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We have been delighted by the enthusiastic response to the first issue of Phoenix. I hope that this issue, coupled with our sister publication Fryer Folios, continues to offer an insight into our work and our role within The University of Queensland academic community. We report elsewhere in this issue on some of our recent key developments, including the ceremony to celebrate the refurbishment of the Biological Sciences Library and activities to mark the University’s Diversity Week.

Against that backdrop of celebration and commemoration we have continued to plan for the future, developing a longer-range strategic plan and an annual operational plan for 2008. These documents are set around a series of strategic priorities which deserve some exegesis here.

Our overarching strategy is simple: The University of Queensland Library can and must do more to enrich learning, teaching and research in the great university of which it is part. Supporting that strategy are four key priority areas and two underpinning activities which focus upon the Library’s philosophy and infrastructure.

Keith Webster
University Librarian and Director of Learning Services

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<tr>
<th>Enriching world-class scholarship</th>
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<tr>
<td>Build the digital research environment</td>
<td>Convenient access to information and services is an expectation of clients today. Academic staff and students lead increasingly busy lives and need to be able to identify and access library information and services irrespective of time and location. The volume of information which can be accessed through the Library has increased vastly in recent years, and clients need tools which help them easily to identify resources which will meet their needs.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Enhance the student experience</td>
<td>The Library’s physical spaces also must adapt to keep up with changing user demands. Inherent in this is the need to offer a flexible assortment of individual and group study space.</td>
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Developing and supporting our people

Library staff are respected in the University for exceptional service and professionalism. Staff development and training opportunities aligned with the changing requirements of the information profession and the university environment will ensure that staff continue to develop the skills they need to implement the Library’s strategies.

Mapping our future, The Library Strategic Plan 2007 – 2012, sets out a number of specific objectives in relation to each of these strategic priorities. Each year, an Operational Plan will spell out that year’s actions to meet the objectives.

The 2008 Plan, already with the University Planning Office, describes a full program of activities which will contribute to the reality of the Library’s role of enriching the University’s world-class scholarship.
“Our traditional library facilities are being transformed into flexible learning spaces”

"As developments in UQ’s infrastructure continue apace, our new and refurbished teaching spaces are setting national standards as havens for learning. Students are the rightful drivers of the reforms, as their lifestyles, aspirations and technology preferences demand revision of the orthodoxies of classroom design," says Vice-Chancellor Professor John Hay.

And nowhere is this more apparent than in the Library.

Having undergone major refurbishments over several years, UQ Library branches are positioning themselves as providers of a multi-faceted student experience.

“Our traditional library facilities are being transformed into flexible learning spaces which are used in a variety of ways by students,” says University Librarian and Director of Learning Services Mr Keith Webster.

“They can study alone in quiet carrels, work in large groups in seminar teaching rooms, or enjoy collaborative and active learning in small groups focused around comfortable seating and easily accessible technology – personal computers, laptops and large screen projector equipment, for example. Lying on the floor discussing assignments is certainly not unheard of!”

The newly-refurbished Biological Sciences Library is a prime example with more than 300,000 visitors until June this year. Already this is a 50% increase on the whole of 2005, the last full year before refurbishment began.

Attracted by the funky furniture, sharp technology, multi-purpose spaces and streaming light, the library has become a home-away-from-home for many - they can even eat while they study!

The innovative UQ Ipswich Library has long been popular with students who enjoy its garden setting (including fishpond), colourful environment and versatile seating and meeting areas.

Even the traditional layout of the Walter Harrison Law Library is currently being ‘tweaked’ to better accommodate student preferences for private meeting rooms and action-learning group study areas.

This changing nature of how students use space was the focus of a national colloquium on Next-Generation Learning Spaces held at UQ in July. Facilitated by the Carrick funded UQ project team led by Professor David Radcliffe, the colloquium attracted 133 delegates from 25 universities. The majority view was that learning technologies are intrinsic to students’ ongoing enthusiasm for higher learning.

