

University of Queensland backs a winner

At a prestigious ceremony in Canberra in November 1998, the federal Minister for Education, Training and Youth Affairs, Dr David Kemp, awarded three University Teaching Awards to the University of Queensland.

Two were for individual teachers of excellence, Associate Professors Doune McDonald (Human Movements) and Laurie Walsh (Dentistry). However, the third was in the Institutional Awards category for 'services to Australian students' and was won jointly by the University of Queensland Library for its 'Cybrary' submission and the University of Tasmania for its Student Centre.

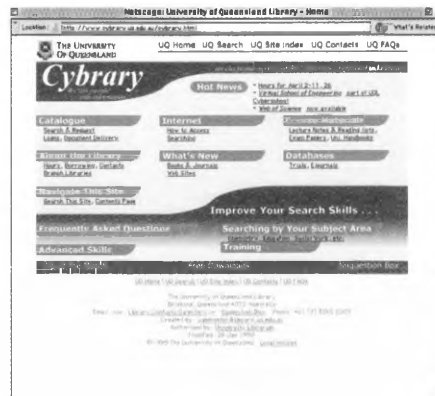
University of Queensland librarian, Janine Schmidt, was honoured to accept on behalf of the library this award of excellence, which recognises outstanding achievement in services that benefit students and the community. 'It is a great tribute to the quality of our staff and facilities that we can provide such a good service,' she said.

The winning entry detailed how the University of Queensland Cybrary works, demonstrating that students can choose the space, the place, the pace and the time in which to work and discover shortcuts to scholarship.

The University of Queensland's *Cybrary* – Australia's first – integrates state-of-the-art information technology with traditional services to create a 'virtual library' in a 'wired university'. From any of hundreds of high-end Pentium computers within the library, and day and night from home or office, students can explore the world of information as they wish.

There is access to lecture notes, reading lists, past exam papers, *WebCT* work-book programs, the library catalogue, the internet, university handbooks, as well as general research and information skills tips, all from the easily navigable *Cybrary* Homepage. Students can also conduct standard library requests such as extending loans and reserving material electronically.

The *Cybrary* is an indispensable, integrated approach to meet the information demands of life-long learning and problem-based teaching. It is a powerful support for flexible learning and enhancement to flexible teaching, and has been specifically designed for first-time university students.



The University of Queensland Library is the state's largest, with thirteen branch libraries containing 1.8 million volumes, including 11 000 videos, 20 000 journal titles, extensive microform, multimedia, digital and primary source collections. Stretched from end-to-end the collections would reach from Brisbane to the Gold Coast.

However, Mrs Schmidt said that bigger did not necessarily mean better for students, as the library size could be quite confusing.

'The *Cybrary* was developed to remedy this situation,' she said. 'The library has taken a leadership role in applying this innovative approach to address the real needs of students in the 21st century. We have worked collaboratively with students and teachers to develop and refine the *Cybrary* as new possibilities open.'

Students have been quick to take advantage of the system with up to 20 000 'hits' on the homepage every day. Check it out at <http://www.cybrary.uq.edu.au/>

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7/4 Indexing web documents. UNSW, School of Information, Library and Archive Studies. Contact: Maureen Henninger, ph 02 9385 3589, fx 02 9385 3430, M.Henninger@unsw.edu.au

13/4-7/5 Arts Training NSW Entertainment, Libraries and Museums Training package workshops Illawarra Performing Arts Centre (13/4) Wollongong City Library (14/4), Lismore City Hall (22-23/4), Newcastle Civic Centre (6/5), Newcastle Library (7/5). Contact: Helen O'Moore, Arts Training NSW, ph 02 9251 7044.

• **14/4 NSW Special Libraries section Committee meeting.** 166 Castlereagh Street, Sydney. All welcome, drinks, munchies and lots of discussion. Contact: Christine Benneian, ph 02 9257 7118, christine_benneian@amp.com.au

• **15/4 NSW Special Libraries section Special librarians day breakfast.** Lots of tasty food and a guest speaker. Ily Cafe L'Espresso, Bligh House, 4-6 Bligh Street, Sydney, 7:30am, cost: \$15. Contact: Christine Benneian for bookings on ph 02 9257 7118, christine_benneian@amp.com.au

• **17-18/4 NSW Library Technician section. General meeting in Bathurst.** Charles Sturt Uni, Bathurst Campus Library, Panorama Avenue, Bathurst, 1pm. Dinner in the evening at Leagues Club, \$14 (17/4). Visit to Bathurst Show, \$11 entry (18/4). RSVP Anne Hughes, ph 02 6332 3488, phuges@lisp.com.au

• **20/4 ALIA NSW Branch Council meeting.** 6pm in the Jean Garling Room, SLNSW. Observers welcome. RSVP to Jo-anne Fuller or Heather Black, ph 02 9906 6000, jojo1@ozemail.com.au

22/4 Keeping up with internet developments. UNSW, School of Information, Library and Archive Studies. Contact: Maureen Henninger, ph 02 9385 3589, fx 02 9385 3430, M.Henninger@unsw.edu.au

• **27/4 NSW Library Technician section General meeting to discuss forming a LT Regional Group in Coffs Harbour and NSW North Coast area.** The Anchors Wharf (under Urunga Bridge), Urunga, 7:30pm. Please contact Jill Baker for more details, ph 02 6659 3237, jbaker2@chcc.scu.edu.au

28/4 Networks for librarians UNSW, School of Information, Library and Archive Studies. Contact: Maureen Henninger, ph 02 9385 3589, fx 02 9385 3430, M.Henninger@unsw.edu.au

29/4 Updating your internet research skills UNSW, School of Information, Library and Archive Studies. Contact: Maureen Henninger, ph 02 9385 3589, fx 02 9385 3430, M.Henninger@unsw.edu.au

5/5, 12/5, 19/5 & 26/5 Indexing workshop. (3 or 4 day workshop). UNSW, School of Information, Library and Archive Studies. Contact: Maureen Henninger, ph 02 9385 3589, fx 02 9385 3430, M.Henninger@unsw.edu.au

• **6/5-11/11 NSW CYSS section. Committee meeting — everybody welcome.** 5:30pm: 6/5 (Auburn Library); 8/6 (Pre-book week extravaganza); 20/7 (tba); 8/9 (Parramatta City Library); 22/10 (Management seminar); 11/11 (Burwood Library). For further information, please contact: Mylee Joseph, ph 02 9777 7900, fx 02 9413 2038.

7/5 Kinetica document delivery. UNSW, School of Information, Library and Archive Studies. Contact: Maureen Henninger, ph 02 9385 3589, fx 02 9385 3430, M.Henninger@unsw.edu.au

13-14/5 Kinetica client cataloguing. UNSW, School of Information, Library and Archive Studies. Contact: Maureen Henninger, ph 02 9385 3589, fx 02 9385 3430, M.Henninger@unsw.edu.au

• **15/5 NSW Library Technician section Committee meeting — all welcome.** Video Conference

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