

# *Back to the Future: Academic Libraries in Transition*

*by Maxine Brodie, Macquarie University*

## Back to the future – academic libraries in transition

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## What Matters?



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V A L U E S

## Key Questions

- What do we stand for? **(Our Values)**
- What do we do that matters? **(Our Value)**

## Professional Values

- Promotion of the free flow of information and ideas through open access to recorded knowledge, information, and creative works.
- Connection of people to ideas.
- Commitment to literacy, information literacy and learning.
- Respect for the diversity and individuality of all people.
- Preservation of the human record.
- Excellence in professional service to our communities.
- Partnerships to advance these values.



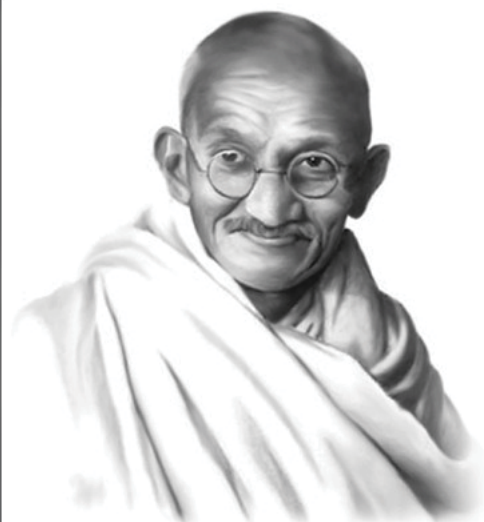
Australian  
Library and  
Information  
Association

## Organisational Values

Does your organisation  
support your professional  
values?

***“ A university is a group of  
buildings that have agreed to  
share a letterhead”***

## What are Macquarie's Values?



### ***Ethical***

Unbiased, honest, respectful and equitable treatment for all. Everyone habitually doing what is right rather than what is easy, and claiming ownership of their behaviours and the consequences of their actions.

## *Agile*

Willing and able to respond, listen and act quickly. To be informed but not constrained by current procedures. To be flexible, adaptable and embrace change for positive outcomes.



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8

## *Inclusive*

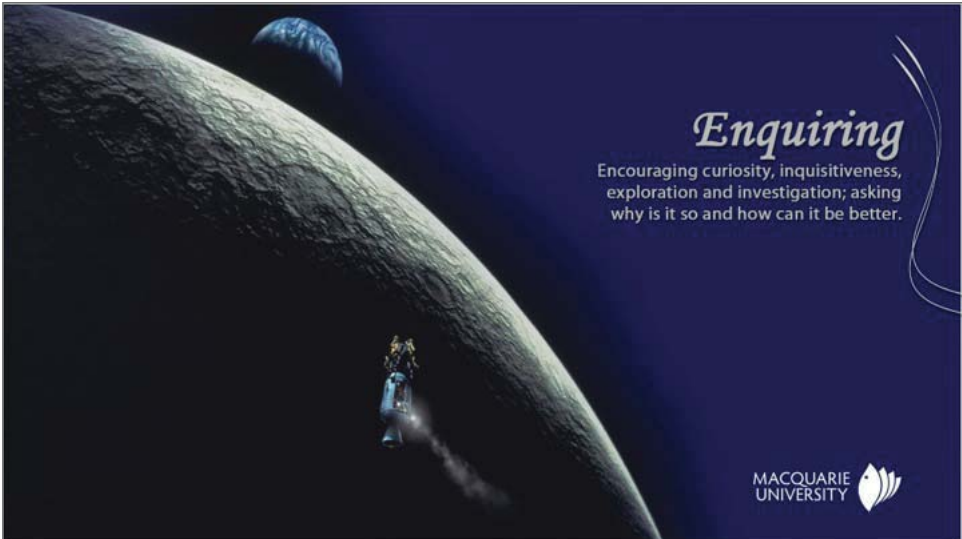
Respect and fairness for everyone.  
Working together as a team.  
Valuing people and recognising  
their contributions.



