Director’s Desk

Welcome to the last issue of SynapsE for 2011. Good luck to all those students doing final assessments for the year…………………..and also good luck to the academics marking them!! It’s a busy time for everyone, including the Library as you will see from the content of this newsletter: new selection services, planning days, workshops, open days, and a communications strategy. There are a few things coming up as well: Open Access Day on the 27th October and the start of the Library Refurbishment at Casuarina.

We have received approval to go ahead with the refurbishment of the Balcony on Level 2 of the Library at Casuarina. The aim is to have the balcony accessible to clients by beginning of Semester 1 2012, however works will not commence until after the exam period in November, and then we may be at the mercy of the wonderful Top End weather. We will have fingers firmly crossed over the next couple of months!!

Part of the refurbishment also includes the removal of print items from our collection to make room for a variety of student learning spaces. This is being made possible by discarding items that are now available online and then removing other still required, but little used, items to a Library Compactus that has been made available in Red 6. These items will still be listed on our catalogue and available for retrieval on a daily basis.

Finally, allow me to note a local library event that recently took place here in Darwin. The Top End Branch of the Australian Library and Information Association held their 7th Symposium on Casuarina Campus on the 7-8th October. The theme was about CoNnecTing and involved some interstate presenters and a number of CDU library staff both in the presentation of papers and in the organisation of the Symposium itself. It was especially pleasing to see a CDU Library staff member, Sally Cummings, be given the award for the Best Presentation – congratulations Sally!

Till next time – Cheers
Ruth
LIBRARY PLANNING

In June all library staff came together for 2 half day planning workshops. This has been the first time we have extended invitations to staff other than the Library Planning team. Presentations were delivered by Anthony Smith, Director of Marketing and Communications who talked about CDU’s marketing and brand strategy, Assoc Prof Martin Carroll, PVC Learning, Teaching and Community Engagement who delivered a presentation on fleximode – ‘students may engage with their programs using the combination of methods that is most suitable for their needs, rather than being constrained by imposed study mode parameters,’ and Anne Wilson Associate Director Client Services who delivered an interactive session on the results and action plan for library client survey. There was plenty of opportunity for staff to work together on various activities and feedback was overwhelmingly positive with staff appreciating the opportunity to be involved and to hear more about what’s happening elsewhere in CDU and how it impacts on the library services.

COMMUNICATION STRATEGY

In late July, JoAnne Witt our former Liaison and Information Literacy Coordinator was successful in winning a scholarship to attend the Aurora Institute for Emerging Leaders. All attendees were required to identify a strategic project which had the support of library management. JoAnne chose to develop a Client Communication Strategy for the Library which focuses on delivery of services to academic staff. A draft Strategy is currently being considered by the Library Services Executive. Some of the actions proposed in the Strategy are already being implemented – specifically the involvement of the Liaison Librarians in the University’s orientation program for new academics. Other actions included embedding Liaison Librarians in the Learnline, the Learning Management System, use of shared calendars and access for the LL team to Callista – all of which are aimed at improving communication channels between the Library and the academic community.

Above & Right: Library staff participating in Planning Session activities
ALICE SPRINGS CAMPUS LIBRARY SPACE REDESIGN

Recently in the Alice Springs campus library we have had a change of “space”. The Reference and Information Librarians, Jessie Mahjouri and Melissa Raymond, have moved into the main part of the Library where they are more accessible in the new “information hub”.

The two Client Service Officers, Leonie and Anu have moved into the workroom behind the front desk, is proving to be excellent for communication and housing all the cataloguing materials.

The Short Term Loan has also been weeded extensively and is now located near the front desk. The Periodicals are now housed near the “information hub” and the Reference materials are located at the back of the Library near the computer lab (ELC).

Reactions to the move from students have been extremely positive.

From 10 – 14 October, Sally Cummings our Health Sciences Liaison Librarian will be in Alice Springs to assist with the delivery of the last library session for the Nursing Competency Based Training blocks which have been running each week since July. Sally will also be reviewing the health sciences collection and establishing contact with lecturers.

