

## LIBRARIES PROVE VALUABLE IN Go8 STUDY

In 2009 the Go8 Librarians undertook a cost-benefit study to assess the value that library-provided information resources deliver to their research communities.

Three universities were surveyed in depth (The Australian National University, The University of Adelaide and The University of Queensland). In addition, focus groups were held at the other participating universities (Monash University, The University of Melbourne, The University of New South Wales, and The University of Sydney) to confirm the general applicability of the outcomes of the detailed survey.

The main findings of the study were as follows:

- 98 per cent of respondents agreed that the library provided access to information resources that were indispensable for their research;
- 96 per cent of respondents agreed that access to library-provided information resources enabled them to maintain a comprehensive, high-level overview of developments in their field;
- 92 per cent of respondents rated value for money relative to expenditure as at least good;
- Were information resources not to be provided at all by their university, 86 per cent of respondents indicated that the volume of their research outputs would decrease, and 77 per cent that the quality of their research would be impaired; and
- On the basis of this scenario, the return on investment represented by the savings realised through providing information resources centrally, free at the point of use for all affiliated researchers, would be at least 136 per cent—that is, for every \$1 invested in the provision of information resources, after recovery of the initial investment, a further \$1.36 would be saved.

Further detail on the outcomes of the study may be found at:

<http://go8.edu.au/go8-members/go8-committees/62-go8-librarians>

## SIXTH CONFERENCE IN Go8 ID-E BERLIN SERIES



*L to R: Annette Julius, German Academic Exchange Service; Chris Trott, Go8 Berlin; Rolf Hoffman, German American Fulbright Commission; Ailsa Murray, British Council; Annette Schmidtman, German Research Foundation*

Guest speakers from the UK, Canada and the USA recently gathered for the sixth conference in the ID-E Berlin conference series.

Titled 'Exploring Difference—Recruitment, Selection and Admission of Doctoral Candidates', the event attracted senior staff from universities and graduate schools as well as representatives from the German Federal Ministry for Education and Research.

The series is a joint initiative of the Go8, the British Council, the German Academic Exchange Service, the German-American Fulbright Commission and the Canadian Bureau for International Education in Berlin.

Representing the Go8 via statement rather than in person due to volcanic interruptions to air travel, Alan Dench, Dean of the Graduate Research School at the University of Western Australia, explained UWA's initiatives to attract doctoral candidates in the broader Australian higher education context.

Considerable differences in the 'philosophy' and 'practice' of recruiting PhD candidates was evident between the four guest nations and provided for significant audience debate.

Dr Christian Bode, Secretary General of the German Academic Exchange Service, remarked on the breadth of topics covered by the ID-E series to date and noted the valuable contribution it was making to the internationalisation of German higher education.

## Go8 APPOINTS STUDENT EQUITY CONVENOR



Ms Margaret Heagney has been appointed to undertake a student equity convenor role for the Go8.

Margaret developed her skills in the field of student equity during her time as Co-ordinator of the Student Equity Unit at Monash University and prior to that as National Organiser of the Council of Australian Postgraduate Associations.

Her primary research projects have resulted in publications on the access and retention of students from groups under-represented in higher education. While she was Co-ordinator of the Student Equity Unit Margaret conducted projects on the diversity and achievement of students who enter university via non-traditional pathways, barriers to student participation and student income support.

In her new role Margaret will co-ordinate the Go8's equity initiatives as well undertake research and analysis on how best the Go8 can contribute to making Australian higher education more inclusive.

## AUSTRALIA AWARDS SCHOLARSHIPS TO LATIN AMERICA

The Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID) grants ALA Scholarships to develop leadership skills, enhance mutual understanding, knowledge and innovation, and build partnerships and linkages.

For the first time AusAID is accepting applications from citizens of Mexico, Central and South America. Applications for the 2011 academic year are due by 30th June 2010.

