Well it’s been another busy first half to the year. We managed to reach June with all positions on our establishment occupied. Some temporary changes in the University’s Executive Management group have seen Ruth taking on the role of Director Student Services for 10 weeks and Anne Wilson filling the role of Director LIA. These arrangements have had further benefits for the Library with our Campus Librarian from Alice Springs able to spend 5 weeks at Casuarina in the role of Associate Director Client Services.

During May we conducted our biennial Library Client Survey and have been delighted with the results which show a further 2% improvement in overall performance (see p.3 for more details). Our Learning Precinct at Casuarina campus has been at almost full occupancy on most days and it’s been wonderful to see an increase in the number of younger students using our facilities on a daily basis. An informal learning space has also been created at our Alice Springs campus Library and is proving to be extremely popular with our senior secondary students. Distance Library Services has been kept fully occupied providing resources and support to our increasing cohort of students from around the country.

The remainder of 2010 will see us gearing up for a number of major IT related projects including the upgrade of our Library Management System; implementation of a Discovery Layer to enhance access to all our resources; and the implementation of recommendations from our eBook Working Group, a successful budget bid in late 2009 having provided us with $50,000 for the purchase of eBooks in 2010.
Special Collections Photograph project

Photographs stored in the Special Collection are currently under-utilised due to the fact that they are not indexed in any way or available electronically.

The SC photograph project aims to make these photographs more accessible by sorting, weeding and digitising the current collection which is estimated to be around 7000. The project comprises the following activities:

- Sorting through the collection; check copyright and permissions; prioritise items for digitisation.
- Searching Picture Australia to see whether images are available online.
- Purchasing materials for the proper preservation and archiving of photographs and re-housing photos in appropriate storage.
- Investigating costs to create an appropriately controlled storage space to house the physical photograph collection in archival conditions.
- Indexing photographs ie applying metadata according to National Library of Australia standards.
- Scanning images for storage in Charles Darwin University eSpace.
- Allowing the National Library to harvest images from eSpace for inclusion in Picture Australia: http://www.pictureaustralia.org/contribute/organisation.html.

This project will benefit CDU students and staff in a number of disciplines. Whilst history is the obvious area, it could also be used by other students, for example, architecture students doing historical projects. It would also be an asset to Indigenous Studies by making available historical Northern Territory images of Aboriginal culture, people and places.

The project would also be of benefit to all Australians interested in history and historical images covering an extensive period in the Northern Territory’s history.

The project can now be funded by the kind legacy of the Estate of Charles McKay.

Research Activities

The Library continues to improve the number of resources available to the growing research community at CDU. Recently a number of new resources have been developed:

- Online Workshops

With external research students primarily in mind, a number of online workshops have been developed and are accessible from the Services for Researchers web page:

- Setting up Alerts 1: Ebscohost databases 8min 1.39kb
- Setting up Alerts 2: ScienceDirect 9min 1.40kb
- Finding Theses 10min 1.37kb

The workshops will be useful for those who are not able to make it to the face-to-face workshops held at CDU Casuarina Campus. More online workshops are planned – suggestions for topics are welcome.
**Library Client Survey**

Between 10 – 31 May, CDU Library conducted its biennial library client survey. This time round we opted for the comprehensive service from Insync which included hosting the survey, inclusion of two information seeking variables ‘I am frustrated by’ and “I want to learn more about”, and the provision of a detailed data report in addition to the survey report itself. The detailed analysis has provided extremely useful breakdowns by various demographic groupings eg type of client, mode of study, age and area of study. Once again library staff is our top performer filling the top 4 spots on the performance rankings list. It is interesting but not surprising to note that we are back to 2004 ratings (pre Learning Precinct implementation) on the availability of computers – the group which this impacts upon the most are the 18-24 year olds who use the library daily and consider it to be a good place to study. Overall adequacy of information resources is once again of significant concern to almost all client groups. Whilst online resources are also an issue, this appears to be linked to some extent to lack of fulltext availability of journal articles and difficulties associated with knowing which database to use. The free form comments are also providing us with some excellent insights into what our clients think we do well and what we will look at when determining priorities for action over the coming months. Thank you to everyone who completed the survey.

Congratulations go to Meaghan Archer a distance student from Victoria who is the lucky winner of the Flip Mino Camcorder.

**Reference and Information Services (RIS) Team Cycle 2010**

The RIS team work on the Service desk at Casuarina and Palmerston Campuses and for the past four years have held a team building exercise cycling somewhere to have breakfast together.

It all started in 2007 when Palmerston and Casuarina teams merged and the idea developed to cycle from one campus to the other and have breakfast at a cafe close to Palmerston campus library. 22km was quite a challenge for some members of the team, but everybody was very enthusiastic and managed well.

The following year RIS cycled to East Point and the third cycle was an off road event which took the team along the beautiful forested path to Lee Point where a barbecue was held.

This year we cycled to the café at the Museum - definitely the most relaxing ride.

The cycles give the team a refreshing morning away from the service desk and it really works as a team building exercise because people have to plan, organise and help each other, but mostly it’s good fun!
Nathan Gibson
Library Technology Support Officer

Nathan Gibson recently joined the CDU Library Technology team. He has a background in large web based system administration support and development.

In his current role he supports the University's eSpace digital repository. Prior to his current position he was an eLearning support officer at CDU and primarily supported teaching staff in the use of the Wimba Collaboration online learning tools. This also included application administration and training. Other previous roles include database administration and Blackboard Learning System LMS administration. Nathan is a long term resident of Darwin, and has also worked in Sydney for a few years. Nathan's hobbies include online computer games, chess, and retro computers, as well as all things techie. He also enjoys breeding tropical aquarium fish.

CDU Alice Springs Campus Library - Delivering diversity in the Desert!

Alice Springs Campus Library caters to a diverse and exciting client group. As well as catering for the needs of CDU VET, Higher Education and Post Graduate lecturers and students, the Library is a joint use facility supporting teaching and learning at Centralian Senior College. All NT registered teachers working in Central Australia are also eligible for Library membership, and many of those who use the Library’s collections work in remote community schools such as Alcoota and Alekerenge. The Library staff and collection therefore support the information needs of Central Australian students, teachers and academic staff from Kindergarten to Post Graduate!

Alice Springs Campus Library offers a range of services and we are here to help all our clients achieve their best!

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Editors
Gillian Terry, Acting Associate Director Client Services
Jessica Denton, Admin Officer

Long service awards

The contribution of thirteen members of the library staff was celebrated recently at a special ceremony at Casuarina campus.

CDU Vice-Chancellor, Professor Barney Glover presenting Della Harris with her certificate to mark 10 years of service to CDU.