University Library
2010 Snapshot

www.library.unimelb.edu.au
Considerable change has occurred in the world, and the higher education sector, since the University adopted its Scholarly Information Future strategy. Since the University adopted its Scholarly Information Future strategy, considerable change has occurred in the world, and the higher education sector, since the University adopted its Scholarly Information Future strategy.

In 2010, more than A$10 million was invested in off-site storage at Brunswick and Bundoora for library and archival collections. In-frequently-used items will be moved off-campus, freeing much-needed space for high use collections and collaborative and independent study by researchers and students. Innovative redevelopments of learning spaces within libraries and adjacent precincts set new benchmarks in the sector. The precinct approach, so successful in the east of the Parkville campus, has been adapted in the Brownless Biomedical Library where the faculty Student Centre and Medical History Museum are co-located with the Library.

Melbourne has been distinguished by its wealth of collections. 2010 saw an overdue increase in our materials vote of A$3 million, enhancing our ability to grow our resources to support scholarship and learning. Our strength in rare and special collections was added to through the generosity of our donors. We celebrated the opening of world class facilities for the redeveloped Granger Museum.

The University Library continues to develop its ability to support e-research, data management and presentation of evidence for the Excellence in Research Australia (ERA) audits. Innovation in support for research was demonstrated in 2010 by our award-winning research service based in the Law Library.

Depth of support for specific academic disciplines is increasing through concerted efforts to recruit staff with subject-specific qualifications and experience – the ‘scholar-librarian’. The Library Cadetship recruitment program has been a notable success. Improved scores in the sector-wide client satisfaction survey confirmed improvements in our services to the University.

2010 was another extremely busy and eventful year for the University Library. I wish to thank our dedicated library staff, the University leadership and generous benefactors for their contributions and support throughout the year.

Philip G. Kent, University Librarian

A PhD student, I use the Library’s resources and services almost daily — books, journals, online databases and interlibrary loans. I’ve yet to come across an item I haven’t been able to find in the Library or get brought in for me. I can’t imagine doing a PhD without it.

The Library is my lifeline, for research and teaching. While the shelves are rich in essential resources for my work, the staff solve my insoluble research problems, finding and obtaining obscure texts and articles on interlibrary loan, and equipping me with the skills I need to navigate resources on the web.

Dr Felicity Harley-McGowan
Gerry Higgins Lecturer in Medieval Art History
School of Culture and Communication

message from the university librarian

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Gerry Higgins Lecturer in Medieval Art History
School of Culture and Communication

The first espresso book machine in the southern hemisphere, able to print professional-quality paperback books on demand in under ten minutes, was launched at the Custom Book Centre in collaboration with the University bookshop.

The University Digitisation Service, opened by the Provost in mid-2010, brings sophisticated new infrastructure to enable digitisation of rare and specialist collections for research and teaching purposes.

The Brownless Biomedical Library was redeveloped and opened for extended hours providing modern and inviting learning spaces for library users for early birds and night owls.

We received A$1.7M funding from the Australian National Data Service (ANDS) for research data management projects.

To meet the increasing demand for ‘real time’ information a mobile-friendly website was developed to provide information on computer availability in library spaces – http://m.studentit.unimelb.edu.au/

Eleven diverse projects funded by the Library were celebrated at a showcase event in November. Each project explored how to create, find, share, store, publish and exchange our scholarly information in new and innovative ways.

We celebrated the 50th anniversary of the University of Melbourne Archives (UMA), an archival collection that extends over 18 kilometres in length.

Three Griffith University Library staff and three University of Melbourne Library staff participated in a valuable and exciting exchange to facilitate knowledge sharing especially related to business processes and systems.

Following a seven-year closure and a $2.7 million redevelopment, the University Library reopened its Grainger Museum in October. The museum holds a compelling collection that documents the life and times of the remarkable Australian composer and performer, Percy Grainger. We were joined by many distinguished guests who braved the heavy downpour to mark the significant occasion.

The ABC’s 7.30 Report captured the historic milestone with a report on the museum’s key features and history. ABC Classic FM conducted a live broadcast from the museum a few weeks later. Renewed interest was ignited in Grainger and we held a public symposium entitled ‘Let us sit in wait no longer. New directions in Percy Grainger scholarship, performance and interpretation’.

