



Flinders
University

LIBRARY
**IMPACT
STATEMENT**
2024

Acknowledgement of Country

Flinders University Library acknowledges the Traditional Owners and Custodians of the lands on which its campuses are located; these are the Traditional Lands of the Arrernte, Dagoman, First Nations of the South East, First Peoples of the River Murray & Mallee region, Jawoyn, Kurna, Larrakia, Ngadjuri, Ngarrindjeri, Ramindjeri, Warumungu, Wardaman and Yolngu people. We honour their Elders past, present and emerging.



Journey into the Heart of Knowledge

Lawson 'Wukawe' Dodd (Kurna, Narungga, and Ngarrindjeri)



Journey into the Heart of Knowledge, created by Indigenous artist Lawson 'Wukawe' Dodd, reflects our deep respect for knowledge-sharing and cultural heritage. This commissioned artwork embodies the Library's commitment to reconciliation by enriching our physical and digital spaces with Indigenous perspectives. As part of our Reconciliation Action Plan, we strive to ensure our content is respectful and inclusive, fostering an environment where diverse voices and stories are represented and celebrated.

The composition symbolises a student's journey through research. The large circular shapes represent traditional campsites or meeting places, here depicted as interconnected locations along a non-linear pathway, reflecting the diverse opportunities in research and discovery. The artwork flows from left to right, illustrating the growth of an idea—beginning small and evolving as it connects with broader communities. Surrounding these meeting places are small 'U' shapes, symbolising individuals embarking on this journey. Dotted lines form songlines, representing the passing of knowledge through conversations and storytelling across generations. Flanking the songlines are kangaroo tracks, signifying the guiding presence of Tarnta, the Kurna red kangaroo spirit. Gum leaves and rippling lines also pay homage to the University's deep connection to the land and nature across its campuses.

The abstract background tells a story of knowledge. Green on navy symbolises the earth and access to global information and technology. Swirling colours represent the diverse fields of business, education, humanities, health, and sciences, unified in a collaborative and supportive environment.

Together, the combination of traditional and contemporary symbolism tells the story of how Flinders University Library transforms lives by championing equitable access to and engagement with knowledge.

From the Library Senior Executive Team



Veronica Ghee (Associate Director, Content and Digital Library Services), Liz Walkley Hall (Associate Director, Engagement and Scholarly Communications) and Prashant Pandey (Director of Library Services)

Reflecting on 2024, we celebrate a year of innovation, collaboration, and impact at Flinders University Library. Our 2024 Impact Statement highlights initiatives that have enriched learning, advanced research, and supported the University's 2025 Agenda.

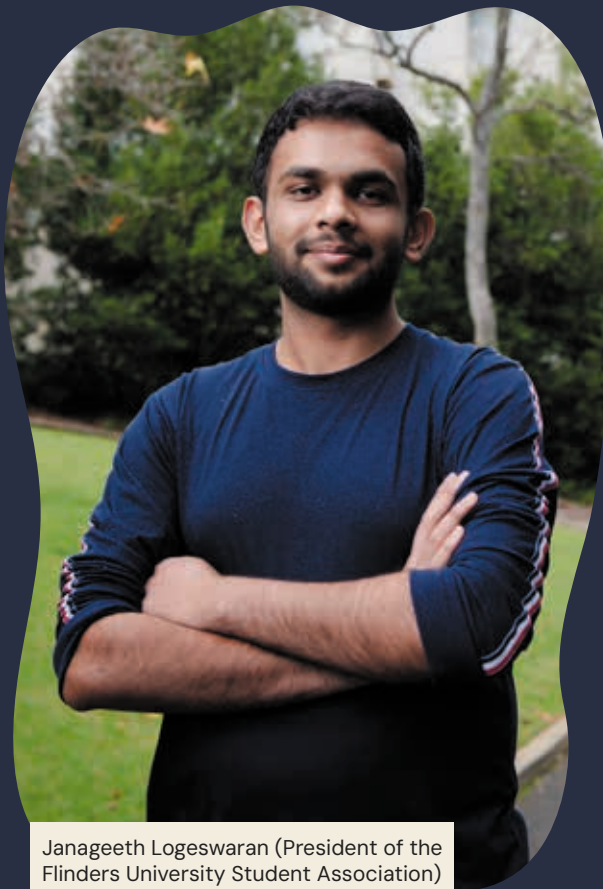
Guided by our values of integrity, courage, innovation, and excellence, we have worked alongside students and staff to create welcoming and inclusive spaces. As part of our commitment to cultural respect, we were honoured to receive the Kurna word Ngutungka ("place of knowledge") and the welcome message Marni Naa Pudni Flinders University Piipakumartapi-ana from Zoey Bonney, Chair of Kurna Warra Karrpanthi (KWK). This symbol of inclusivity and community engagement is proudly displayed across our physical and digital presence, alongside *Journey into the Heart of Knowledge*, a commissioned artwork by Indigenous artist and Flinders alumnus Lawson 'Wukawe' Dodd.

