

Durham University Colloquium to be held 5-8 September 2016

This annual opportunity for networking and sharing practice is almost upon us!



Graduating through the archway of Durham Castle (Credit: Durham University)

The fourth Matariki Humanities Colloquium, will be hosted by Durham University 5-8th September 2016.

The program aims to bring scholars and librarians together to share insights about the current state of their specific disciplines in an international setting, to make connections with other specialists in their fields, to examine the resources and best practices at other Matariki institutions, and to advance scholarship in the humanities.

As in previous years there will be two streams during the colloquium. The academic strand will address the broad theme of Literatures, concentrating on 'literature and its travels'.

The library strand will explore two themes: 'Partnerships for Research Support' and 'Evaluation and Service Improvement'.

Further information on the Colloquium is available at

<http://matarikinetwork.org/events/matariki-humanities-colloquium-literatures/>

Library Benchmarking Project meeting at Durham

Further information on the Benchmarking meeting and the Third Survey Cycle will be included in this newsletter, below.

Third Survey Cycle Status Report

A benchmarking meeting will take place during the Matariki Humanities Colloquium at Durham University.

This meeting provides a further opportunity to learn from each other's activities and practices and will contribute directly to the project's aim to consider 'how we measure our effectiveness'.

At this meeting, representatives from each of

the libraries will discuss what has been learned from considering the responses to the third survey which focused on 'planning for change to support research, not in isolation but in partnership with others'.

A Status Report on the Third Survey Cycle, which summarises the projects reported to date, was issued to member libraries in July 2016.

Through this discussion, each of the libraries will share more information about their assessment and contribute to the development of a Library Assessment Capability Maturity Model.

Discussion will also focus on planning the next stage of the project, including considering the next survey topic.

Engagement extended

Since the 2015 Colloquium at Queen's University, several initiatives to extend engagement across the Network have commenced.

The MUNLIBS email list has facilitated information sharing for contacts in Network libraries and is operating smoothly, hosted by Otago University.

Online video conferencing has been used to progress the Third Survey Cycle of the Benchmarking Project, with the Project Manager Simon Hart facilitating project meetings with Network libraries. This has been a useful way of fostering engagement in the project, particularly as the Third Survey Cycle involved more diversity amongst the responses than previous

projects. Additionally, the online discussion on points of interest has resulted in useful connections and information sharing for partner libraries.

Finally, the coverage of this newsletter has been extended beyond the benchmarking project to focus on the Network libraries in general. Updates on recent activities and points of interest from Network Libraries are included in this newsletter.

Highlights from Network Libraries

New Customer Services at Tübingen University Library

Tübingen University Library consists of four interconnected buildings. Especially freshmen have difficulties to find their way. Our new digital guidance system with interactive screens helps finding stacks, study space, wash-rooms, etc. The system is linked to the library catalog. Every hit provides a “pathfinder” link. By scanning the QR-Code the student gets a mobile map on their smartphone which leads to the appropriate stack. The system also helps booking group study rooms. An overview shows all rooms and their current occupancy, a free room in the preferred time span can be booked online. Due to intensive use during the semester, students often had to undertake long walks to find available learning space. Now a “seatfinder” tool analyzes the current Wireless Lan use, calculates by using these data which parts of the buildings are already crowded and

where students may find available study space.

www.ub.uni-tuebingen.de

Benchmarking contributes to strategic priorities at Queen’s University Library

Initiatives at Queen’s University Library over the past year have included further developments in areas reported in the three cycles of the Matariki benchmarking project. Accessibility services now include a regional collaboration called ACE (Accessible Content E-Portal), a secure, easy to use web application for the discovery and downloading of digital materials in accessible formats. Implementation of the Library and Archives Master Plan is proceeding with a number of small projects to enhance student learning spaces, showcase research collections and support a new public services model. Research data management services are expanding with the introduction of DMP Assistant, a data management

planning tool developed through the national Portage network, and a collaboration with Queen’s Centre for Advanced Computing and Portage partners to develop a local repository service that will integrate with a federated research data management service. For more on Queen’s University Library’s current strategic priorities, see

<http://library.queensu.ca/about-us/planning-assessment>

Dartmouth Otago Exchange Strengthens Partnership

Sarah M Smith, Book Arts Printer at Dartmouth College has taken up as the University of Otago Library’s Printer in Residence for 2016. Sarah’s Otakou Press print project is to print a limited edition of poems written by local poet Rhian Gallagher. The theme of this volume is centred round the life and activities of Freda Du Faur (1882–1935), the first woman to climb Aoraki/Mount Cook. The text will be enhanced by images by the Dunedin artist Lynn Taylor. 120 copies will be

printed; 100 will be for sale through the University of Otago Library.

On her first day in the Otakou Press room Sarah commented on how impressed she was with the range of resources available in the room to support her project. Sarah is documenting her time at Otago through the Big Green Kiwi blog at

<http://sites.dartmouth.edu/biggreenkiwi/>

Dr Donald Kerr, Special Collections Librarian at Otago showcases some of the works from the Printer in Residence Programme and details the Otakou Press room, including the Colombian Press in a video available at

<https://unitube.otago.ac.nz/video?m=Htzk4XvO7GA>

To further enhance the Otago-Dartmouth Matariki partnership, an exhibition of Book Arts materials from Dartmouth College, that were used in their own 25th anniversary celebrations last year, will be exhibited in the de Beer Gallery, Special

Collections. The Otago exhibition started 1 September and runs through to 2 December 2016. Details of this and previous exhibitions are available at

<http://www.otago.ac.nz/library/SpecialCollections/exhibitions.html#past>

Another exciting aspect to this partnership is the exhibition of past University of Otago Printer in Residence publications at Dartmouth College Library. The exhibition is scheduled to start in the first week of October 2016.

Innovative new library space opens at UWA

The University of Western Australia Library opened the doors on a new library space on 1 August 2016. This innovative, new space includes a variety of teaching and learning spaces with seats for 700, new exhibition facilities and upgraded technology, café and bathroom facilities. This

project has also significantly improved the accessibility of the 50-year old Reid Library building.

Students' first impressions have been overwhelmingly positive, with a 75% increase in usage of the space from the same time in 2015. A full program of evaluation activities, based on lessons learned through the Matariki Benchmarking Project Second Survey Cycle will take place over the coming months.

The Library, in conjunction with the UWA Cultural Precinct, has invited five artists to imagine how we can transform a blank wall in the new library space into an art piece. A competition is currently underway to enable the UWA community to vote for their favourite piece and the winning artist will work in residence in the library during October 2016.

<http://www.library.uwa.edu.au/about/refurbishment>



Sarah M Smith alongside the Columbia Press in the Otakou Press room at the University of Otago Library, 1 August 2016



The University of Western Australia's new Reid Library Ground Floor Collaborative Zone
(Credit: Andrew Lang, Schin Architects)

This newsletter was compiled by the Matariki Network of Universities Library Benchmarking project contacts at The University of Western Australia, Alissa Sputore and Katie Mills.