

# ALIA TEAM – OUT AND ABOUT

## Australian National University libraries



From Rachael Hind, ALIA ACT Manager:

My first impression of Chifley Library is that I wish I was a student again. The library is welcoming and appears user-friendly. Food and drink is permitted (wow!) and free wi-fi is provided. There is plenty of quiet study space provided, as well as ample areas for cooperative group work to take place.

The mobile phone booth is an interesting feature, allowing people to talk on the phone without disturbing others around them. Imagine talking on a phone in a library!

We were informed that the library is regularly open until midnight which must be so helpful for students who juggle families and work commitments with their study load.

A most impressive feature is a room designed to assist students with disabilities. It has a very welcoming, comfortable feel and allows students with additional needs to be provided with the space and appropriate equipment they need to study.

While the Chifley Library still has that same retro feel and it still smells like an academic library, it certainly is a library for the 21<sup>st</sup> century student.

The WK Hancock Building is known as **Hancock Library** and provides material from most areas of science, engineering, technology, and medicine.

The major strengths of the Hancock Library collection are in:

- General science
- History and philosophy of science
- Science policy
- Chemistry
- Mathematical and computing sciences
- Physics
- Psychology, biological and medical sciences
- Forestry, geography, geology, earth, and environmental sciences
- Engineering and technology

Information commons computer facilities for use by ANU students and staff are available in the Hancock Library. There are over 100 PC and Mac computers available for student use.

The RG Menzies Building, known as the **Menzies Library**, is the hub of the Library's Asia Pacific focused services. The Menzies Library is a heritage-listed building and is named after former

Continuing our mini-series of articles by staff at ALIA House about their fact-finding visits to local Canberra libraries. Previous issues have covered the AIATSIS Library and the National Library of Australia.

Our next visit was to the Australian National University (ANU) libraries and we all felt so inspired as we followed a trail from the Chifley Library, then to the Hancock and on to Menzies library – all in the space of a couple of hours.

The **Chifley Library**, named after Joseph Benedict Chifley (Prime Minister of Australia from 1945–1949), supports the teaching, learning, and research activities of staff and students in the ANU College of Arts and Social Sciences and the ANU College of Business and Economics. The Library is also a valuable resource for the broader ANU community and visiting scholars and researchers, and welcomes all members of the public.

Four Information Commons computers in the Chifley Library provide students and staff with a variety of digitising, authoring, and publishing tools. Professional authoring software is available to edit scanned images, create web pages, create multimedia presentations, author printed documents, and burn interactive or archival CD ROMs and DVDs in various formats.



Prime Minister Sir Robert Gordon Menzies for his contribution to the development of higher education and research in Australia.

The Library's holdings of Asian scholarly materials are considered to be the most comprehensive among Australian university libraries and are well respected internationally. In addition, the Menzies Library together with the ANU Archives constitute a major resource centre for Pacific studies.

The Menzies Library collection supports Asia Pacific studies in the fields of history, anthropology, politics and international relations, literature and language, religion and philosophy.

Material unique to the Menzies Library includes:

- East Asian language collections (Chinese/Japanese/Korean)
- Asia Pacific official documents
- Rare books, manuscripts and special collections
- ANU theses collection

Language and subject specialists for China, Japan, Korea, South and South East Asia, the Middle East, and the Pacific are available for in-depth consultations either with individuals or groups.

The RG Menzies Library is celebrated its 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, 13 March 2013. ALIA members are welcome to participate in the Menzies 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary events throughout this year. Here are highlights of current events in 2013.

### Exhibition 50 years of ANU and the University Library

13 March – 15 September 2013

Celebrating 50 years of dedicated library and information services to ANU, Canberra, Australia, and the world. This exhibition is organised in association with ANU Archives.

Heritage Tours of the RG Menzies Library Building 2013.

Come and find out why the RG Menzies Building is listed on the Commonwealth Heritage List and more in this 30-minute tour.

Heritage tours of the RG Menzies Library building are available for groups as a tribute to celebrating the Centenary of Canberra in 2013. For appointments, please contact [asiapacific.library@anu.edu.au](mailto:asiapacific.library@anu.edu.au)

More information on future events will be available on [anulib.anu.edu.au/Menzies-50th/](http://anulib.anu.edu.au/Menzies-50th/)

From Robyn Bartlett, ALIA membership officer:

As part of our tour of ANU Libraries we met Lorena Kanellopoulos of E Press. E Press was set up to publish books from ANU's academics and PHD students. Lorena was fiercely supportive of open access and all the books published by E Press are available free online or to be downloaded. They are also available in hardcopy as print-on-demand books. The only charge is to cover the cost of printing and administration.

E press publishes about 16 books a year, with each book taking about a month to prepare depending on the size, number of illustrations, and the state of the initial manuscript.

Proposals for books to be published have to be submitted to an editorial committee for evaluation and they are peer-reviewed with at least one review from outside of ANU.

To check out the books available or find out more information see their website [epress.anu.edu.au](http://epress.anu.edu.au)

#### Images

1. The Chifley Library.
2. Mobile phone booth.
3. Roxanne Missingham shows Robyn and Rachael the impressive artwork at the entrance of the RG Menzies Library.
4. The RG Menzies Library.
5. A display case in the rare books, manuscripts, and special collections section of the RG Menzies Library.

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