

UNSW Library Annual Report 2024



UNSW
SYDNEY

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Introduction from the Director & University Librarian

The year 2024 marked the final year of the UNSW Strategy and this was timely for UNSW Library to complete its latest three-year 2022-24 plan. Throughout the course of 2024, the Library completed a number of major multi-year projects including the UNSWorks institutional open access research repository, the prescribed resources project, Library Essentials online lesson and quiz, as well as achieving project and budget approval for both the 2024–2026 Main Library project, and the Academy Library, UNSW Canberra (at ADFA) project.

In 2024, there was a dramatic increase in staff and student engagement with many library services, resources and infrastructures. A record number of students visited our Libraries; more than any year since 2019. Student engagement doubled through in-library and in-faculty library digital information skills workshops and events. Usage of Leganto as well as physical and digital library collections continued to rise. With the growing trend to more demand for information and knowledge, the Library's focus must be on scalability, sustainability and equipping and looking after our people.

I would like to thank our dedicated, expert and caring staff at UNSW Library. Thank you for providing welcoming, accessible, diverse, supportive, inspirational and safe environments for our students and staff.

On behalf of the Library, thank you to UNSW academics and professional staff for partnering with us to deliver positive outcomes and contributions to the UNSW community and beyond. A sincere thank you to the university for providing the resources we need that enable the Library to thrive. Finally, thank you to the students for providing feedback and working with us to design and deliver the Library you need.

Martin Borchert

Director & University Librarian



The header image is a composite of two photographs. On the left, there is a close-up of a tree with vibrant green leaves, with sunlight filtering through the canopy. On the right, there is a low-angle shot of a modern building with a grey facade and a blue-tinted glass section. The letters 'UNSW' are visible on the building's facade, oriented vertically.

UNSW Library Plan 2024

The 2024 UNSW Library Plan was the final year of the three-year 2022-24 plan. It was developed in collaboration with Library staff and supports the UNSW 2025 Strategy Plus. The 2024 UNSW Library Plan focused on nine Library initiatives aligned to core themes of Research Quality, Educational Excellence and Student Experience, and is underpinned by library systems, processes and services. Our 2024 Library achievements are summarised below.

Library Initiative and Response

Enhance UNSW's next-generation research infrastructure

- > The refreshed UNSWorks was launched, showcasing UNSW's open publications, theses and datasets, making them globally accessible. These UNSW research works now have a wider reach free from paywalls with the potential of greater societal impact.
- > A proof of concept for using Recollect to preserve UNSW theses was developed.
- > The Research Output System (ROS) using Symplectic v.6.18 giving mandatory file versions, new groups functionality and an increased choice of re-use licenses for publications in UNSWorks.

Progressing access to research and sustainable scholarly publishing

- > The Library advocated for standardised metadata from publishers for accurate reporting of UNSW corresponding author affiliated OA outputs and partnered with OA Switchboard to progress. A briefing paper was shared with Council of Australasian University Librarians (CAUL) and the Go8 University Librarians to advance this initiative.
- > The Collection Development Strategy was revamped through barrier free access to information.
- > The Library continued to work closely with CAUL to influence strategy around OA publishing agreements, with the focus on financial sustainability, bibliodiversity and simplification for our researchers to publish their original research openly.
- > Over 35 open access publishing agreements are now in place, supported by researcher guides, which were accessed over 25,000 times throughout the year.

Repositioning scholarly library collections and connecting unique library values with the digital space

- > The object-based learning (OBL) program provided multi-faceted student learning opportunities including artist talks, course-embedded workshops, walks and assessments.
- > Stage 3 of the Collection Maintenance Framework (CMF) implementation was progressed with over 290,000 Sydney items relocated, which significantly contributes to making the collections fit for purpose.
- > The Library invested in upgrading equipment for its print collection to improve the borrowing experience for clients. New self-loan machines were installed in Canberra and across all three Library locations at UNSW Sydney. At Main Library, a new book vending locker for holds and requests was installed.
- > The award-winning Library Exhibitions program expanded into two new spaces. In agreement with the School of Art & Design, a new exhibition space was installed in the Paddington Library & Student Hub. A permanent secondary Special Collections Display area is now located on Level 3, Main Library.
- > Library Exhibitions extended its reach with *Sonus Maris* being re-exhibited at the Jervis Bay Maritime Museum, attracting 3908 visitors. The *Living Water* exhibitions assets were re-exhibited in faculty spaces and received strong media attention. Re-exhibiting Library Exhibitions supports sustainable Galleries, Libraries, Archives, Museums and Records (GLAMR) practices and showcases UNSW research more widely.

