



Melbourne's Scholarly Information Future a ten year strategy

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Consultation paper, February 2008

How should we develop our scholarly information and technologies, services and infrastructure to achieve our research, learning, teaching and knowledge transfer aspirations over the next decade?

(Scholarly Information in a Digital Age – Choices for the University of Melbourne: A consultation paper that invites involvement and response. February, 2008)

- *Understand how we create, use and communicate information in our individual scholarly activities*
- *Consider how we wish to make our scholarly output available to and usable by others*
- *Imagine our future state*
 - *Collect or connect to information?*
 - *Technologies, systems, infrastructure?*
 - *Physical spaces T&L, libraries*
 - *Strategies to build information capabilities of staff and students*

(Consultation Paper, February 2008)

Earlier presentation from Angela Bridgland examined the objectives and the process

Presentation will focus on Outcomes

Melbourne's Scholarly Information Future: A ten-year strategy

Endorsed by Council in July 2008

- The principles
- Highlights
- 2009 actions

- Process engaged the scholarly community
- Learned much about the scholarly information environment at the University
- Comprehensive data collection to inform decision-making
- Benchmarking data related to current state of Library was telling. eg
 - Number of library borrowers and visitors
 - Uncatalogued collections
 - Storage issues
 - Acquisitions budget
 - Staffing
- Heightened awareness of the importance of making decisions around libraries and scholarly information

There were different viewpoints and priorities

Our academics want...	Our students want...
<p>A mix of physical and digital collections — and our students want more resources that are relevant</p>	
<p>Easy to use searching tools</p>	
<p>Ongoing development of scholarly literacy for students, staff</p>	<p>More computers in libraries</p>
<p>A new 'type' of information professional to support them in research, teaching and learning</p>	<p>More seating in libraries</p>
<p>Research data management services and the infrastructure for research and collaboration</p>	<p>Longer library opening hours</p>

I hope that in ten years time the University has built a huge building in the middle of campus with all the library resources in one place.

academic, geography

...continuously networked to my virtual research community with constant updates of new data, results, discoveries and scientific publications

researcher, neuroscience

I would visit the library less and get the information I need online.

researcher, education

It's all digital in 10 years.

academic, management

The idea of 'ownership' will become more fluid as more and more people collaborate and contribute to scholarly information.

researcher, physics

Quality will be maintained by peer review critics being annotated along side the information, and a rejoinder from the author... great institutions will be measured by the frequency they are utilized as a source of information – how many times their information is visited online.

researcher, molecular biology

multi-disciplinary centres that house multi-skilled academics

academic, physics

...closer engagement with peers internationally in ways that are equivalent to face to face contact

researcher, geography & environmental studies

***The information environment will fit seamlessly with the real world...
I will still need to meet in person with my collaborators and get drunk with them.***

academic, engineering

1. What type of library/libraries should we have?

Co-located
w/teaching spaces



Located
elsewhere

Specific cognate
disciplines



Multidisciplinary

Undergraduate



Graduate/Research

Fewer libraries



More libraries

2. What should be in the libraries?

3. Who can use our libraries?

4. How 'open' do we want to be with our scholarly output?

5. How should we organise ourselves to achieve our preferred information future?

- Each university is crafting its own solution based upon its research and teaching priorities, its history, its current state, its values and philosophy
- It seems certain that the increasing pace of change in scholarly practices will demand a high degree of flexibility
- Yet if we don't make choices we risk dilution of effort, a continually widening gap between our aspirations and our ability to deliver and most importantly falling behind our competitors

To deal with a rapidly changing environment we will:

1. Focus on our **research strengths**, using our information environment to build stronger cross-disciplinary links.
2. Harness the diverse insights and innovative ideas of each new generation of **students**.
3. Work as **partners** across academic and professional boundaries to achieve our aims.
4. Make **informed choices** about the development of our scholarly information and technologies.
5. Build our physical learning and teaching environments, including our libraries, to **maximise flexibility**.

To deal with globalisation of education and its infrastructure we will:

6. Leverage the opportunities offered by being part of a **global collaborative community**.
7. Focus on the **quality of our staff and students** as a key differentiator in a competitive world.
8. Seek to **shape national and international agendas**, as befits our role as a leading institution.

To deal with the tension between emerging client needs, existing values and competing demands within finite resources we will:

9. **Value the diversity** of our discipline and individual backgrounds whilst recognising the need to make choices about our common future informed by an understanding of value and cost.
10. Implement initiatives in ways that ensure we can be **innovative, agile, adaptable and flexible**.
11. Plan and operate in ways that are **financially, technologically and environmentally sustainable**.

High quality learning environments, services and spaces, including our libraries, to bring our teaching and learning into the 21st century

- Immediate
 - Ten year Master Plan reflecting library precinct development
 - Baillieu Arts/Music precinct planned
 - Scholarly literacy programs embedded in all undergraduate degrees
- Within the life of the strategy
 - Scholarly literacy programs embedded in all post graduate programs
 - High quality, flexible interactive learning spaces
 - Device independent virtual services
 - Precinct libraries and post graduate libraries established, entry and authorization mechanisms in place

Development of our unique strengths and treasures, using these to engage with the community, to enhance our reputation, to advance knowledge

- Immediate
 - Curation and digitization plan in place
 - Agreed policies on Open access
 - Build a scholarly information practice network within the University
- Within the life of the strategy
 - Establish an open digital publishing system for our scholars
 - Targeted curation and digitization of unique collections
 - Develop a great research and cultural library that links the city and the University
 - Develop a centre of excellence in scholarly information practice

Better research information infrastructure, collections, technologies and skilled people to attract the best research funding and researchers

- Immediate
 - Research data management standards, guidelines
 - Authentication and authorization system
- Within the life of the Strategy
 - Research data management and storage service
 - Increased investment in our digital and print collections
 - All our collections all described and/or catalogued
 - Improved searching, collaboration tools
 - Information professionals part of the research process

- Research data management standards, guidelines developed
- Initiate trial in Law School of library research service
- A 10-year collection management plan developed that articulates the preferred mix of print, digital, open shelving, storage, ownership or access
- Develop induction and refresher programs in e-research literacy and practice for academics and RHD students
 - undertake pilots in 2-3 Faculties
- Authentication and authorization system funded for 2009

- Master Plan reflects proposed precinct developments
 - Baillieu stage 1 (planning) funded in 2009
 - Temporary storage funded in 2009
 - Giblin Eco & Commerce Library to new location in 2009/10
 - Redevelopment of Brownless Biomedical Library
- Embed scholarly literacy programs in all new generation degrees
 - undertake pilots in 2 or 3 degrees in 2009

- Adopt a framework against which special collections and cultural collections are assessed to develop priorities for curation and digitising programs
- Establish a fund for scholarly information innovation initiatives - \$50,000 set aside for several small projects in 2008/2009 - seeking matching Faculty funding
- Establish a network of people across the University with an interest and expertise in scholarly information practice
- Put in place mechanisms for fundraising to support initiatives—working with Advancement Office on establishing a minimal presence in 2009

More information:

Web www.informationfutures.unimelb.edu.au



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