



ELAN

exlibris.ca



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Ex Libris Association Newsletter

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

<i>The Sounds of Music on ELA's Spring Tour</i> By Gillian Clinton	1
<i>President's Report: Sisyphus Was a Librarian</i> By David I. Harvie	2
<i>2025 W. Kaye Lamb Award for Innovative Services to Seniors</i> By Christina Wilson	3
<i>Why Library People Should Run for Office Now</i> By Michelle Arbuckle	4
<i>Technology Unmasked: Data Harvesting</i> By Stan Orlov	5
<i>ELA's ChatGPT Webinar</i> By Carmen Königsreuther Socknat	5
<i>Good Reads</i> Compiled by Judy Dunn	6
<i>Book Reviews</i> Edited by Sally Press	6
<i>Heather Turnbull, P.A.V.E. and How It Can Help Your Library</i> By Julia Schneider	8
<i>A History of Federal Government Libraries – Part 1</i> By Ross Gordon	9
<i>A Brief History of Library Conferences – Part 1</i> By Michael White	10
<i>How and Why I Became a Librarian</i> By Mary McConnell	12
<i>Odd Books Out</i> Compiled by Leslie McGrath	13
<i>Treasures of British Libraries: The Portico Library, Manchester</i> By Guy Robertson	16
<i>Canadian Federation of Library Associations/ Fédération canadienne des associations de bibliothèques (CFLA-FCAB)</i> By Todd Kyle	17
<i>News from Canadian Library/Information Studies Schools</i> Compiled by Judy Dunn	18
<i>News from the Provinces & the North</i>	20
<i>Archives News</i> By Susan Hart	23
<i>Milestones</i>	24
<i>Indigenous-Student Bursary Activities</i> By Deb Thomas	28

The Sounds of Music on ELA's Spring Tour of University of Toronto Music Library

By Gillian Clinton

Eight ELA members and a guest met for lunch and conversation at the Acacia Café, Wycliffe College in Toronto on Wednesday, Nov. 12, 2025. It was easy for me, a first-time attendee, to identify the group among all the students present, and I enjoyed receiving a warm welcome.



Photo credits: Ian London

We then walked around the corner to the University of Toronto Music Library on Queen's Park Crescent, where Head Librarian Jan Guise and Music Archivist Becky Shaw met us at the Faculty of Music. They took us down to their library where another ELA member joined us. Their lobby had a Chopin exhibit in honour of the recent International Chopin Competition as well as some records and an old gramophone on display.

The staff have a whimsical side, evidenced by the black cat silhouettes that pop up around the two-level library which is **"one of the largest academic music libraries in North America."**

Our group split in two for very interesting tours of the library holdings, rare books and archives.

I had never visited a music library and was fascinated to learn that the contents have an entire alphabetic character within LC classification — the letter "M" — and the library's holdings primarily

comprise such non-traditional (to me!) items as recordings — digital, CDs, vinyl and even wax — and musical scores. Interestingly, the library has fairly limited Canadian holdings since everyone has access to the library at the nearby non-profit **Canadian Music Centre**.



At the end of our tours, we had the opportunity to sit and chat with Jan and Becky and in-depth introductions allowed me to get to know my fellow ELA members better.

My thanks to Vivienne James for making the tour arrangements and everyone else for the warm welcome I experienced.

Gillian Clinton worked as a part-time academic reference librarian on and off for more than 20 years at various post-secondary institutions around the GTA. After more than 30 years of providing information services through her company, Clinton Research, she is still trying to figure out how this retirement thing actually works. ■

President's Report: Sisyphus Was a Librarian

By David I. Harvie



It's been pointed out to me that since I've retired, the world has become increasingly unhinged. While I hope I'm not to blame for the state of affairs we find ourselves in today, it did give me a chance to ponder the cycles of history, those changes of revolution and counter-revolution, progression and recession and the role of our profession.

