

A research update from the Information Studies Group at QUT

Information studies researchers at Queensland University of Technology currently have a number of exciting research projects underway.

Re-conceptualising and re-positioning Australian library and information science education for the twenty-first century is a research project funded by the Australian Learning and Teaching Council (ALTC). The project is being undertaken in conjunction with eleven institutions that represent the broad spectrum and diversity of university and vocational library and information science education in Australia. The primary objective of the project is to develop a Framework for the Education of the Information Professions in Australia. This framework will provide guidance on how best to re-position and re-shape Australian library and information science education to ensure it remains dynamic, sustainable, and responsive to the evolving information age. The project team are presently conducting a series of environmental scans that align with the project's various research aims and are finalising research tools in preparation for the data collection phase of the project. For further information visit the project website at www.liseducation.org.au or contact the Project Leader, Associate Professor Helen Partridge at h.partridge@qut.edu.au.

Understanding health information literacy in Australia's ageing population: a qualitative study is a research project funded by the Australian Research Council under the Linkage Projects scheme. The project will be undertaken over the next three years as a partnership between Queensland University of Technology, Griffith University, and Queensland Health. The project has two aims. First, it will develop a model of health information literacy for ageing Australians. Second, it will establish a national health information literacy framework to be used by health and information agencies in designing and developing resources and services to support the information needs of ageing Australians. Work on this project will commence in the next few months. For further information contact Associate Professor Helen Partridge (Project Leader) at h.partridge@qut.edu.au.

Professional ethics in the information technology sector, Dr Ian Stoodley's recently completed PhD pursued an experience-based approach to professional ethics in the information technology (IT) sector, with a view to enriching the support offered to professionals in their practice of ethics. Previous research into IT professional ethics predominantly focused on external standards or internal reasoning, however Ian's research focused on

professionals' experience of ethics, upon which they interpret standards and construct reasoning. His study indicated that a key to the effective support of IT professionals in their practice of ethics is the promotion of an increasingly other-centred experience of their professional practice. Ian's findings are available online at <http://eprints.qut.edu.au/26105/> and in print as Stoodley, Ian (2009) *Professional ethics: The IT experience*. VDM: Saarbrücken, Germany.

Ian plans to work with Prof Christine Bruce (QUT) and Prof John Weckert (CSU) to further investigate the experience of ethics, this time in the area of frontier technology (nanotechnology and ICT) research. The anticipated outcome is a framework based on lived experience, which will yield new insights critical to supporting frontier researchers as they pursue ethical research. For further information, contact Dr Ian Stoodley at i.stoodley@qut.edu.au.

Kate Davis
Associate Lecturer, Faculty of Science
and Technology | Information Systems
Discipline
Queensland University of Technology
k3.davis@qut.edu.au

Deakin University Library extends support for researchers

Building research capacity, with accompanying focus on the quality of research, have been strategic imperatives for Deakin University over the last 6 years. The library has responded by incorporating research support as a key element in its service design.

The appointment of two specialist research librarians has been critical to the strategic direction of the library. Ms Josipa Crnic is based at the Geelong Campus at Waurin Ponds, and Dr Daniela Kaleva at the Melbourne Campus at Burwood. Together, the research librarians work with faculties and research communities to build collegial relations and provide crucial links between researchers and the library. They monitor new and emerging research areas, coordinate and deliver training in partnership with the Institute of Research Training, and develop supporting learning materials and resources targeted to meet the needs of Higher Degree by Research students.

In the past twelve months, the research librarians have coordinated a variety of training sessions in collaboration with liaison librarians, culminating in a cross-faculty professional development program for

academic staff and researchers, the Information Discovery Series. The series raises awareness of important library and information resources, assists academics to engage students in the use of quality information resources for their study and research, facilitates cross-campus and cross-faculty academic interaction and networking, and assists the further development of effective working relationships with liaison and research librarians. The Information Discovery Series lays down the groundwork for structuring intensive, customised group training for academics and researchers. Library workshops for research students have since been incorporated into a university-wide research training program in 2010, facilitated by the university's Institute of Research Training.

"There are three key points," Daniela Kaleva says. "It's putting information sourcing in the context of the research process, so that we can first of all open up a discussion and engage our clients, but also to show them how important information is and how important our services are for the success of their research. The second approach is to propose and demonstrate comprehensive planning of information sourcing and

managing, and the other one is also to teach information resources by adopting a streamlined approach. That means not only teaching what a database can do in terms of searching it, but also in terms of customised options, such as saving searches, setting up alerts, and exporting references."

Now into the fourth offering of the university's Higher Degree by Research monthly training program, the library's sessions are so popular that registrations have been capped. Other initiatives include Deakin Research Online (DRO) the university's research repository now providing access to close to 20 000 research publications, and the employment of Higher Degree by Research students providing peer-to-peer support and fostering closer links with research teams.

Sue Owen
Associate Librarian, Client Services
sue.owen@deakin.edu.au

Katrina Barlow,
Quality Improvement
and Communications Coordinator
katrina.barlow@deakin.edu.au