



Library News

La Trobe University Library

Library skills online

How do we reach as many clients as possible to assist them in locating relevant information?

Extensive training programs are offered at each campus to help meet this challenge, yet many students are unable to attend scheduled sessions or would like the option to work through a tutorial at their own pace.

In a move to improve the information seeking skills of our clients, we have commenced work on a suite of online tutorials to be offered via the library web site in 2004. The library has commissioned WebEzy to produce nine tutorials, each offering a basic introduction to a particular research skill. The tutorials are interactive, with instructions to complete basic exercises and a quiz at the end of each module. Once produced, the entire suite or individual tutorials may be linked to from various areas on the web site.

Tutorials are under development to offer basic instruction in database searching, and the current suite includes:

- Using library skills online
- Understanding your topic
- Acknowledging your sources
- Searching the catalogue
- Keyword searching in the catalogue
- Searching the Internet.

Linda Sheridan
Acting Campus Librarian, Albury-Wodonga

New service for scholars on track

The Australian Academic and Research Library Network (AARLIN) Project has made significant progress during the year and will soon be rolled out progressively to participating institutions as an operational system. It will provide a single entry point to information resources via the web and is tailored to the needs of the research community in Australia. La Trobe University Library will be the "flag ship" and in addition to being the lead institution, will be the first to go live. In preparation for this, the La Trobe implementation team will pilot the AARLIN system with a small group of researchers as the initial step in the roll-out.

The AARLIN Steering Committee, which provides advice to the project team on the development of the project, has endorsed a proposal for a Reference Group of all participating member institutions to meet on 28 November to discuss current implementation plans and future directions. Also invited to attend

will be Affiliate Members, comprising academic libraries which are not participating in the roll-out but wish to be associated with the project in other ways, and Supporting Members that have provided financial and other forms of assistance.

The AARLIN Office is fortunate to have acquired the services and expertise of Geoff Payne, who has served as CEO of CAVAL Limited, a not-for-profit company owned by the nine universities in Victoria, and as General Manager, Information Services, of Vision Australia Foundation. He is also a Director and Principal Consultant with RMG, a library consultant group based in Chicago.

His considerable project management and technical skills will be invaluable to the successful implementation of AARLIN nationally.

Earle Gow
University Librarian





Increased workstations

Electronic resources news

More health sciences journals

The library has recently made significant increases to its holdings of electronic health sciences journals by subscribing to a collection of 50 titles from the publishers Lippincott, Williams and Wilkins with the OVID search interface.

- All the titles are now available to staff and students at all campuses and for off campus authenticated access
- Titles new to La Trobe include: *Clinical Journal of Sport Medicine*, *Critical Care Medicine*, *Current Opinion in Neurology*, *Epidemiology*, *Home Healthcare Nurse*, *International Journal of Pharmaceutical Medicine* and *Journal of Infusion Nursing*
- The collection also provides enhanced electronic access to a number of previously existing subscriptions such as the *Journal of Nursing Administration*, *International Journal of Rehabilitation Research*, *Journal of Medical Microbiology*, *Medicine & Science in Sports and Exercise*, and *Spine*
- For a full list of the titles in this collection contact your Campus Library Serials Desk.

Enhancement to Anthropological Literature

The leading online bibliography in anthropology, *Anthropological Literature*, has been enhanced by the addition of *Anthropological Index* from the Royal Anthropological Institute.

The new combined database is called *Anthropology Plus*, and it continues to be available at all campuses and off campus.

New search interface

Library subscriptions to *Biological Abstracts*, *CINAHL*, *PsycInfo* and *Sport Discus* have all been transferred from the Library's ERL Server to the OVID platform. The content of all four databases remains the same.

Advantages for La Trobe staff and students include:

- The ability to engage in evidence-based medicine search techniques on all 4 databases because of the very robust OVID Server technology
- The ability to cross-search several databases at once, if so desired
- Provision of a search interface from a vendor which specialises in and understands the demands of health sciences research and teaching
- Easy linking to the Library's electronic health sciences journals on OVID
- Helpful search features such as "Saved Searches" and "Search History", OVID Citation Manager and compatibility with bibliographic software such as Endnote.