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Information Futures Forums

Established in 2005 to stimulate a broad-ranging conversation about our scholarly information environment across the University, 2010 Information Futures forums included an engaging mix of speakers.

12 February: Marshall Breeding, the Director for Innovative Technologies and Research, Vanderbilt University Libraries, USA, was guest speaker on the topic of ‘Is there a future for an Integrated Library Management System?’

10 March: Guest speaker Paul Walk, the Deputy Director of UKOLN, a UK research organisation that aims to inform practice and influence policy in the areas of digital libraries, information systems, bibliographic management and web technologies, spoke about recent developments at UKOLN and a vision for the future. The forum was co-hosted by the Victorian eResearch Strategic Initiative (VeRSI).

29 March: Hester Mountfield, Associate University Librarian, University of Auckland, presented on ‘Faculty and Learning Services at Auckland: Seven years after the Information Commons’.

1 September: This forum, titled ‘Creative Disruption: ebooks and scholarship’, featured a keynote address by Dr Ziggy Switkowski, Chair of the Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation and Chair of Opera Australia, followed by a panel discussion and audience Q & A chaired by Professor John Dewar, Provost. The expert panel members were Professor Pip Pattison, Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Learning and Teaching), Graeme Connelly, Director University Booksop and Philip Kent, University Librarian.

15 November: Ian Dolphin, Executive Director of the Sakai Foundation, in his talk ‘Future directions for Virtual Research Environments (VREs)’, explored the relatively short history of e-research and virtual research environments and offered a vision for the future development of VREs. It was chaired by Professor Richard Sinnott, Director eResearch at the University of Melbourne.

6 December: Dr Bethany Nowviskie, Director of Digital Research and Scholarship at the University of Virginia Library spoke at the final Information Futures Forum on ‘Monopolies of Invention: Collaboration across class lines in the digital humanities’. Bethany discussed models and policies that evolved at the University of Virginia over 20 years. The forum was in association with the Faculty of Arts eResearch Forum and sponsored by the VeRSI.

Exhibitions

The Library continued its very successful exhibitions program in 2010, drawing from the University’s prized cultural collections.

17 March 2010: The exhibition Wilson Hall: Centre and Symbol of the University of Melbourne Archives was officially launched. Featuring Philip Kent, University Librarian, 2010 Information Futures forums included an engaging mix of speakers.

15 July: The Banned Books in Australia exhibition was entertainingly launched by Associate Professor Nicole Moore from the University of New South Wales at the Australian Defence Force Academy. The exhibition highlighted the complexity of policing the boundaries of acceptable and unacceptable publications, and how Australian publishers have deliberately challenged the authorities.

16 September: Cavities, Keys and Camels: Early dentistry in Victoria, an exhibition which explored the social history, technical developments and professional foundation of dentistry in Victoria, was launched by Professor Eric Reynolds, Head, Dental School.

8 December: The exhibition Primary Sources: 50 stories from 50 years at the University Archives was opened by guest speaker Dr Andrew Lamon, Historian and President of the Royal Historical Society of Victoria. The exhibition was an intriguing examination and interpretation of some of the treasures from the vast array of primary source materials. For more detail on University Library exhibitions, see www.unimelb.edu.au/culturalcollections/exhibitions/past.html

In 2010, the Friends of the Baillieu Library in collaboration with the Library purchased the magnificent Highgrove Florilegium which added to the Library’s already rich holdings on gardens and horticulture.

Graham Dudley
President, Friends of the Baillieu Library

The Grainger Museum, reopened in 2010

Melbourne Buildings, photographic collage (detail), undated, Isaac Sedby, University of Melbourne Archives

Centenary celebrations in Wilson Hall, 1956, Visual Aids Department, University of Melbourne Archives

Melbourne Archives (detail), undated, Isaac Selby, University of Melbourne

Melbourne. The exhibition ‘Monopolies of Invention: Collaboration across class lines in the digital humanities’ discussed models and policies that evolved over 20 years. The forum was in association with the Faculty of Arts eResearch Forum and sponsored by the VeRSI.
Melbourne’s Scholarly Information Future: A 10-year strategy

The redevelopment of the Brownless Biomedical Library and the redevelopment of the Eastern Resource Centre (ERC), Frank Tate Learning Centre and Eastern Precinct Student Centre (EPSC). The redevelopment of the Baillieu Library will commence in 2011.

