

An abstract graphic composed of numerous thin, blue, curved lines that intersect to form a mesh-like structure. The lines flow from the top left towards the bottom right, creating a sense of movement and depth. The background is a light, solid blue.

# 2019 CAUL Report

United Nations Sustainable Development Goals



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# INTRODUCTION

Our nation benefits significantly from the activities of university libraries.

Libraries — through their resources, services and engagement — strengthen the impact of education and research, and disseminate knowledge to power the world.

Libraries are an essential part of our education system. They play a key role in the development of the nation's capacity by contributing to student learning experiences. These students then go on to power the economy and reshape our world.

The collections and services of libraries also contribute to research that develops international understanding of issues in science, social sciences, humanities, technology and medicine. Australian universities are leaders in making this research knowledge available.

Society is transformed through the power of research, teaching and learning. University libraries are essential knowledge and information infrastructures which enable student achievement and research excellence.

This paper has been prepared to report on the efforts of the [Council of Australian University Librarians](#) (CAUL), the peak leadership organisation for university libraries in Australia. Members are the lead [library executive](#) of the institutions that have representation on [Universities Australia](#).

The Council of Australian University Librarians (CAUL) makes a significant contribution to higher education strategy, policy and outcomes through a commitment to a shared purpose:

*To transform how people experience knowledge — how it can be discovered, used and shared.*

The CAUL Strategic Priorities for 2017–2019 are to advocate for:

- > fair, affordable and open access to knowledge
- > digital dexterity — the new skills for learning and research excellence.

*“Education is the proper way to promote compassion and tolerance in society. Compassion and peace of mind bring a sense of confidence that reduce stress and anxiety, whereas anger and hatred come from frustration and undermine our sense of trust. Because of ignorance, many of our problems are our own creation. Education, however, is the instrument that increases our ability to employ our own intelligence.”*

*— Dalai Lama XIV, October 8 2012*

# BACKGROUND

The [2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#) was agreed by the United Nation's 193-member states, including Australia, on 25 September 2015 in New York.

The 2030 Agenda has 17 Sustainable Development Goals and within these, there are 169 targets.

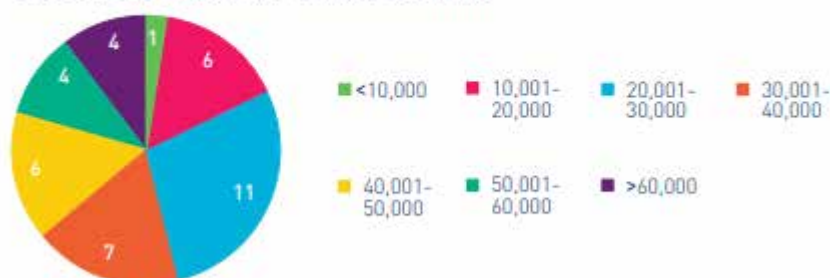


Australian universities and university libraries are at the forefront of activities that support the sustainable development goals. The 39 CAUL members create a capable workforce through contributing to the education of over 1.5 million students in 2017, and the research and teaching undertaken by over 120,000 full-time equivalent staff.

University education added an estimated \$140 billion to the Australian economy in 2014 (according to the [2015 Universities Australia report by Deloitte Access Economics](#)). The economic contribution bears fruit in the work done by graduates and academics who participate in education, public service, industry, international organisations and political bodies across the globe.

Australia has 41 local universities (including a small specialist university) and 2 overseas institutions that operate here. All 37 of Australia's public universities are UA members, as are two of the three private universities.

UNIVERSITY SIZE BY NUMBER OF ENROLLED STUDENTS



Libraries support the Sustainable Development Goals by:

- > promoting literacy (including digital, media and information literacy skills) with the support of dedicated staff
- > closing gaps in access to information, and helping individuals in all aspects of their life to better address their information needs
- > communicating knowledge created in our universities
- > serving as the heart of the research and academic community
- > building global partnerships and collaborations that provide greater access to digital collections and information capability programs
- > preserving and providing access to the world's culture and heritage
- > providing a network of delivery sites for government programs and services.