Libraries have a key role in this development.

next generation LEARNING spaces

Biological Sciences Library officially opens

The Biological Sciences Library was officially opened by Professor John Shine AO, Executive Director of the Garvan Institute, on Thursday 19 July. A prime example of Library as Learning Space, the refurbished library has already proven a hit with staff and students alike.

Below, from left: Professor John Hay, Professor John Shine and Mr Keith Webster.
Keeping pace with the information service delivery needs of customers is always a challenge - from both a staff and client perspective.

New technology, pressing time constraints, higher user expectations, along with more and more resources becoming available, all mean we have to rethink how we do business to achieve outstanding service results.

In order to address these issues the Library has instituted a formal project appraisal process.

Any issue that is not currently ‘ongoing business maintenance’ but has the potential to add value to the service provided is considered a special project and is monitored by a group of senior library staff.

The projects are categorised according to specific aspects of the Library’s Strategic Plan:

- Enhance the student experience
- Build the digital research environment
- Provide convenient and customised access to information
- Maintain and develop community partnerships
- Practise ethical and accountable governance
- Develop and support our people.

They are then allocated a priority rating of High, Medium or Low and timeframes for relevant milestones are incorporated into the brief.

Project managers are assigned to each proposed new activity and it is their responsibility to report on any progress, constraints and achievements. They also appoint staff to their project team.

The monitoring group ensures that human and financial resources are prioritised in the most effective and efficient way and that milestones are met.

So how do projects get started?

Staff and client suggestions are the main impetus, but survey results (e.g. the Client Satisfaction Survey), focus group studies, general University priorities, and the launch of new products and services in the market also play a key role. When things ‘just don’t work’ as well as they used to this can be a factor for change.

For example, the booking of group and individual study rooms used to be done by branch library staff through a manual roster. However, with advances in technology and the current ease of access to the Internet, the Library decided to establish an online bookings service to make life easier for everyone.

This meant developing a program to be installed on the Library website, trialling the system in a few locations, and then tailoring it for other branches. Project 06-11 was born! Successfully.

With more than 250 library staff and 35,000 students accessing information from 14 branches (not to mention UQ and hospital staff, and other community members) there will always be people with great ideas (opportunities for improvements, not criticisms!). The UQL Project Management framework is designed to improve the process.
Thanks to a $1000 UQ Diversity Week grant, the Library prepared two exhibitions with the theme We All Count, in recognition of the 40th Anniversary of the May 1967 Referendum.

An online exhibition, The Struggle for a New Deal for Indigenous Australians, was curated by Dr Jeff Rickert for Fryer Library, focusing on the lives and hardships suffered by Aboriginal Australians following European arrival. Topics include: Aborigines & Torres Strait Islanders in 1960s Australia, Under the Act in Queensland, The Referendum Campaign, Organisations & Activists, and Labour Rights and Land Rights. It can be seen at: www.library.uq.edu.au/fryer/1967_referendum/

Debbie Arthur from the Law Library put together a series of 12 posters depicting various legal aspects of the 1967 Referendum, a sample of which can be seen at right. The full exhibition is available at: www.library.uq.edu.au/law/LawDiversityWeek07.pdf

General posters showing off the Library’s comprehensive facilities and services for its diverse clientele were also posted in the branches.

And a range of special events was held, including a visit to UQ Ipswich by Aboriginal elder ‘Uncle’ Albert who read from his autobiography, Forcibly Removed.

Above: One of the posters created for the Law Library’s tribute to the 40th anniversary of the 1967 Referendum.

Bottom: Banner from Fryer exhibition.

Right and far right middle: Branch Diversity Week posters.

Far right top and bottom right: Images from Fryer Library’s online exhibition: Freedom Banner and Albert Namatjira campaign.

