



THE UNIVERSITY OF
**WESTERN
AUSTRALIA**

Reid Library Memory Book



The University of Western Australia Library acknowledges that the Reid Library is situated on Whadjuk Noongar land, and that the Whadjuk Noongar people remain the spiritual and cultural custodians of their land, and continue to practise their values, languages, beliefs and knowledge.

A photograph of a park scene. In the foreground, a group of ducks is gathered near a small pond or fountain. Some ducks are on the concrete edge, while others are in the water. In the background, a person is walking on a paved path, and a large tree is visible. The scene is brightly lit, suggesting a sunny day.

We asked for your best memories of Reid Library and here's what you told us...

Photographer: Jarrad Seng



Studying



Photographer: Matt Gallighan

In 1979 I was using Reid as my main study base during second year medicine.
I am sure the textbooks were infused with general anaesthetic because I
consistently fell asleep, face planted in a book.

An embarrassing moment was when another student came and woke me up
because my snoring was so loud.

Paul Pielage

~

My clearest memory of the Reid library in the 1980s is lining up downstairs in
the photocopy room with bags of 5 cent pieces making copies of the articles
and chapters from the resources in the reference section. So many pages.

Aggie Ansell

~

From 1991 to early 1995, I would head down to Reid Library to relax by reading
the local and foreign newspapers. I would spend hours there in the morning
until lunch time. I probably saved a tidy sum of money too.

Thanks, Reid Library!

Rick Lim



The Reid Library is, of course, named after Alex Reid, a former Chancellor of the University (he is a signatory on my BSc degree certificate). There was a plaque at the Level 1 entrance to the Library commemorating the official opening, at which I believe Sir Alex Reid officiated. I used to show this to my friends and jokingly claim that the Library was named after me.

Alex Reid

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You could buy a cup of coffee for 20 cents in the 1970s. I also remember the first photo copies with a convex glass. You couldn't copy books on them, just single sheets and the quality of the copies was pretty poor

Bobbie Oliver

~

The Reid Library was being built when I was an under-graduate during 1962-66. I was amused that it was to be named the "Reid" [read] library! What a wonderful service it has provided to the university community over the past 60 years.

Stephen Roger Graves



As a student in the early 1980s, I was an active user of the Reid library. One day, I was so immersed in my research that I didn't realise the library was closing until all the lights were turned off. I started screaming towards the main exit door, "Please, I am here!".

Dickson Yeboah

~

The Reid Library was the first library I worked at during my time at UWA, and my first experience working in an academic library setting. It was a joy to meet and support the UWA student cohort, and to work with the great staff in the UWA Libraries. I'm very much looking forward to seeing Reid post refurbishment, and I'm sure it will remain the heart of the Crawley campus.

Anonymous



Once upon a time, a student sat at one of the large long tables which inhabited the upper floors.... after some long hours (minutes?) hard at work, the student stretched up and arched backwards, hands over and then behind their head.... sadly the sharp pointy pencil held in their hands made a noticeable hole in the head of a female student sitting at the table behind them... eliciting a very loud howl of pain and many words of recrimination. Sorry about that... whoever you were.

Niel Walker

We had the equivalent of the discreet PAM [PAM is "Please Assist Me" the Library's SMS help service] except all the library staff monitoring student behaviour wore green uniforms - and were nicknamed the "green gerkins".

Sue Bunney



Photographer: Caroline Clark

My friends and I were all taking a particularly challenging stats unit at the same time. Every week there was an online quiz and we would cram ourselves into the small group study rooms on third floor to complete the quizzes as a collective brains trust. There's something very special about sharing stress and frustration together in close quarters. Thank you Reid Library for giving us that space.

We all passed!

Anonymous

~

I met my wife in Reid Library in late July or early August 1975 when I was in Second Year Law and she was in Second Year Economics. I walked into Reid, turned left to go into the General Collection area, saw a friend near the windows and went over to say hello to her. She was with some other people, to whom I was introduced. One was a particularly pretty Kathy Saueracker! We were married in the Sunken Gardens on 22 January 1977 and are still married. Both of our children graduated from UWA.

Steve Phillips



Photographer: Peter Bennetts

Setting up every day in the same desk on the first floor, over the doors, everyone knew where to find me if they needed to. Spending the time there, studying, looking out into the grounds of the uni was productive but also peaceful. I made many friends and had many deep discussions in this wonderful space.

Leanne Russell

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Sometime in the mid-1980s a British Council exhibition of contemporary writers was held in the Reid Library. The exhibition consisted mainly of photographs of the authors, short biographies and excerpts from their works. During the exhibition, members of the English Department organised a lunchtime reading of poems by some of the writers represented. Leonard Burrows (father of Toby), Hilary Fraser and Dennis Haskell read works by Louis MacNeice, Jenny Joseph, Douglas Dunn and others I have now forgotten. Along with the humour of some of the poems, I well remember how, as the reading proceeded, people going up and down the stairwell stopped to listen, with many remaining till the end – delayed by free verse!