# GOAL 1: NO POVERTY

Reading and writing are critical skills for people trying to break the cycle of poverty and disadvantage.

Literacy is a complex area — the modern world demands language, numeracy and digital literacy skills as basic life skills. The literacy rate in Australia, however, has remained static for language and numeracy, and digital competency is low.

An Australian Bureau of Statistics study found that problem solving in technology-rich environments was low. They found that around 13% (2.2 million) of Australians were below Level 1 and 31% (5.3 million) were at Level 1. This indicates low skills in digital literacy<sup>1</sup>.

University libraries create programs and deliver services to increase the information and digital literacy of a highly diverse student group. Many have come from refugee and other disadvantaged backgrounds, and are the first in their families ever to attend university.

Library education contributes significantly to fostering a skill set that provides empathy and strong values to support this.

Creating literate graduates who have capabilities in relation to information, data, reading, digital resources and a passion to continue learning is at the core of the work of Australian university libraries.

Our libraries provide extensive activities to build the capacities and knowledge of students, academics and communities. In 2017:

- > 955,218 enquires from students and academics were answered — providing a transfer of knowledge building capabilities for the future
- > 481,381 members of Australian universities attended information literacy training sessions that build diverse skills such as searching, writing, data management and using technologies
- > 21,127 group sessions were held to engage with the academic community and those outside the university to build knowledge<sup>2</sup>.

These activities change lives — the outcomes can be seen in the lifelong contributions students make through their work in industry, educational institutions, government, societies, families and local communities.

In addition to supporting students, university libraries contribute to communities by making their resources publicly available through exhibitions and public events, and connecting the community and visitors to the knowledge of the world, thus increasing knowledge to enhance economic potential.

## Library education transforming lives

Charles Sturt University is the largest library educator in Australia. It has students enrolled in undergraduate and postgraduate courses in library and information sciences — educating the library staff of the future.

Approximately 33% are low or medium social economic status, with many from families that have never set foot in or imagined relating to a university.

The students are passionate advocates of sustainable development, with many contributing to public library programs and activities in university libraries that actively take on the challenge of improving national and international literacy.

Education through the library and information science courses brings financial advantage and enriches their families.

Australian university libraries support the program through providing work experience placements, assisting in course reviews, guest lecturing and funding staff to study the course.



1 NO POVERTY



1 Australian Bureau of Statistics. 4228.0 — Programme for the International Assessment of Adult Competencies, Australia, 2011-12 [www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/Lookup/4228.0Main+Features202011-12](http://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/Lookup/4228.0Main+Features202011-12)

2 CAUL statistics 2017.

# 3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING



## GOAL 3: GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

University libraries support the community through providing access to health collections. Most library collections are available to the community, including those in teaching hospitals.

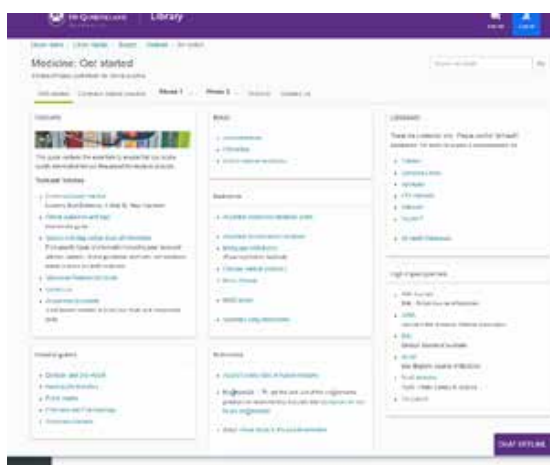
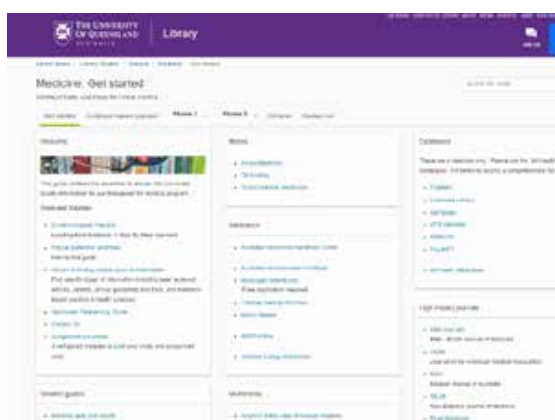
Special programs have been developed to support community access to medical research undertaken by university libraries, and to develop the skills of future medical and health graduates.