Right: Uncle Albert (picture courtesy of the Queensland Times).
A day in the life of a HEALTH sciences liaison librarian

It is 7.45am at the Royal Brisbane and Women’s Hospital. Wearing his purple paisley tie coordinated with a blue striped shirt, with a notebook under his arm, he’s on his way to ward rounds. This man is not a doctor but a health sciences liaison librarian.

Health sciences liaison librarians at UQ branch libraries support a range of clinical information needs of clinicians, researchers and students. Clinical librarian services are a means of integrating health sciences library services and the literature searching expertise of librarians into the patient care setting. Whilst UQ does not employ a full-time clinical librarian, the health sciences liaison librarian duties border on this role.

Liaison librarians find evidence or existing information to support clinical decisions. This often includes helping to clarify what might be myths and legends or bridging gaps in knowledge through provision of background information. The following are just some of the ‘real’ questions they may receive daily:

• What are the indications for compression stockings in acute DVT?
• In a patient admitted with chest pain should a stress test be done in hospital or electively?
• What is the evidence for flotation as treatment for heart conditions?
• Should Parilex (antidote for paracetamol overdose) be given as one full dose or should it continue to be given?
• How long should a patient with community-acquired pneumonia be given intravenous antibiotics?
• What are the evidence-based treatments of acute renal failure and acute renal failure from rhabdomyolysis? When do you give Mannitol?
• What is the role of antibiotics in treating acute asthma? Does it improve symptoms more quickly? Intravenous delivery in acute asthma?
• Patient information on transverse myelitis
• Does the treatment of suspected pneumonia subsequent to varicella zoster infection reduce symptoms and improve the prognosis?

The librarian returns from the ward round at 11am and the clinical questions raised during the round must be answered within twenty hours. Literature searches are undertaken using Cochrane, Medline, Embase and other core clinical information resources. Search details, along with the major results, are provided to the clinical team. (The process to respond to clinical queries was recently comprehensively reported in three papers published in the Journal of the Medical Library Association.)

It is now close to 1pm and the liaison librarian is rushing off to attend Journal Club with the Obstetrics and Gynaecology Department staff where, as a group, they will critically appraise a journal article. The mechanics of identifying quality evidence through the critical appraisal process requires practice and this is a constant learning process for hospital staff and the liaison librarian.

It is 2pm and, back from Journal Club, the health sciences liaison librarian gathers search results for a Guidelines Committee meeting. The draft Time to eat: baby’s first foods – Community Health Nurse Facilitator’s guide is well underway. The librarian has worked closely with nursing staff to compile a literature review and integrate available evidence within the guide.

Having returned to the Library satisfied that the guide is about to be completed, he finds the Director of Palliative Care meeting with the library manager and joins the meeting. An opportunity has arisen to work on a systematic review and a librarian is required to assist with finding the evidence. This role will be part-time and commence as soon as the necessary arrangements can be made.

There is still an hour left in the working day and a literature search has just arrived from the Hospital Safety and Quality Unit via www.library.uq.edu.au/hsi/herston/HHSL_literaturerequest.phtml This search will be placed in the queue behind the ward round searches that take priority. Time must also be spent on finalising an information skills class for the next day for twelve clinicians with academic titles who are new to the University.

This role is never dull!

by Lisa Kruesi, Herston Health Sciences Library
The role of health sciences liaison librarians is quite diverse. For example, they may:

- give critical appraisal and evidence based practice classes to medical specialists and nursing staff at their place of work
- join in ward rounds
- lecture on searching and other research and information skills
- help dental practitioners
- assist young medical students with their studies
- prepare poster sessions for conferences.

Bibliography

- Beauregard, JM, Lyon, JA, Slovis, C. ‘Using the literature to evaluate diagnostic tests: amylase or lipase for diagnosing acute pancreatitis’ J Med Libr Assoc 95(2) 2007 April, 121-126.

