

LIBRARY BUILDINGS

CARM2: a sequel to a shared storage success

CAVAL Ltd, owner of the CARM Centre in Melbourne, has commenced the Centre's first major expansion since its opening in 1996. The \$17.5m project, due for completion in mid-2010, will almost treble the centre's current storage capacity.

The shared library repository, which is the largest in Australia, provides secure, environmentally-controlled storage and specialised library services for CAVAL's university members and a range of public library and commercial customers.

The centre's insulated vault, known as CARM1, situated within the grounds of La Trobe University's Bundoora campus, has almost reached its capacity of one million volumes—mainly bound research journals and books. The centre also stores internal university records, artworks and museum artifacts, including some early 20th century dentistry equipment and costumes from the Arts Centre's Performing Arts collection.

With a very-early-warning smoke detection system and tightly-controlled ambient temperature and humidity, the vault is ideal for the safe, long-term storage of low-use or last-copy library and archival materials, says CAVAL chief executive, Janette Wright.

"It's a tremendous resource for academic libraries that need more space. By storing their works here, they can postpone or permanently avoid the expense of new library buildings and spend their money instead on new acquisitions or equipment. All of the works stored in CARM can be available to the requesting library within 24 hours, and it is much more secure than a normal commercial storage facility."

CARM1 will receive and process about 120 000 volumes in 2008. The received materials are barcoded, sorted by size and stored at high density (50 to 100 volumes per linear metre) in acid-free boxes on barcoded shelves. CAVAL's meticulous inventory control system ensures that works can be readily retrieved when required.

The library expansion, to be known as CARM2, will add an extra 30 000 linear metres of shelf space. Designed by Mark O'Dwyer, of H2O Architects, CARM2 will feature a dry-pipe sprinkler system that protects the works from inadvertent activation. The university libraries of Melbourne, Monash and RMIT will contribute a total of \$12m upfront in return for reserved shelf space available for browsing by their academics. The balance of funds will come from borrowings against increased revenue.

"Projected demand for facilities like CARM2 is strong—our research shows that our members alone will require an additional 70 000 linear metres of storage over the next 20 years. So, on that basis, we have developed a funding model based in part on future revenue from providing flexible storage space and commercial services to members and others," said Janette Wright.

Among the supporting library services provided by CAVAL are specialised cataloguing in English and more 70 languages for public and academic libraries, and high-volume digitising of bound volumes, using a dual-camera Kirtas 2400, currently the fastest book scanner in the world. The first in Australia, the Kirtas scanner processes bound volumes at up to 2400 pages an hour and produces searchable PDFs in high resolution.

CAVAL Ltd is a not-for-profit Australian company, established in 1978 and wholly owned by the nine Victorian universities and the universities of NSW, Western Sydney and Tasmania.

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Library moving: Jan Brady Library, Australian Taxation Office

Moving house has been compared to losing a loved one, friend or family member but moving a library to a new building that has been designed to meet the needs of its workers as well as being environmentally friendly, is challenging but exciting for all those involved.

The Australian Taxation Office's Jan Brady Library in Canberra moved to a modern, architecturally designed office space in the centre of Canberra City in September 2007.

Moving the library to the new building involved a lot of planning and consultation, and senior library staff along with building management were involved in the initial planning and layout of the library collection and library staff work areas.

While moving library materials out of the old building, the removalists had to constantly weave their way around numerous clients who were still using the collection, although there was signage advising them to remain behind the tape. The old library remained open during the whole moving process and library staff were available to assist clients.



Welcome to the ATO's Jan Brady Library

The book shelving was wider in the new library which required a recalculation of the space available at short notice.

The Jan Brady library has a large archive collection which was located separate from the library at its previous address. It is now housed in a compactus in the library and accessible to all users. The Jan Brady Library is a very well utilised and busy library as it contains a very large and comprehensive collection about Australian taxation and serves a large clientele.

The new library has two meeting rooms attached which are used by all ATO staff but are also very handy for staff meetings.

Working in a new building with new fittings, furniture and lots of open space and meeting areas makes for a very pleasant working environment which is enjoyed by all staff.

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