Christine Maher
Electronic Information Services Librarian

One of the factors most affecting our clients is the adequacy of the number of workstations in the libraries, and this was clearly conveyed to us when we carried out a major survey in 2002. We have responded to this feedback, and can report that the number of workstations available for use by our clients at the three major campus libraries totals 294. Recent additions are as follows:

Albury-Wodonga

There are currently 43 public access terminals in the David Mann Library, an increase of 39 over the past year. 15 of these are in the library's Training Room. The opening of the new library allowed us to add computers, which are all for multi-purpose use, and include a range of commonly used software as well as Internet connections.

Bendigo

Four additional workstations with Internet access and applications software (Microsoft Office), and two workstations with Internet access have been added to the number of public access machines available. This gives a total of 42. A booking system has been introduced to guarantee access to 24 workstations at the time required by the user. A lack of space within the library prevents further expansion.

Bundoora

Since the survey was undertaken, 14 additional public workstations have been added on level 2. The number of workstations on which Microsoft Office can be used has been increased to 40. 20 PCs have been installed on level 3 with a connection to printers on Level 2, and the workstations in the Training Room on level 2 are now available for use when training sessions are not scheduled.

Helen King
Associate Librarian Bendigo

Information skills critical to nursing

Keith O'Brien, coordinator for Information Literacy for Nurses, approached the library in November 2002 and asked the Nursing Subject Librarians to develop and deliver three of the units, with associated tutorials and workshops. It was a subject new to the curriculum, to be taught as a core subject on three campuses and assigned 15 credit points.

A key action for the library in 2003 has been to strengthen the library focus on the teaching of information literacy skills for lifelong learning, and with the cooperation of the subject librarians across the campuses at Albury-Wodonga, Bendigo and Bundoora, this has been a priority for the year.

The subject was designed to develop an understanding of the role of written communications, documentation and information technology in the practice of nursing. The assessment consisted of a 1,500 word report of an online search of a nursing topic, and assigned computer tasks equivalent to a 2,500 word report of a search of electronic databases.

Completion of the subject ensures that students begin their academic life with a basis for lifelong information literacy, and the units were designed to take into account the CAUL Information Literacy Standards.

The students benefited from the increased time committed to developing library information skills and it proved to be an excellent professional development exercise for library staff. The subject demanded a significant amount of staff time and support from colleagues, but once a full evaluation is made, the content is in place and if required can be adapted with minor modifications to incorporate changes as required. While not generic, the structure of the lectures may be adapted to other subjects.

Sue Porter
Subject Librarian, Health Sciences,
Bundoora



Audiovisual Services team leader Maria Ammazalorso trials the scanner

Microform scanner welcomed

The library acquires a range of resources in microform, a format which can be challenging to use. The Bundoora campus library recently purchased a new Canon digital microform scanner which has opened new possibilities for staff and students using resources on microfilm or microfiche.

Dr Peta Tait, senior lecturer in the Theatre and Drama Program, has found it to be a most cost efficient method for doing her own research into nineteenth century newspapers on microfilm. "I was looking for a solution to several problems: the very high cost of printing pages, the lack of long term potential of the printouts, and poor legibility, both on and off screen. These problems were solved with the new equipment, once Jason Schimming, Library Information Systems, assisted with teething problems in finding the best way to download digital files with the volume of material."

The library's resources in microform include not only newspapers, but also journals, books, theses and reports. The Bundoora campus library microform reader/printers are starting to deteriorate, and it has been impossible to buy replacement parts. For this reason, the purchase of a digital microform scanner was given priority.

The digital scanner enhances services to researchers, and offers them choices:

- documents can be saved as digital images
- the quality of the image can be enhanced using the software on the PC
- the digitised images can be emailed to a personal account, or saved on a USB memory stick.

The audiovisual staff have been busy learning to use the equipment and welcome inquiries on 9479 2989.

Jackie Saunders
Resource Delivery Services Librarian, Bundoora

Committed to information literacy

The library has endorsed an Information Literacy Directions Statement, the preface to which states that "La Trobe University Library is committed to promoting and facilitating information literacy to encourage lifelong learners".

