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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/>>.

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Photos courtesy Dynamite Photography



Library buildings



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Some of the positive comments from students include:

Really good. I spend more time in the library that I used to. Modern. More space. More books.

More comfortable & quieter. More space.

Huge amounts of material. Comfy chairs.

Really modern. Cool design.

Better location.

The old library was run-down, flat and box-like.

Like the couches. User friendly.

Well laid-out. Good facilities. Car parking is closer to the library than the car parks at other WA universities.

I like the outdoor library area. Unique.

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Learning Hubs at University of Tasmania

The University of Tasmania Library opened two learning hubs in April 2005. These exciting spaces provide a range of study environments for students. There are rooms which students can book for group study. There are informal areas for group work, and study spaces for individual work. In the Morris Miller Library Hub there are study areas with lovely views of the River Derwent. The wireless network allows students to use their laptops and link in to the university network.

Hub users were surveyed to gather initial impressions of the new hubs. Results indicated that students approved of the style, functionality and comfort.

Crawford Shurman Architects received an award from the Royal Australian Institute of Architects (RAIA), Tasmanian Division, for the hubs, while Karryn Irwin, interior designer, was awarded the Sykes 06 Overall Design Excellence Award from the Laminex Group.

Libraries are evolving from static centres of knowledge storage to dynamic places of learning

Following on this success, three more satellite hubs were developed, in the Centre for the Arts and Life Sciences in Hobart and the Sir Raymond Ferrall Centre in Launceston. We have developed this concept even more widely at the Rural Clinical

School in Burnie and the School of Architecture at Inveresk; a further hub is being built within the Cradle Coast Campus at Burnie, and one is planned as part of the colocated medical building in the centre of Hobart.

These learning hubs have provided students with spaces to meet and study in a comfortable environment with access to online facilities. As the jury for the RAIA award said, 'Libraries are evolving from static centres of knowledge storage to dynamic places of learning'.

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