Welcome to the third issue of SynapsE for 2011. It’s September/October and to everyone’s surprise it’s the build-up already in the Top End and things are warming up in the Centre! The weather is not the only thing “building up”: Students and staff are building up to final assessments for the year and the library staff are building up to changing library management systems at the end of the year in time for 1st semester 2011 – see more inside this newsletter! To assist students in preparing for final assessments the Library at Casuarina will be extending opening hours in the lead up to the HE examination period to an 11pm close during the week commencing 11th October. For more information see our webpage: http://www.cdu.edu.au/library/about/hours.html, and the best of luck to everyone preparing and marking final assessments.

I recently returned to the Library after a secondment to Student Services for 10 weeks. It was a good experience to get to know another area of the University but as a Librarian it was also nice to come back to my “comfort zone”, just in time to attend a meeting of the Council of Australia University Librarians in Brisbane last week. CAUL meets twice a year to discuss common areas of interest and new developments in academic libraries. Support for research services, institutional repositories, and how libraries contribute to the student outcomes were common themes of this meeting, and interestingly also of this newsletter which shows we’re keeping up with current developments.

I hope you enjoy this issue – as much as I’m enjoying the early rain! 😊
Resources & Technology Team Building
This year, the R &T Branch had their annual team building excursion on a beautiful dry season day in August. The activity was oriented around a trip to two of the local plant nurseries where participants were given a tour with information provided on plants and planting in the NT.

The trip included lunch and games designed to enable staff to get to know each other better. The team found out many fascinating facts about one another proving that sometimes truth can be stranger than the fiction! Lunch was followed by another activity designed by one of the team members to test just how closely the team had been paying attention during the nursery tours.

Carolyn Towner Senior Information Resources Officer

UN International Day of Peace 21 September
Charles Darwin University has received books on the topic of peace as part of United Nations International Day of Peace celebrations. This is the fifth year the donations have been made to the CDU Library by the NT Branch of the Australian Federation of University Women (AFUW-NT). AFUW-NT Peace Officer Carol Conway said the AFUW had donated the books “to foster an interest in studying peace and conflict resolution.” Associate Director Client Services Anne Wilson received the donation, saying “The books were selected based on relevance to the programs offered at CDU and linkage to regional issues throughout the NT and Southeast Asia. These books all relate to the theme of peace keeping and conflict resolution within our neighbouring regions of East Timor and Indonesia and cover political and cultural aspects. We thank the AFUW for their significant donation of nearly 20 books over the past five years.”

News from the Liaison Librarians’ Team
The Liaison Librarians welcomed all new and returning students to Second Semester with coffee and cake on a beautiful, if slightly breezy, Dry day. This is the second time we have run this event, and I think its future is assured. It is a good opportunity for students to meet the helpful and friendly librarians before the stress of impending deadlines strikes. Plus there is chocolate cake!

In first semester the replacement of the subject guides with Libguides got off to a slightly clunky start. Some clients were surprised by the unexpected change and let us know it. We were quickly able to reassure them the content was even better than what we had been able to provide with the old guides. Our usage stats show they are very well used. Our referencing guide is very popular; it has been accessed over 15,000 times this year. Pharmacy is our most visited discipline guide, but Law is catching up. The guides can be accessed via the Library website or via the Library tab in Learnline. A complete list of the guides is available at http://libguides.cdu.edu.au/index.php. If you think a guide to database and top sources would be useful for your topic area, please contact your Liaison Librarian.

Well done Julie Cartwright. Julie, with the assistance of Law academics and TLQG, designed and developed Law Online. Law Online is the second of the Library’s discipline based information skills tutorials. Not all students can attend a class or come to campus for assistance from a librarian on how to search databases. These tutorials are designed to give students hands on experience searching online discipline specific sources, such as how to find case law using Firstpoint. Law Online has strong endorsement from academic staff. “This is a powerful resource that students will use time and time again through their studies. Law Online will be integrated into the teaching of LWZ100A Introduction to Legal Studies from Semester 2 2010, but I strongly recommend that all students familiarise themselves with it. We have inserted navigation buttons in all Learnline subject sites providing access to Law Online.” (Ken Parish, Law Lecturer). Try Law Online yourself at http://www.cdu.edu.au/library/how/online.html

Mobile technologies, online books, informal learning spaces. Where is it all heading and what will it mean for Librarians working in higher education? The Liaison Librarians used the decidedly low tech approach of scissors, colourful magazines and post it notes, at their recent planning day to examine what skills we will require to provide the services you will want in the near future.

JoAnne Witt Team Leader
Providing Research Support to Centralian Australian Research Group

Since the establishment of CARG, the Centralian Australian Research Group, in 2008, the Library has been pleased to consolidate its links with CDU researchers based in and around the Alice Springs region. In association with Professor Rolf Gerritsen, Research Leader, Central Australia, Library staff have recently been able to increase the level of support being provided to CARG researchers.

In the last 3 years, three Advanced Information Skills workshops have been held for this group at the CDU Alice Springs Campus, and a number of one-on-one research consultations have also been provided. In October 2010, Jayshree Mamtora, Research Services Coordinator, will travel down to Alice Springs from Darwin, and with Campus Library staff, will run a number of specialised workshops for the research cohort. One-on-one support will also be available by appointment. The workshops being offered will include Using EndNote, Tracking Research and Finding Journals as well as the Advanced Information Skills Workshop. Two of these workshops will count towards the five generic skills workshops that all research students at CDU are required to complete during the period of their candidature.

Thanks to Professor Gerritsen and the Northern Institute for providing the funding to make the visit a reality.

Open Access Week

A scholarly revolution is underway. Sharing your research enables you to acquire a greater return from your research. Open Access Week (18 – 24 October) highlights this revolution of Greater Reach for research. Charles Darwin University’s open access repository of publications and research CDU eSpace allows researchers and students the opportunity to learn, share and advance. To celebrate Open Access Week the Library will present a lunchtime seminar comprising a presentation on the benefits of Open Access, and a demonstration of CDU eSpace. The Official Launch of CDU eSpace and announcement of an award will follow.

Open Access Week Lunchtime Seminar and CDU eSpace Launch
When: Thursday 21 October
Time: 12noon-1pm
Where: Training Room, Level 2, Library

Open Access Week will be advertised around campus throughout October. Please contact Lyndall Carey, Library Digital Collections Coordinator for further information lyndall.carey@cdu.edu.au.

Endnote

What version of EndNote do you have installed on your computer? The new managed operating system (MOE) will only have the latest version which is currently EndNote X3. Please contact Bernadette Royal if you are using an earlier version.
Technology News

Expect some exciting changes to our library systems ready for a fresh start in Semester 1 2011.

We are replacing CrossSearcher with a new discovery service called Summon that will offer instant access to a wider range of results and an easier user interface. CrossSearcher will cease as a service on 26th November. The new Summon discovery service will be launched in January 2011. From the 8th November 2010 we will start changing the way you navigate to full text in ejournals, databases and Google Scholar.

We are also replacing the library catalogue with a new system that will allow us more flexibility and better integration with other CDU systems. We will be launching a new library catalogue in January 2011 timed to commence with the new discovery service. In preparation for this we are closing purchasing of resources. Requests can still be submitted via our form and these will be ordered in January when the new system is launched. Placement of requests for prescribed and recommended texts should proceed as normal via the CDU Bookshop.

These changes will mean some disruption to services. There could be small disruptions to access from time to time. Please contact us if you have questions or are affected in any way. All other library systems should be unaffected by the changes. Please email library-technology@cdu.edu.au if you are interested in helping us test the new discovery and catalogue interfaces prior to launch. We’d love to have your input!