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9

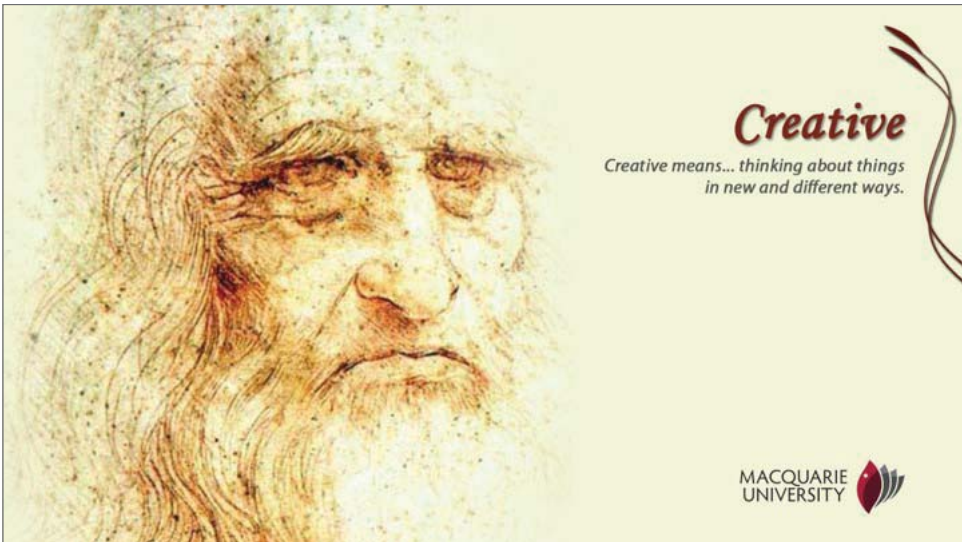


**Enquiring**  
Encouraging curiosity, inquisitiveness, exploration and investigation; asking why is it so and how can it be better.

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10



**Creative**  
*Creative means... thinking about things in new and different ways.*

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11



*WOW!*

*Excellent*

We will be the best we can be. We will understand our clients, we will take initiative, we will deliver results and aim to exceed expectations.

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12

## So, is there a “values” fit at MQ?

- Promotion of the free flow of information and ideas through open access to recorded knowledge, information, and creative works. **(Ethical)**
- Connection of people to ideas. **(Enquiring)**
- Commitment to literacy, information literacy and learning. **(Inclusive)**
- Respect for the diversity and individuality of all people. **(Inclusive)**
- Preservation of the human record. (?)
- Excellence in professional service to our communities. **(Excellent)**

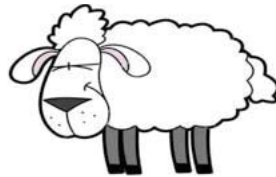


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13

So where is.....

- Creative?
- Agile?



...And how important are these  
for our future?

## Preservation of the human record

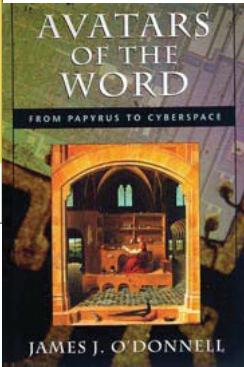
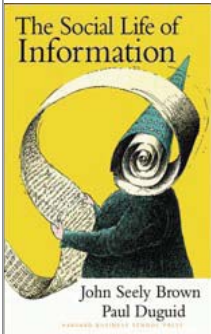
For centuries the telling of stories has been an integral part of different cultures around the world. Mark Bahti (1988) evokes the Pueblo tradition of story-telling as follows:

“During the long winter nights when the earth, plants, animals and people were quiet and resting, awaiting the sun’s return, story telling was a regular, even nightly, event. The story took the listeners on a journey that would bring renewal of life” (Bahti, 1988, p. 10)





# Provenance



"On the Internet, nobody knows you're a dog."

© The New Yorker Collection, 1993. John Steiner  
Illustration for 'On the Internet, Nobody Knows You're a Dog'.



## A world of contradictions



## “push me, pull you”



## Information

Scarcity



Overload

## Access

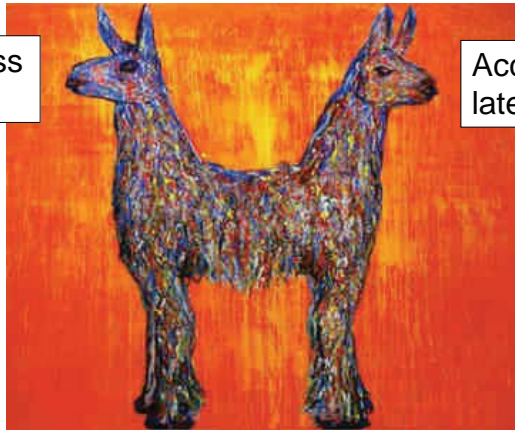
Pay to  
publish



Pay to  
read

## Format

Access  
now



Access  
later

## Our Value

**Preservation** – of knowledge, stories

**Provenance** – providing context,  
discovery

**People** – our skills and  
encouragement of  
interactions of people with

## How our value challenges our values

- Remember “agile” and “creative”?
- Do we see ourselves this way?

## Agile

“It is better to do something imperfectly than to do nothing flawlessly”

Robert Schuller



## Creative

Let loose...

Work on a  
number  
of fronts at  
once



## So What Matters?



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**Questions?**