In Ancient Greek mythology, Sisyphus was a trickster figure who cheated death by capturing Thanatos, the god of Death. This prevented anyone from dying, causing much chaos in the world until the gods intervened, freeing Thanatos and punishing Sisyphus for his hubris. For his eternal punishment, Sisyphus was condemned to roll a massive boulder up a hill in the underworld. Each time he neared the top, the boulder would roll back down the hill forcing him to start over.

Albert Camus, in his essay *The Myth of Sisyphus*, uses Sisyphus as a metaphor for the human condition. He argues that Sisyphus embodies the struggle against the absurdity of existence and concludes that one must imagine that Sisyphus is happy, finding meaning in his endless work.

If our profession were to have a patron saint, it would be Sisyphus. He would have understood the situation in which we librarians find ourselves,

as we continue the ongoing labour of defending intellectual freedom. Book bans and the firing of librarians who stand up for the freedom to read continue to manifest themselves in the United States and our own country.

I had the opportunity to view a screening of the documentary film *The Librarians* by Kim Snyder at Toronto Public Library in the fall. It was a chilling experience to see body camera video of a police detective investigating whether librarians were providing pornography to school-aged children.

It seems the boulder has slipped from our grasp, and we are once again returning to the foot of the hill. We are not the confident and wise society we have believed ourselves to be. While I won't say we are happy as we descend, we nevertheless remain determined to take up our boulder.

As librarians, as the stewards of the knowledge of humankind, we continue to have a duty to preserve and protect that legacy in the hope that someday we will be worthy of it.

The job of librarian is not finished with retirement. It's never finished. There continues to be much to do and undo.

The boulder awaits.

David I. Harvie is a retired chief librarian with an undergraduate degree in Classical Civilization and a background in library automation, digital literacy and administration. ■

New ELA Members

We're proud to welcome these new ELA members:

Emily Blackmore, St. John's, NL
 Michael Dudley, Winnipeg, MB
 Edmonton Public Library,
 Edmonton, AB
 Kingston Frontenac Public Library,
 Kingston, ON
 Lari Langford, Wellington, ON
 Margaret Stewart, Ottawa, ON
 Jane Thacker, Ottawa, ON

To Save Space

ELAN will include only awards and appointments of national importance and high relevance to our members.

A Canadian awards page is available on ELA's website at:
exlibris.ca/doku.php?id=awards:canadian-library-awards.

Corrections to ELAN

A correction has been made in the online edition of *ELAN* #78/Fall 2025 to correct the following print edition error:

Page 21: Edna Hajnal's correct name is Edna Anne Hajnal (née Perry).

A Wealth of Strong Submissions Received for the 2025 W. Kaye Lamb Award for Innovative Services to Seniors

By Christina Wilson, Chair, W. Kaye Lamb Award Committee

This award continues to attract wide Canadian library interest as indicated by the large number of high-quality submissions received for 2025. The award committee reviewed a total of 17 submissions from public libraries serving large, medium and small communities in six provinces. Consequently, the committee selected two libraries deserving of recognition for their excellence and innovation in serving seniors in their communities.

The Kingston Frontenac Public Library (KFPL) received the award for its innovative Older Adults Hub that provides a wide range of regular, accessible, fun and free activities and services for seniors at KFPL's Rideau Heights Branch, in an underserved, lower-income area with limited services. In partnership with the **Kingston Community Health Centres**, the library developed regular programming to attract and engage with seniors with the goal of creating a positive space where they could meet neighbours, form friendships and actively engage with others to help feel part of their community. Of note is the regular Monday Older Adults Day which features health centre-facilitated programs such as the Seniors Strength, Fitness & Balance exercise group, a social café, a Super Seniors Speaker Series and library-facilitated activities such as the board game café, monthly book club and tech tutor sessions. KFPL's mobile library regularly brings lending collections into the program space.