The outreach of university libraries through their support of medical education can be seen in guides to medical information which are made available to all through the internet.

At the Australian National University, a two-year research project in partnership with medicine school educators was undertaken to identify the information needs of medical students. Almost one-third of students participated in the research study.

The resulting transformation in digital literacy programs included making online modules and guides freely available on the internet to medical students, those in relational hospitals and health centres, and to those in the community and face-to-face training.

By reaching out to the community, good health is supported through increasing the knowledge and capabilities of those who need information to take part in creating a health sustainable world.



The importance of the services provided to support medical and health studies is recognized through the accreditation of courses by the Australian Medical Association.

# GOAL 4: QUALITY EDUCATION

University libraries provide support for education that results in creating informed citizens around the world.

Innovation in service and education underpins our practice, fostering outcomes in student capabilities and educational practices.

Our library users significantly benefit from services provided — in 2017:

- > 47,748,189 users visited university libraries
- > 8,056,573 books were borrowed
- > more than 214 million uses of electronic resources were recorded.

The power of knowledge developed through university libraries is transforming individuals, families, communities and nations.

Our users occupy 92,857 seats and are provided with services 24 hours of every day through access to information resources and physical library spaces<sup>3</sup>.

## 4 QUALITY EDUCATION



### Accessible text books

For many, the cost of textbooks is prohibitive — particularly those with social and economics disadvantages.

Western Sydney University and The College have taken an innovative approach to combat disadvantage by providing all students enrolled in first-year subjects with free digital textbooks. This initiative was established in 2017, and continued in 2018 and 2019.

Western Sydney University is the first in Australia to provide free digital textbooks for its students. This ground-breaking initiative is one of the world's largest provisions of free textbooks for commencing students.

With the average cost of a text book being \$100 per book, commencing students receive up to \$800 worth of value.

The Library undertakes a key role in establishing and enabling the initiative which transforms access to information and education for the students.

Rather than carrying bulky textbooks, students have easy access to fully searchable digital textbooks, with the ability to highlight and mark notes on-screen for future reference.

For students with a disability, the books are completely accessible to screen readers and other support tools.

This program is in direct response to student feedback indicating that covering the cost of purchasing textbooks was one of the biggest financial hurdles when starting university.



For the many students using our libraries, the Insync surveys have identified the importance of the core services which are:

- > physical spaces to study quietly, in groups, or with access to computers
- > the capabilities of staff who assist with individual information and literacy needs and build capabilities through training and information activities
- > developing collections which provide access to scholarly information vital for education and research.

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3 CAUL statistics 2017.

# 4 QUALITY EDUCATION



## GOAL 4: QUALITY EDUCATION

### New teaching for equity

Librarians are key partners in the transformation of teaching at Victoria University, Melbourne.

For over 100 years, degrees have been taught more or less the same way around Australia and abroad.

However, times have changed and so have industry and employer needs. Students are expected to graduate with practical, real-world applicable skills,

able to handle the stresses that come with everyday working life.

That's why at Victoria University the new First Year Model has been developed with student success in mind.

Since 2018, the first year of all bachelor degrees taught at the Melbourne campuses will see units delivered in a more focused way, one at a time. Students have more one-on-one time with their educators as they complete each unit and a significantly more immersive, collaborative and enriching learning experience.

The model is designed to ease transition into university life. It not only develops skills as a confident and independent learner, but also sets you up for success for the rest of your degree and beyond.

[The Block Model](#) of teaching has [improved educational outcomes for students particularly for students](#) from lower socio-economic, non-English-speaking and indigenous backgrounds. It has provided more opportunities for active and collaborative learning. Librarians are involved in curriculum design teams, including the areas of unit design, development, delivery and review.