Preparations were made for installing a new Digital Knowledge Lab. Aligned with core Library values, the *Misinformation Installation* will support student and public engagement around data and privacy, in a time when the ethical use of information in a world of AI is foremost.





Increase student engagement with library services and learning opportunities that support student wellbeing and the attainment of graduate attributes

- > The Library Peer Mentor program expanded to the Law and Paddington Libraries, greatly extending its reach. The program's impact was recognised with a presentation at the International Association of University Libraries (IATUL) 2024 conference, showcasing its innovative contributions to the student experience.
- > Library Learning Services increased student-focused events by providing opportunities for connection and development through initiatives tailored to diverse student needs and enhancing campus engagement. The Library collaborated with Arc Wellness, the Health Promotions Unit, UNSW College, Nura Gili, Academic Skills, Peer Connections, and various UNSW Clubs & Societies on events designed to enhance the student experience.
- > Extended laptop loans to Nura Gili improved access to technology for Indigenous students, while targeted programs promoted inclusivity and engagement across the UNSW community.
- > Preparations began towards launching the Canberra City Campus Library, planned for July 2025.

Deliver leading practice in Library services and collections that support teaching

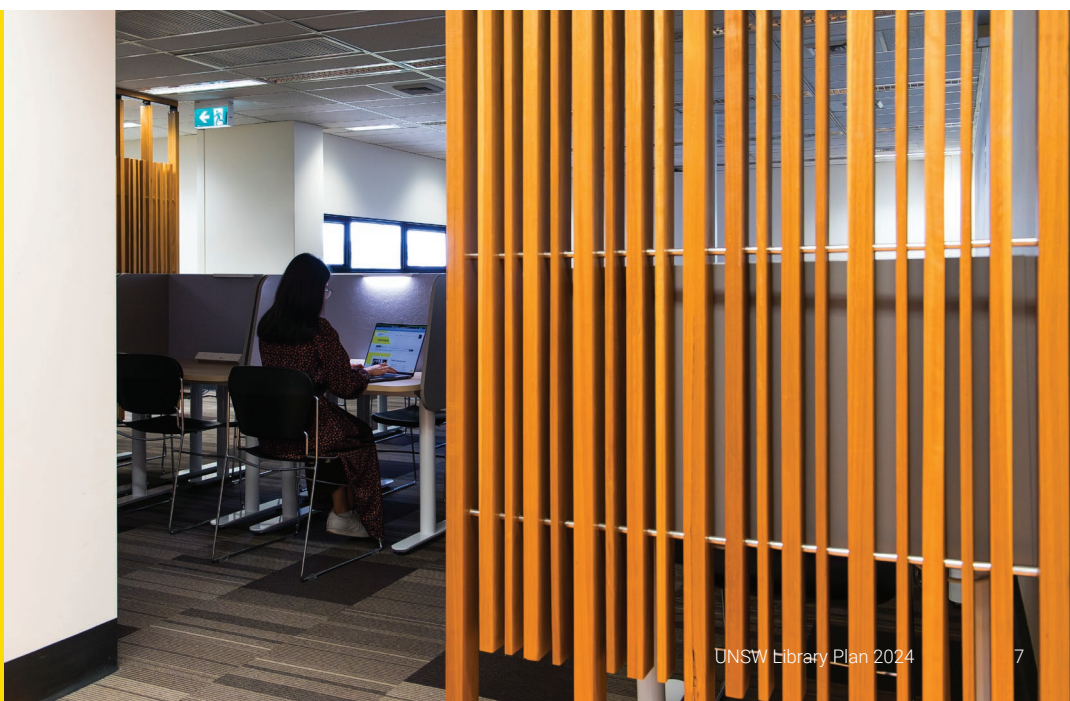
- > The Library Digital Information Skills Framework was developed and launched, forming the foundation of the Library's teaching and learning services. The framework was approved by the University Academic Quality Committee (UAQC) and showcased at the UNSW Education Festival in November 2024.
- > A Digital Literacy Package was developed in alignment with the Library's Digital Information Skills Framework. A core component of the Digital Information Skills Framework includes AI literacy skills and competencies needed to interact critically and meaningfully with AI technologies and applications.
- > The Library partnered with faculties to strategically target first year courses, resulting in an increased student reach.
- > We maximised students' access to their prescribed course resources to support learning outcomes. This approach exceeded expectations and now only 8% of prescribed resources have any type of restricted access. Another 260 courses now provide over 45,000 students with equitable access to eTextbooks through the Library.
- > As part of the CAUL eBook working group, UNSW Library advocated for improved and flexible consortial eTextbook options to meet the diverse needs of individual institutions and their student populations, in line with the Higher Education Standards Framework.