Despite sector challenges, we have strengthened our culture and embraced innovation. We launched Flinders' first Open Educational Resource, *Building Your Career: A Guide for Students*, providing free learning support. Our research support validated over 8,716 outputs and achieved a 300% increase in Data Management Plans. To enhance student experience, we introduced a Sensory Space at the Central Library and developed AI literacy tools in partnership with Student Learning Support Services.

Our team's expertise and strong partnerships were recognised with the Flinders Reconciliation Team Award and a #1 rating in the Improving Flinders Services Survey. The new Festival Tower City Campus Library welcomed over 28,000 visitors, expanding access to resources and services.

As we look ahead, we remain committed to fostering a connected, inclusive, and forward-thinking Library, ensuring our community has the spaces, support, and resources to thrive.

Reflections from the Student President



Janageeth Logeswaran (President of the Flinders University Student Association)

"The Flinders University Library is more than a study space—it is a home away from home, especially for international students. Many, including myself, have spent countless hours there, finding support, resources, and a sense of belonging."

"The Library continues to be a vital part of the student experience, creating welcoming spaces and meaningful support for all students, including those far from home. Its commitment to listening, adapting, and collaborating ensures that student voices shape its initiatives, fostering an inclusive and supportive environment." – Professor Romy Lawson, Senior Deputy Vice-Chancellor & Chair of the University Library Advisory Committee (ULAC)

During my time as President of Flinders University Student Association, the Library's collaboration with students was invaluable. It actively listened and responded to student voices, fostering a welcoming and inclusive environment. As a member of the University Library Advisory Committee, I saw firsthand how student feedback shaped Library initiatives.

A key example is the Sensory Space, which started as a temporary initiative and is now a permanent feature, demonstrating the Library's commitment to accessibility and inclusivity. Beyond academic resources, it provides essential support—from Canvas assistance to research guidance—helping students thrive.

From spaces like the Sensory and Disability Spaces to tailored PhD support, the Library plays a vital role in student success. As Flinders' first international Student President, I deeply appreciate its dedication to uplifting all students, particularly those studying far from home.

Flinders University Library remains a cornerstone of the student experience, and I look forward to seeing its continued impact in the years ahead.



Professor Romy Lawson

Empowering learning, expanding access, and driving impact

In 2024, the Library advanced student success through innovative learning resources, open education initiatives, and strengthened academic support. From creating pioneering AI literacy tools to expanding our suite of Open Educational Resources, we enhanced accessibility, reduced costs, and deepened engagement. These achievements reflect our commitment to removing barriers, fostering academic excellence, and shaping the future of learning at Flinders.

Enhancing student learning & AI literacy

Unsure about AI?

A new video, created in partnership with the Student Learning Support Service (SLSS), guides students on AI use in assignments, supporting the University's Artificial Intelligence Assessment Scale.

Using AI tools for Study

This resource, viewed 6,064 times in 2024, helps students use AI confidently and ethically.

Users can now instantly access library-subscribed articles, improving the discovery experience with LibKey.

Access to key course readings is now faster and more intuitive with the upgraded Readings system (Leganto), reducing clicks and improving the user experience for both students and topic coordinators.

Expanding Open Educational Resources (OERs) & improving textbook affordability and access

- We published Flinders' first open textbook under the Council of Australasian University Librarians (CAUL) Open Educational Resources Collective, with five more in production. This initiative is set to **save students another \$112,000 per year.**
- A new 'Selecting a Textbook' guide helps teaching staff choose accessible materials

\$952,000 saved

for 7,702 students by providing unlimited-access electronic textbooks

\$1.3 million saved

for Bachelor of Nursing students over three years by replacing or removing costly textbooks

\$2,749 saved

annually for POAD9015 students by replacing print-only text with Open Educational Resources

100% increase

in textbook notifications resulting in the library acquiring key texts, reducing the need for students to purchase them



Liz Walkley Hall, open textbook author
Associate Professor Michelle Gander,
Tim Ormsby and Prashant Pandey



Strengthening support for teaching & research

- Engaged over 6,400 students through 45 library skill sessions throughout the year
- 67 inquiries into Special Collections—featuring unique and rare materials—led to 36 viewing appointments, primarily by Flinders students integrating these resources into their research



Empowering future scholars and student success

Building research confidence

Tailored sessions equipped Introductory Academic Program (IAP) students with essential research and AI skills, supporting their transition into academic life in Australia.

