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## Reducing VU Library's environmental footprint

The Victoria University (VU) Library is in a unique position to promote green initiatives to its community due to its role within the university. In addition to increasingly providing electronic resources (e-books, databases and e-journals) rather than print, the library has taken other positive actions to contribute towards a more environmentally sustainable VU.

The library encourages staff to use various communication modes such as Microsoft Office Communicator for meetings instead of travelling between campuses, as well as to discuss sustainability in staff meetings and to incorporate sustainable work practices in their work plans. As an early adopter of an intranet platform, the library has been able to reduce the need to print or email versions of documents and to enable staff to contribute to and edit documents online from any location. As a result it has been able to replace paper forms with electronic forms for infringements, the collection of statistics, meter readings, and other administration tasks.

There are 900+ open access computers across the VU Libraries which have been installed with automatic shut-down software to conserve power. This program allows each campus library to designate shutdown times for the computers which aligns with library closing times. In addition to this, library staff shut down staff computers at the end of the day and power-saver functions are enabled on all photocopiers and printers.

To encourage patrons to reduce their environmental footprint, the library offers double-sided (duplex) printing at a reduced price as well as a free scan-to-email service from photocopiers for all staff and students. The library also uses 100% recycled paper in all staff and open access photocopiers and printers as well as having a well-established commitment to recycling used material including paper, cardboard, toners, computers, and furniture through the university recycling program.

VU Library has had a longstanding commitment to reducing its environmental footprint and will continue to be environmentally responsible in everything we do.

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