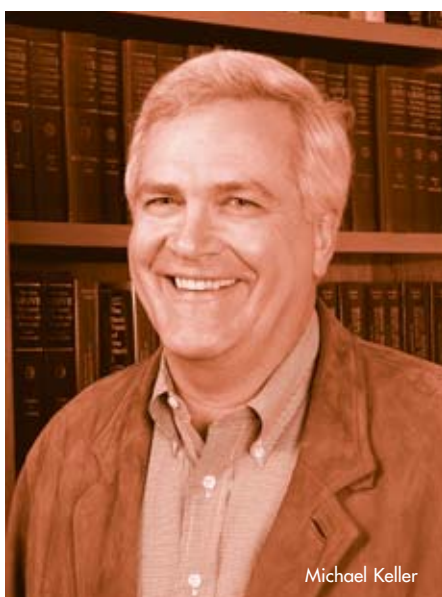




Library News

La Trobe University Library

Michael Keller speaks on emerging technologies



Michael Keller

A distinguished scholar and librarian, Michael Keller gave a public lecture hosted by the library on September 13 on the wealth of possibilities for innovation in the scholarly communication environment.

Basing much of the content on his experience at Stanford University where he is University Librarian, Director of Academic Information Resources and Publisher of the Stanford University Press, he outlined a number of developments. One of these is HighWire Press, a Stanford initiative, which hosts the huge repository of high impact, peer-reviewed journals from over 130 scholarly publishers, making them freely available online. Google is another initiative emanating from Stanford, and by collaborating with the Google Book program, Stanford has large numbers of its books being digitised. This is expanding the digital library and providing better access to resources, indexing options, and a test bed for new research, as well as a preservation program.

Michael covered the technical aspects of web developments in course delivery, academic computing, and the digitisation of information and research resources. Of equal interest was his insight into the human aspects of innovation – creating leaders amongst the staff, promoting individual responsibility rather than group processes, and working with deeply engaged people who believe in their roles. His presentation gave a rich insight into some significant new developments in scholarly communication.

M Recently appointed staff of the Marketing and Promotions Unit at Bundoora were keen to learn how they can benefit from the library's vastly increased collection of electronic resources and keep in touch with new trends in their areas of interest. Nicole Sackers, Law and Management Subject Librarian and Margaret Wanklyn, Manager, Library Publicity and Public Relations, gave them a brief overview of the databases from which to access journal articles, international statistics and marketing literature from their offices, and how to request items not held in La Trobe University collections. The meeting also allowed discussion of the ways in which the two areas can work together in a range of areas. A further session is planned to demonstrate suitable alerting services for staff to receive contents pages of selected journals or the latest articles on their chosen subjects on a regular basis by email or RSS feeds.

CD for international students

As a means of improving communication with offshore students enrolled with La Trobe University, the library has produced a CD-ROM for distribution to students living outside Australia. The CD, developed by a cross-campus working group, provides students with a wide range of relevant information about library services, access details, and links to further information and assistance. It was considered that by placing the information on CD, the students could access the introductory information offline, which may be useful if connection to the Internet is unreliable. The library's suite of training tutorials, Library Skills Online, is also included on the CD to allow students to work through each module at their own pace.

A pilot of the CD was conducted with 80 Education students in Vietnam who were asked to complete a written survey. Copies of the CD were also sent to all offshore program coordinators and feedback was invited. The students who responded were positive about the value

of having relevant information cached in one easily accessible format. They also liked the use of a CD as it was portable, could be accessed at home without connecting to the Internet and could be referred to again when needed. The most requested areas for assistance were help with database searching, selection of suitable resources and obtaining articles from the library. Based on the responses received, it is proposed to make some minor changes to the CD and distribute it to all offshore students commencing in 2008.

If any staff would like to include this CD in mail outs to their offshore students in 2008 or would like to know more about the library's work in this area, please contact Linda Sheridan at l.sheridan@latrobe.edu.au or speak with any member of the working group: Linda Sheridan (Albury-Wodonga), Tracy Robertson (Bendigo), Sharon Karasmanis, Ross Schnioffsky, Sue Porter and Nicole Sackers (Bundoora).