Supporting personalised learning

Collaborative drop-in spaces offered direct guidance from Library staff and Student Learning Support Services (SLSS).

Boosting academic skills

60 students took part in the Study Bootcamp, enhancing their writing, research, and critical thinking through hands-on support.

Guiding successful study journeys

More than 400 students attended 51 iEnrol sessions, gaining the knowledge needed to enrol with confidence and clarity.



I made great use of the online and in person library at uni. The online resources were great, with enough resources usually meaning I did not need to purchase any expensive textbooks!" – 4th year student. Bachelor of Exercise Science and Bachelor of Human Nutrition.

Igniting research excellence and innovation

We deepened our impact as a research partner, driving innovation, expanding support, and strengthening global visibility. We empowered researchers to navigate the evolving academic landscape through open scholarship, data management, and strategic collaborations. Our commitment to facilitating open access, strengthening data management, uplifting capabilities in bibliometrics, and promoting sustainable practices underscores our role as a key partner in the research journey at Flinders University.

Enhancing Research Visibility and Accessibility

Stronger Read & Publish agreements:



187 journal articles
approved under the program



17 agreements



Approximately
AUD \$2.3 million
saved by researchers in
waived Article Processing
Charges (APCs)

Expanded open access support



50 Researchers
assisted in publishing
through Read & Publish
agreements.

Improved researcher profiles

ORCID-linked ResearchNow
profiles rose to



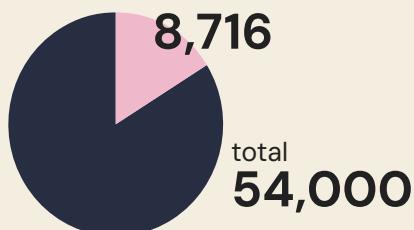
including

95.2%

84.3%

in the College of
Business, Government,
and Law

Milestone in research validation



Library staff reviewed and validated **8,716** research outputs in ResearchNow, bringing the total to **54,000**, boosting authorship recognition, ResearchNow records, and research visibility.



Strengthening Research Data Management and Security

Greater research data accessibility

Open Research Data via the Repository of Open Access DataSet (ROADS) saw

37,600+
downloads in 2024



200+ new
Data Management Plans
(a **300%** increase from 2023)

127
Research Data
Management (RDM)
training participants

Stronger data security



A transition to encrypted Records Management and migration of archives to University's Electronic Document and Records Management System (EDRMS) improved consistency and protection.

Improved research data quality

2800+
Scopus outputs were
claimed

2000
2,000 researcher
profiles were
deduplicated

Streamlining records and reducing
administrative workload

Supporting Research Growth and Collaboration

- **Customised bibliometric reports for SDGs:** we developed tailored bibliometric reports to assist with sustainability rankings submissions, enhancing support for researchers' grant and promotion applications.
- **Increased college Library outreach:** increased in-house research support boosted attendance across all six colleges.
- **Unlocking knowledge:** we successfully hosted a keynote event for the Annual Open Access Week 2024, featuring a panel discussion with senior research leaders from the university. Professor Vincent Bulone, Pro Vice-Chancellor (Research Performance and Impact), delivered an inspiring opening address, followed by Prashant Pandey, Director of Library Services, discussing the advantages of Open Access publishing for the university community.
- **Valuable expert insights:** Panellists, including Professors Timothy Cavagnaro, Raj Shekhawat, and Sharyn Roach Anleu, shared perspectives on Open Access publishing, sparking a lively Q&A session.



A captive audience at the Open Access Week panel discussion



Prashant Pandey and Professor Vincent Bulone

Celebrating success: our impact in action

We proudly celebrated the achievements that underscore our commitment to excellence, inclusivity, and community engagement. From earning top marks in the Improving Flinders Services Survey for the sixth consecutive year to launching innovative initiatives that support student well-being, our library remains a vital hub for learning and collaboration. These accomplishments reflect our dedication to fostering a supportive environment that positively impacts the diverse needs of our university community.

