

# EXPANDING EXPECTATIONS

**N**ow that the dust has settled on the recently completed reconfiguration of the entry levels of the 40 year old Robertson Library, Curtin University can provide clients with most of the facilities they require nearly 20 hours a day, seven days a week.

Providing university library services for today's students requires the flexibility of a modern building – or at least a modernised older building.

Curtin University's Robertson Library's new entry is now more prominently visible from the bus station route onto campus. Inside, the entrance has been completely transformed. A magnificent staircase links the entrance to the first two floors, which will be open during the library's extended access hours. Not only is the staircase an impressive piece of architecture, it improves the traffic flow and way-finding through the building, and also directs noise flows, with areas being quieter as clients move further away. Digital signage throughout the building can be centrally controlled by library staff and also enables urgent messages to be brought to the attention of anyone in the building.

Safety is a priority for the library and access to the building during extended hours can now be controlled through swipe card access for Curtin students and staff. Curtin University security staff patrol the area regularly and offer

bus and escort services to get students safely to their cars and student accommodation.

Integration of the cafe within the library provides more usable internal space and allows clients to use library resources within the interior of the cafe and alfresco dining areas without having to borrow them first. Seating is available whenever the library is open so students can study alfresco at midnight if they so desire. There is also a separate coffee and snack kiosk, allowing the cafe to provide these essential late night services for longer hours with limited staff. Upgraded wireless networks support the alfresco area as well as the interior and print reference, reserve and hold collections are now available for self-service loan during extended hours.

In one of the biggest and most significant transformations, library staff have been relocated from the entry level, allowing this desirable area to be converted to interactive and individual client use. New integrated work and counter areas allow limited staff to provide multiple services and a service counter is positioned to be visible from two entry points.

More client computing, group tables and casual seating have been added, plus client 'pods' to provide semi-private group space during extended hours. Other reference and consultation pods have been designed for private and group service by reference staff, faculty librarians and coordinators and can be used by clients when not required by staff.

Curtin students can now access library resources to finish a group assignment or browse reserve items alfresco with a coffee. The new look library has been well worth the wait.

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**IMAGES**  
(clockwise):

1. New seating offers improved flexibility and comfort.
2. A view of the new Bookmark Café.
3. The new east entry highlights the integrated work and counter areas.