Innovate vibrant, welcoming physical Library spaces

- > A business case for refreshed student and staff spaces in Main Library secured \$10.4m funding for a three-year project spanning from 2024-26. A new co-located Library and UNSW Press activity based workspace is being designed for delivery in 2025.
- > The front study lounge in Main Library was refreshed and activated.
- > We worked with students as partners to co-design a new student study lounge on Level 4 of Main Library. The microform collection was reviewed, reduced and relocated to facilitate this project.
- > A new neutral sensory study space was implemented on Level 3, Main Library and attracted a very positive 9/10 overall score from students.
- > New lower height shelving was installed on Level 3, Main Library, creating a more attractive, functional and safe space for our students.

Progress the digital Library experience

- > We conducted a comprehensive suite of user experience (UX) research activities as part of the Library Online Presence phase two project by utilising quantitative and qualitative research methods, workshops with staff/students and a targeted student survey. Together, the results will provide the necessary insights and resources to enhance the Library's online presence in 2025 and beyond.
- > We implemented the new UNSW Library Communications Approach including a new communications Teams channel, new communications forms to assist Library staff with marketing requests, a collaborative social media content calendar and a communications page on the Library Intranet to centralise resources required for staff. This enables the Communications & Engagement Officer with strategy setting and direction. It provides a coordinated and consistent messaging/tone of voice across platforms, applied to website content, communications calendar and coordinated digital communications assets that deliver client-focused holistic experiences to the university community.
- > Collaborated with UNSWIT on the Uni-Verse app to integrate Primo VE, enabling UNSW clients with continued access to the Library collection.



Support a strong organisation, people and culture

There have been numerous initiatives supporting culture and professional development for Library staff including:

- A fantastic all-staff, half-day town hall meeting was held at the start of the year, with additional town hall briefings held throughout the year
- Regular Library Leadership Forums building supervisory, recruitment and leadership skills
- Staff morning teas and exhibition events
- Strategic and Adaptive Leadership program for Associate Directors and Directors
- Estate Management and MCA Architects engaging Library staff on the Main Library Masterplan including staff spaces
- Engaging staff and Estate Management on Paddington staff work spaces via insight survey
- Completing the UNSW Canberra Library Alignment Strategy
- End of year party annual reward & recognition event
- Regular Library Executive Team (LET) meet and greet sessions with new staff
- Weekly LET eNewsletters
- Under the Hood events that foster staff knowledge sharing
- Departmental, unit and team meetings
- Recruitment and selection of numerous staff vacancies to return the Library to full capacity.

The Library contributed to many university strategic collaborations throughout the year including:

- Academic Board
- University Academic Quality Committee (UAQC)
- University Research Committee (URC)
- University Higher Degree Research Committee (UHDRC)
- Artificial Intelligence (AI) groups – leadership, teaching and learning, research, university business
- Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Steering Committee
- Information Governance Steering Committee
- IT Blueprint
- Contract Lifecycle Management
- Future Campus – education
- Student Essentials project: Library Essentials
- UNSW Strategy and Societal Impact workshops
- Leadership Forum
- Faculty and school boards; and learning, teaching and research committees
- Canberra City campus – stage 1 building design, education and innovation
- Greater Western Sydney project

2024 in numbers



Information Services

In-Library student events (Sydney)	170 (8,853 attendees)
In-Library student events (Canberra)	29 (722 attendees)
Academic Engagements with faculty	7,655
Library Help Zone and LibChat queries	47,899
Library in-faculty workshops (Sydney)	183 (15,296 attendees)
Library in-faculty workshops (Canberra)	35 (1502 attendees)

