



# news@library

SPRING SESSION 2004

## Review of library services at offshore teaching locations

A comprehensive review of library services at the University's offshore teaching locations in Hong Kong, Singapore, Malaysia and Dubai was conducted in February 2004 by Craig Littler, Remote Services Manager. The purpose of the review was to implement a quality assurance process to evaluate current services and to establish benchmarks for future developments and improvements. The review process included testing access to electronic information resources, evaluating the accessibility of local information resources and library collections, and surveying student and staff perceptions of the quality of resources and services.

The review found that UOW students generally have access to good quality local library services, either through a UOW partner institution library or public library. There is scope for improvement, however, in ensuring that local print resource collections contain textbooks and recommended readings to support UOW courses, and in raising student awareness of the University's online learning environment and electronic information resources. Strategies identified to address these issues include the incorporation of guidelines and standards on library resources and services into all offshore teaching agreements and programs, the progressive introduction of the Information Literacies Introductory Program (ILIP100) to all offshore locations, and the production of an offshore student guide on CD ROM. The CD ROM project has been supported by the University Internationalisation Committee and will be developed over the next few months. Other recommendations from the review will be implemented throughout 2004 and early 2005. Full copies of the report are available from Craig Littler (x4501, [craig\\_littler@uow.edu.au](mailto:craig_littler@uow.edu.au)) upon request.



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Craig Littler, Remote Services Manager,  
with UOW students at Hong Kong Baptist University

## New electronic resources

### CIAO – Columbia International Affairs Online

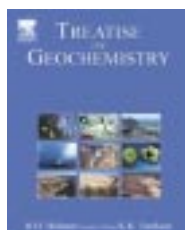
Say hello to CIAO, a new addition to the Library's database collection which can assist your research into international affairs, comparative politics, area studies, international law and human rights, security and strategic studies, development and globalization, and peace and conflict studies.

CIAO includes original case studies, written by leading scholars, which examine the effects of important events, from the Cuban Missile Crisis to the U.N. intervention in East Timor, and address recurring topics in world politics classes, like weapons of mass destruction. Policy briefs are contributed by a number of research institutions and think tanks. There is content from a range of significant journals and books as well as a selection of coursepacks designed to present students with convenient access to alternative points of view on topics such as globalization or landmines. Country statistical data is also provided, along with a comparison tool to prepare tables and charts to display chosen statistics. CIAO also provides links to important websites relevant to topics.

### New science reference works

Two new online reference publications are now available from Elsevier's ScienceDirect website. Access is available through the Library's Databases webpage.

Select ScienceDirect and then click on the Reference Works tab.



### Comprehensive Coordination Chemistry II

This title gives a contemporary overview of the field of coordination chemistry. It covers new ligands, new theories and techniques of synthesis and characterization, developments in the coordination chemistry of metallic elements, and the nanoscale and metal ions involved in biological processes. It is the equivalent of ten printed volumes.

### Treatise on Geochemistry

Treatise on Geochemistry presents a comprehensive, integrated summary of the present state of geochemistry. All major parts of geochemistry are dealt with, ranging from chemistry of the solar system to environmental geochemistry. It is the equivalent of nine printed volumes.

### Changes in access

**Sociological Abstracts** (Sociofile) is now available through the Cambridge Scientific Abstracts (CSA) interface and no longer through Ovid Technologies. This is due to a change in licensing.

**Biomednet Reviews** has ceased to exist as a portal. The content we have had access to through Biomednet Reviews is now available through Elsevier's ScienceDirect platform. This should simplify access for users by providing a more familiar interface.

## people@library

Dr Shady Cosgrove

Lecturer, School of Journalism and Creative Writing, Faculty of Creative Arts

**How long have you been working at the Uni?**

A year and a half.

**What do you like most about life at Uni?**

The students.

**What's your favourite way to spend a Saturday?**

Summer swimming at the continental pools at Belmore Basin.

**What are you reading now?**

Richard Ford's 'Women With Men'. I first read 'A Multitude of Sins' by him and have been systematically going through all his work. 'Independence Day' is next.

**What's your favourite film?**

Silvio Soldini's 'Bread and Tulips'.

**What's your favourite website?**

I've been researching early daguerreotypes for a novel I've been working on and [www.daguerre.org](http://www.daguerre.org) has been great.

**What's the best thing about the Library?**

The books!

**If you had a magic wand and could change one thing about the Library, what would it be?**

It would suddenly have books six and seven of the Harry Potter series for loan.

**What question would you like to ask a librarian?**

I think I've asked the librarians all my questions as they've come up!

**What qualities does a good librarian need?**

Organisational and social skills, I reckon.



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## Reliance on technology has dark and light side

Students have shared in prizes for Australian Library and Information Week competitions. Drawing on the theme, *Down and loaded: The right information at the right time*, they produced a wealth of creative writing for the 2004 Prose and Poetry Competition. Winning pieces highlighted dangerous and humorous aspects of technology.

Sally Evans, a first year Bachelor of Creative Arts (Creative Writing) student, won first prize with her untitled free verse poem. Her work explores ideas about the impact of technology on the individual. She depicts a “generation addicted to hypertext”, with solitary techno-junkies engaging with the world through their computer screens.

