

Libraries of the Australian Technology Network of Universities



Year in Review 2010

Libraries of the Australian Technology Network, or LATN, comprises the University Librarians of each of the ATN institutions with the Auckland University of Technology (AUT) in New Zealand as an international participant. The LATN group develops an annual strategic plan which is formulated within the wider context of the ATN agenda and includes a number of agreed collaborative projects. Areas that this group are undertaking projects include information literacy, exploring means to maximise access to collections and electronic information resources; and exploring issues around eLibraries, in particular the implications and opportunities for the ATN in response to IT developments.

The Future of the Integrated Library Management System

As one of its principal activities for 2010, LATN ran a webinar on *The Future of the Integrated Library Management System* on 17 November 2010 with participants in Auckland, Perth, Brisbane, Adelaide, Melbourne and Sydney and the expert speaker in Nashville.

The webinar was introduced by Lorraine Shepherd, University Librarian, AUT University. Marshall Breeding, Director for Innovative Technologies and Research for Vanderbilt University Libraries in Nashville, TN gave a stimulating presentation on current trends and possibilities in library automation. Marshall is an acknowledged expert and prolific writer and analyst in the field of library automation and the ILS. His Library Technology Guides website contains a wealth of relevant information on the state of play in this area.

Learner and Learning Engagement

The 2010 LATN Forum on *Learner and Learning Engagement* was held 7-8 October 2010 at UNISA. LATN supported attendance for two staff from each institution. The workshop aimed to share information on current issues in teaching and learning and to develop priorities for both LATN and the member university libraries.

Research Support

Member libraries followed up on the *Libraries of the ATN Research Support Statement* developed during 2009. Another research focused forum is planned for 2010.

Staff development

The very successful “How to write a paper” workshop for LATN staff on professional writing, conducted by Curtin in Melbourne in 2009, was repeated at UTS during the year.

Quality Assurance

LATN received a report prepared by Karen Tang of Curtin that benchmarked quality assurance processes. All members except UTS used the InSync client survey of library performance during 2009 or 2010 to benchmark their performance against each other.

Collaborative activity

LATN contributed to the agenda of the Council of Australian University Librarians (CAUL) with which its activities are complementary. The 2009 survey of performance in regard to services and issues relating to Indigenous peoples and issues was reported.

LATN members exchanged information on current issues and continued to maintain a website and the Collaborative Online Workspace (COW). A communication strategy guided LATN’s relations with other bodies including the ATN. It was also agreed that LATN would seek to publish papers deriving from its activities in recognised professional journals, *Australian Academic & Research Librarians* in particular.

Some previous areas of collaboration have run their course. The LATN collaborative offshore information literacy program is no longer relevant to most members with only UNISA participating during 2010.

Alex Byrne
Chair, LATN

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