Scholarly Collections & Access

Digital collection usage	25,741,766
Leganto Lists (Sydney)	1,678
Leganto Lists (Canberra)	252
Leganto uptake - students (Sydney)	3,432,517
Leganto uptake - students (Canberra)	178,776
Electronic collection total items	1,753,994
Physical collection total items (monographs)	857,529
Physical collection total titles (journals)	13,371
Total collection items	2,624,894
Physical collection items relocated	254,215
Loans and renewals (physical)	75,262
Borrowing from other Libraries	9,461
Lending to other Libraries	4,817
Main Library Exhibition Space visitor satisfaction NPS/CX score	NPS +45/CX 7.9

Top 5 Leganto courses by student usage (relative)

PHCM9012 Health Promotion & Social Perspectives of Health T3 2024	61,106 (136 per student)
INTA3002 Interior Architecture Critical Perspectives 2 T3 2024	19,403 (170 per student)
ZHSS8203 Foundations of Modern Strategy S1 2024	11,268 (157 per student)
LAWS8023 Commercial Contracts T3A - T3 2024	10,215 (227 per student)
ZHSS8204 Modern Naval History & Strategy 2024 S2	7,553 (168 per student)

Research and infrastructure

Library visits	2,680,090
UNSWorks full text downloads	1,630,759
Annual Research Output Collection AROC outputs (percentage) assessed using rapid acceptance	77%
Top 5 UNSWorks items by download	
1. Beyda, Oleg. "Iron Cross of Wrangel's Army": White Russian..." 2019. Thesis	3,178
2. Luc, Tuan. "ASEAN Centrality and the Major Powers: South China Sea..." 2020. Thesis	2,510
3. Deng, Rong. "End-of-life recycling of silicon photovoltaic modules..." 2021. Thesis	2,377
4. Suwono, Lanny. "Flavour and off-flavour development of oils..." 1996. Thesis	2,326
5. Ma, Jun. "Banana Pseudostem: properties nutritional composition.." 2015. Thesis	2,299
Digital presence page views*	24,402,143
Library digital presence sessions*	9,730,184
Library searches in Primo**	5,704,340

* Does not include Canberra data ** Includes Canberra data



Educational Excellence & Student Experience



In-Library Experience

The Library significantly enhanced and expanded its range of events, activities and workshops, catering to wide audiences including academic staff, undergraduate and postgraduate students and external visitors. A notable feature of this expanded offering is the series of Library events and drop-in sessions held at the Teaching Commons specifically aimed at academic teaching staff.

The 'Discover Your Library' sessions were highly popular amongst students with almost all sessions fully booked. These sessions were offered across all Library locations, providing both undergraduate and postgraduate students with a comprehensive introduction to the Library's facilities and resources.

Library tours and activities began well before the start of O-Week, with a visit in January from students from Beijing Institute of Technology, when the Library Learning Services team hosted a special tour delivered in both English and Mandarin. The students were impressed by the range of facilities, with one student commenting, *"I wish our university could build this library,"* underscoring the positive impact these tours have on international students' perceptions of the UNSW Library.

Faculty engagement and promotion of our services and support for teaching

The Library committed to strategically targeting embedded digital information skills workshops by reaching key units that have the potential to maximise student engagement in each faculty. This approach built on the successes of the previous year and ensured that library offerings were more integrated into the academic experience. The Academic Engagement teams delivered 183 in-course workshops to 12,187 students.

Digital Information Skills Framework and continual improvement

The [UNSW Library Digital Information Skills Framework](#) was launched in 2024 and serves as the basis of the in-library and in-faculty workshops and events program at the Library. The Library uses this framework to continually improve its offerings and has been working with academics to make our workshops more engaging and aligned to curriculum.

Library Essentials and Student Essentials

The Library partnered with PVCESE to incorporate Library Essentials content into the University's new 'Student Essentials' lessons and quiz module. This project involved collaborating with stakeholders from across the university to develop a comprehensive online onboarding and compliance environment for all commencing coursework students. The section on Library Essentials replaces the legacy ELISE program and focuses on building information and digital literacy skills. The Library's goal is to equip students with lifelong critical information and digital literacy skills that enhance their study capabilities and prepare them for successful graduation. These skills are essential in a world faced with exponential growth of information, amplified by the impact of new technologies and AI.

