The major aim of the Friends is to foster mutually beneficial relations between the Library and the communities it serves across its five campuses stretching from the Gold Coast to South Bank in the Brisbane CBD.
To coincide with Australian Library week 2011, the Friends of the Library hosted a breakfast at the Gold Coast campus where guest speaker Dr Sally Breen explored the connection between emerging writers, fiction and the mystery of the shelves.

Dr Breen, a Griffith writing and publishing lecturer, shared many anecdotes regarding her creative writing students and how she satisfied her own hunger for reading through libraries, having grown up in a house with no books.

Advances in technology have allowed some of Sally’s students to stay online for all their literary needs, but her romance with the library keeps her trying year after year to convert the writers of the future into library enthusiasts of the present.

The humorous address sparked plenty of interest amongst the 45 guests, with staff, students, fellow writers and library enthusiasts all feeling equally compelled to share their thoughts and memories of their own library experiences.

Standing on the shoulders of giants - take 2.

The Griffith Friends of the Library met at the South Bank campus on Wednesday, 3rd of August, to hear an insightful panel discussion about the promise and challenges of digital data.

After a highly successful event at the Gold Coast, the Library decided to have an encore session closer to Brisbane.

On this occasion, the distinguished panel included:

- Adrian Cunningham, Director of the Digital Archives Program at Queensland State Archives
- Anna Raunik, Executive Manager of Resources at the State Library of Queensland
- Professor Michael Blumenstein, Dean (Research) of the Science, Environment, Engineering and Technology Group at Griffith University
- Linda O’Brien, Pro Vice Chancellor (Information Services), Griffith University.

Each speaker provided an insight to digitisation from their own perspective and showed how it was influencing their particular field. Following the conclusion of the individual speeches, the panellists then took part in a stimulating and informative question and answer session with the crowd.

The 90 guests in attendance enjoyed the night’s discussion and were also treated to refreshments, canapes and entertainment by Queensland Conservatorium of Music alumni, Jazz Australis.
The extension and refurbishment of the Gold Coast Campus Library has been approved as part of Griffith University’s Capital Management Plan.

The driver for the expansion of library facilities has been growth in student numbers, the creation of the new school of Architecture and the relocation of the Medicine & Oral Health Centre at Southport to the new Griffith Health Centre now under construction on the Gold Coast campus.

With the additional student numbers associated with Architecture, Medicine and Oral Health, it is predicted that there will be a critical mass of 20,000 students at the Gold Coast campus in 2013.

The University was also successful in obtaining funding from the Australian Government Capital Development Pool toward the creation of a new and expanded GUMURRII Student Support Centre. After evaluating all options for the location of the unit on the campus, the University has elected to incorporate the new facility into the Library expansion project.

The public access spaces for activities within the extensions will provide an environment for students to participate in library hosted programs, attend classes in library classrooms and utilise individual and group study facilities.

The refurbishment and extensions will deliver a building that is welcoming, flexible, colourful, relaxing and inviting, and is due to be completed by December, 2012.
Masters and Slaves – The Pets Battle

The Griffith University Friends of the Library held a unique event on the 24th of August at the Gold Coast campus library. The Friends joined forces with the School of Humanities’ Small Room Writers Collective to deliver Masters and Slaves – The Pets Battle.

The Small Room Writers Collective is an extra curricular, student run group dedicated to fostering a supportive atmosphere for young and emerging writers at Griffith University.

These talents were on display on the night, with six students entertaining the crowd of over 60 people with their take on some of the authors who have influenced their lives and their writing.

The Small Roomers took on everything from William Shakespeare to J.K. Rowling and provided their own insight to these creative writing icons through their sometimes confronting, but always enjoyable, performance style pieces.

Members of the audience also received copies of the School’s 2010 version of Talent Implied – New Writing from Griffith, an anthology of creative writing written, edited and produced by the students, with the launch of the 2011 edition taking place in the not too distant future.

This event was enjoyed by staff, students and Friends of the Library alike, with the music and refreshments lasting long after the performances finished.

To view photos from our previous events visit www.griffith.edu.au/library/friends

JoAnne Sparks

Griffith University is pleased to welcome JoAnne Sparks as Director of Information Services for the Scholarly Information and Research portfolio. In this role she is responsible for the University’s library services and the rapidly changing area of research information services.

JoAnne is new to both Griffith and Australia, having arrived in late February, 2011, after 30 years of professional practice in England and the United States.

Most recently JoAnne managed user-facing services for the Bodleian libraries at the University of Oxford. She was a leader in the Bodleian’s planning and capital projects, as well as working to align and improve operational services.

JoAnne has spent most of her career in academic and research libraries including the Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Centre and the Pharmaceutical Research Institute at Bristol-Myers Squibb.

Throughout her career, she has supported academics, professional researchers and students at the undergraduate and research level. Along with Oxford, she has held academic positions at Drexel, Hahnemann, Thomas Jefferson and Rush Universities.

We are pleased to welcome JoAnne to Griffith University.