Library’s innovation gains international award

The Library’s Reading List Management System has gained international recognition as an ‘outstanding application of technology that addresses the most significant challenges facing the global education and training industries’.

The system, which was developed in conjunction with local company HarvestRoad for the Library’s Course Materials Online service, has been chosen as one of 25 international finalists for the 2007 Learning Impact Awards. These awards are made by the IMS Global Learning Consortium, a non-profit organization that provides leadership in learning through community development of standards, promotion of high impact innovation, and research into best practices.

In selecting the UWA Library as one of the finalists, judges commented:

“...an excellent example of helping students by providing very convenient and well-organized access to learning materials.”

“...information literacy is such a key competency for faculty in the electronic knowledge age and tools that enhance productivity in this area can also help enhance competency.”

“The level of integration [with external systems such as the Library catalogue] is very impressive.”

The winners will be decided at the Learning Impact Summit in Vancouver in April. Brian Poleykett, Project Manager, will represent the Library at the awards ceremony.

For more information on IMS Learning Impact awards, see: http://www.imsglobal.org/learningimpact/

Science IRIS

Following the success of the Arts Faculty’s online unit, Introductory Research and Information Skills (IRIS), a science version has been tailored for the Faculties of Life & Physical Sciences (FLPS) and Natural & Agricultural Sciences (FNAS) - Science IRIS.

In first semester 2007 all first year students in these Faculties will be enrolled in the compulsory, zero point unit Science IRIS (SCIE1130 Introductory Research and Information Skills for Science). This online, self-paced unit provides an introduction to the skills students need to find and use information effectively and efficiently. Science IRIS will ensure students are able to:

- construct an appropriate search strategy to identify information relevant to a specific question
- locate, access and evaluate print and online resources
- develop an understanding of citation styles, referencing, copyright and plagiarism

Collaboration between the Science Reference Librarians with FLPS and FNAS over the last 8 months has seen Science IRIS progress through a number of stages including:

- A pilot programme across three science units in second semester in 2006
- Feedback from student focus groups
- The approval of Science IRIS through the formal Faculty and University channels
- Fine tuning and enhancements to Science IRIS, particularly in light of the focus group feedback

Preparations are now underway for the introduction of Business IRIS in 2008.
Royal Society of Chemistry Archive

The complete Royal Society of Chemistry Archive provides online access to all articles published by the Society from 1841 to 2004 - more than 160 years of research in approximately 238,000 articles across almost 1.4 million pages.

Journals in the RSC Archive can be accessed via the Library catalogue or SuperSearch:
http://www.rsc.org/Publishing/Journals/journalsearch.asp

The complete Annual Reviews Archive

We now have online access to all Annual Reviews volumes dating back to the very first volume of the Annual Review of Biochemistry in 1932.

Annual Reviews series are published each year in 29 focused disciplines in the biomedical, physical and social sciences. Examples of the broad range of Annual Reviews titles include Anthropology, Biochemistry, Environment & Resources, Genetics, Neuroscience, Nuclear & Particle Science, Plant Biology, Political Science, and Sociology.

Annual Reviews can be accessed via the Library catalogue or SuperSearch:

Wiley InterScience Business & Management backfile

The Wiley InterScience Business and Management backfile collection is made up of 33 prestigious journal titles covering human resources management and development, economics, intelligence and litigation. Full coverage dates back to the very first issues.

Journals in the Wiley InterScience Business & Management backfile can be accessed via the Library catalogue or SuperSearch:

Biological Abstracts now online back to 1945

Biological Abstracts is the major biological and biomedical research index covering over 4000 serials, books and other publications from more than 90 countries. Coverage includes botany, zoology, marine biology, ecology, agriculture, microbiology, biochemistry, biotechnology, and medicine.

Biological Abstracts can be accessed via the Library catalogue or SuperSearch:

ARTstor

The Library now has access to ARTstor, a searchable database of more than 500,000 images covering a range of disciplines such as art, architecture, history, anthropology, archaeology and Asian studies. A combination of images, data, and texts provides comprehensive art-related teaching, learning, and researching capabilities. Readers can view and analyse images through features such as zooming and panning.