Library-developed and facilitated learning activities in the areas of Inquiry and Digital Literacy complement the core curriculum. Students are provided with strategies on how to find, evaluate, and use information to succeed in their studies. The Inquiry and Digital Literacy sessions also focus on 21st century skill development with a view to future study or career success.

Following the success of the initial year, the block model has been extended to second year, and will eventually include all years.







## GOAL 5: GENDER AND EQUITY

Libraries support gender equality by providing safe meeting spaces, programs for women and girls on their rights and health, and ICT and literacy programs supporting women to build their entrepreneurial skills.

University libraries in particular have developed support programs integral to the response of universities to addressing the findings of the Human Rights Commission study into sexual violence and sexual harassment in universities.

Our initiatives have included developing staff knowledge in preventing and supporting situations of sexual harassment, use of libraries as safe spaces and information activities conducted through library services such as drop-in sessions.

In relation to gender equity, libraries have undertaken strong development programs for female staff and continue to advocate for gender equity.

Library employment has also been an area of initiatives in equity and diversity. Libraries have adopted the [Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Protocols for Libraries, Archives and Information Services](#) first published in 1995 by the Australian Library and Information Association. The Protocols were most recently updated in 2012 and endorsed by the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Library, Information and Resource Network (ATSILIRN).



**Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Library, Information and Resource Network Inc.**

### Indigenous languages — a new life

Charles Darwin University (CDU) Library is directly helping to sustain and preserve Aboriginal languages and culture that have been facing hurdles for long-term survival.

The CDU Library, in partnership with an [Australian Research Council](#) funded research project known as the [Living Archive of Aboriginal Languages](#)<sup>4</sup>, supports this effort. They do this with a repository, web application and digitisation program aimed at preserving endangered Indigenous resources and facilitate Indigenous community engagement and international linguistic research. The project serves as a rich case study, demonstrating how academic libraries can work with researchers to support the archiving of cultural heritage.

Preservation and access to Indigenous knowledge continues to be a cornerstone of many global, as well as national, agreements. In this context, both preservation and access are equally important areas to be addressed.

The Northern Territory of Australia is an area of 1.4 million square kilometres, with a population estimated to be 244,300. Over 30% of the population is Indigenous, and they are now recognised as owners of 49% of the land. More than two thirds of the Indigenous population live in remote communities. The majority speak an Indigenous language at home but have low literacy rates for English, which is a second or often third or fourth language for them.

A key contribution to the project was the CDU Library's expertise in knowledge and resource organisation and its management in relation to creating, storing, preserving and sharing the type of materials included in the Living Archive. Furthermore, the CDU Library played a crucial role in the establishment of the Archive by providing ongoing technical information management support needed to ensure its success and sustainability. The CDU Library hosts the Archive in its institutional repository.

4 Godfrey, Neil, Mamtara, Jayshree, Bow, Cathy (2016) Preserving a living archive of Indigenous language material. Presentation to VALA conference.

Available from: [www.researchgate.net/publication/325284414\\_Preserving\\_a\\_living\\_archive\\_of\\_Indigenous\\_language\\_material](http://www.researchgate.net/publication/325284414_Preserving_a_living_archive_of_Indigenous_language_material)



## GOAL 5: GENDER AND EQUITY

In a central Australian community, books previously only available in hard copy through the school library were shown to members of the community in digital form on the Living Archive. People at the local Women's Centre, Arts Centre and other community groups expressed interest in studying the materials to develop their literacy skills and engage with stories published in their language 30 or more years ago.

In an English-only school in southern Arnhem Land with no history of bilingual education, a non-Indigenous teacher shared a Kriol story from the Living Archive with her class. The teacher said their students were "at

such ease... I was asking them to recount and they were recounting with 100% accuracy... I had kids who rarely speak answering questions."

There is also a mobile app for offline use: [livingarchive.cdu.edu.au/reader-app](http://livingarchive.cdu.edu.au/reader-app)





## GOAL 8: DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH

University libraries contribute to decent work and economic growth through the development of digital and information literacy capabilities in students and staff, as well as through employment of staff.

