

From the University Librarian and Director of Learning Services

I am honoured to introduce the annual report of the University of Queensland Library. I took up the post of University Librarian and Director of Learning Services in June 2006, and this report covers both the period since my appointment and the earlier part of the year during which Mary Lyons continued in the role of Acting University Librarian. I am most grateful to Mary for her outstanding contribution in that role and to her and all members of the Library's staff for the great warmth with which they welcomed me to the University.

This report records a year of considerable achievement by all involved with the Library. We have introduced new services, developed new facilities and extended the tremendous electronic collections which are so fundamental to scholarship at UQ. We have also begun a process of looking to the future, understanding the nature of learning, teaching and research at the university over the next few years, anticipating the opportunities afforded by new technology and designing the library space of the future. During 2007 we will launch a strategic plan which maps out our vision and our role in enriching the world-class scholarship evident throughout this remarkable university.

In considering where our future lies we can draw upon some of the excellent work which has been advanced during the year under review. Libraries have always been at the heart of the learning and teaching process, but with the growth of electronic information our function has become more closely connected with the space in which students learn. The magnificently redeveloped Biological Sciences Library exemplifies our vision of a space in which students can excel, working independently or with their peers, with computers and with printed materials.

In the field of research we have continued to develop our place in the eResearch environment through the development of UQ eSpace, our new institutional repository. In addition to acting as a showcase for the university's research, UQ eSpace has provided the infrastructure for the university's research assessment activities.

The *Highlights* section which follows this introduction documents many of our key activities during the year. Many have contributed to this record of achievement, and I acknowledge here with gratitude the wise counsel of Professor Michael Keniger, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic) Professors Helen Chenery and Susan Hamilton, and all members of the Library Committee of the Academic Board. The university's staff and students and the staff of our teaching hospitals offer constant advice, feedback (and criticism!) which encourages us to continue to innovate and develop. Above all, members of Library staff deserve acclaim for their dedication and commitment during a demanding and successful year.

Keith Webster
University Librarian and Director of Learning Services