

# Leon Morris Library

## Life in the Library

The Leon Morris Library plays a vital role in the academic and community life of Ridley. **Ruth Weatherlake** has served as College Librarian for 25 years. Here she writes about life in the library.

### LEON MORRIS LIBRARY

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When I began as College Librarian in 1992 we had one stand-alone PC and a card catalogue. I spent many hours printing, filing and sorting catalogue cards! The collection included about 37,000 books and we subscribed to around 150 print journals (magazines). Students wanting to find journal articles on their essay topics referred to multi-volume print indexes. I was the sole staff member with a bevy of theological and residential students rostered to mind the library on evenings and Saturdays. Today we have an automated library system and the card catalogue is a distant memory. We have multiple networked computers, Wi-Fi, a print collection of over 55,000 books, access to thousands of ebooks (electronic books), and online databases of journal articles. Interestingly we still subscribe to about 150 print journals, but many titles have come and gone over

the years. We now have two librarians, a library technician and four student assistants on staff.

So much has changed in 25 years. But much has also stayed the same. The library continues to be a place where community life flourishes. For some students the library is a home away from home, as they set themselves up in carrels on the mezzanine level, around the large tables on the main level of the library, or on a bean bag under a window. Others are less frequent visitors and some we engage with only online. From time to time we run events to promote the library and to encourage people to feel welcome. We always supply lollies during the pre-exam study and exam weeks, and last year we offered a five minute dance party and a five minute jelly slice break in the library on two study week afternoons that students enthusiastically participated in. During Library Week we invited faculty and non-library staff to take a turn at being a celebrity check out chap or chick working on our front desk for a short time – we even had one faculty member who dressed up and serenaded patrons as she checked books out to them. And we ran an 'Explore the Library' treasure hunt activity where staff and students worked in groups following clues and answering questions around the library. All who participated said they learned something new about the resources we offer.

In recent years three couples have had engagement photos taken in the library because this is where they met and/or their relationships flourished. A couple of years ago we welcomed a 'library baby' who slept tucked away behind a storage shelf on our mezzanine level while both her parents studied. Now a toddler, she loves visiting the library and, like other children who visit, scanning and stamping the books her parents borrow.

Naturally, the library continues to play a vital role in the academic life of Ridley, providing resources to support our students in their studies and faculty in their teaching and research. As staff we love helping students find the resources they need and we also enjoy seeing students supporting each other in their study – for example, passing around books they have found useful and getting together in study groups prior to exams. Many students seem to appreciate working quietly alongside others in the library, but plenty of conversation also takes place – sometimes too much, too loudly, in fact, and on such occasions I take delight in uttering a traditional librarian 'Shush'. We greatly look forward to our new and refurbished building where there will be more spaces for conversation and group work, along with areas for quiet study, and where academic and community life will continue to thrive.

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Ruth Weatherlake, College Librarian

Watch a video about  
**Leon Morris, the eponym of the Library:**  
[ridley.edu.au/library](http://ridley.edu.au/library)

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The Leon Morris Library  
Top 10 Most Borrowed Books

## Most Borrowed Print Titles

1. Carson, D. A. *The Gospel According to John*
2. Calvin, Jean. *Institutes of the Christian Religion*
3. Green, Joel B. *The Gospel of Luke (New International Commentary on the New Testament)*
4. Morris, Leon. *The Gospel According to John (New International Commentary on the New Testament)*
5. *The Holy Bible (New Revised Standard Version)*
6. Tidball, Derek J. *Skilful Shepherd: Explorations in Pastoral Theology*
7. Williams, David John. *Acts (New International Biblical Commentary)*
8. Durham, John I. *Exodus (Word Biblical Commentary)*
9. Edwards, James R. *The Gospel According to Mark (Pillar New Testament Commentary)*
10. Wenham, Gordon J. *Genesis 1-15 (Word Biblical Commentary)*

