

Australian university libraries achieve the UN Sustainable Development Goals

9th April 2019

The Council of Australian University Librarians (CAUL) has released a report identifying the contribution of Australian university libraries to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

The report details the important role that university libraries play in national and international development. Innovative services support education, training, and research, and economic development and growth.

Around 48 million visits were made to university libraries in 2018. Students, staff, alumni and the wider community benefit attended more than 480,000 digital literacy and information courses, developing new capabilities.

University libraries create connections to the world for researchers. We deliver access to more than 570,000 research outputs such as journal articles, book chapters, theses and creative works. Over 30 million downloads in 2018 increased the impact of the research. Innovative projects to make online text books free to first year students and publish research such as indigenous language resources are harnessing technology in new ways.

“Our libraries transform lives” said Margie Jantti, Chair of the Council of Australian University Librarians. “Every day our students and academics use Australian university library services to grow their knowledge and capabilities. These are our future leaders and agents of positive global change in the quest to end poverty, protect the planet and ensure that all people enjoy peace and prosperity”.

The new Times Higher Education University Impact Rankings, which measure institutions' social and economic impact using metrics based on the SDG, shows that libraries' contributions toward the SDG is an issue of national and international significance. Australian university libraries are rising to the challenge.

The report (PDF) is available online at <https://www.caul.edu.au/node/7124>

For Comment:

Margie Jantti, Chair of CAUL and Director Library Services, University of Wollongong

Phone 02 6125 2990

E-mail: caul@caul.edu.au

About CAUL

CAUL is the peak leadership organisation for university libraries in Australia. CAUL members are the University Librarians or equivalent of the 39 institutions that have representation on Universities Australia. 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.