Carry Curtin Library in your pocket

The launch of the Curtin Library Mobile pilot website on 10 July leaves the library poised to take advantage of a technology that reaches more than a billion people worldwide.

Mobile devices are starting to rival laptops for functionality, and university students are among the growing audience embracing these innovations, so it makes sense for the library to have a mobile web presence.

Graphic-rich websites intended for desktop computers and large display screens do not necessarily translate well to smaller mobile devices. Curtin Library Mobile is designed to be easy to use and for viewing on small (mobile-sized) screens. For the typical mobile web user, every byte counts because mobile phones usually have much smaller data quotas compared to home internet plans, and users tend to pay data plan fees in addition to standard usage charges. With this in mind, the site uses minimal graphics to ensure faster and more economical downloading by users.

Mobile web users are likely to browse websites in search of information specific to their current situation, or to satisfy particular goals. For instance, a student handed an assignment can quickly connect to the Curtin Library Mobile website to check the library's opening hours for the day, search the catalogue for research materials, and even check for availability of a computer to type up the assignment – all from his or her mobile phone.

At launch, Curtin Library Mobile's features include search the catalogue, A – Z database list, computer availability (live updates), library podcasts and blog, past exam papers, borrower information, and other library information.

The Curtin Library Mobile project team will continue to expand and develop Curtin Library Mobile to increase satisfaction with the library's service. Visitors will be encouraged to submit their feedback via an online form accessible on the site. This feedback will contribute to the site's ongoing development and improvement: **http://m.library.curtin.edu.au**

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Baillieu Library 50th Anniversary celebration

This year the University of Melbourne Baillieu Library, officially opened on 21 March 1959 by then-Prime Minister, Robert Menzies, celebrates 50 years. The Baillieu was the first custom-built academic library in Australia and was noted for its exciting Modernist architecture, designed and built by John F.D. Scarborough & Partners.

The planning for the celebrations began some six months before 2009 with facilitated staff workshops to get ideas flowing. One of the ideas to emerge was the curation of an exhibition, and interested staff, who became de facto curators, developed themes at a series of subsequent meetings. The exhibition aimed to 'tell a story' about life in the Baillieu, particularly its people: the staff, the students, the academic staff. As well as looking at the history of the library, the exhibition also explored contemporary themes like the Baillieu as a literary and artistic inspiration, and the idea of the library as a 'cultural icon'. A commemorative booklet to coincide with the exhibition was also considered and several contributors approached.

Our passion and enthusiasm for the Baillieu Library and the chance to tell its story inspired us to volunteer for what became an all-consuming task, given the tight timeframe. The chance to be involved in such a challenging, creative, and important project was a motivating factor. As some of us have worked in the library for many years, it was important to us to tell the story of the Baillieu and its strong sense of community.

Through research in the University Archives, Special Collections, and the Publications unit we discovered some hidden gems, like scrapbooks of news clippings, photographs of library activities, the Friends of the Baillieu Library archives, models for the foyer mural competition, and audio and video recordings. Staff contributed personal photographs, realia (such as 25-year service medals), books, and multimedia with connections to the Baillieu.

Issues that presented challenges included establishing copyright – especially for old images with uncertain provenance – and the lack of an ongoing photographic history of the library. Many photos were taken of the building during and immediately after the Baillieu was built, but for the decades after that, barely any exist. However, thanks to subsequent University Librarians, comprehensive scrapbooks regarding the many issues affecting the library – overcrowding, not enough books, faulty air-conditioning – enabled lively exhibition displays. Incidentally, in 50 years, there have been only five University Librarians, which attests to the commitment of the staff to the library.
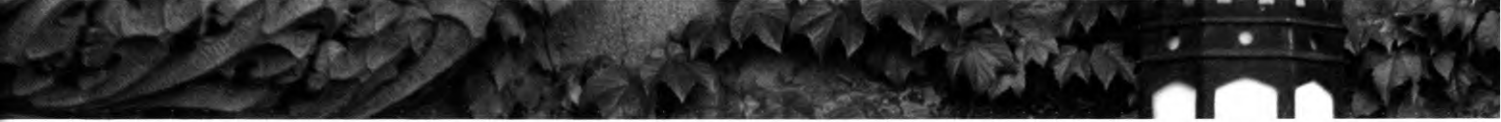
The enthusiasm to commemorate proved infectious and other university departments became involved, such as the grounds staff who recreated a foyer plant display as appeared when the library was first opened. Other staff helped to create a website and a 'visual device' for use on publications and posters throughout the year.

Alongside the exhibition and the publication of a staff-designed commemorative booklet, a website provided a memory board for people to share their stories and memories of the library. Many have contributed, including philosopher Peter Singer, former Victorian Premier Joan Kirner, former University of Melbourne Librarian Helen Hayes, and writer George Ivanoff. We welcome stories from anyone who wishes to contribute: **http://www. baillieu50.unimelb.edu.au**

There are other celebratory activities continuing throughout the year, including a dinner, author talks, screening of films and television shows which feature the Baillieu, and a project to digitise the filming of the original opening and the audio of the opening speeches. The University's Vice-Chancellor commemorated the occasion by hosting a garden party at his residence.