CDU OPEN DAY

On August 28th the Library found itself right at the heart of Open Day. It’s the first time in over 8 years that the University has held an Open Day - we held one earlier in the year at our Alice Springs campus. The number of visitors was estimated to be over 3,000. The Library extended its opening hours and ran a slightly refocused version of our student orientation treasure hunt using QR codes. The Library foyer was also utilised by Law School staff to illustrate the use of Elluminate for delivery to and from ‘remote’ settings.

Professor David Price watching a Mock Trial ‘live’ from the Moot Court.

Jebediah raps up the day
STREAMLINING OUR ORDERING PROCESS

Visit by Ruza Obradovic
International Sales Manager YBP Library Services

Ruza spent two extremely productive days at our Alice Springs and Casuarina Campus libraries. YBP provides books, collection management and technical services to academic, research and special libraries worldwide. GOBI3, YBP’s complete online interface for searching, selecting, ordering, and reporting, is an indispensable information source and bibliographic database for research libraries providing access to over 4 million print and electronic titles.

In addition to YBP’s Integrated Demand Driven Acquisition (DDA) service with EBL and ebrary (electronic book platforms), YBP now offers libraries the flexibility to choose their own titles for DDA through GOBI. The new service allows library staff to hand select titles from ebrary or EBL for DDA.

GOBI eliminates the need to complete purchase request forms for individual titles and enables us to set up profiles by topic which can be delivered to individual academics via email. Academics can recommend titles for purchase and add comments eg ‘2 copies please’, ‘additional copy for ASP’ on the record if required. Recommendations for purchase are routed via the relevant Liaison Librarian for checking then sent on to the Resources team for purchasing. Turnaround time is particularly quick for eBooks – as little as 48 hours from request to availability. New titles received can be emailed to academics if requested.

This new system streamlines the Library’s acquisitions process through the elimination of a number of manual steps. And more importantly means academics will no longer need to submit the cumbersome online purchase requests forms.

We are currently establishing profiles and testing notifications and hope to have the new system in place in time for Semester 1 2012.

MOBILE COFFEE CART

After much lobbying we have finally been successful in persuading the university to invest in a coffee cart. With the cafe and coffee shop closing at 4pm there has been nowhere for students to buy a coffee or a snack on campus after hours. The mobile coffee cart has been operational for four weeks and is located outside the Library from 6.00 pm – 9.00 pm on Monday - Thursday. If demand warrants it, the hours will be extended to later in the evening and weekends. As the weather becomes more humid, expect to find the coffee cart located in the library foyer.

OPENING HOURS

The Library will be on extended opening hours from Monday 10 October until Thursday 6 November. The coffee cart will continue to operate in the evenings until the end of semester.

http://www.cdu.edu.au/library/about/hours.html
OPEN ACCESS WEEK

Open Access Week will be celebrated worldwide from 24 to 30 October. CDU Library is marking Open Access Week by hosting a seminar of speakers on 27 October, 2pm. The program is in the process of being finalised but will include:

- Professor Stephen Garnett, Research Institute of Environment and Livelihoods
- Bernard Shutz of Max Plank Institute (videorecording)
- Professor Ray Frost of QUT (videorecording).

The CDU Library eSpace Award will also be presented for the first time at the Seminar.

What is open access?

“Open access is, simply, the idea that research articles should be freely, immediately and permanently available online to anyone, rather than locked away in subscription journals as many currently are.”

Zoe Corbyn, THES, 12 November 2009.

What are the Main Benefits of Open Access?

- OA removes ‘price barriers’ to access. This serves the interests of many groups which would otherwise not have access including, practitioners, school students, industry and the general public.
- OA can increase ‘impact’. There is evidence that, for articles of citable quality, reaching more readers will result in more citations (Gargouri et.al., 2010). For journals, OA makes the journal more visible and any increase in citations will translate into a higher impact factor (making the journal more attractive to readers and authors).
- OA accelerates the pace of discovery and the translation of research into benefits for the public by sharing results with other researchers in a timely manner who can build on it and practitioners who can apply the new knowledge (Suber, 2008).
- OA scales with the expansion of the literature – library budgets do not. Even if all journal prices were reasonable, the rapid rise in the number of journals in recent years means that no library can offer comprehensive access to all the relevant literature.
- OA provides research institutions with a means to showcase their research outputs.