KFPL CEO Laura Carter, centre, accepted the W. Kaye Lamb Award and \$500 cheque from ELA President David Harvie, left, and award committee member Donna Burton, right, at the OLA Super Conference Awards Gala on Jan. 29.

Photo credit: Yvonne Bambrick

Library staff reported successes beyond the growth of the program participants. Seniors gained confidence in learning new

skills and abilities and formed relationships with each other and program facilitators. Staff commented that the participants had found real friendships in the group.

KFPL CEO Laura Carter accepted the award plaque and \$500 cheque from David Harvie, ELA president, and Donna Burton, award committee member, at the OLA Super Conference Awards Gala, Jan. 29. Laura comments, "Receiving the W. Kaye Lamb Award is a meaningful recognition of what libraries do best, which is to provide welcoming, accessible spaces and programs where everyone in the community can thrive. I want to acknowledge our community partner, Kingston Community Health Centres, for their dedication to making the Older Adults Hub a space where people can gather for free, learn a new skill, make a friend or discover a new community resource. We are deeply grateful for this honour and inspired to keep doing this work."

Edmonton Public Library (EPL) was acknowledged with an Honourable Mention for its innovative, intergenerational program **Together We Grow** which provides inclusive programming for various age groups as a way to address seniors' social isolation. The program expands the library's services to underserved communities, reaching seniors who cannot visit the library due to mobility, memory or other health issues while nurturing positive relationships between generations by bringing early literacy programming into retirement residences and long-term care facilities. Engaging activities include sing-alongs and story-telling, including those with memory care needs and young children with their parents, giving all the chance to connect across generations. By fostering empathy and understanding between age groups, Together We Grow seeks to combat senior's social isolation and help older adults find joy in interacting with the youngest community members, contributing to a more inclusive and connected community.

EPL CEO Pilar Martinez and Youth Services Manager Elaine Jones accepted the award and \$100 cheque from ELA President David Harvie, ELA member

Carmen Konigsreuther Socknat and ELA Treasurer Bob Henderson at the OLA Super Conference on Jan. 29. Upon learning of the award, Ms. Martinez commented, "We are delighted to be recognized for our Together We Grow program. This program is a shining example of how libraries can bring people together and foster positive change in their communities. We look forward to continuing to expand this program and to sharing its benefits with even more Edmontonians."



Left to right, ELA President, David Harvie, left, presented the W. Kaye Lamb Award to EPL for its Older Adults Hub. Pictured with David are, from left to right, ELA member Carmen Königsreuther Socknat, EPL CEO Pilar Martinez, EPL Youth Services Manager Elaine Jones and ELA treasurer Bob Henderson
Photo credit: Todd Kyle

Named for Canada's first National Librarian, the W. Kaye Lamb Award is given biennially in recognition of library service specifically designed to meet seniors' needs. The ELA [website](#) contains full details about the award, including past winners. The next call for submissions will take place in 2027. In the meantime, all ELA members are encouraged to suggest excellent or innovative library-based seniors' programs to the award committee for consideration. Consider nominating programs or services you encounter or learn about, whether offered by your alma mater, former workplace, your local public library or any other health, science or other special library.

The 2025 ELA W. Kaye Lamb Committee included Donna Burton, Todd Kyle, Past President Deb Thomas and President David Harvie (ex officio).

Christina Wilson, recently retired as CEO, Red Deer PL, has worked for public and post-secondary libraries in Ontario and Alberta. She is an ELA Board member. ■

If Not Us, Then Who? Why Library People Should Run for Office Now

By Michelle Arbuckle

It is a data point that should stop us in our tracks. Research shows women need to be encouraged up to eight times more than men before they will put themselves forward for leadership or elected office. Eight times. So, consider this encouragement No. 1.

Library people are already doing the work of democracy every single day. We build trust. We hold space for disagreement. We support access to information, literacy, civic participation and community problem-solving. And yet, when decisions are made at city councils, school boards and library boards, the voices of library professionals are too often missing. That absence matters.

