



BOLD BY DESIGN



The entrance, inspired by artist Howard Arkley's bold paintings



has been an outstanding success, with significant increases in circulation and programming statistics. The learning focus of the new centre has created opportunities for delivering informal and formal education to the community and through developing partnerships with local education institutions, we have been able to offer nationally accredited and certificate level courses.

Avondale Heights Library and Learning Centre in the City of Moonee Valley in Victoria opened in September 2010. The visually striking and colourful building, inspired by artist Howard Arkley's bold and vibrant paintings of suburbia is now a highly visible landmark in the municipality and the sustainable design has already won an Australian Institute of Project Management 2011 Sustainable Project Award, and been nominated for a Melbourne Design Award.

This project was made possible with funding of \$3.6 million by the Victorian Government through Skills Victoria. The facility houses a relocated library combined with community and learning spaces.

A library was not in the initial design brief developed by Skills Victoria. The original concept was for a Community Learning Centre responsive to social, leisure, information and learning needs of residents. Halfway through construction a decision was made to integrate a nearby existing branch library. This change of plans shortened planning timeframes and created the extra challenge of retrofitting a building halfway through construction.

Twelve months on, the new Library and Learning Centre

A sponsorship arrangement developed with the East Keilor Community Bank Branch of the Bendigo Bank increased the number of public computers available. There has also been a high-level of interest across Council in the new facility, which has in turn created a positive profile for the Library and Learning Department.

Along with all of the challenges, a lot has been learnt – so here is some practical advice if you are starting out on the adventure that is a new library building:

- don't expect it to be an easy process
- understand and try to address the concerns of staff – everyone deals with change in different ways, so don't underestimate the effect it can have
- toss around ideas with the designers and architect – have open conversations about what you want, your core business and workflows as often they will come up with solutions you hadn't thought of
- high-level support within your organisation is essential – we have been lucky to have a great level of interest in the project, both during development and since opening
- Build good working relationships with the project team – there is a huge benefit to having effective relationships with the architect, project manager and site manager
- design flexible spaces – a building designed to suit a range of purposes can adapt well.
- Use the opportunity to weed the collection (many of our customers assumed the collection was completely new, a result of rigorous weeding)
- maximise the use of face-out display – reducing the collection size and incorporating more display space has seen an increase in our circulation statistics
- think about acoustics – noise can become a problem, so include this in the design brief
- actively market the library – celebrate the achievements of a new facility
- address the community's needs – include the community in the consultation process and implement programs and collections that address their core needs
- build partnerships – look for opportunities for 'value adding', both in the development of the physical building and facilities and delivering learning programs

To celebrate the success of the facility as a social hub, we marked the first birthday with a community festival. The next twelve months will be equally exciting, with the development of an atrium to extend the programming space of the library, made possible through a Victorian Government *Living Libraries* grant.

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Library and Information Managers.

Applications are now open for the postgraduate programs in Library and Information Management or Business Information Management offered by UniSA.

These programs are blurring the boundaries and will enable librarians, records managers, archivists and business information management professionals to reinvent their careers, to keep in touch with the latest digital approaches and work in a wider skilled environment.

The programs offer you the opportunity to study at your own pace: either part-time or full-time, externally online, or face to face in Adelaide.

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