## Popular eBook Titles in 2017

1. *The SBL Handbook of Style*
2. Augustine, Saint. *Confessions (translated by V. Bourke)*
3. Gonzalez, Justo L. *A History of Christian Thought*
4. Kopic, Kelly M. *A Little Book for New Theologians*
5. Hill, Wesley. *Paul and the Trinity*
6. Lindberg, Carter. *The European Reformations*
7. Petersen, Bruce L. *Foundations of Pastoral Care*
8. Rea, Michael C. (editor). *Oxford Readings in Philosophical Theology. Volume 1. Trinity, Incarnation, and Atonement*
9. Stanton, Graham N. *Gospels and Jesus*
10. Wright, Christopher J. H. *The Mission of God*

Check the Ridley website for our list of events:  
[www.ridley.edu.au/events](http://www.ridley.edu.au/events) or join our events  
mailing list: [j.daw@ridley.edu.au](mailto:j.daw@ridley.edu.au)

170 The Avenue, Parkville, Victoria 3052  
ph: 03 9207 4800 / email: [info@ridley.edu.au](mailto:info@ridley.edu.au)



## A Good Library

The Leon Morris Library plays a crucial role in the life of the college, supporting students and providing a space to keep learning writes **Brian Rosner**.

### FROM THE PRINCIPAL

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A college without a library would be like a restaurant without a kitchen or a car without fuel. The library is an essential element in the mix that makes a good college. But its importance is often overlooked.

I suspect that the first thing most people think of with respect to Ridley College is the faculty. But most students soon realise that their best friends are not behind the lectern, but rather behind the counter in the library! The world is awash with information, but accessing it and assessing its relevance and quality is a difficult matter. Ridley's librarians are not only adept at pointing you in the right direction but also in training students and faculty to go looking themselves.

What makes a good library? Given that, as Ecclesiastes 12:12 puts it, "of making many books there is no end", the first thing is in the selection and cataloguing of the many books that we add to the collection each year. However, in our day the challenge for all libraries has grown immeasurably with the exponential growth of ebooks, ejournals and other digital resources. Indeed, if the Industrial Revolution in the late eighteenth and early nineteenth century changed the shape of the Western world, the Information Age of the twenty-first century is proving to be no less disruptive. Thankfully, Ridley's library is up to the challenge and up to speed.

You'd be forgiven for thinking that with the growth of online learning libraries have passed their heyday. But nothing could be further from the truth. University campuses are working hard to ensure that their libraries are equipped for students to study and learn together. And there are good biblical grounds for theological colleges like Ridley to follow this trend. Growing in the grace and knowledge of Jesus Christ is a team sport, so to speak.

For every hour in class students spend two hours studying outside of class. For the best results, a good deal of this time is spent in conversation and collaboration with other students. The best places for such interaction at Ridley are around the meals and morning teas that we provide and also in the library.

With this mind, Ridley is currently in the process of planning and funding a major building program with the Leon Morris Library as its main focus. As Christians, we have the best message in the world to share, and it's incumbent on us to do it as effectively and engagingly as possible. Upgrading the library will play a big part in continuing to equip students better for their ministry.

**Brian Rosner, Principal**

# Leon Morris Library Today

New technologies have dramatically changed libraries over the last 30 years. The Leon Morris Library now makes readings available through Ridley's online learning platform, and wider resources readily accessible for students, writes Assistant Librarian, **Alison Foster**.