Scholarly Resources AI sessions for students and educators

The well-attended 'Scholarly Resources for Students' and 'Scholarly Resources for Teaching' sessions were held in Term 1 and Term 2. These sessions focused on resources with a generative AI component either already subscribed to by the Library or on the vendor roadmap. The sessions ranged from Scite.AI: Scopus AI, Web of Science AI Research Assistant, and legal databases including Lexis+, Westlaw and CCH. Over two hundred students and staff attended these events.





Library Spaces

Main Library student spaces revitalised

The Library continues to work with Estate Management and students to upgrade Library student study spaces, to make them more welcoming and comfortable, with increased capacity and functionality. The Main Library Study lounge was updated to enhance the daily student experience as well as providing the Library with a highly visible fit for purpose space for student engagement. In addition to re-upholstering the lounges, we have installed new powered benches and moveable tables, along with improved lighting over fixed tables.

The Main Library Help Zone on Level 2 has also been given a facelift. The zone now features more open and flexible space to enhance flow, and to host pop-up student engagement activities. An additional library service pod was installed, enhancing point of contact visibility and accessibility for our students.

In consultation with UNSW Equity Diversity & Inclusion, the Library piloted a lower intensity lighting study space for students on Level 3, Main Library. The number of down lights has been reduced to create an inclusive neutral sensory study space. Student feedback has been very positive, with students seeking more neutral sensory spaces throughout the building. Plans are underway to create further neutral sensory study spaces in 2025.

Desk occupancy technology rollout completed

After the successful implementation of the desk occupancy application in the UNSW Law Library, the technology was rolled out across single study spaces in the Main Library. Some 600 desks were fitted with the software across all student levels of the Library including the postgraduate study space. This initiative enables students to check which desks are occupied or available in real time, with occupancy displays on each floor of the Library as well as on the Library website. Students can pre-book study spaces before arriving or can book a space on arrival.

The software also includes a real-time desk availability/occupancy monitoring dashboard for management. Desk occupancy analysis reports provide management with insights into how the service has been used, occupancy rates, desk popularity and space usage to continually improve our offering of single study, collaborative and social spaces.

Main Library workspace and student space project approved

Over the coming years, the University will invest in the Main Library building and create new student spaces. Library staff and UNSW Press will relocate to Level 8, Main Library as a Future Campus Workspace pilot project. Spaces vacated on Levels 3 and 5 will be refurbished and made available to undergraduate and postgraduate students. Light refurbishment will take place across all other Main Library floors. Engaging with stakeholders is a crucial element. Consultation and high-level design work began on the Level 8 staff workspaces project in 2024.

The four key project components across the Main Library include:

- > New workspace on Level 8 that brings together Library and UNSW Press staff;
- > Development of student spaces through refurbishment of repurposed staff spaces on Levels 3 and 5;
- > A study and recommendations to ensure Main Library complies with the Disability Discrimination Act;
- > Improvements and increased capacity for student spaces across Levels 2 to 7.

UNSW Canberra City Campus

The first steps were taken to support the new Canberra City Campus, which is under development and located between Civic (CBD) and the Lake Burleigh Griffin, and a short distance from the UNSW Canberra, ADFA campus. The Library was involved in the stage 1 building design and in scoping the transition of the Canberra Institute of Technology (CIT) Reid Campus Library to a vibrant UNSW Library and support services space for the staff and students working and studying at this campus. Our new Senior Academic Engagement Librarian, Emma Gerts spent 2024 supporting the Canberra City Campus project professional staff, academic colleagues as well as postgraduate and higher degree research (HDR) students with their service development, research work and course planning activities.



Research Quality



Towards a roadmap for open research in Australia

UNSW Library staff, Martin Borchert (representing CAUL) and Fiona Bradley (representing Open Access Australasia) participated in a policy roundtable convened by the Academy of Social Sciences in Australia arising from an ARC-funded grant under Chief Investigator UNSW Professor Kathy Bowrey and other researchers to highlight the global momentum towards Open Research and the unique considerations and enabling conditions required for Australia to transition to a fair and equitable Open Research system. A full-day event, held in Canberra, brought international experts together with Australian Government officials, peak bodies, public funders, university leadership and academics to consider ways to improve research impact and achieve better public outcomes. A National Open Science Taskforce has been formed to carry forward the work.

Library services support open research/open science through guidance and workshops for researchers on publishing strategy and open access, and infrastructure including UNSWorks that allows access to data and creative works, pilots for linking equipment to publications, and persistent identifiers to link people to outputs.