University libraries:

- > undertake programs where they employ students as library ambassadors and in specific roles providing students with work training and work experience
- > employ 3,474.37 full time equivalent staff (2017 figures<sup>5</sup>) providing skill development and employment to a diverse range of individuals
- > provide placements for around 250 library and information science students every year increase their knowledge and expertise including students from TAFE and universities.



5 CAUL statistics 2017





## GOAL 9: INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Australian university libraries support the Government's National Collaborative Research Infrastructure Strategy (NCRIS). Program, individual university innovation programs, research infrastructure and capabilities vital for industry growth.

A major initiative of university libraries has been developing research data capabilities and access to this data. An Australian Library and Information Association (ALIA) research report identified the importance to industry<sup>6</sup> of library activities to make research freely available.

Australian university libraries have developed services that

- > provide access to 569,927 openly accessible research outputs
- > resulted in 30,651,406 downloads<sup>7</sup>.

In addition, university research is communicated by publishing. A 2015 survey identified that:

- > one in four university libraries in Australia is publishing original scholarly works in some form (mostly journals)
- > most of these works are available online and are open access
- > these publications are read widely (over 3.4 million downloads in 2015) and internationally
- > new skills and services have been developed that support innovative publishing and scholarly communication
- > Australian university publishing undertaken by libraries is world leading in terms of new forms of publishing, reaching wide audiences and innovation in practice<sup>8</sup>.

A key in achieve the translation of knowledge has been open access publishing by university libraries.

### Australian National University Press

The ANU Press, celebrating its 15th year in 2019, was the first fully open access press in Australia. With over 825 titles, it publishes monographs and serials that both transmit knowledge and enable deep disciplinary analysis.

In 2018 there were over 3.5 million downloads to more than 140 countries around the world.

The most downloaded titles included:

- > The Military and Democracy in Asia and the Pacific
- > The personality cult of Stalin in Soviet posters, 1929–1953
- > Information Systems Foundations: Constructing and Criticising Regulatory Theory
- > China's New Sources of Economic Growth.



**Australian  
National  
University**

**P R E S S**

<sup>6</sup> Missingham, Roxanne (2016) Understanding information needs of Australian business organisations. The Australian Library Journal Volume 65, 2016 - Issue 1

<sup>7</sup> CAUL statistics 2017

<sup>8</sup> [caullibrarypublishing.wordpress.com/2015/11/30/university-presses-decline-to-decline-new-models-down-under](http://caullibrarypublishing.wordpress.com/2015/11/30/university-presses-decline-to-decline-new-models-down-under)



Highly influential works reach corners of the globe and developing nations in a way that print books could never have achieved. Professor Adam Shoemaker's award-winning book [\*Black Words White Page: Aboriginal Literature 1929-1988\*](#) has been one of the most read works for almost a decade.

It has influenced thinkers and researchers in nations as diverse as South Africa and India. If the work was in print there would not have been a copy in a library in either continent — open access digital publication enables scholarship to have impact and contribute to innovation and learning around the world.

Australian university libraries have been key leaders in the development of research data services to ensure data is well managed and Findable, Accessible, Interoperable and Reusable (FAIR).

Libraries contribute through programs that increase the capabilities of researchers, building on our metadata, information management and data governance expertise. The outcome of the activities of library staff and researchers in partnership has been a building of research infrastructure to improve national research capability.

An example of the infrastructure building success is the Australian National Data Service (now part of the Australian Research Data Commons) program. Through the program, librarians and researchers have developed capabilities and systems to support best management of research data.

Funded through the NCRIS program, the program has resulted in:

- > access to more than 143,000 research data sets from more than 100 institutions<sup>9</sup>
- > increased researcher and library staff capabilities in relation to data management
- > national guidelines and standards<sup>10</sup> that have increased industry and community access to research information.

The program has recognised the contribution of library staff. Librarians have a wealth of skills and experience to bring to data management:

- > resource description and discovery
- > scholarly publishing, open access and metrics
- > delivering training and information literacy programs
- > liaising with research staff and students to understand information needs<sup>11</sup>.