Kieran Dolin



Library Crest. Photographer:
Matt Galligan

So many memories. I spent many afternoons in the Reid watching videos (!) and doing tutorial readings. I remember one staff being infamous for SHHHing people who were whispering in the carrols. One PROSH day - circa 1997 or 98 - some drunk guys went for a swim in the moat outside the Reid cafe. They probably scared the birds, but it was entertaining for onlookers.

The Reid was really a special place for me in my undergrad days. In some ways it WAS what "University" meant to me - a brand new world built on, and for, acquiring knowledge (if not wisdom...)

Laura Dales

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I remember when it opened - I had been at Uni since 1958 when we could walk under Winthrop Hall to the other side of the campus. The new library changed this but it was a welcome change as it was more extensive and roomier which provided a better environment for students.

Frances Judith Inveen (nee Senier)



Enjoying the View



Studying at one of the desks against the windows overlooking the Tropical Grove and the Reid Library lawn. It was my favourite spot.

Helen Balfour

~

Reid Library perfectly bookended my experience studying engineering at UWA. It was the go-to meeting place for all my new friends in first year, and it was where we all buried ourselves at separate desks to focus and write up our final year theses. The hours spent eating toasted paninis while watching ducks in the moat weren't as productive, but they sure were nice.

Emerson Brophy



Queen Elizabeth II and Sir Alexander Reid in front of the Reid Library during the Royal Visit 1963.

Sitting in front of the east facing windows on the 3rd floor while studying in the early evening and watching a glorious full moon rising over the river.

Fiona Bellazzini-Eiszele

~

I arrived for my interview at UWA embarrassingly early, anxious about parking and finding the right place. Not wanting to announce my arrival until closer to the appointment time, I sat out on Fini Terrace, watching the ducks in the moat and gazing out over the incredibly green lawn of the Great Court. I remember feeling a sense of calm being surrounded by that much beauty, and wondering what it might be like to work here every day. I am pleased to report that I remain in awe of Reid Library and its lush surrounds.

Anonymous



Photographer: IanandEric

In the early 90s: rushing to the library after lectures to secure the additional readings, going down to the bottom floor to look through past exam mock papers, strolling through the floors to find a window pod to settle down and work on assignments. Looking out from the bridge between the Arts building and Reid to watch other students walking and riding along the cobblestones.