Useful resources to help with critical appraisal are available from: www.library.uq.edu.au/mbbs/ebp.html#3

Left: Lars Eriksson, one of UQL’s outstanding team of health sciences liaison librarians
spotlight on the COLLECTION

The UQ Library holds a vast array of invaluable items - here are just a few of note.

**UQ/Mater McAuley Library** is very fortunate to hold the complete *Classics of Surgery Library Collection*. This is a facsimile edition of a range of classic surgery texts ranging from the translations of earliest writings on surgery to more 'recent' seminal works.

The collection includes a copy of the Edwin Smith *Surgical Papyrus*, the oldest scientific document in the history of mankind. Also included is John Woddall's *The Surgeons Mate*, first published in 1617 in response to the poor training of ships' surgeons. This book contains a description of scurvy, the first by a medical writer. A *Treatise on the Blood, Inflammation and Gun-shot Wounds* by John Hunter and published in 1794 is another surgical classic in the collection. John Bell's (the father of anatomical surgery) *The Principles of Surgery* (1810), *The Collected Papers of Joseph, Baron Lister* (1809) along with many other impressive titles are also held.

These special editions were privately printed for members of the Classics of Surgery Library and are beautiful works with leather binding and much information about the original texts.

The collection was donated to the Library by the Neely family in memory of the late Professor Mervyn Neely, teacher, researcher and member of UQ's Department of Surgery from 1971 to 1998 and Head of the Department of Surgery from 1996 to 1997, based at the Mater campus.

The collection is not available for loan, but can be viewed in the Library.

A number of titles recently added to the *Dorothy Hill Physical Sciences and Engineering Library* collection reveal a more philosophical side to the serious scientific approach usually found in engineering and physical sciences reading material, for example the very popular book *God delusion* by Richard Dawkins.

Another title in this vein, but not necessarily with the same arguments is *A brief history of light and those that lit the way* by Richard J Weiss. It chronicles, in an anecdotal manner, the last 500 years of light exploration from Leonardo da Vinci to Robert Oppenheimer. It is an amusing and enlightening read.

Two titles in environmental mathematics and problem solving are *Consider a spherical cow. A course in environmental problem solving* by John Harte and his following book *Consider a cylindrical cow. More adventures in environmental problem solving*. Harte asks questions such as "How likely is it that at least one nitrogen molecule exhaled by Caesar in his last breath will be in the next breath you take?" (p.15) He then goes on to calculate the answer and yes, you probably will.

The First year engineering students’ project *Engineers without borders* which aimed to design equipment and systems that would help develop the Uluru Children’s Home in Tamil Nadu, India enlarged the collection with a variety of new books. One relevant in today’s environmental climate is *Change the world for ten bucks: 50 actions to change the world and make you feel great* by Tim Ashton et al. Action number six quotes “A bus carries the same number of people as 50 cars. And it’s going there anyway”.

Another very interesting book is Wallace Arthur’s *Creatures of accident. The rise of the animal kingdom*. It attempts to strip any pre-conceptions (scientific and religious) about the origin of life on this world and open our minds to find the truth about the nature of life. Arthur describes it as an exploratory expedition similar to Douglas Adam’s *Hitchhiker’s guide to the galaxy*.

The *Architecture and Music Library* has recently acquired the impressive new publication *Glen Murcutt, Architect*, plus eight folders on selected key projects. Murcutt, who turned 70 this year, is one of Australia’s most acclaimed architects widely regarded for producing a vernacular architecture that is distinctly minimalist and merges modern form with nature. His architectural philosophy is partly the result of his study of the Aboriginal people and Aboriginal cave dwellings.

Interviewed after his 2002 Pritzker award he was quoted as saying: “I’ve learned a lot from the Aboriginal people of Australia, I’ve learned to be careful on the land, to respect the land, and not to allow the land, the mother, to be harmed.”

Murcutt is fond of summarising his architectural philosophy by quoting an old Aboriginal dictum: to “touch the earth lightly.”

