"I have loved my role as Manager of IRAM," Jane said, "but I am looking forward to having the time and flexibility to explore other ways of living a life."

First on the agenda is a European holiday in September but after that all options are open.

"After so much structure, it will be lovely to do things on the spur of the moment, when the weather is beautiful or when something interesting comes up. I will also start looking at what other roles I might be able to perform. I would prefer to see this as change, not retirement!"

We will all miss having Jane around the Library and we wish her the very best for her "change". We look forward to her visiting us on one of those sunny days when she is at a loose end.



L to R: One of the Science Investigation Awards displays; students competing in the Amazing Science Library Race (Photos: Kael Driscoll and Molly Tebo)



## Science Library News

### Scinema

Scinema is a National Science Week event showcasing science film, video and multimedia.

Short films will be screening in the Science Library foyer for each day of National Science Week, including Time and Space; The Space Race; Humankind; Environment; Biodiversity and Medicine; Human Health; and Learning about the Sciences.

Sunday (15th August) UWA Open Day:  
11am and 2pm

Weekdays (16th–21st August): 1pm

For more information please see  
<http://www.csiro.au/scinema/index.html>

### The Amazing Science Library Race

Each year the University holds a three-day hands-on science experience designed specifically for school students entering year 10. The Science Experience provides students with the opportunity to enjoy the wonders of science by performing interesting experiments and investigations and hearing from leaders in science, technology and engineering.

This year Katie Mills from the Science Library devised and presented a hands-on workshop, "The Amazing Science Library Race". This proved to be a real success, rated by the students as one of the most popular events in the program.

The workshop took the form of an information-seeking "treasure hunt" with groups of students completing a set of tasks to find Route Markers within the Library. These tasks ranged from using the online catalogue to locate a certain book, through to using Primal Pictures 3D software to save a biological image to a USB drive. The tasks were designed to highlight the variety of information and technology available in the Science Library.

### Science Investigation Awards: science on display

The Science Library was chosen by The Primary Industry Centre for Science Education (PICSE) as an ideal space to host the 2010 Science Investigation Awards. Belinda Pope from PICSE said that "having the Science Library as our venue lifted the profile and excitement of the awards."

Three floors of the Science Library were host to sixteen classes of Year 8, 9 and 10's from nine schools. Over 450 students participated in the scientific display competition, ensuring the Library was buzzing with activity. The creative displays included investigations into the best way to wash dirty dishes, the durability of common metals, and even germinating quandongs!

Science Library staff Julianne Filardi and Fiona Alexander welcomed the students, teachers and judges, while Amina Wilcox and Philip Pegg helped out in the display areas.

## UWA Research Repository Launched

The University's research will soon be reaching a much wider international audience with the coming launch of the UWA Research Repository, in early September.

This service will provide an open access platform to capture, store, index, and distribute globally a wide range of research outputs produced by the University's researchers and postgraduate students. Specifically it will make available peer-reviewed books, book chapters, journal articles and conference papers as well as UWA theses (masters and doctoral degrees by research).

Outputs in the Repository will be accessible from search engines such as Google Scholar, Australian Research Online and OALster. Through this wider exposure the Repository will showcase UWA's research and increase in the University's research profile.

Future additions to the Repository include the entire archive of the Westerly journal.

The Repository was designed and implemented by staff in the Library, ITS and the Web Office and will be managed by the Library.

If you would like to contribute to the Repository, please contact the Library's Digital Repositories Unit at [repository@uwa.edu.au](mailto:repository@uwa.edu.au) or call the Coordinator, Digital Repositories on x3564.



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### Editor

Kael Driscoll