



Library News

La Trobe University Library

Priorities for

2004

Within the framework of the Library's Strategic Plan 2000-2004, we have identified the following areas for priority for this year:

- Improving the way library services are delivered via the web
- Enhancing and expanding the IT infrastructure to support client access to information in the digital environment
- Enhancing and expanding the online library
- Examining the physical environment across all campuses to identify areas for improvement
- Identifying and scheduling a regular cycle of survey and performance measurement activities to allow us to monitor and improve library services, resources and facilities
- Investigating the current suite of services available to off campus and offshore students.

We will continue to focus on the following well established programs:

- Developing information literacy skills
- Implementing AARLIN – the Australian academic research library network
- Fully implementing and integrating the new interlending and document delivery service.

Earle Gow, University Librarian

Senior staff appointments

The Library has pleasure in announcing two appointments to the management team in early 2004.

Dorota Pudlowski took up the position of Cataloguing Services Librarian at the Bundoora campus library. Prior to taking up this appointment Dorota held the post of Serials Cataloguer at the University of New South Wales Library.

Linda Sheridan was appointed to the position of Campus Librarian at the Albury-Wodonga Campus. Linda has been a member of the Library staff since 1997 and had acted in the Campus Librarian role during 2003 following on from the retirement of the foundation campus librarian Pat Pettit.



Dorota Pudlowski and
Linda Sheridan



International input for planning



Barbara Paton

Digital library initiatives were the focus of a study program undertaken in August 2003 by Barbara Paton, Deputy University Librarian. As the library is approaching the completion of its second 5 year Strategic Plan (2000-2004) and about to commence the development of a plan to take it through to 2008, it was an opportune time to discuss future directions in academic libraries with international colleagues.

Barbara attended the 8th International Summer School on the Digital Library organised by the Tilburg Innovation Centre for Electronic Resources (TICER), held at Tilburg University, Netherlands. The program 'Leaders' Visions on the Library of the Future' included presentations from some of the principal international experts in the library and information industry. It offered opportunities to discuss strategic issues for libraries and to examine trends for planning and formulating library policy with the speakers and participants. A second program on organisational change focussed on the major digital library challenges, innovations, new ways of supporting teaching, learning and research, and potential new roles for libraries and librarians.

Key themes throughout the Summer School included

- new knowledge environments for research and education
- scholarly communication in the digital environment and the role of institutional repositories
- the role for libraries in facilitating the personalisation of the researcher's desktop
- the role of digital libraries in e-learning and learning spaces in libraries
- organisational change in university libraries and partnering within universities and external collaboration.

Prior to the Summer School, Barbara visited four university libraries in the Netherlands. The sites selected represented libraries leading developments in portal technology, electronic repositories of the research output and knowledgebase of their institutions, and electronic publishing initiatives in collaboration with academic staff.

Of particular interest also were examples of new library buildings at Delft University of Technology and Tilburg University, and the increasing trend towards the inclusion of flexible and e-learning spaces.

The Dutch libraries were interested in the AARLIN Project, which La Trobe University Library leads on behalf of 21 Australian universities and which demonstrates the strong culture of collaboration among Australian institutions. The University of Amsterdam is implementing a portal using the Ex Libris MetaLib/SFX software, also the basis of AARLIN, and it was especially interested in the project.

Awareness of the strategic issues facing the library and information industry and the scholarly communication environment will provide valuable input to the library's current programs and to the development of the 2005-2008 plan.

Warren Horton

Warren Horton, former Director-General of the National Library of Australia (1985-99) died, after a long illness, on 25 November 2003. It is doubtful if any Australian librarian has contributed more to the profession of librarianship, both internationally and nationally, over the past two decades than Warren Horton. A major contributor to the work of the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA), he did much to increase the recognition of Australian librarianship and to influence global developments in library and information services.

Within Australia his energy and enthusiasm were applied to the advancement of national cooperation, through the Australian Council of Libraries and Information Services – which he helped

create. More recently he directed his efforts, through the Aurora Foundation and its Aurora Leadership Institute, to developing the next generation of leaders of the profession.

