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Shelf Life – the Altered Book Project



'Make life an aeroplane' by Dolores Cupcake

The Library hosted the Altered Book Project – *Shelf Life* – in the Exhibition Space on Level 2 of the Lismore Library from 28 July to 8 August 2008.

The Altered Book Project was a collaboration between SCU Library and Visual Arts students and staff. Books have a shelf life. Rather than discarding books that had been 'withdrawn from stock', the Library made these available to Visual Arts for reworking into art objects. The result was an exhibition of altered books that extended the life of these books through a variety of considered and playful manipulations.

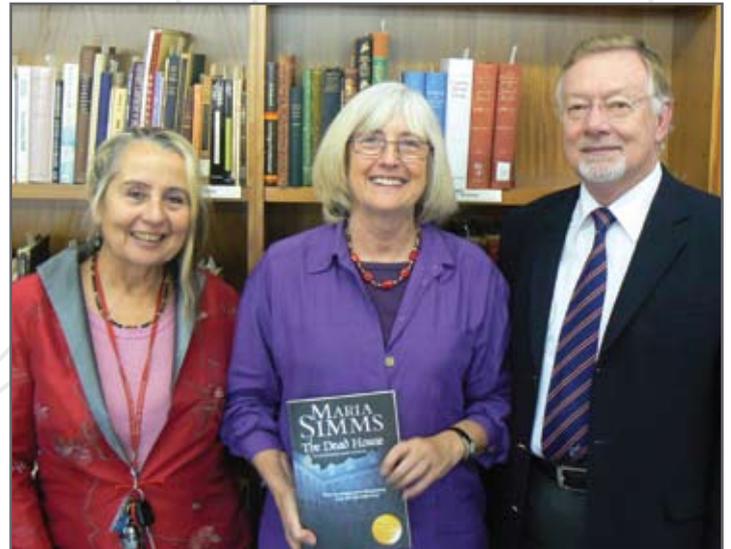
The project was co-ordinated by Dr Murray Paterson, Visual Arts, Southern Cross University, and curated by Visual Art students Chris Barnes, Christine King and James Hopkinson.

Other events

The Vice-Chancellor, Professor Paul Clark, launched former staff member and SCU graduate Dr Maria Simms' novel, *The Dead House*, in the Library's Manning Clark Room on 10 September 2008. The novel won the inaugural Genre Fiction Award from New Holland Publishers, run in conjunction with the NSW Writers' Centre. The launch was sponsored by New Holland and the University Co-op Bookshop, and was widely attended by staff as well as members of the community.

The Library also hosted the Australian Red Cross *Survivors Photographic Exhibition* from 5-6 August 2008. These powerful photographs told the stories of Cambodian landmine survivors.

Entries in the SCU Fusion Festival photographic competition were on display in the exhibition space from 8–12 September 2008. Open to all students and staff, the competition celebrated *UNItY in diVERSITY* – 'the coming together of cultures and communities'.



(L-R) Dr Janie Conway-Herron, Dr Maria Simms & Professor Paul Clark at the launch



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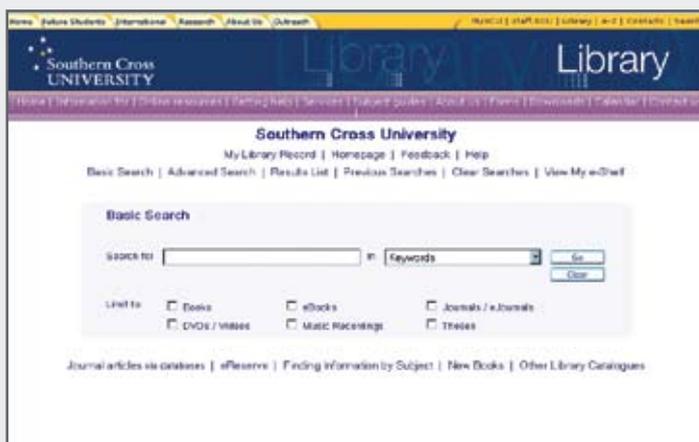
Who's new in the Library?

Your Library

Catalogue enhancements

We have made some changes to the Library Catalogue to make it easier to use. These include:

- Check boxes have been inserted in the Basic Search screen to enable searching for specific material types.
- Colour has been added around the search box to make it stand out.
- Google Books preview links are available from the full record screen - just click on the title.
- More user-friendly messages such as *Request a Photocopy*, *Request a Loan* and *Your request was not placed because there is a copy available on the shelf*.
- *Sign In* has become *My Library Record* for access to personal loan records.
- The Library header and navigation bar have been added to allow easy navigation to the other parts of the Library and SCU sites.
- The *Change Catalogue* link has been renamed *Other Library Catalogues* and moved to beneath the search box. National and local collections can be searched from here.
- From the Basic Search screen there are links to other Library resources e.g. [Articles via databases](#), [eReserve](#), [Finding Information by Subject](#), and [New Books](#).
- Renewing items in the Catalogue has been tested and found to work on a PDA.



Feedback and suggestions for further improvements are welcome.

