

Library buildings

continued from page 30



Sounds amazing, doesn't it? And it was as evidenced by the large number of people crowded around the windows of the room watching the fish in awe. This visual feast was created with digital projectors, mirrors and art medium that Craig has been working with all over the world, and now Palmerston Library is part of his impressive portfolio.

So the library became a fish tank, a gallery, a movie theatre and was enthusiastically rapped about. Who said libraries are no longer relevant? Palmerston Library is the heart of the city, how much more relevant can you be?

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Zoning as a Design Concept at Griffith Uni

Transforming the library into the 'lounge room' of the university has been a gradual, but successful process for the Library and Learning Environment Services team at Griffith University.

A subsequent increase in gate stats and the successful introduction of zoning are just two of the results of the refurbishment.

The library spaces project was launched in August 2004 and the transformation has been amazing. The objective was to improve the look and feel of our library spaces to ensure the library was seen as a place to work, collaborate or relax between classes.

The design principles of ambience, light, colour, views, zoning, proclamation of function and way-finding were first applied to the entrance foyer of the Nathan campus library in 2005. A new paint scheme, furniture and carpet feature turned our somewhat cavernous and dark entrance into a bright, inviting and comfortable area for clients to wait for friends, take phone calls, watch cable television and relax.

Zoning in multi-level library spaces, was also introduced, with the entrance level being the 'active learning zone' and 'noisy' level. That space is provided for group collaboration, mobile phones are welcome and a laptop lounge is available.

The upper level of any Griffith library is a quiet zone with collection space and where possible silent/individual study space is also available. In quiet zones no mobile phones or MP3s are permitted but brief, whispered conversations are okay. The space is also wireless enabled.

The collaboration zones, which currently exist at the Mt Gravatt, Nathan and Centre for Medical and Oral Health campus libraries are also wireless enabled and quick access computers (25 minutes or less) may be available. The space also includes whiteboards and here, normal levels of conversation are okay.

A research zone has also been introduced at the Nathan campus. The zone is wireless enabled with power available, there are common use (three hour) computers and brief, whispered conversations are okay.

Also at Nathan are silent/individual study rooms where conversations of any kind, mobile phones and MP3s are not permitted.

Following the success of the first collaboration zone at the Mt Gravatt campus, one was introduced to an underused quiet study area on the entrance level at the Nathan campus.



Collaboration zone

continued from page 31

As every program offered by Griffith has a group work component, individual study carrels were replaced with sofas, coffee tables, movable chairs and tables, whiteboards and a DVD lounge.

Although there are other public access spaces on campus, clients now prefer to use the collaborative library space which also gives them access to library resources, including staff.

Many of the individual study carrels were relocated to level two to extend the quiet zone and many new power outlets facilitate laptop use. Four enclosed rooms previously used for group study on level two were converted to silent/individual study. The introduction of the first research zone in 2006 necessitated the consolidation of our traditional reference collection to a ready

reference collection. Removal of reference items to the general collection or to storage decreased shelf space from 196 single-sided bays to the current 27.

The research zone is located within easy access of research expertise provided by the team on the InfoServices desk. Self-service options for each service are also available on the entrance level, including laptop loans and free laptop recharging lockers.

The success of the public access spaces at Mt Gravatt, Nathan and Centre for Medical and Oral Health campus libraries is being used to guide refurbishment of the Gold Coast campus library in 2007–2008.

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Cable TV in the reception area



Single study computer

New Edith Cowan University Library — A 'Cool Design'

Opened only in January this year, the new library on the Joondalup Campus of Edith Cowan University has already proven popular with students and won two major awards for the architects Jones, Coulter, Young.

The design of the entire building is based around the 'learning commons' concept to create learning spaces for students. The high-tech building boasts numerous group study rooms, a variety of seating that allows students to create their own group and individual learning spaces, a 24/7 computer lab, and a secure outdoor courtyard where students can enjoy the great West Australian climate while studying. In addition to the computer lab,

numerous computers are available throughout the building and laptop users are well supported with both wireless connectivity and numerous wired ports and power points within reach of most seats.

As well as providing learning spaces for



students, the bright but warm colours inside and out and good use of natural lighting, a coffee shop and bookshop draw students to the building creating a social hub for the campus. See a virtual tour at <<http://www.ecu.edu.au/KITSC/Library/31/>>.

continued on page 33

Photos courtesy Dynamite Photography

