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It's a big world, we've organised it.



The Dewey Decimal Classification is published by OCLC. Image: © Corbis

The development of South Australia's prison libraries is long overdue and the overall objective must be to set up a library service that is as self-sustaining as possible. Key to its success is the employment and training of appropriate prisoner librarians, as well as an understanding by prison staff of the library role.

A functioning prison library is an important cog in the wheel toward rehabilitation and, for many, a prime opportunity to discover the wonders of learning and recreational reading. As many repeat offenders lack the cognitive thinking skills to identify with another point of view, a passion for reading can help develop these skills. As Atticus Finch in *To Kill a Mockingbird* says, "You never really understand a person until you consider things from his point of view – until you climb into his skin and walk around in it".

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ORIENTATION VIA A BLOG

Orientating a large group of students to the library is always a challenge. With 90+ new students and one hour allotted for the library orientation this year at Bond University, the team decided to centre library orientation activities for the new cohort of medicine students around the Library Matters blog, writes Wendy Abbott.

Our aim of making library orientation more self-directed and independent and focusing activities around the Health Sciences and Medicine (HSM) Library Matters blog to make it stick in the minds of students as a worthwhile resource to revisit in the future. Two pages were added to the blog, one titled Library Orientation and the other Quiz Yourself. From the Library Orientation page, students could access all the important information they need to know to be able to hit the ground running and make the most of the library from day one of their studies. Screen casts on searching Summon and self-service options such as renewing loans and placing hold requests on library items featured in the Orientation information.

Students then used the Quiz Yourself page, containing multiple-choice quizzes (created with Google Docs), to reinforce the information they had learned from the Library Orientation page. A DIY library tour was also created which students followed to find the most significant parts of the library. Students also had the option to use the chat link on the blog to seek assistance from the Liaison Librarian for Health Sciences and Medicine.

Students enjoyed the self-directed nature of the activities, and the Library Orientation page has been left on the blog for students to return to as needed. An added benefit appears to be the increased traffic on the blog since May this year, enhancing its effectiveness as a tool for communicating library news to students. Statistics from Google Blogger indicate a threefold increase in views of the HSM Library Matters blog - a great endorsement.

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