From the University Librarian
4 June 2021

Open research has great ANU publications available online to read for reconciliation week

SIS News

SIS Division staff meeting
Thursday 10 June
10 – 11.30 am
Australian Centre on China In The World
(Building 188, Fellows Lane The Australian National University, Canberra Australian Capital Territory, Australia)
Welcome, reports commence
First nations 10.15
Maryanne Dever 10.45
11.15 other reports including Broderick on the ALIA Lib Tech conference

COVID-19

Reminder – the weekly COVID-19 ANU update is online.

Key reminders from ANU:
• Do remain home if you are unwell – we can use the ad hoc arrangement to approve working from home to assist and

ANU Press and Open Access Publishing

Accessibility and inclusive design for digital documents

ANU Press designer Teresa Prowse recently attended training in accessibility and inclusive design for digital documents, led by Vision Australia. Some of the key learnings she took away were:
• Provide information in different formats so it suits all situations likely to come up.
• Provide alternative (ALT) text for images. Use ALT text to describe the main message of the image you want to tell.
• ALT text for images can be added in Word. Word accessibility checker: Tools > Check accessibility. ALT text can also be added when sharing images on social media.
• Bold is better for emphasising text instead of underlining or italics.
• ALL CAPS is hard to read.
• Hyperlinks should be underlined. Avoid generic ‘click here’ text. Ensure the link text reflects the title and main heading of the destination content or page. When linking to a document, indicate format and size.
• Serif fonts can be hard to read for people with low vision; sans serif fonts are recommended.
• Provide sufficient contrast when using colour. Contrast ration of 4.5:1 (regular text), 3:1 (large text, 18 points and higher or 14 points bold and higher).
• Table shading colours won’t be read by screen readers. If you need to highlight a cell, add a symbol or image (with ALT text) with a key. Define header rows.
sick leave should be used if you are unwell
• Morning teas for staff - the ANU COVID guidelines for Informal Gatherings state Yes – with COVID-safe practices are followed, including ensuring any food handling is done with gloves and appropriate utensils, or food is individually plated.
• Dishwashers and shared equipment - can now be used, noting that staff are individually responsible for ensuring shared equipment is cleaned after use and dishwashers are used sensibly (emptied regularly, surfaces cleaned, hands cleaned before emptying clean dishes etc)
• Library spaces - Client services staff will review and consider accessibility of spaces and facilities during the exam period. Significant changes to current space arrangements require University Librarian approval. Revision of access to space limitations will take place during Semester break.
• SIS Executive and Library Managers will continue to ensure that we are a safe workplace.
• Interstate travel can occur - guidance is online. Changes are underway to revert the Travel eForm to previous domestic travel delegations and align it with the COVID-19 advice, as well as update other various locations travel advice appears on the website.
• The COO is leading discussions on requirements from our portfolio in relation to COVID-19 and general preparedness

Note COVID-19 reporting change from weekly to monthly. The last weekly report was 28th May and first monthly report is due in the week starting 28 June

COVID-19 research:
From the OCLC REALM project:
• A new research briefing, prepared by Battelle, that reviews research on COVID-19 vaccination, variant strains of the SARS-CoV-2 virus, and building ventilation that may affect operations, policies, and procedures
• A new video from Boston Children’s Museum CEO Carole Charnow, who shares details of the pandemic’s impact on her institution one year later.

Also available are new toolkit roundups that explore risk assessment and trauma management in archives, libraries, and museums.

In this next phase, REALM is exploring additional questions as vaccines have become available, SARS-CoV-2 variants are on the rise, and local guidelines and restrictions change. This post discusses what the REALM project has learned over the past year and

• Use styles and formatting to create line spacing 1.15 (1.08 min) recommended, 14pt between each paragraph – based on 12pt font.
• Use heading styles to structure a document and don’t use blank spaces to create space between paragraphs.
• Screen readers don’t detect textboxes. Place the content inside a single table cell.
• Images and tables should be placed in-line with text.

Investing in the Open Access Book infrastructure: a call for action.
This guest blog post by Pierre Mounier, Jeroen Sondervan, and Graham Stone. Describes the development of the position paper and issues considered. Read it online. Note the full position paper is available as a PDF to download via Zenodo.