ARTstor can be accessed via the Library catalogue or SuperSearch:

Significant additions to the collections

A Lasting Legacy

Imagine stepping off a plane in a place you’ve never been before, in a strange country, not knowing a soul, on your way to study at university. That’s what Robert Ng did in 1969 when as a young man he arrived at Perth Airport to study engineering at UWA. But he wasn’t isolated for long because on the very same day he was greeted by Jeanette and Ken Birks, who befriended him and helped him settle into student life at the University. The friendship that was formed all those years ago between Robert and his ‘foster parents’ has lasted ever since and was commemorated recently by a generous benefaction to the University Library by Mr Ng and the naming of the Library’s conference room as the ‘K.N. and J.E. Birks Conference Room’.

It is particularly appropriate that Mr Ng should choose the Library to receive his gift. Jeanette Birks, now sadly passed away, was the daughter of Sir Alexander Reid, Chancellor of the University from 1956-68, after whom the Reid Library is named.

Robert has had an ongoing relationship with the University from his early days in St Columba’s College, where he was a contemporary and friend of Michael Chaney, the current Chancellor. He has been very active in the strong and active UWA alumni group in Kuala Lumpur.

John Arfield (University Librarian), Ken Birks and Robert Ng
Our response to you: LibQUAL+ Survey

In October 2005 we surveyed readers using the LibQUAL+™ Survey to enable us to assess the quality of our services and identify areas for improvement. The Library has undertaken a range of activities and measures in response to this feedback. For more details see:

http://www.library.uwa.edu.au/about_the_uwa_library/feedback_ and_surveys/2005_survey/our_response_to_your_feedback

You told us you wanted Library space that inspires study and learning - so far we have:

- Extensively refurbished the Law Library
- Refurbished the Maths and Physical Sciences Library
- Addressed the issue of noise in the Medical & Dental Library and the Scholars’ Centre
- Painted the EDFAA Library

You told us you wanted the Library to be open longer - so far we have:

- Opened an extra 4 hours each Saturday in most Subject Libraries
- Opened a computer room in the Law Library with 24 hour access for Law students

You told us you wanted more access to journals - so far we have:

- Subscribed to a large number of new full text journal collections online
- Extended the availability of journals online by purchasing large back sets
- Introduced SuperSearch so that you can search multiple databases to find journal articles
- Created an A-Z list of electronic journals
- Implemented Find it @ UWA so that you can easily locate the full text of journal articles
- Made it easier for you to find your course readings using CMO

Library lauded

A panel of external experts has given the Library top marks!

The panel comprising of the Director-General of the National Library of Australia, the University Librarian of Queen’s University, Canada, and Professor John Cordery of the UWA Business School, concluded in its 2006 review that

“...the Library has achieved a high degree of effectiveness...in the range of services it provides to the University community. The Library operates efficiently, and to high standards of service quality. It is also highly responsive to changes in the service environment, and has developed a strong reputation for effective innovation. The staff of the Library are to be highly commended for their dedicated service and achievements in support of the University’s overall mission and priorities.”

In preparation for the review, library staff compiled an extensive dossier on the Library’s activities. This included a rigorous self-evaluation of how our services could be improved, and the report of the 2005 LibQUAL+™ survey of user satisfaction.

The review panel convened in July 2006 and spent three days meeting with undergraduates and postgraduate students, representatives of the teaching and learning and research communities, deans, library staff and representatives from outside the University. As with all such University reviews actions taken to implement the review recommendations will be monitored and reported.

Library book returned after 39 years...

In 1968 a book about J.D. Salinger was borrowed from UWA Extension Library. 39 years later it has been returned to the Albany Public Library and won the prize for the “Most Overdue Book in the West”. Albany resident Judith Swain’s excuse was “At the time I lived in a remote area and when I went to return it on one of my infrequent visits to Perth, I found the building in Howard Street had been demolished and so returning the book was “placed in the too hard basket”.