Valerie Forbes

Chancellor's medal for Val Forbes

Valerie Forbes, a subject librarian in the Humanities and Social Sciences Team at Bundoora, was presented with the Chancellor's award in recognition of her exceptional and distinguished service to La Trobe University this year. It is a splendid acknowledgement of the high standard of service she gave to staff and students and gratifying that it should go to one of our librarians.

Val joined La Trobe in 1990 as a member of the reference staff and retired in 2006. Her particular areas of academic liaison were European languages and literature, linguistics, English, cinema and media studies and deaf studies.

She collaborated closely with academics, and was noted for her work with the deaf community. She undertook to attain qualifications in Auslan and developed her communication skills to the point that she taught classes of deaf students to use the library resources without an interpreter. Val made a strong contribution to the consideration of issues concerning the needs of disabled staff and students at all campuses and her services to the deaf community were recognised by an award from the Deafness Foundation during Hearing Awareness Week in 2004 for outstanding service to people with a hearing loss.



Alex Tyrrell and Dr David Dorward

Abolition of the British slave trade

To mark the 200th anniversary of the abolition of the British slave trade, the Bundoora campus library presented a display of books selected from the library's collections and artefacts loaned by Dr David Dorward and Alex Tyrrell. It also hosted three talks which were open to the University and wider community. Dave Dorward gave two of these, one on the slave trade and the development of European capitalism, and the other on indigenous slavery and the impact of the slave trade on Africa. Alex Tyrrell spoke of the British Anti-Slavery Movement and the place of the abolitionists in the UK today. The talks were particularly well received, and the audience warmly acknowledged the two scholars for sharing their wonderful depth of knowledge about this engaging subject.



Plan of "Brookes", a slave trade ship



Image database update

The library image database system provides new tools for using online images in teaching and learning applications. It gives access to online image collections together with a toolset for rearranging, zooming and presenting image sets over the network.

After an extensive trial conducted in 2005, the library is now launching the new database, Insight, to the La Trobe community. The system was used extensively in semester 1 with great success

A regular training programme for teaching staff commenced in July. See details at <http://www.latrobe.edu.au/training/courses/ins001.html>. The system also enables the sharing and using of other institutional collections from over 50 institutions in the U.K. and the U.S. See <http://www.davidrumsey.com/collections/>

For more information on the library's database: <http://www.lib.latrobe.edu.au/insight/>

The key features of the new system are:

- the ability to select and search across many image collections simultaneously
- an extensive toolset to then manipulate the display, zoom in on detail and compare selected images
- the ability to create new sub collections and slideshows and then launch these in other applications, such as WebCT
- the ability to create new La Trobe image collections



Image selected from the "Anatomy: limbs" collection developed by Human Biosciences staff in Health Sciences. The toolbox enables students to zoom in on image details and select to display the anatomical name of the area being viewed.

Electronic books boost nursing collection

As the supply and demand for digital resources grows at a rapid rate, it was considered timely to investigate students' responses to this method of delivery.

Iris Perkins, Campus Librarian at Shepparton, selected the first cohort of nursing students at her campus to find out how first year university students use e-books for their information requirements and how satisfied they are with it as an alternative medium. Core texts had been purchased for the course, but without access to the large range of print books enjoyed by their city counterparts, emphasis was placed on finding electronic resources.

A pre-test revealed that the survey group were receptive to e-books, and by the end of semester, usage by the group was high. All were satisfied with the electronic resources available to them and although only 54% had used e-books in their studies, they were positive about the benefits. Some students commented that they appreciated being able to read on screen, avoiding the need to print, and that this format allowed them to search directly on the terms required.

The study demonstrated the importance of alerting students to the existence of the resources and helping them improve their searching techniques in this medium. Electronic books are a cost effective and innovative way for the library to improve access to relevant scholarly works, particularly students from smaller campuses where the print collections are limited.