Joint statement to publishers on OA clarity and transparency
CESAER, the European University Association and Science Europe have released a statement supporting the open dissemination of research findings for the greater benefit of research and society and call on all publishers to stop requiring researchers to sign over their rights and to end the use of restrictions and embargoes. Read more.

The International Development of Open Access Publishing: A Comparative Empirical Analysis Over Seven World Regions and Nine Academic Disciplines
This paper offers a cross-country and cross-disciplinary analysis of the development of open access publishing from 2000 to 2019. Through an analysis of seven world regions and nine scholarly fields, we found that, while the overall share of open access journals has increased significantly over the last two decades, there are important differences across both the analyzed world regions and disciplines. Worth remembering differences by index source (Archambault).

Project MUSE receives Mellon Foundation grant to study “Subscribe to Open” model for OA journal
Project MUSE has received a $75,000 planning grant from The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation’s Public Knowledge Program to study the innovative business model for open access journal publishing known as “Subscribe to Open.” The grant, called "MUSE Open: S2O" and led by Project MUSE director Wendy Queen, will focus on developing a financially sustainable approach to open journal publishing in the humanities and social sciences that offers an alternative to “author-pays” models, thereby expanding both author and reader access and equity.

UNESCO Releases Recommendation on Open Science
On May 11, UNESCO adopted a draft Recommendation on Open Science, outlining a common definition of Open Science, along with a set of shared values, principles and standards, and proposing a set of actions to fairly and equitably operationalize Open Science at the individual, institutional, national, and international level. The final version of the Recommendation is actually stronger than the one initially proposed -- reflecting the sustained support of and
outline our next phase of work

Library Staff Consultative Committee

The LSCC meets next week – a reminder that the membership, minutes, terms of references and agendas are online.

CAUL

- Chelsea Harper (USC) and Philip Kent (USyd) are the CAUL nominees for the ALIA Professional Pathways Board
- CAUL “Year in Review - 2020” is out now

Exam period

The exam period has commenced and students are working hard to be prepared. Thanks to everyone for the work to assist at this busy time. A reminder that the libraries are not Proctorio sites. Information can be found on the ANU website and Proctorio FAQs can be found here.

Privacy

- Thanks to Alex for her fabulous work on Privacy Impact Assessments. You can see the register of the Assessments here.
- Angelene Falk Australian Information Commissioner and Privacy Commissioner. speech the future of privacy regulation is on the OAIC website.
- OAIC is reviewing the National Health (Privacy) Rules 2018 to decide whether and how they need to be updated to ensure they remain fit for purpose.

arXiv

ANU is a member of this service which is a free distribution service and an open-access archive for 1,893,922 scholarly articles in the fields of physics, mathematics, computer science, quantitative biology, quantitative finance, statistics, electrical engineering and systems science, and economics. It contains material that is not peer reviewed. arXiv has “flipped” their membership to “pay to publish” rather than “pay to read”. In the past the membership fee was based on institutional usage (# hits). Now it is based on the number of submissions. This acknowledges a changed vision of the value of the repository of preprints. I.

The Go8 places in world for arXiv submissions (average of last 3 years) are:

- ANU #55
- Sydney #59
- Melbourne #111
- UNSW #119
- Monash #163
- Adelaide #173
- UWA #190
- UQ #271

advocacy for Open Science by the majority of the UNESCO member states who participated in the consultation. The process to formally ratify and adopt this recommendation will continue, with the draft being submitted to UNESCO member states in August and the aim of securing its adoption by the UNESCO General Conference at its 41st Session in November of this year.

Linguistics Society of America supports Open research

The Society has recently released a “Statement on the Scholarly Merit and Evaluation of Open Scholarship in Linguistics”. The statement encourages scholars to include open research in their portfolios, and provides guidance on everything from how to solicit letters of evaluation that specifically comment on open scholarship to advice on embedding language that signals the importance of open scholarship when making a job posting or conducting a review process.
Events

DCDC21: Catalysts for change: transforming our practices, collections, and communities through times of crisis
When? 28 June – 2 July 2021
Where? Online
More details Register here

9th International Summit of the Book
When? December 9th-11th 2020
Where? Online
More details Register here

