

# Curtin University Library helps break down disability barriers for students and staff

To support students and staff with disabilities, Curtin University Library has upgraded its facilities in the T L Robertson Library building. Due to open at the beginning of first semester 2008, the expansion is being undertaken during current renovation work.

Since 1988, the Library has been committed to providing special services and equipment and was awarded a National Equity Prize and a Curtin University of Technology 'Equal Opportunity Prize' during the 1990s for its continual improvement of the facilities. However, by 2005, it had become obvious that the facility was no longer adequate to meet the needs of the ever-increasing number of students and staff with disabilities choosing to study at Curtin.

The Library reconfigured its floor design, consulting with students to ensure that all needs were met. Improvements include: screen reader software to assist vision impaired students, software and equipment that enlarges text significantly, four large screen computer workstations, ergonomic chairs, height-adjustable tables, angled work surfaces and a wheelchair accessible photocopier. The Library floor space has been designed so that the new and



*Curtin University, Bently campus*

improved facilities are located in a more accessible area, adjacent to two priority lifts with slow-closing doors.

The Library works collaboratively with University Counselling Services to regularly review and upgrade the equipment and software.

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