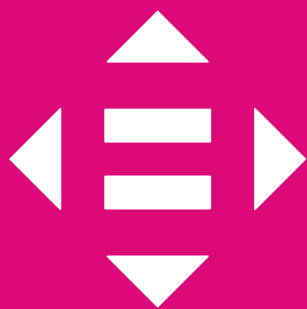


9 [researchdata.ands.org.au](https://researchdata.ands.org.au)

10 [www.ands.org.au/guides](https://www.ands.org.au/guides)

11 [www.ands.org.au/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0015/406500/research\\_data\\_librarians\\_flyer.pdf](https://www.ands.org.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0015/406500/research_data_librarians_flyer.pdf)

# 10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES



## GOAL 10: REDUCED INEQUALITIES

University libraries provide a range of services that support the reduction of inequalities through removing barriers to information:

- > libraries offer members of the community access to their collections through opening their doors to visitors
- > online and physical exhibitions and public lectures
- > online digital literacy resources and training is made available freely to increase the knowledge and skills of the community.

The documentary history, both national and international, is held in libraries. University library activities include:

- > digitisation programs that are increasing access to these important resources
- > sharing of these resources through national and international databases such as Trove and WorldCat
- > work with national, state and public libraries to develop greater digital access.

Libraries deliver programs that make Australian research available to the world. Our open repositories enable research to be available overcoming paywalls and expensive subscriptions:

- > 569,927 accessible research outputs including conference papers, journal articles, book chapters and other research papers
- > 63,883,120 accesses occurred to these research outputs in 2017<sup>12</sup>.

### Access to research from universities through libraries

Libraries manage repositories which make research undertaken by academics available to the world. This research helps communities, industry, government and non-government organisations.

At the University of Melbourne<sup>13</sup>, research has been used to transform research and practice in a wide range of disciplines.

The collection comprises all research theses submitted in digital format. Scholarly Services have also been undertaking large scale retrospective digitation projects to facilitate access to hard copy theses. The digital repository now contains a mix of older theses, dating back 125 years, alongside the newer native digital submissions. This expanded the digital collection in the Minerva repository to over 12,000 theses.

In an initiative to maintain the integrity and access to digital-only theses, Minerva Access now has integrated a digital preservation workflow to protect secure access over time to a growing repository of digital theses.

The most popular theses include:

Wanyama, M. N. (2011). *The challenges of teaching physical education: juxtaposing the experiences of physical education teachers in Kenya and Victoria (Australia)*. Masters Research thesis, Melbourne Graduate School of Education, The University of Melbourne. <http://hdl.handle.net/11343/36155>

- > Close to 58,000 downloads (including Zimbabwe 6,248, Nigeria 4,626, Philippines 4263, Zambia 3,603, and Kenya 3,616)

Stephenson, P. (2003). *Beyond black and white: Aborigines, Asian-Australians and the national imaginary*. PhD thesis, Faculty of Arts, The Australian Centre, University of Melbourne. <http://hdl.handle.net/11343/39203>

- > Close to 26,000 downloads (including United States 9,243, Australia 4,918, Ukraine 3,034, Germany 1,439, United Kingdom 384)

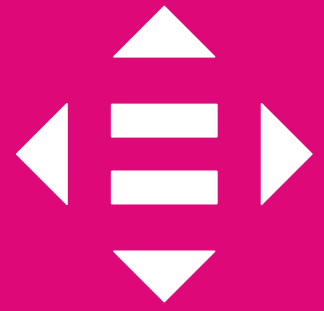
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<sup>12</sup> CAUL statistics 2017

<sup>13</sup> [minerva-access.unimelb.edu.au/handle/11343/159/most-popular/item](http://minerva-access.unimelb.edu.au/handle/11343/159/most-popular/item)



# 10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES



## Theses — access supporting development through a national approach

Australian universities support communities through making theses accessible. Theses are the result of extraordinarily deep research, often unearthing discoveries that will change the way we live, work and understand the world.

In 2017, libraries achieved access to over 275,000 theses. Of this, more than 95% were available openly.

The theses were used by others in more than 190 countries around the world.

At the Australian National University, more than 83% of the individuals who benefited from accessing the research came from other countries.

There was an average of over 78 downloads per thesis — with barriers to access overcome, benefiting the researchers and those who are able to use the outcomes of the research.