UNSW supports the transition to open access through a variety of channels including its Open Access Policy and the hosting of Open Access Australasia, the UNSWorks open access institutional repository and open access publishing agreements with the CAUL consortium and commercial publishers. Article processing charges (APCs) funded by authors and schools, support for open science infrastructure and services, and robust advocacy and capacity building efforts all play key roles in the promotion of open access.

Annual Research Outputs Collections (AROC)

The AROC 2023 collection was finalised on 25 July 2024 following the audit procedure and sign off from the Associate Deans (Research). AROC is UNSW's internal process for collecting detailed, point-in-time data on research outputs produced by UNSW researchers. 9709 traditional and non-traditional outputs were accepted as eligible, peer-reviewed (or equivalent), original research. In accordance with the URC's recommendation, the eligibility criteria for research reports were modified to remove the requirement that they must be commissioned. This has allowed AROC to capture a wider range of research report outputs. The Library continues to provide the Research Output System (ROS).

UNSW's next generation research infrastructure

The UNSWorks institutional open access research repository was successfully migrated to a new DSpace platform that makes UNSW researchers' work globally accessible. Most of the content on UNSWorks including theses, data, Non-Traditional Research Outputs (NTRs) and reports is unique to the university. The UNSWorks platform introduces a range of new and improved functionality including:

- > Amplified discoverability of UNSW publications through all major search engines
- > An improved, user-friendly upload process via [ROS](#) for publications and non-traditional research outputs, and the ability to choose reuse conditions
- > The ability to connect researchers with their publications, funding and data across the scholarly record using links and persistent identifiers.

This upgrade constitutes essential infrastructure for open research and innovation at UNSW, forming part of UNSW's research data strategy 2020-2023.

Moreover, the Library delivered a program of workshops, events and communications throughout the year to increase UNSW researcher awareness of the benefits of the UNSWorks institutional repository and related infrastructures, for the purpose of increasing equity, open access and impact.

UNSW performance in the CWTS Leiden Ranking Open Edition

Early in 2024, CWTS and Curtin Open Knowledge Institute (COKI) released a new version of the Leiden Ranking that recreates the ranking using open metadata. UNSW Library was able to reproduce the dataset and provide additional insights. The dataset was based on a new resource, OpenAlex, and a selection of 'core' publication titles, covering approximately 3000 UNSW articles annually, compared to the University's total annual publication output of around 18,000 works.

According to the Leiden Ranking Open Edition, Open Access to UNSW research increased steadily from:

- > 51.9% in 2018 – UNSW Open Access policy was introduced in 2017
- > 58.6% in 2021 - UNSW Open Access policy revised December 2021

Gold and hybrid OA continued to grow, in part reflecting the coverage of the CAUL Open Access Publishing Agreements since 2022 that bundle subscription and publishing payments. Repository based, or green open access remained an additional pathway, generally at no cost to researchers or the institution. UNSW upgraded UNSWorks to ensure the 'green' route to open access remained available to all researchers and that research is discoverable and accessible.

Open Access Publishing sessions for researchers

The Library launched a new series of open access sessions for researchers known as 'Open Access Publishing at UNSW: Exploring Pathways to Open'. This initiative was in response to valuable feedback from our research community and an increased interest in open access publisher agreements. The in-person sessions provided participants with a comprehensive overview of open access (OA) pathways, the UNSW OA Policy, and specific details about OA publishing agreements available at UNSW. The sessions were run bi-monthly and offered an interactive environment where researchers could have their questions addressed and learn from their peers. In total, over 200 UNSW researchers attended.

Scholarly Collections

Refreshed Collection Development Strategy

The Collection Development Strategy has been reviewed and refreshed in line with a greater focus on 'Progress for All' through barrier free access to information as well as alignment with UNSW's Values in Action. The strategy now articulates our commitment to maximising students' access to their prescribed course resources, proactive evaluation of scholarly resources and tools with respect to the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) principles and UNSW's AI assurance framework. It also highlights the purposeful use of our content, including bibliotherapy, alignment with the First Nations Collection Description Guidelines, and a commitment not to buy repackaged open access content.