La Trobe University benefited greatly from Warren Horton's belief in cooperation and collaboration between the nation's major libraries. In 1991 the University and the National Library of Australia signed a formal agreement which saw the relocation of major Latin American collections from the National Library to La Trobe University, thereby establishing the Borchardt Library as the national centre of excellence for scholarly information resources on Latin America.

La Trobe University recognised Warren Horton's contribution to scholarship when it conferred upon him the degree of Doctor of Letters (honoris causa) in 1994.

Earle Gow, University Librarian

Did you find it?

We asked nearly 3,000 library visitors this question during August 2003 to determine their success rate in finding wanted items when they visited the Albury-Wodonga, Bendigo and Bundoora campus libraries.

This materials availability survey tells us what proportion of material sought by the client is available in the library for use, at the time it is sought. In short, if the client can find it, then it is available. Results also provide the reasons for non-availability, telling us

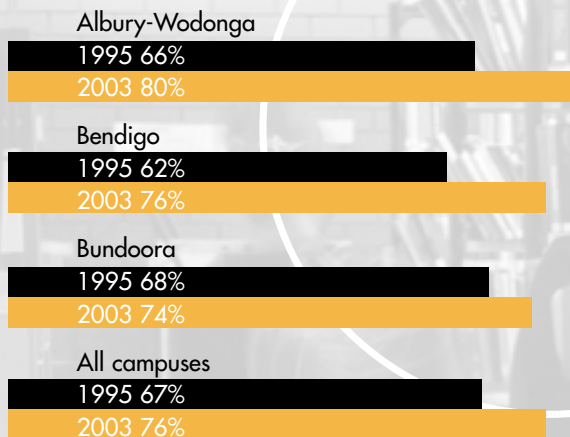
- the extent to which the library provides clients with the items they are looking for
- the proportion of sought items not in the collection
- the adequacy of multiple copies at a campus and between campuses
- the appropriateness of loan periods
- the accuracy of shelving and clients' ability to find items on the shelves
- the ease of use of the catalogue to find items, to identify locations and to determine the loan status.

This detailed information supports our efforts in continuous enhancement of services, resources and facilities. This survey was last undertaken cross campus in 1995 and the results show quite significant improvement at all campuses since that time.

The results also compare well with other university libraries which have undertaken similar performance measurement in recent years.

Helen King, Associate Librarian, Bendigo

Materials immediately available



Thanks for the feedback!

Bendigo campus library received this message from a lecturer recently:

Dear ILDDS Team,

Thank you for the fabulous service. Writing a review chapter, I have asked you to track down some old and esoteric papers, and the supply has been fast and efficient. I appreciate particularly the efforts to supply legible copies when figures and photographs are involved, which often means supplying me with duplicates of pages at different darkness levels.

Library at Online Day 2003

Library staff ran a workshop to complement the University's Online Day in November 2003. Participants were invited to streamline their research by setting up scholarly research alerts, and were able to preview 'Library skills online', a new resource for undergraduate students.

The 'research alerts' segment allowed users to set up profiles for new books notification (via Global Books in Print) and automate subject searches in the journal literature databases like CINAHL, Medline, Current Contents, PAIS and Emerald. Clients can be notified weekly or monthly about new literature in their areas. See instructions on <http://www.lib.latrobe.edu.au/reference/dw-current-awareness.html>

Academics were also asked to comment on the new web based library skills tutorials for students, outlined below.

Those attending were very positive about the potential benefits to students and many indicated that they planned to have students use the tutorials to consolidate skills and as a way to initiate class discussion in areas such as referencing and plagiarism.

Eva Fisch, Subject Librarian, Humanities and Social Sciences, Bundoora

Library Skills Online

The Library is proud to announce the release of 'Library Skills Online' - a suite of online tutorials designed to assist our users with the acquisition of basic research skills. Each tutorial is interactive, with examples relevant to resources used at La Trobe University and includes an optional quiz at the end of each module.

These supplement the extensive training programs already offered at each campus, and provide another opportunity to assist students who are unable to attend scheduled sessions or would like the option of working through a tutorial at their own pace. Academics are encouraged to promote these tutorials to students or to link to the suite from their own web pages.