ALIA LibTech 2021
When? Thursday 28 - Friday 29 October 2021
Where? Online
More details The symposium will provide an opportunity for Library technicians from around Australia to meet together in the formal setting of a structured program, to hear prominent members of the profession, as well as their peers, speak and debate contemporary issues relating to the profession, professionalism and library work in general. Registrations open soon. More information can be found here

Open research

Journal Citation Indicator. Just Another Tool in Clarivate’s Metrics Toolbox?
Can Clarivate deliver on a single, normalized measurement of citation impact or did its marketing department promise too much? “Read the blogpost

New resources

- Defining a new normal for extremes in a warming world
- Defining success in bushfire management: critical moments in the 2012-13 ACT bushfire season
- Defective adaptive thermogenesis contributes to metabolic syndrome and liver steatosis in obese mice
- Decreased levels of platelet-derived soluble glycoprotein VI detected prior to the first diagnosis of coronary artery disease in HIV-positive individuals
- Deceptive vocal duets and multimodal display in a songbird

Keeping up to date

The Future of Archives: Collecting in Time of Crisis.
The Society of American Archivists (SAA) has made a recording of a recent discussion on this topic available online. The co-chairs of the Crisis, Disaster, and Tragedy Response Working Group of the Society of American Archivists, Kara McClurken and Vanessa St. Oegger-Menn, and Carol Summerfield, Executive Director of the Lake Forest Lake Bluff History Center, discuss the ethics, legalities, and implications of archival work in critical times. Hear it online

Project 2030: Scenarios for the Future of Cybersecurity.
You can read the report and executive summary online - an interesting exploration of issues for the future including privacy and surveillance – “These scenarios and their associated threats will require changes to the business and regulation of cybersecurity.”

Not in Public Ownership, but Available for Public Use.
You can watch the session online. Bernadine Brocker Wieder holds a roundtable discussion on how to keep digital public access to works removed from museum collections. Bernadine proposes two methods for discussion on how digital technology can ensure that works are publicly available even after the gavel comes down at an auction.

Similarly different: Finding the nuances in first year students' library perceptions.
Sarah LeMire, Stephanie J. Graves, Sarah Bankston, Jennifer Wilhelm Texas A&M University Libraries researched this issue and found that different groups of first-year students did express varying perceptions about their level of preparedness for college research, research anxiety, and perception of librarians at the beginning of their college experience. An end of year survey after a library intervention
The ANU Professional Staff Mentoring Program has been running since the second half of 2020 with two full programs now delivered. The response from staff has shown a high demand for this kind of development opportunity, with 48 mentoring pairs in the first pilot program and 120 pairs in the second program. Participants in the initial 2020 program gave very positive feedback about their experience and valuable suggestions for improvement which were incorporated into the second program. We will shortly be seeking feedback from the second cohort to help us make further improvements.

Expressions of interest recently opened for the next program commencing in July 2021 and we have places available for both mentors and mentees. Please promote this opportunity to the professional staff in your team, and particularly encourage more experienced staff to consider being involved as mentors. Mentors can be professional staff from ANU classification level 6/7 or higher employed in ongoing, fixed-term or continuing contingent funded positions for at least the duration of the mentoring program, in this case until the end of December 2021.

More information about the program and how to apply as a mentor or mentee can be found on the Professional Staff Mentoring Program web page. If you have any questions about the program, please contact the HR Culture & Development team on email: hrd.development@anu.edu.au

Best wishes
Nadine
Dr Nadine White
Director - Human Resources

new from the Next Generation Library Publishing project.

- Library Publishing Infrastructure: Assembling New Solutions documenting the design, methods, results, and recommendations of the NGLP project team’s 2019-2021 study of library publishing infrastructure gaps and requirements.
- Living Our Values and Principles: Exploring Assessment Strategies for the Scholarly Communication Field Building on the Values and Principles Framework and Assessment Checklist, this report takes a deep dive into "values and principles" statements, documents, proclamations, and manifestos that have been produced by scholarly communication stakeholders over the last 30 years. It highlights the gaps between naming vs. living by values and principles, and recommends that academic stakeholders more concretely define their values and principles.

Libraries and Archives in the Digital Age.

