



Take the library with you

Deakin University Library is constantly seeking innovative ways to support the university's commitment to rural and regional engagement and flexible learning. With the introduction of the Deakin at Your Doorstep program, the development of new learning spaces at our regional campuses, and a growing suite of online resources, the library is committed to making our services and resources increasingly accessible to clients in rural and regional areas.

Deakin at Your Doorstep

Deakin University Library supports the university's initiatives to improve access to higher education for students in rural and regional areas. The new Associate Degree of Arts, Business and Sciences — offered as part of the Deakin at Your Doorstep program — gives students new pathway options to learn at Institutes of TAFE located close to where they live, a concept that is well supported by the library's vision of connecting people with information and technology.

One level of the **Warrnambool Campus Library** is undergoing minor building refurbishments to support the Deakin at Your Doorstep program, due for completion in January 2010. When complete, the Warrnambool Campus Library will offer more desktop computers and study stations, enhanced learning environments that will provide greater flexibility, more audio-visual equipment to promote group study, and vibrant lounge areas for collaborative learning and socialising. The building works are a precursor to a major refurbishment project scheduled for 2011–2012.

Increasing accessibility with online technologies

Deakin University Library provides our clients with a new way to access the library catalogue: from their mobile phones. Optimised for the iPhone but accessible on all web-enabled mobile devices, the mobile catalogue's light-bandwidth search interface enables our clients to search for books and journal articles, access unit e-readings, e-books and other items from the library collection. These items can be accessed wherever mobile phone coverage is available, which means our clients can take the library with them by pointing their phone browser to m.library.deakin.edu.au.

To support flexible learning and increase the go-anywhere access of library resources and services, the library has just finished its latest series of usability tests on the library web site. The tests focused on the methods, pathways, and tools used when navigating the library web site, with a view to improving the overall user experience for on- and off-campus

students. Library staff leading the study, Michelle Watson and Kat Clancy, will outline the usability testing process—and how it will ultimately enhance staff and student engagement—at the VALA 2010 library technology conference in Melbourne, next February.

The library also continues to source and make available an increasing number of e-books – currently 98 500 – which provide greater flexibility and accessibility to students. Working in collaboration with lecturers who are trialling their textbook as an e-book, delivered on an e-book reader, the library is investigating book portability and go-anywhere access to course readings. The library has purchased several e-book readers and will offer a variety of books and articles for clients to access during the trial. The library anticipates a significant boom in the development and uptake of this technology, of particular benefit to students in rural and regional locations.

The Geelong Campus at Wauran Ponds building refurbishment

Deakin University Library has completed two building refurbishment projects: the first phase of development at the Melbourne Campus at Burwood and the new Alfred Deakin Prime Ministerial Library at the Geelong Waterfront Campus.

These projects are the appetiser to a major refurbishment project at the Geelong Campus at Wauran Ponds, which is set to transform the library's spaces into next-generation learning environments with a variety of flexible, contemporary learning spaces. Building work is well under way; the project is due for completion in 2010. When complete, the refurbishment project will deliver an innovative, exciting and engaging environment that will complement the Health and Medical Library Hub on the first floor of the library.

Partnerships with regional hospitals

Planning is under way to support Deakin University School of Medicine staff and students during two years of the four-year Bachelor of Medicine, Bachelor of Surgery course, undertaken in clinical school sites in rural and regional Victoria. To this end, Deakin has established good working relationships with several regional hospitals – Barwon Health, the Stan Carroll Library South West Health Care, Eastern Health, and the Ballarat Health Service – to provide seamless assistance for students and staff in this largely online academic working environment. The library will take an active role, liaising with the hospital librarians and supporting medical students with their print and information requirements. The students will have access to on-site local technological infrastructure and advice at each clinical site.

As these initiatives suggest, flexibility and choice are paramount in the library's commitment to increase accessibility for rural, regional, and off-campus clients. Whether it's in the airwaves, through a cable, or in person, the library seeks to build a range of high-quality services that are innovative, accessible, and customised for our clients' needs, meaning that they can always take the library with them.

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Geraldton-Greenough Regional Library

The City of Geraldton is located 400 kilometres north of Perth, at the centre of Australia's Coral Coast. The Geraldton-Greenough Regional Library offers its community a variety of services and events.

One of the key events in the library calendar is the annual Big Sky Readers and Writers Festival which is held over a weekend in September. This year, the fifth, the theme was loosely based around the International Year of Astronomy: *Big Sky – Write out there*.

The aim of the weekend is to provide opportunities for local emerging and established writers to further develop their skills by meeting published authors. It also allows readers a chance to meet authors and learn more about the writing and publishing process, as well as promoting the library (and Geraldton), as a cultural icon and community hub

Guest writers who could spare some extra time in their busy schedules were given the option of an overnight stay at the Abrolhos Islands. Those who went were captivated and inspired by the scenery and wildlife.

Writers this year included Liz Byrski, Dr Anita Heiss, Dean Alston, Robert Drewe, Shelley Gare, Barbara Temperton, Glyn Parry, Simon Haynes, Verity James, Jon Doust, Leonie Norrington, Joy Lefroy, Lara Morgan, Marlish Glorie, Peter Goldsworthy, musician Jim Fisher, and chef Kate Lamont.

Both authors and attendees seemed to thrive in the warm and friendly atmosphere that was created by keeping the festival small. Feedback was very positive, with many of our guests expressing their appreciation of the effort library staff had made to ensure they were looked after and made welcome.

The library has its own website which is maintained by the Librarian E-Services. The