

# Education & Research

The Carrick Institute for Learning and Teaching in Higher Education — an initiative of the Australian Government Department of Education Science and Training (DEST) — was launched in August 2004. The Institute is named in honour of Sir John Carrick KCMG, former Commonwealth Minister for Education. Amongst its many activities is the Carrick Citation for Outstanding Contributions to Student Learning. This year, two Western Australian library candidates received this award:

The **Murdoch University Library's Information Literacy Working Group** (Merrilee Albatis, Pam Mathews, Margaret Solosy and Soun Wong) was awarded the citation for the 'development and delivery of a flexible program to enhance student information literacy, embedded within the first year degree structure'.

The group was thrilled to receive the award and the recognition it gives to the role of the Library and the LITE program in enhancing student learning — see <<http://www.lib.murdoch.edu.au/lite/>>

As a self-paced online information literacy program, LITE is accessible to all Murdoch students (internal, external and offshore) with internet access. It is designed to introduce first-year students (and students new to Murdoch) to the library and to valuable library and web research skills.

What have students had to say about LITE?

*The way it is presented in such a manner that you can link to other sites for more information and still continue with tutorials. It is a MUST for every student, as it will make it easy to find resources especially when doing research. I think it is good entry point for undergraduates, Post graduates and even PhD (to refresh) or look at how Murdoch will make their study life easy.*

Unit Coordinators have also seen the benefits of the program:

*After introducing the LITE program into this unit, I noted that the students were better equipped to cope with the research aspect of essay writing.*

The **Information Studies @ Curtin** program received its citation for enhancing student learning in information studies through a commitment to flexible learning environments and the embedding of practical professional knowledge to focus the students' learning experiences. The program integrates professional practice and experience with the necessary theoretical and often historical frameworks of relevant literature and research into current, relevant, lively and professionally recognised courses. Via online technology, students in the most remote parts of the world can join with academics and fellow students in a stimulating and supportive learning environment. The diversity of students' backgrounds also facilitates consideration of issues from a variety of perspectives.

Professional associations like ALIA and the Records Management Association of Australasia, and local and other employer groups value the contribution that Information Studies @ Curtin is making to the information world. See <[http://info.mediainfo.curtin.edu.au/information\\_studies.cfm](http://info.mediainfo.curtin.edu.au/information_studies.cfm)> for more information.

*How interesting it is that a virtual community, particularly following your instructions, in some ways overcomes issues of inequality & the power imbalances that you often get with groups. (student)*

*A significant proportion of librarians working in Australian libraries have acquired their professional qualifications at Curtin. The learning experience provided by Information Studies at Curtin is therefore of immense importance to the library and information profession, which needs graduates who are able to engage with a complex and volatile environment, apply analytical skills to changing situations, build on the knowledge acquired during their course, and employ professional ethics in decision making. (University librarian)*

Apart from the two library and information science specific winners mentioned here, 253 academic and support staff have been recognised in this year's awards.

Nominations for the 2008 Carrick Institute awards in the category Citations for Outstanding Contributions to Student Learning must be postmarked no later than **Friday 9 May 2008**. For more information on the 2007 winners and the 2008 awards, see <<http://www.carrickinstitute.edu.au/carrick/go/home/awards>>.



**Left to right: Prof Richard Johnstone – Executive Director Carrick Institute, Kerry Smith, Margaret Pember, Christine Richardson (absent: Maggie Exon & Paul Genoni)**



**Left to right: Professor Richard Johnstone – Executive Director Carrick Institute, Pam Mathews, Merrilee Albatis, Margaret Solosy, Soun Wong.**



**The Murdoch and Curtin University library winners, left to right: Christine Richardson, Margaret Pember (Curtin), Pam Mathews, Margaret Solosy, Soun Wong, Merrilee Albatis (Murdoch), Kerry Smith (Curtin)**