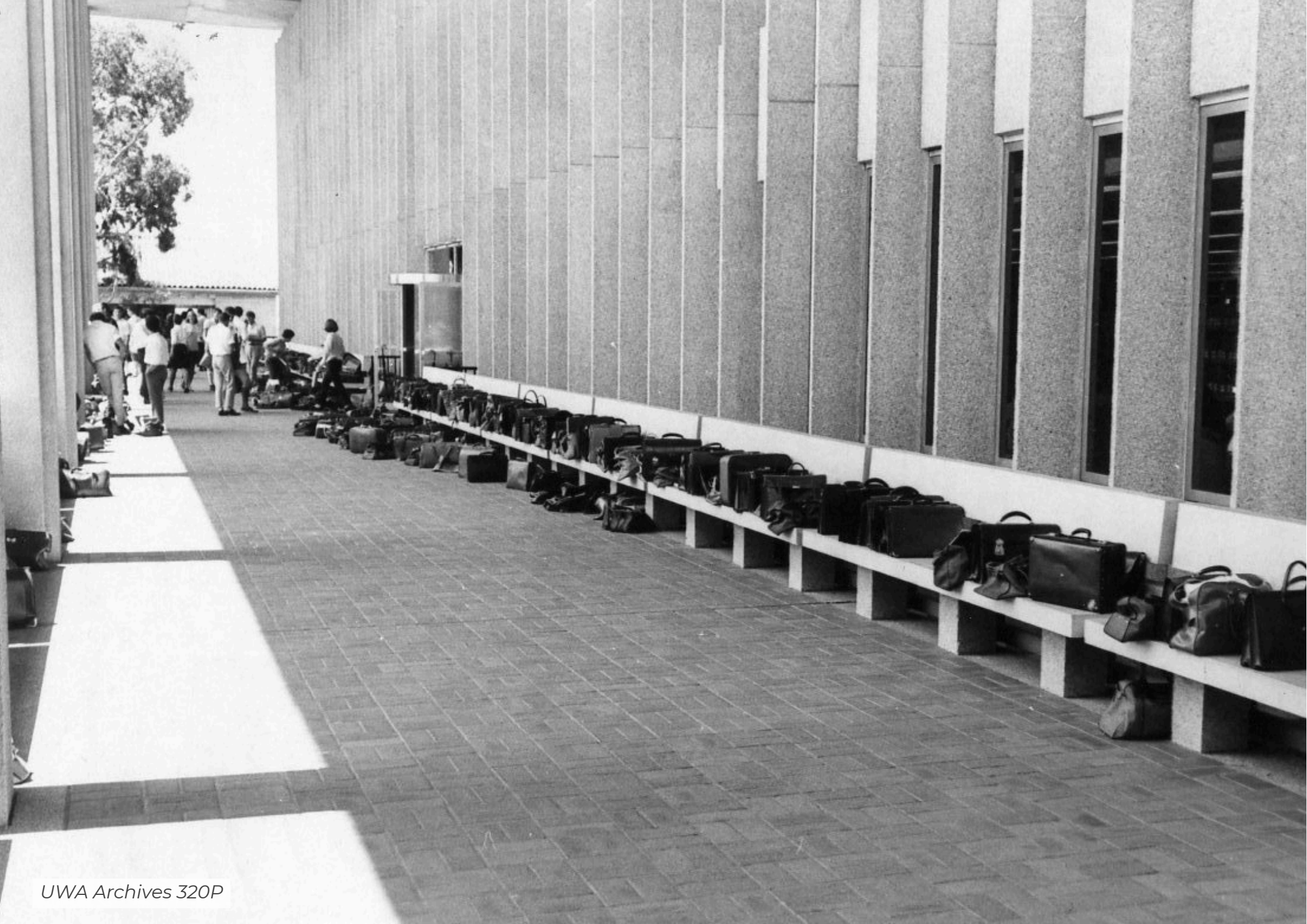
Diana Phang

~

The Reid was my favourite library. Being able to sit and read the selection of newspapers, magazines in peace was a pleasure. The library staff were always considerate, no question was ever too silly.

I loved watching the ducks and appreciating the gardens. I valued the library as an important part of daily life at UWA.

Jillian Gibbney



As an international student, the Reid Library and Music Library became my sanctuary away from home. I cherished the charm of the wooden reading tables indoors, as well as the outdoor study areas on the first floor, which provided a serene environment for contemplation.

The little moat, shimmering under the summer sun, offered a tranquil view with an occasional encounter with ducks, with the garden's greenery stretching out ahead.

It was a haven of solace, an idyllic space that I will always remember fondly.

Shauna Goh



Reid Library Entryway architectural model (Source: UWA Library Special Collections)



Reid Library Bridge (Source: UWA Archives 1856P)

I remember the whole building being closed after the 1968 Meckering earthquake, as so many books had been dislodged from the shelves.

Graeme Ferrero

~

Favourite memory? No, but indelible. 14 Oct 1968 - the earthquake originating in Meckering 130kms east of Perth. I was studying down on the ground floor. I thought the amplified sound approaching was a parade of ride-on-mowers outside the huge glass windows. While others around me began racing for the emergency exit, I was immobile, puzzled.

I was soon swept along up the crammed stairs to the wider first-floor balcony where we stood, stunned, under the roof - about 4 storeys above us. Someone shouted at us to move - in case it fell with the next jolt! The element of shock and surprise took a while to subside.

Margaret Gunn (née Willis)



Café

'I was taken there in high school, one of a group of awkward self-conscious girls in ugly brown school uniform by our very enthusiastic Social Studies teacher. The teacher (comb over, flared trousers and platform shoes) had brought us there of course to impress upon us the opportunity presented by this seat of learning and scholarship.

The size of the building, that it stood out over a moat (a nice touch I always thought) and could only be reached by a bridge to its ramparts.... very impressive.

But what impressed us most was the sight of the ceiling of the coffee shop with all the used tea bags stuck to it after being thrown up there by irreverent students (it was the 70s after all).'

Jacqueline Walker

‘As an Arts student in the late 70's I remember frequenting the much smaller coffee shop on the ground floor. I existed on coffee and cheese toasties. Not much has changed in that respect. Except, when drinking your coffee, one looked upwards to see a wave of tea bag tickets, stuck upside down on the ceiling, waving in the breeze. It was common sport to see if you could throw accurately and get your tea bag stuck to the roof!

I was pleased to see this no longer happens, when I began my new course.’

Sue Bunney

~

‘The most memorable sight at the café was the vast number of now-dry teabags that had been thrown up and become attached to the ceiling, their labels fluttering in the breeze.’

Paul Pielage



Checking out reference books and studying there during term and especially during Swot Vac. Taking a break with friends at the coffee shop downstairs was always a special treat. There was so much social interaction at the coffee shop, sometimes romantic but usually just very congenial.