Open Access Publishing Agreements

A further 10 Open Access (OA) publishing agreements were commenced, increasing the total number available for UNSW researchers to 35 in 2025. These include new OA publishing agreements for Cambridge University Press, Oxford University Press, BMJ, Royal Society of Chemistry and Emerald Publishing. [New publisher guides](#) have been made available for our researchers with tailored information specific to UNSW on how to publish openly and comply with UNSW's OA policy.





Digital Library

Enhancing the digital library experience

Throughout 2024, the Library conducted a comprehensive suite of user experience (UX) research activities to enhance the Library's online presence. The approach utilised both quantitative and qualitative research methods such as interactive workshops, environmental scanning for heuristics and an in-depth student survey. We worked in partnership with a wide range of client groups, engaging with academics both research and teaching as well as undergraduate, postgraduate and higher degree research students, in addition to dedicated Equity, Diversity and Inclusion groups at UNSW.

The outcomes from the UX research have been analysed and synthesised into findings that will be applied during 2025 to further improve and refine the Library's online presence.

Societal Impact

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UN SDGs) comprise of 17 Global Goals to be accomplished by 2030. Libraries offer access to information, services and facilities that link individuals to ideas and knowledge, thereby enhancing their lives, empowering through education, and fostering creativity and connection. At UNSW Library, sustainability and engagement are integral to our mission and our contribution to societal impact. The Library supports the University's work towards the achievements of these goals through the services provided to the UNSW community. Examples of this include:

Goal 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions

UNSW's Open Access Policy and infrastructure, including the UNSWorks institutional repository, supports equitable access to information and UNSW research, so that everyone can benefit from knowledge that improves their work, health and society. More than 60% of UNSW's research is now openly available to the world.



16 PEACE, JUSTICE
AND STRONG
INSTITUTIONS



12 RESPONSIBLE
CONSUMPTION
AND PRODUCTION



4 QUALITY
EDUCATION



Goal 12: Responsible Consumption and Production

As part of the UNSW Environmental Sustainability Plan, the Library has rooftop solar PV systems and recycling facilities in place. There is a recycling box for batteries and mobile phones, near the entrance on Level 2, Main Library. This recycling service is also available in staff areas within the Library.

Goal 4: Quality Education

Library collections provide equitable access to course resources, via Leganto course lists, which saves students money on textbooks and other materials for their courses. Quality education is central to our prescribed resources initiative. Prescribed course resources lower the cost of study and ensures thousands of students can access the required reading for their courses without having to buy textbooks and other materials. The Library Peer Mentors service supports students' sense of belonging, connectedness, wellbeing and academic success. Library staff are trained in psychosocial safety, mental health, first responder and referral skills. The Library participated in the inaugural UNSW SDG showcase, marking the beginning of Global Goals week. Throughout the day, a dedicated team from various departments across the Library managed a stall, addressed numerous questions about library services and engaged in valuable networking opportunities with other stalls representing research projects, EDI activities, learning innovation and more. A new webpage detailing the Library's engagement with the SDGs was launched. The Library is a member of the University's SDG Steering Committee, which has led several initiatives that have significantly contributed to the University's progress towards achieving the SDGs. UNSW Library also contributes towards the measurement of progress as part of the Times Higher Education Impact Ranking.





Living Water: 75 years of water research at UNSW
Image credit: Jacquie Manning

Exhibitions Program

The Library delivered another outstanding programme of thought-provoking and inspiring exhibitions that showcased featured collections, digital experiences, cultural curations and creative outputs. The Library Exhibitions team received Highly Commended at the 2024 IMAGinE awards for the 2023 engagement program for Care is a relationship. A selection of exhibitions highlights included:

Hearts, Hands, Minds

In March, UNSW Library and UNSW Art Unit launched *Hearts, Hands, Minds: 75 years UNSW Art Collection*. This was the sixth UNSW Library – UNSW Art Unit collaboration and celebrated UNSW's 75th anniversary. The exhibition traced the development of the art collection through strategic purchases, major commissions, charitable donations, and notable gifts by artists and alumni. *Hearts, Hands, Minds* featured paintings, sculpture, photography, ceramics, and video art by significant modern and contemporary artists. There was a lot of enthusiastic feedback around the breadth and depth of UNSW's art collection. UNSW Library continues to fund the acquisition of works for the UNSW Art Collection.