In Ontario in 2022, 548 municipal officials won without earning a single vote. Not because they were unbeatable — because no one ran against them. What does that mean for democracy?

Librarians and library technicians bring an extraordinary skill set to elected roles. We are trained listeners. We manage complex budgets. We

understand policy, governance and accountability. We work across political, cultural and social differences with care and professionalism. We are used to making decisions that balance values, risk and real-world constraints. In short, we already govern. We just rarely call it that.

There is also a deeper reason this moment matters. Across Canada, we are seeing growing pressure on public institutions, public education, intellectual freedom and democratic norms. If people who believe in equity, evidence, access and community do not step forward, others will happily fill that vacuum.

Democracy doesn't collapse overnight. It erodes when thoughtful people stay on the sidelines, waiting for the "perfect" time. The time isn't later. It is now.

Ontario's municipal election takes place Oct. 26. That date is closer than it feels. And the good news is you do not have to do this alone. Ontario has an incredible ecosystem of support

dedicated to making running for office more accessible for women, gender-diverse and equity-seeking candidates. That ecosystem offers the tools, resources and networks needed to step forward and run.

From campaign training to mentorship, non-partisan, grassroots organizations are lowering the barrier to entry and opening the door for you to run including [electHer Now](#), [PoliticsNow](#), [Learn How To Run](#), [Municipal Campaign School](#), [The Jean Collective](#), [Leadership féminin](#) (French) and [AMO's Lead Where You Live Resource](#).

Library people belong at decision-making tables. Our communities already trust us. The next step is trusting ourselves enough to run.

Michelle Arbuckle is the executive director at the Ontario Library Association. She has held the roles of national librarian at the Canadian Music Centre and patient librarian at the Princess Margaret Hospital. ■

To the People of Tumbler Ridge, BC

On Feb. 10, 2026, in the northern BC town of Tumbler Ridge, a lone shooter killed eight people at random, including four students and an educational assistant in the library of the Tumbler Ridge Secondary School. Twenty-seven others at the school were injured before the shooter committed suicide.

Ex Libris Association extends its condolences to the people of Tumbler Ridge and especially to the families of the victims. We grieve the loss of life and will not forget those who died. We hope that those who suffered injuries will recover completely and resume their normal lives. Our thoughts are with you.

As librarians and information specialists, we have always worked to ensure the personal security of our patrons while providing them with the resources they need. To the best of our ability, we will strive to ensure such a tragedy does not occur in future. While many of us are retired, we remain influential in our profession. We will do our best to make sure everyone is safe in our libraries as well as our communities.

ELA would like to express gratitude to our member Guy Robertson who composed this heartfelt tribute and condolences to the people of Tumbler Ridge following the tragic events there. ■

Publications by Members

Hajnal, Peter. *The Birth of the G7 at Rambouillet 1975. The Elgar Companion to the G7.* Edward Elgar, 2025.

Hajnal, Peter. *The G7 in the Trump 2.0 Era.* Canadian Foreign Policy Journal, February 2026.

Technology Unmasked: Data Harvesting

By Stan Orlov



Many of us are familiar with internet bots, usually deployed by search engines, that for a long time have been harvesting information about websites. They would visit a website regularly, collect the latest info and move on. They would skip the site if it specifically asked them to do so in a robot.txt.

Recently, though, a new generation of AI “harvesting” bots has been scraping huge amounts of high-quality data to train Large Language Models (LLM) such as ChatGPT, Gemini or Claude. A *Library Journal* report calls them “swarms” that overwhelm library and cultural-heritage sites, slowing catalogues or crashing them entirely. These bots masquerade as normal browsers, come from thousands of IP

addresses and fire off complex searches at speeds no human would run. **Duke University Libraries** compare typical human traffic at about one request per second with bot storms exceeding 40, enough to lock out real patrons.