Jansje Ruth Karajas

~

Meeting up with friends and colleagues after a lecture (1972 to 1975 so always in person) or after working in the library. And especially eating cream cakes!

Jensine Hough

~

Working on my PhD in my carell supplemented by coffee and strawberry chocolate frogs in the cafe near the moat with other PhD students.

Anonymous

The Reid library, and especially the coffee shop on the ground floor, was one of my favourite places on campus, even though I was an Engineering student (in the late 60s).

Graeme Ferrero

~

I loved the old coffee shop downstairs. It was full of students and really loud. A great place for me (as an older person) to just sit and absorb all the youthful energy around me. The coffee was terrible, but the atmosphere made up for it.

John Brookes

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As an undergraduate, I discovered the ground floor cafe of Reid library served the best hot chocolate on campus. Served in a glass with foam on top (cream as well if desired), it was near perfection. I actually don't think I've tasted better since.

Anonymous

Reid Library holds so many memories, many of which were probably awful or average at the time, but have the sepia glow of happy nostalgia now.

One that sticks out is sitting on my own in the cafe one evening after it had closed. I heard a small noise and something caught my eye in the direction of the vending machine. Upon inspection I discovered that a Chokito bar had spontaneously released itself from the coil, and was ready for retrieval by this skint student!

Susan Thomas

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Watching Science Union students doing milk skulls from the old ground floor coffee shop while a herd of new ducklings fossicked around my feet for crumbs from my breakfast sausage roll.

Sean Tomlinson



Mischief

Photographer: Jarrad Seng



Photographer: Sam Irwin

One hot summer day, a friend and I were in the Reid Library coffee shop. We both happened to be wearing T-shirts and boardshorts. One of us got the bright idea that going into the Library moat would be a good way to cool off – so we picked up our table and chairs and moved them into the water. The water was very murky, particularly after we had stirred up the mud, muck and duck poo on the bottom of the moat.

We had been sitting in the water (on chairs and in front of a table) for only a few minutes when a security guard turned up. He looked at us, then he looked at the water, then he raised one eyebrow and then he simply said: “really?” My friend and I looked at one another, and then, without speaking, we both took the table and chairs (and ourselves) out of the water. The security guard didn’t say anything more, but simply moved on.

Anonymous



Photographer: Jarrad Seng

In the first week of the academic year, new students would often be seen standing on the lawn at the edge of the moat, asking their friends in the coffee shop on the other side how they got there, and being encouraged to wade through; this was last century when you could only enter the library from the first floor, before the refurbishment when the ground-floor entrance was created.

Katrina Tap

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In 1978, a classmate was thrown in. He got about 90% in one unit and the next highest mark was 20%. The thing was that he had found a really helpful book on the subject but he didn't tell anyone else about it.

He agreed to being thrown in the moat in penance and came dressed for the occasion.

Mark Beadle

On a summer evening during a non-contact week before exams (which we used to call 'swot-vac') a few students who were procrastinating about studying for their exams decided to have a competition to see who could fly a paper plane for the furthest distance from the Reid Library balcony across the Great Court. Many of the other students who were studying in the library that evening also decided to join in. I don't remember who won the competition or what the winning distance was. However, I have a very clear memory of the Great Court in front of the library being absolutely carpeted with hundreds and hundreds of paper planes.

Anonymous

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In my 3rd and 4th year of engineering studies, we used to study late at night during exam period and to relieve steam, my friends and I used to throw paper planes from the balcony onto the lawn and try to compete for the plane that landed the furthest! Great competitions were had.

Patrick

Prior to the building of the new Library, there used to be a “reading room” in the glassed-in Undercroft of Winthrop Hall. One day (as a student, maybe 1962) I was walking past the reflection pond but watching people in the Undercroft. I misjudged the corner of the pond (NW corner) and stepped into the pond up to my thigh - very embarrassing in full view of the Library users!

Alex Reid



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Hopes for the future

Photographer: Caroline Clark

That it would continue to be a space of ample resource, knowledge sharing, memory making, and rest for the community.

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As more information moves online I hope that space is freed up to store artefacts so that we can see, and perhaps even touch, things relevant to our studies and the history of our subjects.

I hope that it continues to offer spaces for collaborative study and quiet study, a refuge for the neural atypical from the overstimulation on campus.

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That it continues to become an important and happy memory for future students as a social, cultural and intellectual hub.

That it fulfils the requirements of future generations of students.

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The Reid Library will continue to be the university's centre for research and a vibrant meeting place for UWA's students.

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That it will continue to be a space used for inquiry, discovery and collaboration for students to enrich their learning.

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I hope that it remains the source of inspiration and wonder that it was 57 years ago when I first used it.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to our Memory Book. We loved hearing your stories and look forward to making more memories with you in the future.