Most of the text on Murcutt’s career and formative influences is by the renowned critic, Kenneth...
Frampton. There is a preface by Finnish architect and academic, Juhani Pallasmaa and a chapter by acclaimed writer, David Malouf. Malouf says of Murcutt’s work “The beauty is in the detail, the way everything has been considered, taken account of, and in the elegance and economy of the solutions.” The book includes correspondence between Murcutt and one of his clients; the Sydney Morning Herald coverage of his controversial omission from the 1995 Robin Boyd Award nominations and his Pritzker Prize winning address of 2003.

Projects in the individual folders include Murcutt’s own recently completed renovation in Mosman, the Murcutt Lewin house, which he designed with his wife, Wendy Lewin, and the famous Arthur and Yvonne Boyd Education Centre at Riversdale, designed with Lewin and Reg Lark and completed in 1996. Photos by local and international photographers, including Max Dupain, and faithful reproductions of plans – the same size as Murcutt’s hand-drawn plans, complete with fingerprints and smudges, which aim to provide an in-depth study of his dense drawings - are also included.

At the launch of the publication, Professor Tom Heneghan of the School of Architecture at the University of Sydney remarked, “This unique folio. I think explains exactly how a building can escape from being a commodity... [It] shows the things you never see - the sketches and notes in which the architect thinks, changes his mind, tries again, scraps what he’s done, has a better idea, has a worse idea, realises it’s worse and has another better idea…..these drawings do not just show how to construct the architecture - they describe what the architecture is.”

The folio is available for in-house use only.

Fryer Library’s recently completed online exhibition on the 1967 Referendum (see page 9) highlights some important research sources for scholars working in the field of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander studies. Three collections in particular provided a wealth of information for the exhibition.

One was Connie Healy’s. Connie grew up in Brisbane, worked for the Waterside Workers’ Federation, was involved in local radical theatre and in the 1960s actively supported Indigenous campaigns for political and social rights. Her collection in Fryer (UQFL191) includes a substantial volume of material on Aboriginal affairs of the time, including reports, newsletters and bulletins produced by the Federal Council for the Advancement of Aborigines and Torres Strait Islanders (FCAATSI) and other Indigenous organisations, and reports on Aboriginal affairs produced by trade unions and churches.

As a member of the Communist Party, Daisy Marchisotti was also involved in both the labour movement and Indigenous struggles. Daisy wrote articles on Aboriginal affairs and racism for the Communist press, worked for Aboriginal corporations and edited the FCAATSI newsletter. Her Fryer collection (UQFL156) includes FCAATSI conference reports, notes and minutes, records relating to the 1965 freedom rides, articles and correspondence by FCAATSI’s Queensland equivalent, QCAATI, personal correspondence relating to Indigenous issues, and articles on Black Power and Aboriginal advancement.

Aboriginal poet, author, artist, educator and political activist, Oodgeroo Noonuccal, was of course a leader of the referendum campaign. Fryer holds a large collection of Oodgeroo’s material, both literary and political (UQFL84). Her collection contains material relating to FCAATSI and other Indigenous organisations of the 1960s, photographs of herself and other activists, and manuscripts of many of her poems, a number of them inspired by political events of the era.
Musically Speaking

In 2006, The University of Queensland purchased a Music Licence, a private contractual agreement that allows the University to use commercially available musical recordings for a variety of educational purposes. The parties to the agreement were the Australian Vice-Chancellors’ Committee – which brokered the agreement – 38 Australian universities, and the major music copyright societies (AMCOS, APRA, ARIA and PPCA).

What this meant for the Library was that audio recordings could be made and provided to students for class-related work. This included making compilation CDs or DVDs and supplying them to students.

These compilation CDs have been very popular and currently cover four music subjects. In semester one 12 different compilation CDs were produced and semester two saw a further six made. Around 500 copies altogether were made available from the UQ Bookshop.

Streaming of music via Blackboard was another musical enhancement for students, who accessed the service more than 6000 times in semester one alone.