A 4 part podcast series, Professor Susan Mizruchi of Boston University talks about the onslaught of changes the digital age has brought to the practice of information preservation. With so much out there at a time, how can archivists keep up? How do librarians fit into the task of finding and safeguarding materials? How can archivists, curators, and librarians work together to collect, restore, and preserve information for years to come? Susan digs into the value of collaboration between librarians, archivists, and faculty, offering examples of mutually-beneficial partnerships that formed during the process of putting together her edited volume, Libraries and Archives in the Digital Age. Get access to the podcast here.

National Archives Awards $3.9 Million in Grants for Documentary Editing and Archival Projects.

Archivist of the United States David S. Ferriero has awarded $3,884,017 for 33 projects in 20 states to improve public access to historical records. The National Archives grants program is carried out through the National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC). A complete list of new grants is available online.

The NHPRC adopted a new Strategic Plan emphasizing four major goals:

- Expand public discovery and use of the nation’s historical records.
- Foster a greater diversity of voices in telling the American story through historical records collections.
- Connect the National Archives with the nation’s archives.
- Engage the American people in preserving and publishing historical records collections that tell the American story.

Berkeley Chinese treasures to be digitised.

UC Berkeley Library has announced a monumental collaboration with Sichuan University, with funding from the Alibaba Foundation. The project aims to digitize most of the pre-1912 Chinese language materials from EAL’s collections, bringing them to life in vivid detail for researchers today and for generations to come. While chunks of EAL’s collections...
Australian Research Data Commons

Big images, big data challenges
May 31, 2021

Advanced microscopes underpin a huge range of critical research, from the ultra-light and strong materials of the future to life-saving treatments for cancer. However, as these instruments have evolved, so have the quantities of data they produce. This leads us to the question: how can this data be stored and managed so that it’s findable, accessible, interoperable and reusable (FAIR) for further research? A new project supported by the Australian Research Data Commons (ARDC), Australian Characterisation Commons at Scale (ACCS), aims to resolve the big-data challenges faced by microscopy facilities around the country by providing tools, best practice guides, specialised training and knowledge sharing. Read more

The 10,000-watt Bulb: How Preprints Shine a Light on Misconduct.

May 25, 2021

Very topical - in this blogpost Michele Avissar of Research Square discusses the value of preprints for uncovering unethical and fraudulent research behaviors early in the publication process.

Data versioning – an epic chapter of a long story

May 25, 2021

A quick search online for Tolstoy’s War and Peace throws up 113 editions—the clothbound edition translated to Portuguese by Rubens Figueiredo and published in 2 volumes by Cosac & Naify in 2011; the ‘authoritative modern abridgement’ by Edmund Fuller; the ‘inner sanctum edition’ by Simon & Schuster 1955; the Amazon Classics Kindle edition 2019… illustrated, annotated, audiobook, ebook, paperback, cassette, CD… it goes on. Now, a framework used by librarians for cataloging books is shedding light on how researchers can precisely identify the digital dataset that underpins their work—a critical element of making sure the research is reproducible. Read more

The 10,000 titles are from before 1912, and are in line to be digitized.

Uncertain Archives: Critical Keywords for Big Data.

Edited by Nanna Bonde Thylstrup, Daniela Agostinho, Annie Ring, Catherine D'Ignazio, and Kristin Veel. Cambridge, Massachusetts : MIT Press, [2021]. You can read this book online. The book review in the LSE Impact of Social Science blog comments “The overarching themes of ‘uncertainty’ and ‘archive’ are established in an introductory chapter which offers a clear rationale for the volume. The editors are particularly concerned with the ways in which big data promises certainty whilst producing uncertainty. New data regimes (and their associated technologies) in many ways render more things more predictable. Proponents of big data claim it can anticipate and control all manner of risks – ecological, medical, juridical, etc. At the same time, however, data-driven technologies can thrive on uncertainty by exploiting unusual and high-gain opportunities such as data-driven high-frequency trading. Uncertainty is in fact a pervasive governmental modality characteristic of neoliberalism, and big data must be understood as producing and deploying uncertainty within these arrangements. As the contributing authors demonstrate, this ambiguous quality is what makes big data potentially so powerful… For a project aiming not to define or chart a field but to help construct an ‘engaged alliance’ for critical thinking and action around big data, Uncertain Archives makes a valuable contribution.