Recognition of Excellence



Embedding
Indigenous
perspectives
formally acknowledged
by Academic Senate



Impactful projects for student well-being

Creating inclusive spaces: The Education Quality Committee recognised the Sensory Space project for creating a calming, inclusive environment.

Improved cultural representation in learning: The Flinders Reconciliation Award honoured efforts to embed Indigenous-authored content into the Online Content service, promoting inclusivity.

Celebrated long-term dedication: Staff marking 25 years of service were recognised at the 2024 Flinders Staff Awards for their enduring contribution to the university community.

Recognised for outstanding collaboration: The Flinders Dream Team Award acknowledged exceptional teamwork that embodied the University's core values.

Tailored support across regions

Identifying regional needs: Visits to Palmerston GP Superclinic and Charles Darwin University Library provided key insights to enhance support for remote students and staff.

Strengthening rural partnerships: Collaborated with SLSS and LTI at Flinders Nuriootpa Campus to better understand and support regional, rural, and remote communities.

Advancing sustainable solutions: Explored long-term strategies for improving support in rural health education through discussions and site visits.

Expanding student access: A collaborative video workshop connected first-year students in Renmark, Port Pirie, and Mount Gambier, ensuring learning support reaches them wherever they are.



Fostering wellbeing and inclusivity in our library



Read and Return collection

Launched as part of a campus wellbeing initiative, this new collection boasts over 70% circulation of titles and eliminates due dates, improving access to popular fiction and non-fiction at Central, Tonsley, and City libraries.



Inclusive environment

We enhanced accessibility and student engagement by introducing leisure reading collections, optimising spaces, and incorporating plants and Indigenous art to foster a welcoming atmosphere.



Reading for well-being

We hosted two engaging author talks featuring Dr Sean Williams and Alex Cothren, who shared insights on the benefits of leisure reading and encouraging young readers.



"Welcome to Your Library" video

Co-created with students and staff in multiple languages, this video promotes inclusivity and cultural diversity, reinforcing the library's value to various student cohorts.



Bringing joy to wellbeing week

Students and staff enjoyed a boost in wellbeing as Lions Hearing Dogs Australia brought Simba and Molly to visit the Central Library, FUSA at Bedford Park, and the Sturt and Tonsley library branches. Their visit was a huge success, offering comfort, connection, and many smiles.

"The Read and Return collection is fantastic! I love that I can pick one up at any branch and drop it off at another when I've finished with it"
– Professional staff



Building Community Connections



Strengthening global library connections

We welcomed four colleagues from South Africa, representing the Committee of Higher Education Libraries of South Africa (CHELSA), on their benchmarking visit, fostering international collaboration and knowledge exchange. The delegation toured the Flinders City Campus Library and Bedford Park, engaging with Library Leadership to discuss shared challenges and innovations in academic libraries.

Flinders at ALIA National and VALA 2024

Throughout the year, our Library staff engaged with professionals nationwide at key industry events.

At the ALIA National Conference in Adelaide, Liz Walkley Hall's session on 'AI and Us: Embracing the Opportunities for Professional Practice' drew over 200 attendees. At VALA – Libraries / Technology and the Future, Gillian Yeend's poster presentation on 'Preparing Librarians and Students for a Future with AI' and Prashant Pandey's lightning talk on our commitment to professional development received positive feedback.



Inspiring professional development and collaborative connections

Our revamped in-house professional development series was successfully launched, featuring an engaging presentation by Janette Wright, Director of the University Library at Federation University Australia. Janette shared her journey through the evolution of library services, offering valuable insights into global education. Together with Kylie Percival, University Librarian at Curtin University, they also toured the new Flinders City Campus, fostering collaboration and connection among library leaders.

Strengthening Indigenous engagement & cultural inclusion

In 2024, the library built on its commitment to promote Indigenous knowledges, enhance cultural inclusion, and foster respect through our Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP). By launching digital collections, supporting academic integration of Indigenous perspectives, and embedding cultural sensitivity, we are committed to creating an inclusive learning environment. These efforts have strengthened relationships with Indigenous colleagues and enriched academic resources for students and staff.