New technology has certainly had a positive impact on the quality of UQ’s teaching and learning.

Virtual Tours

Coming to visit UQ? Not sure where to go when you get here? Why not take a virtual tour of the Library, and be prepared?

Go to: www.library.uq.edu.au/about/branches.html and choose the branch you will visit.

Client Survey

The Library is once again conducting its biennial Client Satisfaction Survey. Results from previous surveys have led to much improved service, including the purchase of more computers, extended opening hours, enabling of USB access, email reminders for loans due for return and online training sessions.

Library Blogs

In an effort to keep library users informed about what’s going on, several branches have set up a BLOG, an interactive online information page. Topics discussed range from general greetings to specific instructions on accessing particular information. There are also virtual tours; details of new books, databases and training sessions; and general news items such as opening hours and facility changes. Check them out at:

http://blogs.library.uq.edu.au/lawlibrary
http://blogs.library.uq.edu.au/bsl
http://blogs.library.uq.edu.au/teethtalk
http://blogs.library.uq.edu.au/pse

Book Launch

On 31 July the UQ Library, together with the Arts Faculty at Ipswich, hosted a book launch for researcher Toni Risson, whose new book, Aphrodite and The Mixed Grill: Greek Cafés in Twentieth Century Australia, arose from her love of local history. The book captures the story of this Australian icon – the Greek café – and of the families who changed the course of Australian cultural history.

Members of families who featured in the book, official guests and UQ staff and students were invited to attend. Professor Alan Rix, Pro-Vice-Chancellor Ipswich, welcomed all present and Dr Toni Johnson-Woods, who teaches in the Media and Communication focus area of the Bachelor of Contemporary Studies at Ipswich, introduced the author. Toni Risson (pictured above left) then spoke about her research and Aphrodite and The Mixed Grill. Following the official formalities, guests enjoyed conversation and refreshments amidst the tranquil indoor garden area of the Library, and had the opportunity to obtain a signed copy of the book.

UQ Open Day

Senior ‘supermodel’ Library managers fielded many questions about the Library and shared their expertise on evaluating library services at the UQ St Lucia Open Day recently. Pictured above from right are: Grace Saw, Chris Taylor and Heather Todd.
Donations

Fryer Library, our Library’s manuscript and rare books division, has received some interesting and valuable gifts lately, most notably:

• A major addition to the papers of Thea Astley, including the manuscript of her last novel *Drylands* and correspondence ranging over the whole of her career
• Personal papers from the estate of Dr Elizabeth Nesta Marks, a renowned UQ entomologist
• The records of the Queensland Conservation Council, dating back to the 1980s
• Additional material for the Richard Fotheringham collection, including research materials on Steele Rudd, early Australian colonial plays, and the history of the Avalon Theatre
• Material related to the Brisbane Freeway Protest Movement of the 1970s
• Correspondence between Queensland poet James Devaney and the playwright Frank Francis, dating from 1939 to 1975
• Additional material for the Rod Kirkpatrick collection, including valuable historical material on newspapers in Charters Towers from 1870-1900
• George Frederick Raymond’s *A New Universal and Impartial History of England* (1786), donated by Mr Daryl Beattie (one page of which is pictured at right)
• A facsimile of the first edition of Charles Dickens’ *David Copperfield* in the original parts, published by Dur technological and purchased with funds donated by the Victorian Fiction Research Group.

Recent Appointments

**Bill Beach**, Senior Manager, Social Sciences and Humanities Library
Having enjoyed a diverse UQL career spanning more than thirty years, Bill’s aim is to make UQL’s large collections more accessible through both digitisation and improved service interaction.

**Mark Cryle**, Manager, Fryer Library
With nearly thirty years experience at UQ, primarily in the humanities-related disciplines of the Library, Mark is well placed to manage the treasures in Fryer’s special collection and foster new research initiatives.