Living Water: 75 years of water research at UNSW

In celebration of UNSW's 75th anniversary, *Living Water: 75 years of water research at UNSW* connected water research across various environments and disciplines. The exhibition highlighted significant contributions made by UNSW toward water governance and security, the support of healthy oceans and resilient coastlines, ensuring safe and equitable access to water, and sharing the knowledge we need to protect this vital resource into the future.

Living Water was a collaboration between UNSW Library and UNSW Global Water Institute with funding support from the Faculty of Arts, Design & Architecture, Faculty of Business, Faculty of Engineering, Faculty of Law & Justice and Faculty of Science. The exhibition was presented across all three UNSW Libraries - Main Library, Law Library and UNSW Art & Design Paddington Library. It was embedded into courses, had a full public program and an oration series with over 460 attendees.

On 8 October, His Excellency President Horta of Timor-Leste visited UNSW with the UNSW Library hosting President Horta from 11am-1.30pm. The official party attended workshops on Water-Food Security and Economic Security and also viewed the Living Water Exhibition.

Deep Illustrations

The rare and valuable book display, *Deep Illustrations*, drew together 19th-century scientific illustrations documenting creatures inhabiting marine and coastal environments. The display was curated to complement the *Living Water: 75 years of water research at UNSW* exhibition. *Deep Illustrations* showcases scientific precision and artistic beauty from UNSW Library's collection of rare and valuable books.

Liberating History: 50 years of Tharunka's "Women's Issue"

Displayed at Paddington Library, the Liberating History exhibition surveyed the annual "Women's Issue" volumes of *Tharunka*, UNSW's oldest student periodical. Drawing on materials from UNSW Archives, Liberating History explored shifting perspectives over the past 50 years on a range of socio-political and feminist topics. The materials in this display illustrated how UNSW students utilise publications to advocate for social change and transformative thinking.

Threads of The Mahābhārata

Displayed at Main Library, Level 3, *Threads of The Mahābhārata* showcased beautifully handbound volumes of the epic Indian poem, *The Mahābhārata*, held by UNSW Library Special Collections.

Colour: Inflexions and Interactions

On display at Main Library, Level 3 and 5, and Paddington Library until March 2025, this display of books and other printed matter charts our understanding of colour and light from Sir Isaac Newton's prism experiments in *Opticks; or, A treatise of the reflexions, refractions, inflexions and colours of light* (1704) to modernist studies in colour theory epitomised in *Interaction of color* (1963) by Josef Albers.

Colour: Inflexions and Interactions



Our People

UNSW Canberra Community Circle

UNSW Canberra's brand-new Community Circle, located on the top floor of the Academy Library, was officially launched on 22 May, 2024 during Reconciliation Week. Staff and students joined UNSW Canberra Rector & Dean Professor Emma Sparks, Indigenous Training Officer Nicola Mitchell, and Ngunnawal Elder Uncle Bradley Bell for a Welcome to Country and Smoking Ceremony to officially open the Community Circle. Duncan Smith (artist), integral to the development of the Community Circle, also discussed the meaning of his mural designs, and treated attendees to a masterful didgeridoo performance. Nura Gili representatives attended and also ran a workshop for Indigenous cadets in this wonderful new space. The Community Circle (a collective space which is managed by the Canberra Equity, Diversity & Inclusion Unit for the UNSW Canberra community) is bookable for a range of purposes including teaching, learning, well-being matters and community gathering.

Engaging with our peers and communities

Library staff actively engaged with the community at a national and international level. During the course of 2024, Library staff forged new connections externally, expanded knowledge, and enhanced the profile of UNSW Library through the attendance and presentations at the IFLA Information Futures Summit in Brisbane, the Open Repositories Conference held in Sweden, the Australian Library & Information Association (ALIA) national conference in Adelaide, the ARLIS ANZ conference and the CAUL conference held in Auckland, Aotearoa/New Zealand. These events offered opportunities for Library staff to be involved in, and explore, a wide range of emerging topics, including AI, information integrity, leadership, Indigenous knowledge, inclusive practices, rights retention, Open Educational Resources (OER), open access, exhibitions and the GLAM sector, and Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI). Martin Borchert was elected to the Board of the Council of Australasian University Librarians (CAUL).



UNSW Library would like to acknowledge the Bedegal (Kensington campus), Gadigal (City and Art & Design Campuses) and Ngunnawal people (Australian Defence Force Academy, in Canberra) who are the traditional custodians of the lands where each campus of UNSW is located.

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