Aimed outcomes of these activities include archiving some previously undiscovered material and clarifying outstanding copyright issues in order to make life easier 'next time'. Another aim is to honour the legacy of Axel Lodewycks, University
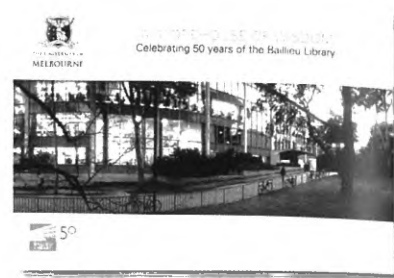
Librarian from 1956 to 1973, who was instrumental in creating the Baillieu Library. He worked tirelessly for decades to create the much-needed, purpose-built library and to continually campaign for more resources for the university's library.

Those involved in the 50th anniversary would surely agree it has been a privilege to celebrate the Baillieu Library: its history, its stories, and its people.

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Developing a regional collection – the University of New England Library Special Collections

From as early as the 1920s, many New Englanders harboured aspirations of self government: breaking free of New South Wales and creating a new state. This environment promoted a vigorous approach to regional development within the community, leading to the creation of a university college in Armidale in 1938, following extensive fundraising.

As the library founded in the college that became the first regional university in Australia, the Dixson Library of the University of New England was, from inception, influenced by this community. In response, the institution sought to capture materials that provided a true reflection of the broad community of interest that forms northern New South Wales.

Two distinct special collections were established to ensure that Dixson Library met these community expectations. First, the New England Collection was dedicated to ensure the preservation of published works related to the New England region, including works published by academics at UNE. Second, a university archives was dedicated within the library in 1957 at the recommendation of University Librarian Frank Rodgers. In defining the mission for his first professional archivist in 1960 Frank directed him to "collect all research material likely to be of value in throwing light on the historical, economic and social development of Northern New South Wales."

This umbrella approach of sharing resources while providing a high degree of autonomy to both the archivists and librarians allowed for rapid expansion of the collections. Archivists collected from the coast to the far west while the New England Collection was systematically expanded by library staff as part of the acquisition and cataloguing regime. In addition, collaboration with firstly the Mitchell Library and then the N.S.W. Archives Office after its establishment in 1960 reinforced these regional programs and saw the relocation of State Archives relevant to the region into the University of New England Archives from 1964.

Today, both the New England Collection and the UNE & Regional Archives continue to collect both the publications and community records that are of value for future research. The archive now occupies a building dedicated as a Heritage Centre by the university, but remains organisationally as part of the University Library Division.

The community concept of region over 50 years has changed dramatically with a demographic swing from the mountains to the fast-developing north coast and the waning of the region's political demands for cessation from New South Wales. The changes in the region can be studied by future generations due to the foresight of our predecessors.

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A rude awakening leads to opportunity at VU

In 2007 our annual Client Satisfaction Survey indicated that while our students were satisfied with library skills training programs they had attended, they didn't actually value or rate as important the vast amount of work we do in providing information literacy training – when rating the overall importance of library skills training programs they ranked them 36th out of 39 total items (39 being the lowest importance). As can be easily imagined this was disappointing news indeed, and a somewhat rude awakening. It made us question what we are doing in our current practice, what we might do in future, and how we could improve the value rating of our information literacy practice in the view of our students. Thus the idea of taking a serious look at our information literacy practice came to be and our 2008–2009 Information Literacy Review was born.

We wanted to firstly identify our activities and coverage, and then survey our clients to see what they were really thinking. Our aim overall was to identify models of practice that are a good or better fit for our students. Our review strategy included:

- the usual suspects of a literature review and environmental scan,
- an in-house survey of library staff who provide information literacy training (that is, our liaison and reference librarians) to identify our current activities and gain a perspective on what our trainers think we need to be doing in future, and
- a survey of students, their information-seeking behaviours, and what they think of the library and our library and research skills training programs.

In designing our student research skills survey we partnered with Insync Surveys (formerly Ambit Insights and Rodski Survey Research), a research provider that collaborates with their clients to create effective surveys, analyse results, and provide detailed reporting. We worked with Mike Samarchi – their representative and a librarian himself, who has been involved in designing many library surveys during his time at Insync – to create a tool that was going to help us discover what our students really need and want from us.

We identified the following objectives:

- evaluate students' information seeking behaviours when doing course-related research,
- evaluate students' awareness of available information sources,
- trace their steps in the information seeking process, and
- seek students' perceptions of the role of the library.

Aiming for 600, we actually achieved a total of 779 completed surveys. All campuses (we have eleven!) were represented and, according to the demographic information we collected, we achieved a good coverage across all the student population on-campus, off-campus, domestic and international, undergraduates, post-graduates, full-time and part-time.