The statement is a vehicle for the library to describe its intentions to the University community. The phrase "information literacy" is becoming familiar to university staff and students world-wide and our web page provides an opportunity for us to place this within the La Trobe University context.

There is now a link to the statement from each campus library home page. For Albury-Wodonga, Bendigo and Bundoora, this is via the "Training" link. For Mildura, Mt Buller and Shepparton, this is via the "About the Library" link.

Liz Burke
Reference and Information Services Librarian, Bundoora

Farewelling Bundoora colleagues

At the end of 2003 two senior librarians at Bundoora campus library will be leaving, having made a significant contribution to the library and the quality of its services. We wish to commend them and thank them for their commitment, and wish them well for future ventures.



Helen Hoffmann

Helen joined the Cataloguing Section in 1969, at a time when typed catalogue cards were filed on a daily basis in cabinets which in due course stretched perhaps as far as our current public workstations. Under her direction as Chief Cataloguer from 1977 she contributed to the closure of the card catalogues through the massive conversion to an online bibliographic system. The full implementation of the URICA system was made in 1986, to be followed in 1988 by the

challenge of integrating the Lincoln Institute database with that of La Trobe's. Helen has taken the library through to the systems of today which link the client to a wealth of valued services.

Throughout her career Helen has contributed to the literature of librarianship with numerous conference papers and over 35 published journal articles and reports. She has made major contributions to defining the cataloguing standards we use today, having served on various state and national committees charged with leading in these areas. Of particular note is her continuing membership of the Australian Committee on Cataloguing, on which she first served in 1981. So too is her contribution to the activities of the Australian Library and Information Association, and her editorial role on the professional journal *Cataloguing Australia*.

Helen has played a key role in establishing a quality library service. With her quiet dedication and leadership in achieving the highest standards for recording details of the collections, she has ensured that our clients are well served in finding the information resources they require.



Jackie Saunders

Jackie joined the library as the User Services Librarian in 1991 to lead the large team of loans, reserve and attendant staff, and has been a keen player in a number of initiatives across the campuses.

With the implementation of the new library management system in the mid 1990s, Jackie directed the team which brought the three major libraries onto a single circulation system. She has spearheaded initiatives in service delivery

such as the digitisation of examination papers and journal articles, and the despatch of library notices via email.

Her considerable organisational skills were well demonstrated when she managed the refurbishment of Level 2 at Bundoora in 1999. Jackie's versatility was also evident when she was Acting Reference and Information Services Librarian during 2000/1, followed by an exchange for a year to the University of New Hampshire.

Jackie served for 10 years on the committee managing the CAVAL Reciprocal Borrowing Program, a core service for academic institutions in Victoria, and chaired it for 2 years. Most recently Jackie has been instrumental in the successful establishment of the new Resource Delivery Services section at Bundoora, which brings together the audiovisual, interlending and document delivery, loans, reserve and shelving teams.

As an active and valued member of the senior library staff, Jackie participated in the formulation of library policy and the pursuit of continuous improvement in library services. Her "fair but firm" approach to the needs of clientele in applying the library's borrowing policies, her dynamism and boundless energy have all been hallmarks of her role and contribution in the library.

Jan Maslen, Associate Librarian, Information Resources,
and Barbara Paton, Deputy University Librarian

The David Mann Library has been the centre of attention recently.

The Master Builders' Association of NSW awarded an excellence in construction award to Zauner Construction for its work on the library, in the \$5 million education category.

The State Librarians of Victoria and New South Wales also visited the David Mann Library and acknowledged its value to the wider community. They were attending the opening of the refurbished Public Library, held during the Festival of Learning, an annual event in Wodonga which celebrates and fosters learning opportunities across the region.



Present on the tour were, from left to right, Dagmar Schmidmaier (State Librarian, Library Council of NSW), Penny Vine (Festival Coordinator), Victoria Anderson (State Library NSW), Vic Lowen (TAFE Librarian, David Mann Library), Anne-Marie Schwirtlich (State Librarian, State Library of Victoria), Linda Sheridan (Acting Campus Librarian, David Mann Library) and Lyn Makin (Manager, Upper Murray Regional Library).

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