The University Digitisation Centre was opened in June and houses state-of-the-art equipment found nowhere else in Australia. The equipment brings us one step closer to handling and answering student questions. This team has improved the student IT support. Students were also employed in a Law research service assisting with maintenance of shared teaching space and in the new Digitisation Centre undertaking digital capture of special and rare University Library collections. In employing students the Library is actively providing the opportunity to students to develop work skills and experience in addition to financially supporting themselves.

During 2010 the Library’s contribution to research has been broad across all programs.

The Library continues to take a leadership role in the development of research data and records management policy and support documentation.

Key teams within the Library are working closely with Information Technology Services (ITS) to develop a comprehensive research data management advice, outreach and training policy and strategy for the long-term preservation of the University’s digital scholarly assets, including a ten-year roadmap for the University.

The Information Management Advisory Service (IMAS) continues to take the lead in promoting research data and records management advice, outreach and training forums. The demand for these services is increasing. The Library has the lead role for the research data management and infrastructure projects funded by the Australian National Data Service (ANDS). These projects support collaboration across the Library, ITS and the Victorian eResearch Strategic Initiative (VeRSI), improving the University’s management of research data and records, and informing us about the type of services needed. At the end of these projects the University’s research community will have access to improved research data management infrastructure support services.

Workshops for research higher degree students to develop and improve graduate research skills included bibliographic referencing and management using EndNote software. Student demand for these sessions increased by 30 percent over 2009. There were nine well-attended e-research training seminars (repeated in second semester), which teach doctoral students research activities that use information and communications technologies (ICT) and embrace new research methodology and data management. Research support consultations (face to face or online) in 2010 increased by 10 percent.

Supporting the University’s Excellence in Research Australia (ERA) submissions, the University Digitisation Service captured and processed 10,479 images of covers, first pages and, in some cases, entire books for the Research Office in 2010. Digitisation support for researchers on request included the 1943–1950 annual reports for the Walter and Eliza Hall Institute of Research in Pathology and Medicine, manuscripts for Australian Indigenous Studies, School of Culture and Communication, and the Firemore collection for the Law Faculty.

The eScholarship Research Centre (eSRC) continues to take a leadership role in cultural informatics, attracting significant grants and recognition for work completed. It has a substantial role in leading the ANDS research data management projects and has won Australian Research Council (ARC) grants as part of the Australian Social Science Data Archive and for the Saultwich Age poll archive project, which maps a generation of social change at the end of the 20th century. In October, the Centre shared a Vice-Chancellor’s Staff Excellence Award with its collaborators in Social Work and History for the Who Am I? project and Pathways Victoria website.

LibGuides are web-based subject guides written by specialist librarian staff, providing all sorts of useful information. Over 90 guides were available on the Library’s webpage by the end of 2010. Links to LibGuides can be placed into LMS subjects, providing content specifically tailored to the subject and its assessable tasks. The most popular LibGuides include Australian Time Line, Medical Ethics, Law and Medicine, and Philosophy.

The Inaugural Library Excellence Awards were launched in 2010. The ceremony celebrated outstanding achievements by individual staff and library working groups.

From 29 nominations, Patrick Condron and Naomi Mullimbey were the 2010 Library Excellence Award recipients. Sally Newton, Sandra Wootles and Robert Hamilton received commendations and Tamme Geaote won the ‘Contribution to Student Life’ award.

Year in, year out, our users quote library staff as their most valued resource.

The Library’s cadetship program continued into its second year, with new and fresh ideas and enthusiasm plus relevant discipline knowledge from their undergraduate studies. The program also benefited the Library profession by encouraging interest in librarianship as a career option, and developing the professional leaders of tomorrow.

Students working in the Library

Through partnership with the Student Engagement team in Academic Enrichment Services, the Library recruited a team of more than 30 student library assistants to work in our busiest libraries and undertake a range of activities, principally materials handling and answering student questions.

