

## WHAT'S HAPPENING LCONZ?

The Library Consortium of New Zealand (LCoNZ) made great progress in 2007. We thought it was time we shared an update on a few of our projects. The Library Consortium of New Zealand (LCoNZ) is a national, virtual organisation established in 2004 by four universities: AUT University, Victoria University of Wellington, the University of Waikato and the University of Otago. In 2007 Wintec joined the consortium as a customer.

### Txt messaging

Over summer we have been piloting txt messages, delivered direct from Voyager library management system. Txs tell patrons about:

- Items Available;
- Overdue;
- Recall;
- Recall Overdue;
- Fine and Fees notices; and
- Courtesy Notices.

A full trial of the system will take place in the first semester of this year. Patrons will then be surveyed to see if there is a continuing demand for txts and what they would like to see the service do. We will present the survey results to LCoNZ management so they can decide if it's good business to continue txting.

### Institutional Research Repository

We are developing a hosted multi institutional research repository, which we have contracted to Waikato University Information Technology Services to host.

The existing AUT and Waikato Digital Commons repositories will be migrated into the new DSpace repository in February 2008, which is when all new items will also be added.

### Borrow Direct

Q. What's better than one university library catalogue?

A. Four university library catalogues!  
Staff and students at any of the LCoNZ university libraries can now use their university's catalogue to access the other LCoNZ catalogues. They can search, identify items and initiate a loan right from their home library (without staff help), which means patrons can borrow unique items easily and the pressure is taken off local holdings.

This is particularly great for students studying at a distance because they can retrieve their requested resources from a place closer than the university they are studying through.

### Bilingual Interface

The bilingual interface project provides a Maori language catalogue interface for library patrons. It

includes:

- A splash screen;
- Menu/navigation options;
- Screen prompts;
- List headings; and
- Context sensitive help screens.

Local tangata whenua are now checking and approving the Maori translations. Once the prototype has been built and tested we will formally launch the Maori language interface simultaneously at each LCoNZ location.

### Virtual Reference

We are investigating three virtual reference proprietary systems, as well as instant messaging options, so we know how best to provide virtual reference services in our libraries.

Once completed, the Virtual Reference project will employ easy-to-use software that allows patrons to communicate with staff in real time.

### Multisearch

All LCoNZ university libraries are now subscribed to Serials Solutions 360 Search – we call it Multisearch. AUT, who were the first to implement it, have found it's performance outstanding; they report that it can cope with any load they throw at it, both in terms of simultaneous users and the number of databases searched.

Users say:

"Great, it's finally back! So much better than before"

"It makes searching the Library a lot easier"

"Surprisingly, very quick to work"

"Researching without the stress"

"It has made the Library far more accessible"

The other great advantage is that MultiSearch was easy to implement. Once you've filled in the customisation forms and selected the databases for inclusion it is simply a case of sitting back and letting Serials Solutions do the work for you – that includes contacting vendors to set up search permissions and connections. Multisearch was up and running perfectly at AUT just inside the six weeks promised. LCoNZ libraries staff perform much of the work of the consortium, working together on project teams and management groups. This is a great way for library staff to learn together and it helps everyone develop knowledge and expertise. Sharing the workload across the consortium has resulted in lower risks and a more rapid process of project implementation. Essentially, more has been achieved with less.

*Jean Ballantyne*

*General Manager, LCoNZ*

[Jean.Ballantyne@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:Jean.Ballantyne@vuw.ac.nz)