

Library Newsletter for Colleges

Te Putanga ki te Ao Mātauranga

Introduction

Tēnā koutou katoa,

Below is the first newsletter from Library Advisory Committee for 2025. We previously compiled newsletters prior to each committee meeting but have decided to send them afterwards, so that the news and events covered are as current as possible, and the newsletter reflects the topics discussed at our meeting. I hope you find this helpful. The library staff and this committee welcome your feedback on Library services and will continue to call for this three times a year. However, if you have any comments or concerns, please do contact your College Librarians (provided as a link in this newsletter) or for feedback to be tabled at the next meeting, your College representatives: MBS - A/P David Brougham D.Brougham@massey.ac.nz; CoCA – Dr Vanessa Gerrie V.Gerrie@massey.ac.nz; CHSS – Dr Colin Bjork C.Bjork@massey.ac.nz; CoH – Dr Ying Jin Y.Jin@massey.ac.nz; CoS – Dr Andrew Cartmill A.Cartmill@massey.ac.nz; Dean Pacific – Melvin Apulu M.Apulu@massey.ac.nz; Māori DVC – Dr Monica Koia M.N.Koia@massey.ac.nz.

Ngā mihi nui



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New look for Discover (Library search) interface

The Library's Discover search migrated to a new look on Monday 27th January. The [enhanced interface](#) offers a more modern and intuitive user experience. Key changes include a new interface for Discover and EBSCOhost databases, along with changes to MyLibrary and the process for patrons to request items.

Library Out Loud features [Discover blog posts](#) that summarise the changes and provide guidance on where to find support.

Custom or shared folders in Discover were not migrated. A blog post is available with steps on how to [recreate custom folders](#) from 'old' Discover in the 'new' Discover.

Discover's new natural language search

Discover now offers an AI-powered 'natural language' search option. This means you can enter a phrase or question rather than the keywords the Library usually recommends for an effective search. For more information, check out [Library Out Loud](#).

AI Essentials

All students have access to [AI Essentials](#), a Stream site designed to help them understand more about genAI and what to do to ensure it is used effectively and responsibly in their studies. The site has been adapted by Massey University from one developed by the University of Sydney in conjunction with their students. Library staff contributed to the site preparation and this work will continue with the Library chairing the Student Artificial Intelligence (AI) Literacies Working Group, which reports to the University's Learning and Teaching Committee. This is currently being established and will include academic staff and student representation.



Read and Publish agreements as a pathway to Open Access

Massey's open access publication output exceeds target

Data on open access publication output from all eight Universities in Aotearoa New Zealand indicates that Massey University has achieved a publication output open access rate of 72%. This exceeds the 70% target set by Universities New Zealand for 2025 and ranks second only to Lincoln University among New Zealand Universities. The data is available for viewing on the [Open Access Dashboard](#).

The Open Access dashboard is created and maintained by Tom Saunders, Engagement Specialist, Centre for eResearch, University of Auckland. Data is extracted from [OpenAlex](#) to examine publication trends since 2010.

Massey's high percentage rate is largely due to an increase in publishing in hybrid journals, which is the result of the Read & Publish agreements that Massey University has with publishers. The Library has only subscribed to these where the annual subscription cost has been similar to read-only access. Some publishers are changing Read & Publish pricing based on rates of publishing output (i.e. APC income) which has potential to make Read & Publish agreements unaffordable in the future.

Proquest theses database now full-text

The Library now offers full-text access to a wide range of international theses across all disciplines following an upgrade to [ProQuest Dissertations & Theses Global](#). Additionally, several other databases have been updated. For more information about these updates please check the [Library Out Loud blog post](#).



Simpler Doctoral thesis deposit process launched

The Doctoral thesis deposit process in Massey Research Online (MRO) has been updated and simplified along with the Symplectic Elements upgrade which went live in the second week of January. The [MRO home page](#) has been refreshed and aligns with other New Zealand university research repositories.

Following a User Interface overhaul, the home page now features a prominent yellow deposit button labelled "Deposit your thesis", and a new log-in prompt designed to assist new users depositing theses. The Doctoral thesis deposit form requires both thesis and copyright form, with PDF format preferred. All indications since the launch are that the process is working as intended. While MRO itself has not been upgraded (the latest version is not yet compatible with Elements), the simplified Doctoral thesis deposit process will remove some challenges for both users and Library staff.

Tāmiro home page refreshed

An updated [Tāmiro home page](#) incorporating enhancements identified through User Experience (UX) testing has been launched. Tāmiro is the University's digital platform for heritage materials and special collections.

The work was carried out in-house which meant no additional costs were incurred. The University Archives, Special Collections and Digital Services teams collaborated with special collection management company [Recollect](#) in making the home page more user-friendly. These improvements have resulted in increased visibility in Google search results and positive feedback from platform users.





Low sensory spaces now available

Low sensory spaces are available in all campus Libraries. The spaces have been set up as part of the University's [Disability and Inclusion Action Plan](#). These are open to Massey students to use for resting and decompressing rather than study or socialising. The Library, Disability Services and interested students worked together to create the spaces that feature low lighting, comfortable furniture, weighted blankets and fidget toys. The spaces are open during Library opening hours and booking is not required. Students may need to share the room with others.

Where to find the low sensory spaces:

Auckland - at the back of the café on Level Two in room LIB2.24

Wellington - next to the computer lab on Level B

Manawatū - at the back of the Library on Level 1. The way is marked with sunflowers starting near the front help desk.

Feedback on the low sensory spaces is welcome and can be provided using the QR code located in each space.

Your College Subject and Māori Services librarians

Subject and Māori Services librarians provide help with finding information, using Library resources, information skills teaching, buying for the Library collection, publishing your research, and measuring your publication impact.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you need assistance with your research and/or teaching needs. The list of subject librarians across our three campuses can be found [here](#). If you're not sure who to contact with your query, our [Ask questions and get support](#) webpage will ensure your question is answered by the right person.



Library Classes

The Library has upcoming classes on EndNote, Introduction to Zotero and Microsoft Word – Long Documents.

Book here: [Classes and Workshops](#)

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