



## A FACELIFT NOT INTENDED TO LAST

*During the last 12 months the University of South Australia Library has undertaken minor facelifts at two of its campuses; both projects strictly limited by budget. One project was all about a temporary facelift for a building that will be repurposed in the near future but really showing its age, the other was an update in a heritage-listed building.*

The buildings on the Magill campus of UniSA were built in the 1960s and are showing their age. But the imminent repurposing of the library building meant only a temporary fix was needed. There were some simple things we could do to refresh the tired look, including fresh paint (although we learnt you will never get unanimous agreement on paint colours so it's best not to try), purchasing new freestanding furniture instead of new custom-made, built-ins, hanging artwork that can later be moved and using removable decorative bay end panels for visual impact. We also realised that sticking with one colour palette across all branches of the library would mean any furniture we purchased could be moved anywhere as needed and still look good.

The second facelift, at our City East campus, involved a library located in the heritage-listed Brookman Building. In this project the library foyer was refurbished; updating the services desk from a modular, harsh-edged brown block to a curved, inviting bench with a bright contemporary colour scheme. The red colour theme used to highlight the desk has also been used as a recurring highlight colour in several other parts of the library.

The area is now warm and inviting with ottomans, improved internet wireless access, power points for students to use their own laptops, lounge chairs, round tables for group work and includes a new display area for new books and journal issues.

### Tips for a facelift project

- Keep clients informed about what's happening and the benefits by using posters and TV screens that include images of proposed new areas
- Plan for the future and ask what will be needed in three, five and ten years time?
- Remove signage that has built up over the years and keep only the minimum
- Include frontline staff in the process as they see firsthand how the library spaces are used
- Don't limit yourself for ideas by only visiting other libraries and checking out the use of the physical space - look at retail outlets, trade magazines for use of colour and materials and reception areas such as at health centres



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