Honouring Kurna language & identity – We were proudly gifted the Kurna word Ngutungka ('place of knowledge') as part of our commitment to cultural respect, along with the welcome message Marni Naa Pudni Flinders University Piipakumartapi-ana ('Welcome to Flinders University Library'). These additions reinforce our dedication to shared knowledge and Indigenous representation.

Promoting Indigenous knowledges – We launched the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Digital Collections, amplifying Indigenous voices and perspectives.

Supporting Inclusive Teaching – We introduced a dedicated service to source Indigenous perspectives for academics.



Embedding respect & representation – We embedded cultural sensitivity statements across Library collections and web pages to foster awareness and respect. As a powerful testament to cultural storytelling, we commissioned a local Indigenous artist to create a bespoke artwork that will serve as a visual and symbolic representation of Indigenous heritage, enriching both physical and digital spaces.

Deepening cultural understanding – We delivered two Kurna language workshops led by Jack Buckskin for staff. Invited to present at the Flinders RAP conference, showcasing our reconciliation initiatives and impact.



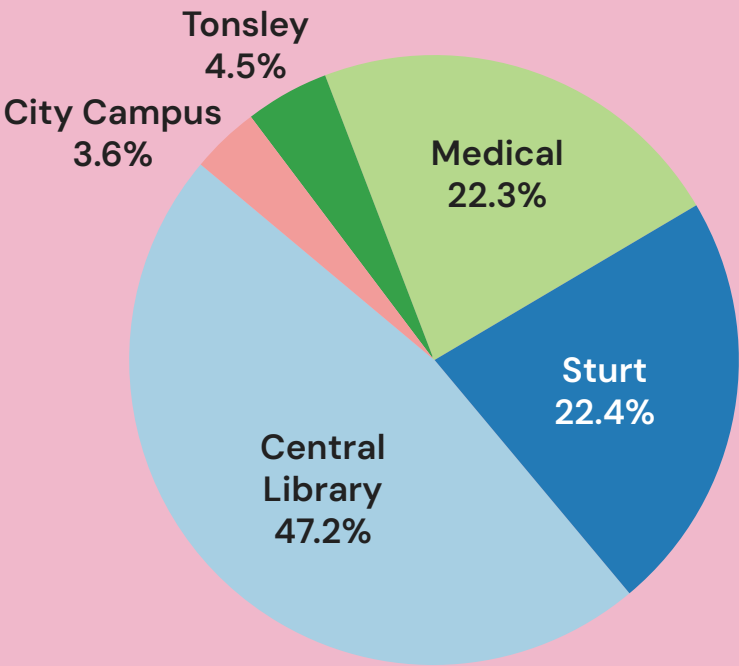


Welcome to the City Campus Library

The City Campus Library, officially opened in February 2024, serves as a vibrant and welcoming hub for students at Flinders University. Designed to foster collaboration and support academic success, this state-of-the-art facility offers a range of resources and services, including a curated print collection, loan laptops, and a unique Read and Return collection. With its inviting atmosphere and commitment to inclusivity, the City Campus Library is dedicated to enhancing the student experience and providing a supportive learning and personal growth environment.

Library Visits at a glance

Total visits by location



Our libraries received over

15,000

inquiries and interactions. The Central Library remained the primary hub for queries, with a significant proportion at our city campus library.

Central Library 365,765
Sturt 173,338
Medical 173,014
Tonsley 34,544
City Campus 28,080
Total visits: 776,741

 **18** Student Library employees

 **34k+** physical loans

 **9** applications for work experience

 **1.9+** million collection titles (63% digital)

1.9m+ eBooks uses

2.8m+ online journal uses



11k+ eBooks purchased

180k+ online journal titles purchased

5.2m+ interactions with digital library spaces

What's next

Unique collections – increasing discoverability, access, and impact.

Indigenous artwork and spaces – embedding culture, visibility, and respect across our physical and digital presence

AI: focused, enabled, and leading – harnessing opportunities to transform how we support learning, research, and operations

Student partnerships – co-creating services, spaces, and experiences that reflect student needs and voices

A future-ready workforce – upskilled, supported, and confident to lead through change

Ready to align with the University's 2030 Strategic Plan – contributing our strengths to future priorities



"I have been bragging to my colleagues here about Flinders library and librarians. Well done! Truly professional" – Overseas researcher/alumni



**Flinders
University**

Flinders University Library

Telephone: 1300 354 633

Email: library@flinders.edu.au

Website: library.flinders.edu.au

LinkedIn: www.linkedin.com/company/flinders-university-library

CRICOS No. 00114A