An example is research into Timor Leste that is being used to reshape the operation of non-government organisations in addressing ways to deal with violence.



# 11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES



## GOAL 11: SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES

Our libraries work within communities to build strong cities and communities. Within their cities and regions, university libraries collaborate with other institutions, particularly public libraries, to develop collections that are vital to help their communities understand their history and region.

### Building a strong state

In Tasmania, the Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery; University of Tasmania; State Government bodies Libraries Tasmania, Tasmanian Archives and State Library; and the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery are working together on the Digitised Cultural Experience project. This is part of the Greater Launceston Transformation — ‘creating our digital future project’ funded by the Australian Government Department of Infrastructure, Regional Development and Cities.

This project will digitise and make discoverable the substantial cultural assets from Launceston and the region. The project will cumulate in the development of two extended reality products for education and tourism.

The spirit of cooperation has resulted in a unique partnership, bringing together cultural institutions, local and state government and higher education to share technology, expertise and knowledge which will showcase Tasmania’s significant historical and cultural assets. Working together will enable the discovery and sharing of Tasmania’s treasures for artists, remote communities, researchers, industry, tourists and schools.



UNIVERSITY *of*  
TASMANIA



## Connecting Australians to our history: heritage collections

The collections of our libraries record the history of the nation, its peoples and industries.

Digitising these rich resources strengthens the communities' knowledge and capacity to understand our place in the world, as well as supporting research.



Examples include the University of Melbourne Archives (UMA) Australian Red Cross historic collection<sup>14</sup>. This collection includes committee minutes, missing bureau enquiry cards, publications, international relief projects, media releases, newspaper clippings, personnel records, photographs, audio, and posters. The records, from both the National Office as well as the Victorian Division (1914-2015) reveal the humanitarian response to war and disasters, but also in areas of nuclear issues, peace, women in leadership, education and regional development.

Company and trade union archives also provide information that tells the stories of our communities. For example, the Noel Butlin Archives Centre (NBAC) at the Australian National University collects business and labour records from Australian companies, trade unions, industry bodies and professional organisations<sup>15</sup>.



<sup>14</sup> [blogs.unimelb.edu.au/archives/a-humane-and-intimate-administration-the-red-cross-world-war-two-wounded-missing-and-prisoner-of-war-cards/](https://blogs.unimelb.edu.au/archives/a-humane-and-intimate-administration-the-red-cross-world-war-two-wounded-missing-and-prisoner-of-war-cards/)

<sup>15</sup> [archives.anu.edu.au/collections/noel-butlin-archives-centre](https://archives.anu.edu.au/collections/noel-butlin-archives-centre)



# 16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS



## GOAL 16: PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS

Libraries have a fundamental role in strengthening institutions and democratic practices in Australia and the region.

Within Australia, the policy advocacy on copyright has resulted in changes to legislation that has:

- > supported the introduction of provisions to provide better access to resources for those with disabilities — implementing the Marrakesh Treaty
- > opened up access to our documentary heritage through the establishment of an end to the duration of copyright in unpublished materials — in force from 1 January 2019.

CAUL was delighted to work with ALIA and other organisations to achieve these remarkable elements of copyright modernisation, contributing to greater access to knowledge and a stronger democracy.

Libraries have also been working in the region to strengthen libraries, library education and library associations.

### Transforming Library education in Myanmar

Imagine you are sitting in the library of a leading university in your country. You are a history postgraduate wishing to review material on the early twentieth century. You sit with your pen and paper - there is no Wi-Fi - the collection is only print and your search for resources is through a print card catalogue. There is little space and there is a dearth of material from other countries. In fact, collection building has been interrupted by recent closures of other universities.

Perhaps you are thinking that this is a description of sixteenth century Europe, or university libraries at a time when books and periodicals had to travel by ship.

