

Virtualising the Bookshelf

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VIRTUALISING THE BOOKSHELF



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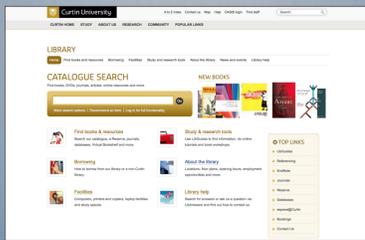
Library  Curtin University

Libraries should take advantage of the rich visual tradition of the book cover and the opportunities offered by modern information technologies to restore to our readers some of the discovery opportunities we have lost in the transition from paper to electronic, a transition that is being driven by client demand for online materials that are available anywhere, anytime.

In particular, libraries should recognise shelf browsing and new books displays as a valued part of our discovery tradition that has been eroded and diminished by this relentless drive towards electronic monograph content. Restoring serendipitous discovery should become a strategic imperative if libraries are to retain their relevance as places of discovery in the online age.

Curtin University Library has responded to this challenge by producing an award winning virtual bookshelf software that provides an exciting way for presenting library materials using the cover images of books, both digital and physical, which provides for discovery in a manner reminiscent of traditional browsing.

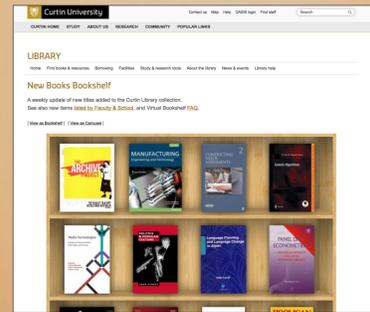
The Curtin University Library website features a revolving carousel of new book covers adding life and colour to the homepage and enticing the reader to explore our books.



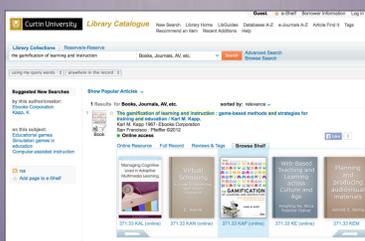
New books are displayed in a large moving carousel that can be controlled by the reader. Clicking a book cover takes the reader to the book details.



New books are also displayed in a traditional open bookcase providing an alternative way for the reader to explore.



Shelf browsing in the catalogue provides a window into the richness of the collection. The books on the virtual browse shelf are always visible, whether they are on loan or not.



The new books can be explored using the tactile flow of covers on the iPad through the Curtin Library iOS app.



Readers in the library can see on plasma screens a passing parade of new books with shelf number and QR code for quick discovery.



Curtin University Library won the 2013 Library Board of Western Australia Award for Excellence, recognising the innovative use of book covers and for making the technology freely and openly available to others.



award winning



open source

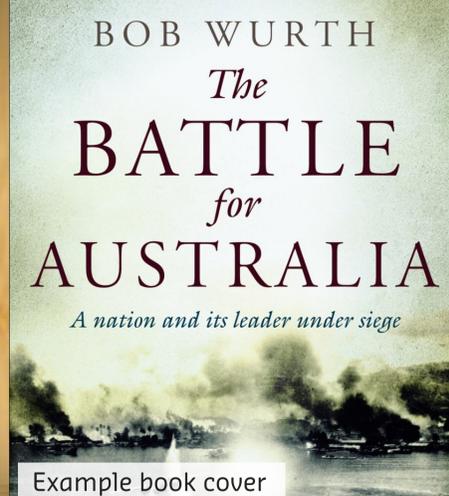
2013



8,000 new books were made available through the virtual bookshelf



there were over 27,000 clicks through to a book



Example book cover

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