From: http://www.caul.edu.au/caul-programs/open-scholarship/open-scholarship-resources/open-access-faq
RESOURCES & TECHNOLOGY BRANCH TEAM BUILDING DAY

Orienteering at the Botanical Gardens 2 Sept. 2011

A beautiful Darwin morning greeted us as we all met at the Botanical Gardens and split into 5 teams. At the start, everyone was provided with orienteering maps and instructed on how to read them to get around. These are very complex maps (even more comprehensive than ordinary topographical maps) as they show details such as man-made objects, fence lines, vegetation, water courses, tracks, open land and even soil types. The first course was the “easy” one and all teams completed this more or less together. However, the next two maps were much more difficult and were mixed up amongst teams (so we would not be inclined to cheat and follow a team that was on a roll.) Every team was provided with a control card which had to be needle punched at each station to show that we had completed the course.

This was a great outdoor exercise and some interesting traits were revealed during the course of the morning. One characteristic to emerge was the extreme competitiveness of some of the team members, resulting at one point, with one of the control point needle punches being hidden under some mulch. Also, as the morning got warmer the courses got harder and it was pleasant for some of the less aggressive teams to relax between courses with some bottled water and fresh fruit before moving on to the next event. All in all, a great time was had by everyone who attended this 2011 Team Building Day and at the end of it we were all relieved to get into the airconditioned comfort at the Casino for a buffet lunch.

If anyone is interested in pursuing more about orienteering, the Top End Orienteers run events most Sundays during the Dry Season (even a bike event at Howard Springs) and can be found on the Web at: http://www.topend.nt.orienteering.asn.au

Carolyn Towner, Senior Information Resources Officer
STAFF PROFILE

Farewell to JoAnne Witt
Liaison Librarian Coordinator

JoAnne Witt team leader Liaison and Information Literacy team said farewell to CDU and Darwin recently. JoAnne leaves us to return to Sydney, initially as a Liaison Librarian with the University of Western Sydney’s Penrith Campus. JoAnne was instrumental in the redesign of the library website, the implementation of Summon our new discovery layer and the use of QR codes in our 2011 orientation program. Her interest in and enthusiasm for new technologies, specifically in supporting undergraduate learning, will be sorely missed. The position has been filled with the new incumbent commencing in the New Year.

Neil Godfrey
Digital Collections Coordinator

Neil began this phase of his career while at USQ when he joined a national project as a metadata specialist to assist regional universities build institutional repositories to showcase their intellectual outputs.

Since then he has been responsible for exposing digital collections for research and cultural resources open access in Australian universities in WA and Victoria and the Singapore National Library, and has served on national advisory boards for metadata. Neil started with CDU in June 2011. His role includes responsibility for marketing, development, and effective operation of eSpace, the University’s institutional repository, and its interface to the University’s research management. When he’s not at work he loves bushwalking, camping and music festivals and blogging on controversial issues on Vridar. His professional blog is Metalogger. He loves Darwin and looks forward to assisting with making CDU’s intellectual and cultural output more openly accessible internationally.

CREATING SUCCESSFUL TEAMS

In July we contracted Jan Murray from Murray Consultancy & Training to run a one day workshop on building successful teams. We were fortunate in being able to customise this to meet our own needs with Jan being prepared to be extremely flexible. 13 staff participated in a balanced program of information sharing and practical activities. Comments from staff were extremely positive:

“The feature I found most useful was working in groups. Hearing about one another’s ideas acted as a spark to ignite even more new ideas.”

“The program was well planned and relevant. It covered good topics, some of which I had done before but it is nice to be reminded of how to work in a team, especially the communication within a team. I thought the interactive sessions were great and it’s always enjoyable to work with others outside of your own team as you get a different perspective.”

“Everybody got an opportunity to express and make a presentation. In other words, all the participants contributed to the theme or different aspects of the workshop.”

A particular focus of the workshop was the formulation of a staff code of conduct. We were very keen to have a ‘grass roots’ approach and were successful in having 4 staff from 3 library teams volunteer to put the first draft together for comment.