clients. A new communications strategy has subsequently been implemented, with specific coaching and advice provided to staff on an ongoing basis.

The library has also appointed three cadets on a new three-year program. The cadets gain wide expertise across all elements of library activity and bring skills and knowledge of their recent education to augment library perspectives.

Regional initiatives
In keeping with Deakin’s commitment to rural and regional engagement, in September 2008 the library investigated the feasibility of regional collaboration in the provision of training and development opportunities for library staff—and facilitate the development of a collaborative program across the major libraries in the region.

The pilot was developed, with a range of service providers used and activities included. CAVAL supported the pilot with a generous discount on the cost of their courses for inclusion in the program. The library will formally evaluate the pilot—and the collaborative processes to make it happen—at the end of July.

As these initiatives suggest, flexibility and choice are paramount in the library’s vision to connect people, technology, and information. For more information, visit Deakin University Library online at http://www.deakin.edu.au/library or feel free to drop us a line on Facebook, Twitter, or at libinfo@deakin.edu.au

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Partnerships at Swinburne
You all know about the services academic libraries provide to their most visible user groups: students and academics. However, the role academic libraries perform for the corporate side of their institutions is usually much less public. This is starting to change.

Swinburne Library is one of many Australian academic libraries managing an institutional repository – a digital collection of the university’s research publications designed to maximise their potential to be discovered online. Institutional repositories can achieve many admirable goals for librarians – they preserve digital assets into the future, address the problem of skyrocketing journal prices, facilitate open access to scholarly research, and provide a single point of entry to an institution’s entire body of research. For universities, though, the benefit of institutional repositories is more concrete. Information about a university’s research achievements can be of great use to a number of different areas in the university.

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