

BOLD NEW BOOKSHELF FOR CURTIN UNI



New technology is enabling Curtin University to showcase electronic and physical collections seamlessly for their patrons

With the purchase of physical books seemingly on a downward spiral everywhere, libraries and information services have found themselves faced with yet another challenge – how do you promote your collection if it's part hard copy,

Curtin University has made the Virtual Bookshelf technology freely available to interested libraries.

part electronic, and your patrons can no longer necessarily 'see' the full collection to browse it?

Curtin University Library's Virtual Bookshelf, recently awarded the Library Board of Western Australia's Excellence Award for 2013, is proving to be a successful solution.

The Virtual Bookshelf technology delivers a convenient browsing experience that includes both physical and virtual resources in a single attractive display, either showing as a moving carousel or, in the best tradition of ebook stores, sitting on a wood grain bookshelf. Each item's cover is shown in a display that is updated weekly with new titles.

Clicking on the book cover image reveals a pop-up of its bibliographic details and links to the location and availability for hard copy works. If it is an ebook, then clicking on the image will take the client straight to the ebook itself.

Curtin has made the technology freely and openly accessible to interested libraries for use with their clients. Any libraries interested in getting access to the code should follow New Books link from the library's homepage at www.library.curtin.edu.au.