



IN BRIEF

From collection to client focus at Ryde



Funky meets functional at Ryde Library

Ryde Library in NSW bridges a collection-based past to a technology and people-focussed future through clever design, challenging established systems and a fresh new perspective of what libraries mean for the community.

Unusually for many libraries, this project was a true 'blank canvas' and included moving into a space twice the size of the previous library. It was the architect's first library project and harnessed vivid colour for important focal points throughout the space. Integral to the design was planning for future

flexibility, including extensive cabling for flexible power options and mobile help desks.

The collections have been transformed to ensure relevance and accessibility for current reading interests. Arrangement is by popular subjects and genres providing a more browsable collection in both fiction and non-fiction. The non-fiction collection has been organised into seven distinct 'subject rooms'. It made sense to bring together related subject areas like pregnancy and parenting that are traditionally separated by trains, aeroplanes, gardening and cooking.

The reorganisation of Dewey into subject rooms was a large project but collection statistics and borrower feedback prove that it was a worthwhile exercise.

On Sunday you might find your neighbour providing ambient background music on the public access piano. On

a weekday you may spot a group of seniors over by the windows trying their hand at Nintendo Wii.

Working groups proved to be a good way to share the load and get things done. Library staff had a hands-on role in the planning of their new library and worked hard to make sure that the relocation ran smoothly.

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Students first at Deakin

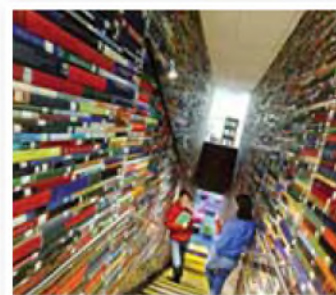
The 20,000 volume book wall at Geelong Waurin Ponds library (part of Deakin University) has been described as a celebration of the old book as an object of beauty and interest. It's just one feature of Deakin's attempt to refute conceptions of the library as a quiet dusty den, along with a trendy industrialised feel with concrete finishes and exposed fixtures, coupled with a casual lounge feel and what Deakin University Librarian Anne Horn describes as a "fiercely student-centric approach".

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The volume wall at Deakin University



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