



**ALIA Access 2010 Conference
Brisbane Convention & Exhibition Centre
Wednesday 1 – Friday 3 September 2010**



TAFE LIBRARIES IN TRANSITION: THE SOUTHBANK EXPERIENCE
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Over the last decade Southbank Institute of Technology has implemented major changes in order to maintain relevance and market share in the dynamic and competitive academic and industry environment. We have evolved from a multi-campus TAFE institute to a dual sector centralised statutory authority with over 120 articulation pathways to higher education. As mandated by the 2006 Queensland Skills Plan, Southbank is addressing skills shortages in associate professional and graduate fields as well as delivering English language and literacy programs to migrants and international students. Southbank is the first statutory institute in Queensland to offer students access to VET FEE-HELP assistance. Over 500 students from Brisbane high schools study at Southbank through our STEP program. Consequently, our students are from diverse backgrounds and locations and have a wide range of information needs. Our broad client base has changed the way we deliver our library services and has created a more agile, strategic and client focused organisation.

This paper will discuss some of the strategies the library has implemented to not only develop its role as an information provider, but to assist educators and students with changes to their educational environment.