

Exciting new learning tool at University of Queensland

Students and staff at the University of Queensland can now explore the Great Barrier Reef or hear the immortal words of Romeo and Juliet without leaving their chairs.

On 23 May, the University opened its new \$400 000 Multimedia Facility—an exciting dimension in teaching and learning.

Located on the lower ground floor of the Undergraduate Library, more than 40 stations in the facility will involve the use of the latest CD-ROM technology. The facility will enable students and staff to access information which is relayed through sound, video, graphics and text.

The facility provides a learning environment where academics can demonstrate sophisticated multimedia tools effectively and where students can immediately follow up with practice on their own.

Many departments at the University are already involved in developing and using a range of

multimedia programs to support teaching.

University Librarian, Mrs Janine Schmidt, said multimedia interacted with a user in a way that a book could never do, making learning fun and interesting. She said the comparison between books and using multimedia was like the driver of an old sedan suddenly getting behind the wheel of a new Rolls Royce.

The facility will cater for the so-called Nintendo Generation— young people who have grown up with multimedia facilities at home and school. The facility is a joint project of the university's Prentice Centre, Tertiary Education Institute (TEI) and Library.

It has been funded by the Li-

brary and the TEI, \$250 000 from the Academic Services Group and \$80 000 in funds from the recent quality allocation to the University



Kate Donnelly, a student, using a multi-media program at the new multi-media facility

from the Federal Government.

For more information, please contact the multimedia librarian, Ms Gulcin Cribb on telephone (07) 365 3479. ■

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