**Belinda Weaver**, Manager, UQ eSpace
Having worked for several years as UQL’s Special Projects Coordinator with a focus on the storage of digital collections, Belinda is keen to expand her role in the development of virtual repositories.

The University of Queensland Library Excellence Award

UQ undergraduates who demonstrate excellence in the use of the library to enhance their studies are now being called to apply for this prestigious award worth $500 cash per winner.

Applicants must submit a 500-700 word essay to the University Librarian by 1 October 2007 demonstrating how Library resources were used to produce and excellent assessment outcome. The essay must be accompanied by two statements of support from academic staff.

The applications will be judged against the following criteria:

• Sophistication, originality and/or unusual depth or breadth in the use of Library resources, databases, primary resources and material in all media
• Evidence of significant personal learning and the development of a habit of research and inquiry that shows the likelihood of persisting in future
• Exceptional ability to locate, select, evaluate and synthesise library resources and to use them in the creation of a project in any media that shows originality and/or has the potential to lead to original research.

an EVENTful life

upcoming EXHIBITIONS

RADICAL POLITICS AND UQ: STAFF AND STUDENT ACTIVISM
Online at: www.library.uq.edu.au/fryer/radical_politics/
- An overview of political activity at UQ during the 1960s - 80s.

IPSWICH GIRLS GRAMMAR ART
UQ Ipswich, October 2007
- Community exhibition

EVENTS on soon

LIBRARY TOURS
Most branch libraries, Semester 2
- Discover the Library’s secrets!

LIBRARY TRAINING
Learn how to find the information you need or how to make the most of computer software
- For full details, see:
  www.library.uq.edu.au/training

OPEN ACCESS COLLOQUIUM
Sustainable Minerals Institute, UQ St Lucia, 17 September 2007
- Forum on the changing nature of scholarly communication

40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE HAYES COLLECTION DONATION
Conference Room, 5 October 2007
- Join a ‘white gloves’ tour of the Hayes Collection, hear how Father Hayes’s generous bequest transformed the Fryer Library and enjoy morning tea with past and present Fryer staff

CHRISTMAS COCKTAILS WITH CARTER BROWN
Fryer Library, 19 November
- Kick off the festive season by hearing Toni Johnson-Woods’s racy expose on the king of the ‘penny-dreadfuls’, Carter Brown

NAMING CEREMONY
Herston Health Sciences Library, 5-7pm, 11 December 2007

Fryer FACES

In conjunction with the 2007 Study of Australian Literature Conference held at UQ St Lucia in July, Fryer Library held three special literary events.

The first was an exhibition, Queensland Writers: 15 Authors of Note, which featured posters, books and papers from authors’ works held in the Fryer collection: Venero Armanno, Thea Astley, George Essex Evans, Gwen Harwood, Xavier Herbert, Ernestine Hill, David Malouf, Oodgeroo Noonuccal, Nettie Palmer, Vance Palmer, Rosa Praed, Steele Rudd, Rebecca Sparrow, Janette Turner Hospital and Herb Wharton.

The second was a ‘white gloves’ tour of some treasures, including an 1891 limited edition of Louisa Anne Meredith’s Bush Friends in Tasmania, various author manuscripts, and some rather waspish letters from Patrick White to ‘friends’ and colleagues.

The third event, An Evening of Readings at the Fryer Library, saw several famous faces (pictured at top) reading aloud from their most recently published works. 2007 Miles Franklin award winner Alexis Wright read from Carpentaria; investigative journalist Chris Masters read from Jonestown; verse novelist Dorothy Porter read from El Dorado and poet Peter Skrzynecki read from The Sparrow Garden.

Top from left: writers Chris Masters, Dorothy Porter, Peter Skrzynecki and Alexis Wright reading extracts from their most recently published works.

Below: Two posters from the Queensland Writers: 15 Authors of Note exhibition.

Bottom: The crowd at the An Evening of Readings function at Fryer Library.