Professor Matteoli’s donation

The Library received an outstanding addition to its collection when it was presented in December 2006 with a copy of the Columbiae by Professor Lorenzo Matteoli. The limited edition, Nuova Raccolta Colombiana, includes all the historical information, literary documents, log books and political commentaries of the travels of Christopher Columbus in fine facsimile. The 25 volumes and atlas were published by the Italian Government as an official commemoration of the 400th anniversary of Columbus’s discovery of America in 1492.

Professor Matteoli has had a distinguished career in architecture and environmental design as an academic, as City Commissioner in Turin and as Science Attaché at the Italian Embassy in Jakarta. Now retired, he lives and writes in Perth as well as spending half the year in Nova Scotia, Canada.

The volumes may be found in the catalogue under the title Nuova Raccolta Colombiana. They are located in the Scholars’ Rare Book Collection.
Experiences as a Practicum Student

‘Wet behind the ears’, ‘green’, ‘ignorante’ (as the Italians say) – these could all have been used to describe me before my time at the HSS Library. But just a few days of absorbing what was patiently explained to me (all the while trying to hide my bewildered expression), I found myself magically ‘demystified’. This time was invaluable for easing my anxieties about entering the workforce as a new librarian.

Having had no previous practical library experience, I was unsure what to expect. I was warmly welcomed and felt my contributions were appreciated. Exposure to a variety of services and meetings gave me a clear understanding of the Library’s position within the University. I value the skills and knowledge I acquired and hope to utilise them soon. Overall, the experience was of significant value to my professional development.

The Duyfken Sketchbook

The Library has recently acquired the Duyfken Sketchbook, a unique work by Western Australian artist Gareth Morse.

Donated by the Friends of the UWA Library, the Sketchbook is a series of 35 drawings done while the Duyfken replica ship was being built. They record the artist’s response to the shape and form of the ship as it gradually changed and grew over two years.

Gareth Morse is an influential painter of the Western Australian landscape who has painted the outback for 30 years. Originally from the Rhondda in Wales, he emigrated to Australia in 1975 and spent 24 years on the staff of Edith Cowan University, as a lecturer and Head of the Art Department.

Gareth has exhibited consistently in solo and group exhibitions, and his artworks are held in prestigious collections in 10 countries. A retrospective exhibition of his work was held by the Lawrence Wilson Art Gallery in 1997.

The Sketchbook is located in Scholars’ Manuscript Collection at MS0116.

Victorian beginnings

In conjunction with the annual conference of the Australasian Victorian Studies Association, the Library is presenting a display of rare and unusual items from the Special Collections.

The display includes 19th-century books illustrated by Aubrey Beardsley, Gustave Doré and Henry Holiday; first editions of Dickens, George Eliot, and Keats; a miniature edition of Kebler’s poetry; and a set of early postcards with characters from Dickens. Also featured are two beautiful books published by William Morris through his Kelmscott Press: The Golden Legend and The Wood Beyond the World. The Golden Legend was a donation from the Friends of the UWA Library.

Victorian Beginnings can be seen in the foyer and study area of the Scholars’ Centre on the second floor of the Reid Library building throughout first semester.

Friends of the Library 2007 Program of Events

10 April 2007  Dr L Milne talking on Grains of truth: how pollen brought a murderer to justice (and other tales)
8 May 2007  Professor Geoffrey Bolton talking on Paul Hasluck
12 June 2007  Professor Stephen Knight talking on Australian Crime Fiction
10 July 2007  Archbishop Roger Herft talking on The lion, the king and the kangaroo: a migration odyssey
14 August 2007  A/Prof Brenda Walker - talk to be advised
11 Sept 2007  Mr Jonathan McIntosh talking on Moving through tradition: dance in Bali
9 Oct 2007  Dr Cora Baldock talking on Migrants
13 Nov 2007  Dr Robin Adamson talking on English and the languages of Europe: peaceful co-existence, friendly takeover or hostile invasion?

The artist, Gareth Morse, taken from “A Journey into Australian Landscape: Retrospective 1975-1997” Exhibition Catalogue, (Lawrence Wilson Art Gallery)

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