This dark portrait contrasts with the work of second prizewinner, Education student Rebecca Graham. In her piece *Newsflash: You may rely on technology more than you think*, Rebecca offers a humorous view of technology as a tool for avoiding commitments.

Sally and Rebecca celebrated their success at a recent prize presentation. Sponsorship from Ovid Technologies, a major database supplier to the Library, provided \$300 for first prize and \$150 for second prize, as well as an encouragement prize of \$50, which was awarded to Lynn Holmgren.

Prose and Poetry Competition winners were joined by winners of the Quiz Challenge - Mauricio Gutierrez and Lianbin Zhao – who shared in \$100 worth of vouchers from the University Recreation & Aquatic Centre.

The Library appreciated the generous ongoing support of Ovid Technologies and the University Recreation & Aquatic Centre. Thanks also to Shady Cosgrove (see [people@library](mailto:people@library)) for her erudite judging of the competition and for presenting the prizes.



Prose & Poetry Competition winners, Rebecca Graham and Sally Evans, seated, with Felicity McGregor, Belinda Sharp (Ovid Technologies) and Dr Merlinda Bobis (Creative Arts), standing, left to right.

## New technical resources

The Library is now part of the UOW wireless network and is continuing to expand its suite of technical services for clients. Wireless network cards are available for loan and are now one of the most popular items on our Catalogue. Laptop computers have also been introduced for loan. This new service will provide greater flexibility to students, as well as additional computers during the Library's busiest periods. Please visit the Information Desk or the Library website for full details of wireless network cards and laptops for loan.

### *Did you know?*

*Your suggestions can shape the Library's collection! More than 560 new resources have already been purchased this year after suggestions from clients. Items of relevance to University research and teaching can be suggested by students, staff and even by members of the public. Academic staff should contact their Faculty Librarian with suggestions. All other clients can lodge a suggestion online, at:*

<http://www.library.uow.edu.au/feedback/buy/>



## people@library

**Claire Collett**  
Promotion &  
Partnerships  
Coordinator,  
University Library



### **How long have you been working at the Library?**

Only about three months. I'm a newbie!

### **What's the best thing about your job?**

The range of people that I work with. Coming from a workplace of five staff to one of around 65 was daunting at first, but now I'm enjoying the different personalities and creative input.

### **What are you reading now?**

I'm attempting to read all the books I've borrowed in recent weeks – without much success!

### **What's your favourite film?**

I'm hopeless at picking favourites, but possibly 'Delicatessen' or 'Babe'.

### **What's your favourite website?**

Most used is [www.smh.com.au](http://www.smh.com.au) the Sydney Morning Herald site... very boring!

### **What's your favourite way to spend a Saturday?**

Breakfast with friends, gardening, a walk on the beach with my dogs, then fish and chips in front of a spectacular sunset.

### **If you had a magic wand and could change one thing about the Library, what would it be?**

More noticeboards in the Library for communicating new services to our clients.

### **What question are you asked the most at work?**

At this stage it's "How's your knitting coming along?"

### **What question would you like to be asked?**

"Do you want to hear my great new idea for promoting Library services?"

### **What qualities does a good librarian need?**

Knowledge, communication skills and patience.

[news@library](mailto:news@library) is published in Autumn and Spring sessions each year. Comments and suggestions should be forwarded to Claire Collett by telephone on 02 4221 4330 or by email to [claire\\_collett@uow.edu.au](mailto:claire_collett@uow.edu.au)

## Access to government publications

Recent government initiatives have caused a dramatic increase in online distribution of departmental publications. The Library is improving access to these titles by providing separate Catalogue records for print and online formats. Clients will now have the option to access available federal and state titles online, at any time and from any location.

## Feedback and responses now online

Providing feedback to the Library has never been easier. A new feedback system allows clients to provide feedback and view the Library's responses online. In the four months since implementation the Library has received 105 feedback items, covering subjects as diverse as mobile phones, noise, overdue holds and zip drives. Feedback is answered within two working days and clients have responded positively to the new system. Look under the Tell Us section on the Library homepage.

## Research publication output increases again

The University's research publication output continued to climb last year with 1376 publications being collected by faculty collection officers and verified by Library staff. 72% met the DEST categories of research related books, chapters, articles and conference papers. This represented an 11.6% increase on 2002 in DEST points gained by the University. Of particular note was the increase in book chapters and peer reviewed journal articles published by University academics.

The Higher Education Research Data Collection (HERDC) occurs annually and academic staff are reminded of the need to keep copies of their published output as verification material for the next collection.

### *Did you know?*

*University Archives was established in 1968 in a storage space in K-Mart, Warrawong. It was relocated to a basement in the Kenny Street car park in 1972, before finally finding a permanent home in the Library in 1976.*

*The Library plays an important role in preserving the history of the University. Next time you produce a newsletter, annual report, departmental history or ceremonial booklet, please think about reserving a copy for archiving. Contact the Archivist on 02 4221 3543 for advice on the suitability of your publication.*