Database trials

From time to time, the Library arranges trials of new electronic resources. Current trials are linked from the Databases page on the Library website:

www.scu.edu.au/library/index.php/150/

We value your input, so take the time to look at what's available and use the online evaluation form to give your feedback. Contact your Liaison Librarian for more information.



New Copyright website

The SCU Copyright website has recently been updated and migrated into the University's content management system WebSYS.

The Copyright site aims to help staff understand and apply the legal requirements of the Copyright Act when providing copyright material to enrolled students, or when using material for the administrative purposes of the University.

The site also provides some information for students to assist in understanding their legal obligations under the Act.

The WebSYS platform provides an easy-to-use search engine that enables you to quickly locate information on a particular aspect of copyright.

The new URL is www.scu.edu.au/copyright

Your Library at a glance – 2007

Number of Books	234,311
Items Acquired	5,145
Current Journal Titles	36,949
Loans	166,858
Interlibrary Book Loans	1,457
Photocopies Requested	4,870
Off-Campus Student Requests	6,830
Opening Hours Per Week	70
Number of Staff	42.5
Library Materials Budget	\$1,509,714
Library Budget	\$4,964,311
Visits to Library	336,150
Number of Libraries	3
Seating Capacity	875

Statistics supplied from 2007 CAUL Stats/Finance One/Library Statistics



Academic staff profile

Associate Professor Alison Specht
School of Environmental Science and Management

How long have you been at SCU and what attracted you to working here?

I began in 1987 at what was then the Northern Rivers College of Advanced Education. The College had set up a multidisciplinary group which could earn research money doing environmental consultancies. The Northern Rivers region is a wonderful area for biodiversity. Doing environmental science in the city can feel very remote and it's good to be located close to the natural environment. I had previously been at the University of Queensland as a PhD student, post-doctoral research fellow and tutor in Botany. My main research foci there were environmental controls on tree growth and vegetation mapping. The merger of the College with the University of New England in 1989 enabled a sense of collegiality with other researchers in my discipline and we also became eligible for ARC grants.

What are your teaching and research interests?

I teach in the areas of plant identification and conservation, plant eco-physiology and ecological restoration and monitoring. In 1995 I published the *Conservation Atlas of Plant Communities in Australia*, the definitive work in the area, with my father, who is also a botanist, and in 1999 (2nd edition 2002) a reference text titled *Australian Plant Communities: Structure, Growth and Biodiversity*. I received a Carrick Citation for an Outstanding Contribution to Student Learning in 2006 for *the effective application of authentic, collaborative learning in an emerging discipline in environmental science*.

My research interests focus on ecosystem function, working from a plant-centered perspective.

I'm interested in how the biota interact with the environment over space and time. I've developed an expertise in environmental monitoring, having worked in this field since 1988. I also work in the area of ecological restoration – recreating ecosystems to make them function properly again – and am a member of the editorial board of the journal *Ecological Management and Restoration*. I'm currently finalising the background document for a water resources plan for southern Moreton Bay.

What are your interests outside of academic work?

Balancing life with one's career can be difficult for women in science. I like to spend time with my family, and I cook, sew and garden. I used to do aerobics, and before that ballet dancing – now I'm doing yoga.

How do you make use of the Library?

I use the interlibrary loan service and databases. These are vital – they are the life's blood of research. Of course, I use journals and books. Books are important and valuable for the synthesis, perspective and insight that can be developed in that format. Conference proceedings are also a great asset. Recently I've also been using microfiche newspaper records for a study of extreme natural events on the east coast of Australia since 1840.

If there was one thing you could change about the Library, what would it be?

I wish we had more electronic journals.



Who's new in the Library?

Liz Brett

Library Technician

Liz is a Library Technician in the Lending Services section, working mainly in the Short Loan collection, Document Delivery, and at the Information Desk. She has a background in public libraries, working most recently at the Upper Hunter Regional Library in document delivery and as acting Customer Services Librarian. Liz especially enjoys contact with students and staff at the Information Desk. As recent arrivals to the region, she and her family are enjoying the area and what it has to offer.

Alison Slocombe

Manager, Electronic Resources and Systems

Alison Slocombe commenced as Manager, Electronic Resources and Systems, in early July. She was previously employed at the University of Technology, Sydney, as Faculty Librarian for Humanities and Social Sciences, and was team leader for generic information literacy programs. She has also worked at the Australian Catholic University where she was responsible for implementing a number of new electronic systems in the library. Alison is currently involved in reviewing the Library's database subscriptions and investigating options for the purchase of e-books. She is looking forward to improving access to electronic resources, including the development of new search interfaces and discovery tools.

Tracy Tees

Liaison Librarian

Tracy is the new Liaison Librarian for the School of Arts and Social Sciences. She has worked in the school and TAFE sectors and has a keen interest in information literacy and the application of Web 2.0 technologies in libraries. Tracy is enjoying the transition to a university environment, and is finding the engagement with students and staff very energising and rewarding. She has come full circle - having undertaken a library work experience program at the former Northern Rivers College of Advanced Education when she was fifteen!

(L-R) Alison Slocombe, Liz Brett, Tracy Tees



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Tweed Gold Coast	www.scu.edu.au/library	goldcoastlibrary@scu.edu.au	07 5506 9205