Dear Nigel,

Well the starship is now well under construction. We have just finished placing the last of the American space stations. The lattice structure is going to be huge once China, India, and Russia send their payloads. I think the press is correct in comparing this project to the pyramids. In fact it still seems impossible and I am up here building the damn thing.

The 100YSS is a starship designed to go to find the next habitable planet, which is maybe 20 light years away. They’re finding more of these planets now and guessing whether they can be travelled to and lived on, but it’s all pretty speculative at the moment.

I’m into unbuilt architecture – architecture that’s never built because it’s too crazy or insane – and I thought space architecture is pretty out there, so a spaceship to get people from Earth to this distant planet would be quite interesting.

I ended up contacting NASA and I had a few people in there who helped by providing technical information. So even though it was speculative, the ideas are centered around realistic propositions, based on technologies that are being used currently or worked on. I’ve now started on a PhD continuing on with the idea of space architecture and the theory behind it, and the crossover with science fiction and film.

ISN: So once you had your background research, what form did the honours project take from there?

CM: I started with digital design on the computer, as I teach that here as well, but there was something quite lifeless about it. I had some really good conversations with my supervisor, Nigel Westbrook, and as a joke I wrote a postcard as if I was actually on this

> Continued on page 2
Expanding Unifi to keep you connected

Improving Unifi to keep up with demand

This year there has been a significant increase in the use of mobile technology by students and staff, with widespread use of two or more devices simultaneously (eg. smartphones and laptops). As these devices all automatically connected to Unifi there were considerable capacity strains placed on the network.

To overcome this issue a new wi-fi network control design has been implemented by our Infrastructure & Operations teams, providing a threefold increase in the number of wireless devices that can access Unifi coverage across campus. This new design vastly improves the resiliency and flexibility of the Unifi service.

Unifi coverage has also been expanded to cover more campus locations. Information Services and Facilities Management worked closely together on the Unifi Phase 2 roll-out project to deliver the building infrastructure requirements:

- An additional 57 access points installed in new locations for the beginning of Semester 2
- 100 existing access points upgraded to double capacity
- 210 wireless access points in the highest use areas, such as lecture theatres

The new Unifi access points in high density traffic areas provide four times the capacity of the older model access points.
Professor Kieran Dolin, Discipline Chair of English and Cultural Studies, has been working in collaboration with Scholars’ Centre staff to put together an exhibition of Library resources to mark the bicentenary of Charles Dickens’ birth.

Alongside his teaching of nineteenth-century literature, one of Professor Dolin’s main research areas is nineteenth-century fiction and the law.

“Dickens is one of the writers most engaged with questions of law and justice in the Victorian period,” Professor Dolin explained. “His portraits of lawyers and litigants are profound.”

Professor Dolin has chosen rare items from the Special Collections, along with more modern publications and media, thereby tracing the Victorian novelist’s career and long-lasting influence.

“I have chosen a mixture of early and modern editions, as collectively they give a sense of the popularity of Dickens, the consistent market for his books in every generation,” Professor Dolin said. “The Library has some of the novels in their original serial format. Dickens scholars always talk about this, how Dickens pioneered the publication of novels in monthly or weekly serials, but the chance to see a complete set of numbers of Bleak House has been fascinating for me.”

Among the modern editions, the Library has a complete set of *The Nonesuch Dickens*, a limited edition publishing venture from the 1930s that combined textual accuracy with the highest production values. At a time when the cultural pendulum had swung against the Victorians, this was an important tribute to Dickens’ perennial appeal. A new edition of *The Nonesuch* has been reproduced under licence to commemorate the bicentenary of Dickens in the last few years.

The exhibition is located in the foyer of the Reid Library until the end of the year and includes:

- Original monthly issues of *Bleak House* and *Dombey and Son*
- 100 year-old cards showing characters from Dickens’s novels
- A steel print plate of an original illustration of Mr Pickwick

New Unifi Guest service
Alongside the Unifi expansion, Information Services has also launched Unifi Guest, a new service which quickly and simply provides temporary internet access for UWA’s short-term guests and conference attendees.

Unifi Guest is easy to use, requires no paperwork, allows access immediately or from a scheduled date, and can be easily administered within your own business unit.

The service has been very successfully piloted in the Institute of Advanced Studies.

“We are very appreciative of the new Unifi Guest service,” commented Acting Director Susan Takao. “IAS has a number of visiting international fellows throughout the year as well as seminars with external visitors. The ease of the new service has greatly improved the professional service that is provided to our visitors.”

Access is provided to guests via the Unifi Guest wireless network, which is accessible at all locations with Unifi wireless coverage, or can be used in conjunction with UniConnect to provide a wired connection.

Further information on these services is available at:

- is.uwa.edu.au/it-help/access/wireless/unifiguest/
- is.uwa.edu.au/it-help/access/uniconnect/guests/
Tools to manage your research data

Information Services has recently published an online guide to assist UWA researchers with research data management.

Research Data Management Toolkit:
is.uwa.edu.au/research/research-data-management-toolkit

The Research Data Management Toolkit was developed by the eResearch Support and Digital Developments Unit. It aims to guide researchers to manage their data effectively, to ensure the responsible conduct of research, enhance research integrity and promote collaborative opportunities.

Benefits of effective research data management include:

- **Compliance** with the requirements of the Australian Code for the Responsible Conduct of Research
- **Efficiency** and consistency with systematic data description, to improve discoverability
- **Security** which safeguards against data loss and ensures ethical and legal compliance
- **Access to data** which enables validation of results, promotes collaborative opportunities, data sharing and increased citations for the researcher, and
- **Improved quality of research** allowing for increased data reliability, reproducibility and accuracy.

Prior to the commencement of a project, researchers are encouraged to document their research data management strategy. The Toolkit provides detailed information to support researchers in managing and recording their research data protocols in relation to:

- Intellectual property issues
- Documentation
- Storage and backup
- Sharing and reuse
- Retention and disposal

For further assistance with research data management, please contact the Research Data Librarian at eresearch-is@uwa.edu.au

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Opening IS to the community

On Sunday August 12th, Information Services took part in the annual UWA Open Day event, welcoming prospective students to our great campus. The event attracted more than 20,000 visitors to the campus, despite the inclement weather, and is now one of the biggest activities on the UWA promotional calendar. Information Services staff contributed by running tours of the Reid Library and Science Library, and handing out over 1000 of the ever-popular helium balloons.

New activities added for this year included offering free wi-fi to visitors, taking part in the UWA conversation on social media, and running a competition to guess the number of books in the Reid and Science Library buildings. Congratulations to Tori Lewis and Sahand Sobhi who each won with correct guesses of 403,976 (Reid) and 127,849 (Science).

We look forward to taking part in UWA Open Day 2013!