



LIBRARY NEWS



Online services moving forward

A fresh new approach to some of the Library's online services has been introduced for the start of 2009. The initiatives aim to strengthen the Library's commitment to delivering high quality online services and also improve access for all user groups. The changes have seen the Library's homepage and catalogue receive a complete facelift, as well as the implementation of a new online inquiry service and a dedicated system for presenting Library guides in a digital format.

Library homepage review

The Library homepage has been significantly redesigned in order to improve access to online resources and information for our readers.

Many of the improvements were based on feedback and requests submitted by readers. As part of the review process, usability testing sessions were held with selected groups of staff and students. These sessions proved invaluable in shaping the direction of the homepage, particularly in the placement of frequently used services.

LibGuides

LibGuides is a new content management system specifically designed to publish Library guides for our subscribed information resources and other services. The Library has transferred many printed guides into this online interactive resource and will continue with the process throughout this semester. Library staff can now use LibGuides to utilise Web 2.0 technologies by adding video clips, RSS feeds, graphics and tags. For those who still prefer to take away a printed version LibGuides allows for the instant formatting of an easy-to-read printable version. To view a selection of the new LibGuides, please visit <http://libguides.library.uwa.edu.au>

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The screenshot shows the library homepage with the following elements:

- Navigation:** 'The University of Western Australia' logo, 'the Library' title, 'Site Search' bar, 'The Library Site' dropdown, and 'Search' button.
- Getting Started:**
 - Library Services
 - About the Library
 - Guides
 - Ask a Librarian
 - Help
- Information For:**
 - Undergraduates
 - Postgraduates & Researchers
 - UWA Staff
 - Regional and Offshore Users
 - Visitors
 - Alumni
 - Users With a Disability
- Search For:**
 - Books & More - Catalogue:** Keyword search with 'Go' button.
 - Articles & More - SuperSearch:** Multidisciplinary search with 'Go' button.
- More Search Options:**
 - Library Catalogue
 - Other Libraries
 - SuperSearch
 - Course Materials Online
 - Find Journal Articles
 - Google
 - Google Scholar
- Quick Links:**
 - My Library Loans
 - Ask a Librarian
 - Get It
 - Library Locations
 - Staff Services
- News:**
 - Defibrillator in the Reid Library Building: An automatic defibrillator is available in the Humanities and Social Sciences Library.
 - View as RSS (What is RSS?) | Archive
- Advertisements:** 'ipoint' logo, 'ANSWERS ONLINE ANYTIME', and 'NEW BOOKS'.

The Library's new homepage at <http://www.library.uwa.edu.au>

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Indian High Commissioner visits Library

Her Excellency Mrs Sujatha Singh, the Indian High Commissioner to Australia, visited the Library in November 2008 to view a selection of rare materials housed in the Scholars' Centre.

Her Excellency was greeted by Liz Burke (Associate Librarian, Reader Services), Jill Benn (Manager, Humanities and Social Sciences Library) and Dr Jeremy Martens from the School of Humanities.

The High Commissioner had expressed a desire to see primary source materials pertaining to India. Staff from the Humanities and Social Sciences Library and the Scholars' Centre worked together to set up a display of relevant items from the Erulkar Collection.

Her Excellency was fascinated and impressed by the materials, particularly *The East India Pilot*, a series of historic maps and charts of the Indian coastline published in 1778. This Pilot guide, also known as the "Oriental Navigator", is printed on 114 plates and contains sailing directions for the navigation of the Indian and China Seas, as well as routes between England and the Cape of Good Hope.

The Erulkar Collection focuses on the history of the Eastern Indian Ocean region, and especially on the maritime history of India. The name derives from David Solomon Erulkar, an Indian shipping executive who accumulated a library of rare books, manuscripts,



*Her Excellency Mrs Sujatha Singh with Dr Jeremy Martens
Photo: Lindy Brophy*

journals and other materials. There are about 2,500 volumes in the Erulkar Collection, as well as 15,000 pages of manuscripts, documents, and letters. Some of the correspondence dates back to 1763 and relates to the construction of ships for the East India Company.

Being an economist by profession, the High Commissioner very much enjoyed her tour through this unique view of maritime trading history.

Simon Lewis: travelling librarian

Simon Lewis has recently taken up a new role as the Senior Librarian for the Rural Clinical School (RCS). Previously Simon worked with the RCS as part of his duties in the Medical and Dental Library. "It's a full time role now," Simon explained, "which is great as the RCS has grown dramatically over the years. I am still employed by the Library but the position is now funded by the School."