## ONLINE JOURNALS & EBOOKS

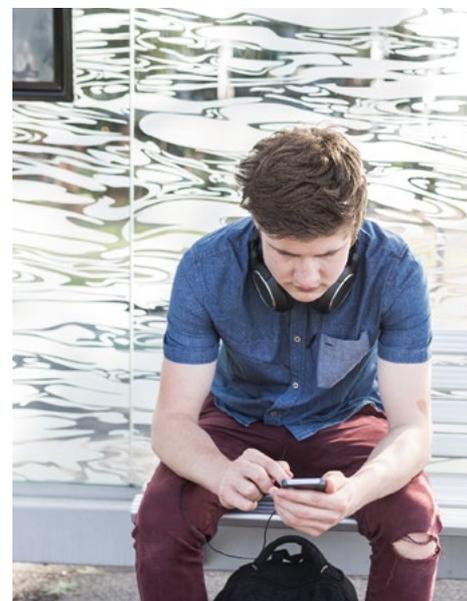
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Every library serves different people for a specific purpose, and is shaped over time by its mission and its funding. Ridley College is blessed with a library of noteworthy size, substance and reputation in our region. The Leon Morris Library must remain in line with the College mission: equipping students for study 'in a rapidly changing and increasingly complex world'. Decent libraries have offered a number of information formats since the beginning of libraries, going back to the time of parchment and papyrus! Throughout the 20th century, the format of the written word took on a variety of new shapes (e.g. microfiche and floppy disc), and the internet revolutionised information avenues for all of us. The Leon Morris Library curates print books and journals, and now databases which are home to ebooks and online journals to expand the collection and provide students with wider access to current theological research and scholarship.

As the amount of material increases, the importance of the role of librarians in assisting its navigation multiplies.

The Leon Morris Library began purchasing access to journals online about 15 years ago to complement our print magazine subscriptions and to succeed journal indexes on CD-ROM. In 2012, the Library did not have ebooks, and now, five years later, it offers access to nearly 30,000. Online journals and ebooks give Ridley students the ability to use a more expansive amount of content than is physically possible in hardcopy. As a result, usage statistics for the library's online resources are rapidly increasing across the entire student body, while print book usage remains steady on campus. Ridley has twice the number of students than 10 years ago, with 10 times the database usage. Students love to use databases because they offer full text searching, mobility, all-hours use, and quick referencing tools. In addition, several students can be reading the same resource at the same time. Clearly online resources benefit all students, but in particular, they enable the library to assist Ridley's online course development and to support the research needs of more students from a distance.

Most of Ridley's units now utilise an online content management system so that students can centrally access instructions and readings for each class. The library works in collaboration with the faculty to source relevant materials, make them uniformly available, and ensure copyright compliance for every reading. Links to resources are embedded in learning

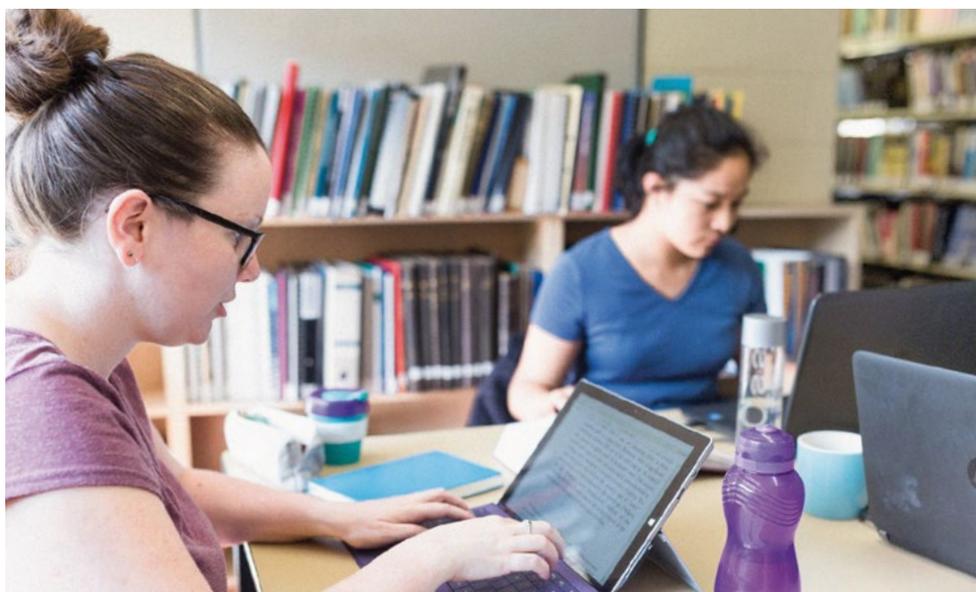


Beyond compulsory readings, the universe of scholarship is vast and researching is a learned skill.

pages for each on-campus and online unit so students can read online or download offline most of their compulsory readings.