To access, go to <http://www.lib.latrobe.edu.au/libskills>. Feedback is welcomed.

Linda Sheridan, Campus Librarian, Albury-Wodonga

New electronic resources

New electronic subscriptions demonstrate the Library's continuing strong commitment to supporting research, teaching and learning at La Trobe University. The following 6 new resources are available at all campuses and for authenticated off campus access:

- **Empire Online** is a collection of scholarly full text resources which enables clients to explore British and European colonial history, politics, culture and society. It provides online access to over 60,000 images of original documents with introductory essays and combined indexing to all sections.
- **International Pharmaceutical Abstracts** is now available with the OVID interface.
- **Australian Public Affairs Full Text** (APAFT) provides a regularly updated collection of scanned images of articles from a wide range of Australian social sciences and humanities journals.
- **AGIS + Text** is a regularly updated collection of articles from Australian and Asia-Pacific law journals. Full text coverage is from 1999 and indexing is from 1975.
- **Australian Primary Law Collection** on Westlaw (Westlaw Australia) is a collection of legislation and superior court reports in pdf and html format, and includes Commonwealth Law Reports, Federal Court Reports, Federal Law Reports and South Australian State Reports, as well as Australian Criminal Reports, Local Government & Environment Reports and Australian Tax Reports. Commonwealth Australia Acts and Regulations are also included in this collection.
- **Index Islamicus** indexes literature on Islam, the Middle East and the Muslim world. Over 2,000 journals are monitored for inclusion in the database, together with conference proceedings, monographs, multi-authored works and book reviews. Journals and books are indexed down to the article and chapter level. Records included in the database cover almost a century of publications, with some going back to 1906.

The next 2 databases are available within each of the Bendigo and Bundoora campus libraries:

- CDATA 2001 with Quickbuild. This CD-ROM resource enables downloading and printing of the Australian 2001 census data in map, report and graph formats.
- SEIFA: Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas from the 2001 Australian census. It enables ranking of regions/areas, providing a method of determining the level of social and economic well-being in each region. SEIFA data can be downloaded directly as tables or, used in conjunction with CDATA2001, can be mapped or graphed.

Access to all these databases is through the library home pages -via the catalogue, or the alphabetical list on the 'Databases' page.

Christine Maher, Electronic Resources Librarian

Delegation from Vietnam

A group of senior library and administrative staff from Vietnam National University, Ho Chi Minh City, attended an eight-day training program run by La Trobe University Library in November 2003. The University's International Programs Office organised the program and the World Bank supplied the funding.

5 days were spent at the Bundoora and Bendigo campus libraries, and visits were made to the libraries of the Albury-Wodonga campus, Swinburne and RMIT universities, and the State Library of Victoria.

The group took particular interest in the workflow and allocation of staff to specific functions in the library, and the information technology systems employed in delivering information to clients. The visit gave La Trobe University Library staff an interesting perspective on the needs of a developing library and the challenges facing educationalists in Vietnam.



Contributing to the Good Teaching Day

'Effective research skills in the electronic environment' was a major topic of the 2003 Good Teaching Day, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, held in November 2003. Eva Fisch, Subject Librarian at Bundoora campus, was asked to help develop the program and contribute to the day.

She spoke about some of the challenges and opportunities in providing students with a coordinated program to develop research and library skills. She suggested a number of strategies and tips for what works with students and why.

Of great interest to the audience was an interview she conducted with first year student Sara Franzoni, who gave an honest assessment of some of the academic/library issues she faced during her first year of uni:

- Compared to her secondary school library, the Bundoora Campus Library was overwhelming. Students in the first few weeks are too preoccupied with an unfamiliar environment and making adjustments to work, social and changed lifestyles to benefit from the initial library tour.
- She initially liked the reading packs provided by lecturers. These however do not provide an opportunity to learn how to use the library and so are disadvantageous in the long run. By second semester, most lecturers assume, often erroneously, that library skills have been mastered.
- She enrolled in four subjects, each of which uses a different referencing style, and found this very time consuming and confusing.
- Students do not have time to attend library skills classes unless academics promote their value, the skills are directly relevant to the assessed work and they occur in scheduled class time.

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