Library News asked Simon some questions about his new position.

What prompted the changes to this role?

Basically the increase in the size of the School has meant a big increase in my work load for the RCS. Given the increase in staff and students of the RCS, it will be a challenge meeting the demands of everyone!

What rural areas are you responsible for?

I am responsible for RCS staff (including preceptors) and students in Esperance, Kalgoorlie, Albany, Bunbury, Busselton, Geraldton, Carnarvon, Port Hedland, Broome, and Derby. I visit each of the sites at least once per year.

Do you have a favourite place from your travels so far?

Each RCS site is interesting to visit. My favourite place would have to be Albany because of its history - and that's where the Head of School resides!

I heard you recently completed a Masters degree that had relevance to regional medical students?

Yes that's right - I completed a Masters in Information Management at Curtin University. The title of my Masters was 'Electronic books and the bush: an analysis of electronic book usage amongst medical students in regional Western Australia.'

Thanks Simon. Enjoy your travels!

Music Library strikes a new chord

The refurbishment of the Music Library is now complete and the reaction has been overwhelmingly positive. Jenny Wildy, Music Librarian, referred to the change as "making the Music Library bigger without actually making it bigger."

Jenny has found that this has also been reflected in the responses from students, staff and visitors.

"One of the most frequent comments we receive from those who knew the old Library is 'oh it's much bigger isn't it?'. It's due to the open and light feeling as you walk in the door and I think all credit is due to Lincoln Tuffin the architect who made that possible. The view through to the Somerville was always there but was obscured by shelves, scores, and counters."

All the improvements recommended in the concept plan were implemented including:

- Open reserve collection no longer behind the Inquiry Desk
- Open sound recording and audiovisual collection allowing readers to browse through the collection.
- Two study group rooms
- Improved casual seating study spaces
- Reconfigured work space for Library staff

"The students love it and it's interesting to watch the new intake this year who were presented with the finished Library," Jenny said. "Last year it was a building site for some weeks with piles of unpacked boxes and limited access. This year the students began using the casual seating area and group study rooms straight away."



*The loans desk and staff work area at the Music Library.
Photo: Ron D'Raine*



*The open reading area with casual seating
Photo: Ron D'Raine*

David Medlen: the art of service

David Medlen, Library Officer in the Humanities and Social Sciences Library, has been honoured with a Faculty of Arts Service Award, including a \$2,000 grant for use in teaching and learning activities.

The Award recognises "David's commitment to the Arts disciplines, and his enormous energy and competence in maintaining this commitment". The citation also mentions the way in which David's kindness, empathy and professional understanding have helped the Arts faculty staff.

"Although this is a recognition of David's personal achievement it is also something in which we can all share," said John Arfield, University Librarian.

"The citation notes that 'in his deserving person we [are] recognising, as well, the many other librarians who have supported us so generously and so well over so many years.' So warm congratulations, David, and to everyone whose unrecorded service brings so much credit to the Library."



The science of building

Progress on the Science Library is approaching some critical milestones. The new section of the building will be opening for business on July 20th. The old building will be refurbished from July to December 2009. The new Science Library will be open by the beginning of the first semester in 2010.

The roof of the new building has been connected to the roof of the existing structure. Three large holes were made in the existing roof for the steel beams to be joined.

Staff met with the removalists to discuss the logistics of moving and interfilming five collections (over 12,000 metres of material) over a five week period in June and July.

The Science team were recently taken on a tour of the new building to see the progress first hand.



Hard Hats essential! Photo: Honey Hiranandani

Friends of the Library programme for 2009

The Friends of the Library have a diverse programme of speakers booked for 2009, as well as a tour of the new Science Library. All Friends events are held on Tuesday evenings.

Date	Speaker	Title
Tuesday 9th of June	Neville Bruce	<i>Integrated Human Studies: a transdisciplinary guide to human futures</i>
Tuesday 14th of July	Peter Quinn	TBA
Tuesday 11th of August	Nicholas Bannan	<i>Homo cantans: the singing man</i>
Tuesday 8 September	Philippa Maddern	<i>The history of the non-nuclear family</i>
Tuesday 13th of October	Helene Jaccopard	<i>Algeria's struggle for independence from French rule</i>
Tuesday 10th of November	John Arfield	<i>Tour of new Science Library</i>
Tuesday 8th December		<i>Christmas party</i>