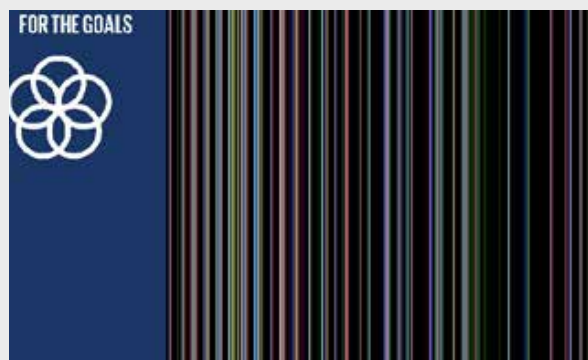
This situation described above is, instead, the reality faced in Myanmar (which many of you may know better under its previous name Burma) only a few years ago. Myat Sann Nyein notes that:

*"The years before 2011 were very dark, with all information cut off. Librarians in Myanmar worked in what felt like an enclosed society, and libraries in Myanmar were lacking new and updated materials and facilities in those days".*

Libraries play a critical role in universities. They curate and make accessible collections that foster education and research. As one of the few research services available to the entire academic community, they communicate knowledge and build capabilities for researchers to harness the power of global research.

Dr Hlaing Hlaing Gyi, Librarian, University of Yangon Library and, one of the passionate advocates for development of library services has said *"Connecting to the world is vital for universities to thrive. While small in number, university library staff must welcome the opportunities and meet the challenges without being afraid of current technological limitations."*

A program to develop digital library education at the University of Yangon is changing this. This program is a partnership between the Australian National University and the Department of Information and Library Studies. Prof Ni Win Zaw and Roxanne Missingham, assisted by Dr Mary Carroll from Charles Sturt University are working together through developing knowledge of digital libraries to revise the education program to provide digitally literate libraries. In addition, a digital hub is being established to provide hands on training.





## GOAL 17: PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS

Australian university libraries have many strong partnerships with other libraries and library associations in Australia and around the globe.

These partnerships enable international work to develop services and initiatives that are used to increase the success of students in education, research outcomes and library employment.

Within Australia, initiatives that increase equity in terms of access to the collections of other libraries include:

- > [University Libraries of Australia and New Zealand \(ULANZ\)](#) is a borrowing scheme that allows staff and students of Australian and New Zealand universities to borrow in person from any other participating university library. The scheme is a cooperative arrangement between CAUL and the Council of New Zealand University Librarians (CONZUL).
- > [BONUS+](#) is a free resource-sharing service that allows students and staff to borrow selected library material freely from a consortium of 12 participating Australian and New Zealand university libraries.

Individual libraries are also members of partnerships including the:

- > Association of Pacific Rim Universities (APRU) — a network of 50 leading universities linking the Americas, Asia and Australasia
- > Pacific Rim Research Libraries Alliance, which archives collaborative digitisation and sharing of resources
- > International Alliance of Research Universities (IARU)
- > International Federation of Library Associations, sharing expertise and building knowledge
- > Australian Library and Information Association.

CAUL has strong partnerships and is a founding member of International Alliance of Research Library Associations.

We work together with library and university groups to promote activities that support the Sustainable Development Goals.



# CONCLUSION

Australian university libraries contribute significantly to Australia and the region through activities that implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Major programs of the Council of Australian University Libraries that will enhance the Sustainable Development Goals in the future include:

- > fair, affordable and open access to knowledge — advocacy and activities that improve access to scholarly publishing and data
- > Digital Dexterity — new skills for learning and research excellence designed to improve the digital skills of university students and academics
- > advancements in copyright legislation to improve equitable access to information
- > partnerships within the region to facilitate the role of university libraries in learning.

## UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES



**contributing to sustainable development**

### literacy

integrated support for education  
over 480,000 attended digital and information literacy sessions  
over 950,000 information enquiries answered



### communicate research

deliver access to more than 570,000 research outputs to 200 countries  
communicate research through more than 30 million downloads of papers, book chapters, reports.



### accessible resources

initiatives to provide free access to text books  
programs for accessible formats for those with disabilities  
more than 240 million resources used by students and academics from our collections



### connect

curate and open access to our documentary heritage  
through digitisation and exhibition provide knowledge infrastructure for industry, government communities



### building the future

strengthen education through work in Myanmar, Fiji and other developing countries

[www.caul.edu.au](http://www.caul.edu.au)