Beyond compulsory readings, the universe of scholarship is vast and researching is a learned skill. As the amount of material increases, the importance of the role of librarians in assisting its navigation multiplies. With more information now available electronically, some students are more confident using new technologies than others. While some students are comfortable reading on their mobile phones, others would not dream of it. Naturally, the library must accommodate a variety of learning skills and behaviors, with varying needs for support. It is a librarian's role both to make resources available and to help students to use them. While we continue to offer library orientation and research assistance in person, over the phone and via written guides we now also produce video guides and offer webinars and Skype sessions. Perhaps the better we do our job, the less obvious we become!

A historical document often retains significance, especially in theological research, regardless of whether it is on paper or online. The value and depth of the materials on the library shelves is not to be underestimated, and much of our print material is not available on the internet. As it has been for thousands of years, sometimes information is only available on parchment, sometimes only on papyrus, and sometimes both.



# The Virtuous Vocation of Tending a Library

**Laura** is a Bachelor of Theology Honours student and a library assistant. Here, she reflects on her part-time job.



## CURRENT STUDENT

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The most delightful part-time job I have ever undertaken is that of a library assistant. What though, I am often asked, is a library assistant?

A library assistant is one who celebrates the completion of other students' essays by returning the multitude of borrowed books back to their homes. Then she stamps and covers the new books that are being processed. Sometimes she will embark on the slightly wearying task of 'perfect shelving' (which really is as fastidious as it sounds). And occasionally, the very exciting task of opening all the parcels of books is entrusted to a library assistant's care, a task undertaken with rapturous excitement on the part of yours truly.

The joys of this job are many, but the one I find greatest satisfaction in is the way in which the library becomes like a living map,

its contours and shape becoming imprinted upon my mind. I know instinctively where to find the sections devoted to Lamentations, Luke, or liturgy and Ecclesiastes, eschatology, ecology, or ecclesiology. In this process I discover (and look forward to hopefully reading) books I would otherwise have no idea existed.

A task though that brings curious sobriety is disposing of books no longer needed. It reminds me of the brevity of knowledge. I love to write, and I love the thought of what I write being remembered. And so it is with trembling hands that I tear covers off books that have seen their day and now are headed on their final pilgrimage, through the staff car park, to the large yellow recycle bin. And yet, I spend the majority of my shift stamping, inserting due-date slips into, and covering a multitude of new books. I get a curious

thrill wondering which will impact lives and be remembered years from now. How will they shape hearts and minds to the glory of God?

And so, as I return Calvin's *Institutes* or Augustine's *Confessions* to their place, I am reminded that there are books that stay their course, and there are others that are needed for this moment. Both serve a great good.

As I close up the library for the evening I consider that, by caring for these books, I in a small way, imitate God (and Ruth and Alison) in bringing order, and assist in a tiny way, those preparing for a life of gospel ministry. I play a small part in helping them to fill their heads and hearts to know the good, the true, and the beautiful. And (phenomenally) I even get paid to do it!

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**Laura, Leon Morris Library Assistant**



**Enjoy your very own access to the Leon Morris Library... Library membership** entitles you to borrow from our collection of **over 50,000 books**, and gives you **access to online resources**. Your membership fee will also assist us to continue to support and further develop the library for current and future staff and students.



The library is vital for my studies as it allows me to access the full breadth of thought on the Scriptures, so that I might know God better and serve him more effectively – Ridley Student

## LEON MORRIS LIBRARY MEMBERSHIP FORM



**Annual Membership**  
\$50

**Life Membership Discount**  
\$200 *If you join within 12 months of graduation from Ridley.*

**Life Membership**  
\$250 *Special price ends 31/1/18. Normally \$350.*

Title  First Name

Surname

Address

Suburb  Postcode

Daytime Phone

Email

Ridley Graduating Year

Cheque  Cash  Credit Card

MasterCard  Visa  Amex

Name on Card

Credit Card No.

Expiry Date

Signature  Date