

NEW ECOSCIENCES PRECINCT LIBRARY THROWS OPEN THE DOORS

Library staff from CSIRO, the Department of Employment, Economic Development and Innovation and the Department of Environment and Resource Management in Queensland recently moved into their shared library at the new EcoSciences Precinct (ESP) in Dutton Park, Brisbane, and 'threw open the doors' at the end of March to invite library colleagues to view and tour the new facility.

Over 50 staff and visitors from government, academic and corporate sectors attended the EcoSciences Precinct Library Open Day, and saw firsthand the results of collaboration between the three agencies over a number of years. In the spirit of collaboration the centre is designed to encourage, library staff from the three agencies now work together to provide services to over 1000 ESP staff and researchers



The modern world-class facility comprises three multi-storey towers housing laboratory, office, wash-up and storage spaces. The building incorporates green energy and recycling initiatives, and is designed to encourage interaction and collaboration amongst occupants. Well-appointed communal and food preparation areas are placed outside work areas to encourage staff to leave their work areas for tea and lunch breaks, and very appealing garden and seating areas are established in atriums between the towers. The library is very prominently placed on the ground floor of the central tower, directly opposite the main lifts, (and near the coffee shop!) and provides ample seating, reading and working space.



As part of proceedings for the Open Day, representatives from each library service outlined the resources and services available for clients, how their work fitted in with that of their wider agency library team (distributed around Australia in the case of the CSIRO) and discussed the preparatory work done to enable collection moves to occur.

Library clients at the facility work in diverse areas including animal nutrition, climate change and adaptation, agricultural sustainability, soil science, and weed management. While researchers from all agencies access the majority of library content via organisational intranets, library staff are kept busy conducting advanced literature requests, conducting training courses, and supporting citation management software EndNote and Refworks.

A real benefit for library staff working at ESP has been the cross-fertilisation that has occurred, and the sharing of information and skills.

Potential developments in the ESP library service include the creation of a union library catalogue and possible shared access to electronic resources. A shared site intranet would also be a welcome development should a platform be made available, enabling the library to project a more unified presence to clients.

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