

Monash multimedia greens up

In December last year *The Australian* published an article on Australia's top ten greenest universities and ranked Monash University as number one. Now the Monash University Library is targeting multimedia waste as part of its recycling programs.

The award from *The Australian* took into account Monash's wide range of sustainability related degrees, courses and study areas, as well as its extensive research programs with national and international partners. The Office of Environmental Sustainability (TOES) together with the Monash Sustainability Institute (MSI) engages in an extensive range of green programs focused on both infrastructural and cultural change across the university. The cultural change programs are implemented with the aid of 23 'Green Representatives' who encourage colleagues to participate in programs and initiatives such as turning off lights in vacated rooms, setting computers to hibernate, reducing paper usage, using keep cups for takeaway coffee, and recycling shelving and furniture.

This year the library will be implementing a multimedia materials recycling program. The library

also regularly updates videos to DVDs and as they become available, updates from DVDs to streamed videos. So there is an ongoing need to dispose of thousands of jewel cases as well as damaged and superseded multimedia materials.

The project was initiated and developed by librarian Katalin Mindum as part of the library's efforts to green up its act and find an environmentally friendly and guilt free way of disposing of damaged and superseded CDs and DVDs, floppy disks, video and audio cassettes and jewel cases. Like many others, the library re-cases all new CDs and DVDs into security cases and is currently investigating moving to Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) which would require all existing discs to be re-cased yet again. We will also be making use of Victorian company DiscBack's free collection and recycling service for CDs and related materials. It is an exciting initiative for the library and has been embraced with enthusiasm.

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