Shanghai Jiao Tong University Library under construction

International debate on the development of collections

Helen King, Associate Librarian, attended the Fiesole Annual Retreat this year, for what is described as "An informal meeting of leading library and information industry participants devoted to thinking through and debating the new world order in collection development." The Retreat takes its name from the first meeting held in Fiesole Italy in 1999 and it has since been held in other countries, most recently at the University of Hong Kong in 2007. Contributors include publishers, vendors, librarians and even users, each bringing their own perspectives.

Helen reports that some key points which emerged from discussion during the two-day meeting included:

- the imperative for libraries to build services around user workflows rather than assume users will continue to seek out the library either as a physical place or on the web
- it takes less effort to find useful information via Google than to search out information from our costly library collections. We must solve this
- English will remain the dominant language for international scholarly publishing, particularly for scientific, technical and medical publications
- Asia is currently a net consumer of information, but China is on a huge growth trajectory and will have more scholars, more research funding and ultimately more research publications than any other nation in the not too distant future.

Helen took the opportunity to visit some Hong Kong and mainland China academic libraries. She noted that the new campus of the prestigious Shanghai Jiao Tong University is of interest. Part of this major development includes the construction of a huge new library building to provide 50,000 sq metres of space.



Helen Hoffmann

Library staff were saddened by the death of Helen Hoffmann in October this year. She is remembered for her warm personality and gentleness, and was much admired for her skills and dedication to her profession. Helen was the Chief Cataloguer at La Trobe University Library from 1977 until her retirement in 2003. She joined the library at Bundoora in 1969 during the early stage of the development of collections after holding cataloguing positions at the National Library of Australia and the University of Melbourne. She gained the respect of colleagues around Australia and internationally for her contribution to the development of international standards in the description of information resources. During her career Helen contributed to the literature of librarianship through numerous conference papers, journal articles and professional reports. She had oversight of the massive conversion from a card to a computer-based catalogue and the amalgamation of catalogue records resulting from the integration of former colleges of advanced education into the University in the late 1980s and early 1990s. The quality of the catalogue and the reputation of the library owe much to Helen's leadership and professionalism.



Barbara Paton, Jette Guldborg Petersen, Lotta Wogensen, and Earle Gow

Visitors from Sweden

Jette Guldborg Petersen, Library Director, Academic Services, and Lotta Wogensen, Head of Customer Services and Teaching at Malmö University Library visited the library in April this year. They met with library staff to share their knowledge and experience related to teaching and customer services and leadership and management of a university library.

Preparing for the Research Quality Framework

To assist academic staff prepare evidence of the quality and impact of their publications for the University's RQF exercise, reference librarians have prepared a "How to" manual for gathering citation counts for research publications. In addition to outlining different criteria that can be used to justify best publications the library's RQF page also includes links to citation sources, including Thomson ISI Web of Knowledge and Journal Citation Reports, Scopus and Google Scholar, and tips for using these sources. The guide is available at <http://www.lib.latrobe.edu.au/rqf/>



Rosemary Cotter

Senior staff: Rosemary Cotter

retired in June 2007 following 8 years in the pivotal role of Administration Librarian based at the Bundoora campus library. From a background in research in agricultural science in the United Kingdom followed by positions as a science reference librarian and the manager of reference at RMIT University Library, Rosemary coordinated a variety of projects at La Trobe. These ranged from development of the library staff web site, refurbishment exercises and management of the building, to secretary of various senior library committees. Her professionalism and systematic approach to any assignment made her a valued member of staff, and her wide-ranging interests and concern for others won her many friends.

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<http://www.lib.latrobe.edu.au/about/publications.php>

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Linking to library resources from

Google Scholar

To increase access points to journals to which the library subscribes, the library released its holdings to Google Scholar. A link now appears in Google Scholar search results to indicate whether the library holds particular journals and articles. Library holdings can be electronic or print and different links are used to distinguish between the two.

The links will appear in Google Scholar as:

"Full text @ La Trobe" for electronic journal articles and
"Find it @ La Trobe" for print journals

Further details can be found at:
<http://www.lib.latrobe.edu.au/help/google-scholar.php>

