

ROBERTSON LIBRARY CELEBRATES 40 YEARS AT CURTIN UNIVERSITY

ROBERTSON – 2012
TODAY, CLIENTS MAKE USE OF THE MULTITUDE OF COMPUTER AND WIRELESS FACILITIES WITHIN THE IZONE FOR STUDY AND TO ACCESS THE LIBRARY'S CATALOGUE AND COLLECTIONS. INTERESTINGLY THE TRENDY ORANGE OF THE 1970S HAS MADE A COMEBACK IN THE CURRENT FURNISHINGS.



When the Robertson Library building was officially opened in September 1972, the five-storey brick and concrete structure dominated the newly established Western Australian Institute of Technology's Bentley campus, now Curtin University.

Curtin Library is celebrating this 40th milestone with a new web resource, *Robertson Library: 40 years at the heart of Curtin* (<http://john.curtin.edu.au/40thanniversary/index.html>). In the past four decades, the building has undergone physical extensions and interior renovations and the library has transformed its operations from labour-intensive work practices to providing increasingly online services. Today, Robertson Library is still a leading facility on campus in the provision of learning spaces that reflect the essential elements of place, people, collections, and technology.

The resource provides a valuable historical insight into the development of libraries with a multitude of photographs illustrating changes to facilities, collections, library operations, and services. Librarians, both new and established, can explore each decade in depth:

The 1970s – an era of manual selection, purchase, cataloguing, and processing of materials, and a workload of managing more than 140 000 loans a year via date stamps, book pockets, and borrower cards.

The 1980s – the introduction of journal indexing databases, expensive librarian-facilitated online searches, and the first desktop personal computers for staff use.

The 1990s – an era of expansion with the long awaited extensions to the building being

completed, the launch of an online catalogue, implementation of a commercial library management system, and the creation of electronic content such as digital theses and expanding e-Reserve collection.

The 2000s – perceptions of the purpose and uses of Robertson Library underwent a paradigm shift with a sense of place predominating and the electronic delivery of resources and services prevailing.

You can also check out the library's timeline and gallery of photographic banners on our Facebook page: www.facebook.com/curtinuniversitylibrary.

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ROBERTSON – 1972: CLIENTS RELAXING IN THE NEWLY OPENED ROBERTSON LIBRARY, 1972.