More information about applying for ALA Scholarships is at <http://www.ausaid.gov.au/scholar/ala.cfm> or email [ala@ausaid.gov.au](mailto:ala@ausaid.gov.au).

### UPCOMING EVENTS

- Go8 Facilities Directors meet in Perth on 7 May
- Go8 Vice-Chancellors meet in Sydney on 19 May
- Go8 Human Resources Directors meet in Perth on 20 May
- Go8 International Directors meet in Canberra on 21 May
- Go8 Data Sharing Network meets in Sydney on 16 June
- Go8 Chief Financial Officers meet in Brisbane on 25 June
- Go8 Deputy Vice-Chancellors (Research) meet in Brisbane on 25 June
- Go8 Deans of Medicine meet in Canberra on 20 July
- Go8 Vice-Chancellors meet in Canberra on 22 July

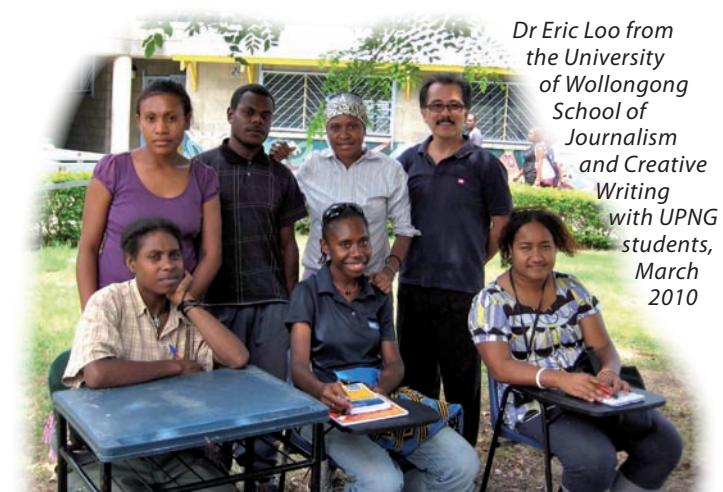
## Go8 COLLABORATES WITH UNIVERSITY OF PAPUA NEW GUINEA

The Go8 is currently conducting a pilot project to assist The University of Papua New Guinea (UPNG) with academic capacity building. The project engages academics from Australian universities in a voluntary capacity to work with and support their academic counterparts at UPNG.

Over 50 Australian academics expressed interest in taking part and at least 10 of those will travel to PNG in 2010. The 2010 pilot is focussed on four key areas of support for UPNG: Political Science, Sociology and Social Work, Journalism and Computer Science.

The Go8 recognises and appreciates the generous funding support from AusAID for this important project and hopes the project will increase in size and scope in the future.

For further information: <http://www.go8.edu.au/university-staff/international-collaboration/78-go8-collaboration-with-the-university-of-papua-new-guinea>



*Dr Eric Loo from the University of Wollongong School of Journalism and Creative Writing with UPNG students, March 2010*

## Go8 STAFF CONFERENCE DISCOUNTS

### Australian Financial Review

For the first time the annual Financial Review higher education conference will be held in June this year in order to discuss the impact of the Federal Budget on the sector. Staff of Go8 universities are eligible for a 10% discount on the registration fee. For details see: [http://www.afr.com/p/financial\\_review\\_higher\\_education](http://www.afr.com/p/financial_review_higher_education) [MaGTPhrjCzXrvUAYIcejWM](mailto:MaGTPhrjCzXrvUAYIcejWM)

### Student Housing Summit

The Informa Student Housing Summit will be held at the Rendezvous Hotel Melbourne on 7 and 8 September 2010. The summit deals with the issues of growth, supply and demand across the student housing sector. Staff of Go8 universities are eligible for a 10% discount on the registration fee. Email [executive.director@go8.edu.au](mailto:executive.director@go8.edu.au) for the registration form.

**ABOUT THIS NEWSLETTER:** The *Go8 Update* is published online to keep the Go8 network of committees and staff at Go8 universities informed about the organisation's activities.

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