This team was also employed by the Library to provide student IT support. Students were also employed in a Law research service assisting with maintenance of shared teaching space and in the new Digitisation Centre undertaking digital capture of special and rare University Library collections. In employing students the Library is actively providing the opportunity to students to develop work skills and experience in addition to financially supporting themselves.

New places, new spaces …

The University Digitisation Centre was opened in June and houses state-of-the-art equipment found nowhere else in Australia. The equipment brings us one step closer to providing greater and improved access to the Library’s rich and extensive resources.

July 2010 marked the opening of the redevelopment of the Brownless Biomedical Library. Facilities were significantly upgraded. To meet the demand for 24/7 access the study hall on the ground floor is open to Melbourne University students from 7 am to 2 am every day.

The MDHS Student Centre is located within the Library which facilitates student interaction across the various cohorts.

The redevelopment of the Brownless Biomedical Library and MDHS Student Centre follows the precedent set by the redevelopment of the Eastern Resource Centre (ERC), Frank Tate Learning Centre and Eastern Precinct Student Centre (EPSC). The redevelopment of library spaces is part of an overall strategy to build our physical learning and teaching environments to maximise flexibility and create great learning experiences for our students as articulated in Melbourne’s Scholarly Information Future. A 10-year strategy. As part of this strategy, work began in 2010 to develop a concept plan for the redevelopment of the Baillieu Library and a Research and Cultural Library. Stage 1 of the redevelopment of the Baillieu Library will commence in 2011.

I simply couldn’t undertake research without access to the Library. In this sense, the Library should be seen as being akin to the beating heart of the University — since it supplies the lifeblood leading to the research that keeps the University operating. It is also rather like the University’s figurehead in another sense — since it is one of the main publicly accessible areas of the University that fully illustrates what a University is for and what it seeks to achieve.

Dr Christopher R. Marshall
Senior Lecturer in Art History and Museum Studies
Art History Program Director
School of Culture and Communication

Preserving the University’s Scholarly assets with state-of-the-art digitisation equipment
In 2010, the Library was bestowed some remarkable cultural gifts that have enriched the collections profoundly. Of particular note were the Dorothy Prescott Map Collection, a 17th century rare scientific book gifted by Professor David Macmillan and historic personal correspondence between Storm Bull and Percy Grainger donated by Professor Malcolm Gillies and Dr David Pear.

The R.E. Ross Trust made a $100,000 gift to support the University Archives to create detailed finding aids to enhance the online catalogue.

The Grainger Museum now boasts a wonderful multimedia installation made possible by the Hugh Williamson Foundation.

We were pleased to complete the work enabled by the Ian Potter Foundation’s 2008 gift to the Barry Tuckwell Collection. It was a great pleasure to welcome the Foundation’s Governors and staff to an occasion in honour of their support and to showcase the impact their gift had made on the improved collection.

Our Friends of the Baillieu Library continue to be a strong philanthropic supporter of the Library. They enabled The Highgrove Florilegium to be purchased. These two splendid volumes are a collection of more than 120 original prints from watercolour paintings celebrating the gardens of HRH The Prince of Wales at Highgrove in Gloucestershire. We now own one of only 175 signed editions in the world. We thank them especially for their continued efforts to build a community of support for the Library.

To close the year we had an opportunity to express our gratitude with an end-of-year gathering for donors to the University Library on the Baillieu Library’s fourth floor terrace, celebrating another year of wonderful generosity and involvement from our supporters.

In 2010 the Library’s Materials Vote budget saw a considerable increase. An extra $3 million dollars was injected and a total of $16,058,000 was spent. The increase in funding along with a buoyant Australian dollar allowed for the purchase of extra monographs, new subscription titles and a significant number of electronic titles.

The Library acquired the complete Palgrave collection, a multidisciplinary package of e-books containing some 5,400 titles. There was also significant investment in a number of Springer e-book packages amounting to 3,045 titles and covering a range of science areas. A considerable purchase was also made of Alexander Street Press online resources including streaming music and various other databases of historical and literary interest.

These are just a few examples of the investments made in electronic products in 2010 which go to strengthen our collections and provide a convenient alternative access option for our Library users.

The Library now holds more than 2.5 million non-serial items and in excess of 300,000 electronic titles.