In Canada, *Érudit* — our essential scholarly journals platform — saw its servers hammered by aggressive AI crawlers. The University of Waterloo's digital repositories librarian has highlighted the strain on Canadian libraries, archives and museums which echoes the findings of a global survey showing more than 90 per cent of open repositories face weekly bot disruptions.

Real users face delayed catalogues, blocked archives or e-resource outages. Libraries fight back with rate limits for harvesting or proof-of-work tools such as Anubis, a quick challenge that lets people through while making bulk

scraping difficult.

Ironically, the same AI systems scraping our collections can later invent facts about them. AI hallucinations happen because these tools generate answers from patterns in data rather than verifying claims against reliable evidence. So library sources remain essential for verification.

We've weathered many tech challenges in our careers — from early automation glitches to evolving search engines. I am confident we'll rise to this one too.

Please send your questions and comments to stan.orlov@msvu.ca.

Stanislav Orlov is systems librarian at Mount Saint Vincent University in Halifax. ■

ELA's ChatGPT Webinar

By Carmen Königsreuther Socknat



ChatGPT & AI — Navigating the Digital Conversation, an interactive workshop,

was presented to 38 ELA members at ELA's AGM on March 3 by **Connected Canadians**.

Connected Canadians is a registered charity with the mandate of reducing “isolation and loneliness among older adults by promoting digital literacy skills and providing technology training and support.”

A useful handout, distributed via the listserv ahead of time, answered many basic questions about accessing ChatGPT, uses, safety tips and other AI tools.

The demonstration used the query results for “trip ideas to Milan” to show how Google presents an AI overview and provides links and sites

to explore. Whereas ChatGPT creates itineraries and lists that have fewer links but are more customizable, AI accesses more historical data and tends to synthesize results. But ChatGPT results can be more dated and imprecise, while a search engine such as Google will use more current information and show verification but will lack the longer data timeline. So both have their drawbacks and optimum uses.

Further demonstrations illustrated the ability of ChatGPT to create and play games, write and edit correspondence and assist with finding recipes based on specific ingredients — or even photos of refrigerator contents.

Presenter Jesse Smith explained how AI algorithms mainly seek patterns and therefore output needs to be evaluated for accuracy and relevancy. This led to a discussion of the need to make AI literacy a fundamental skill, as well as the dangers of cognitive offloading if we

ELAN in Electronic Format

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become over-reliant on this ubiquitous new tool.

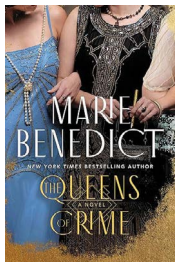
Overall, a successful event and thanks to Deb Thomas and Todd Kyle for organizing it.

Carmen Königsreuther Socknat is an ELA member who retired in 2022 after working in academic libraries for 38 years. ■



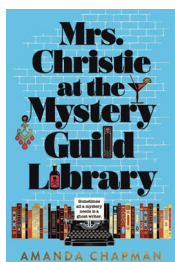
Good Reads

By Judy Dunn



The Queens of Crime
By Marie Benedict
St. Martin's Press,
2025

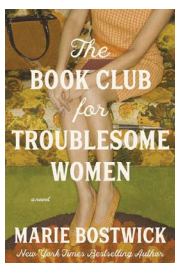
Five Golden Age mystery writers work together to solve a real crime in 1930s London.



Mrs. Christie at the Mystery Guild Library
By Amanda Chapman
Berkley, 2025

Cozy mystery with a touch of the supernatural. Set in a reproduction of Agatha

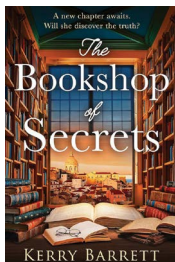
Christie's personal library, a room in New York City's Mystery Guild Library, a woman claiming to be Mrs. Christie helps to solve a murder.



The Book Club for Troublesome Women
By Marie Bostwick
Harper Muse, 2025

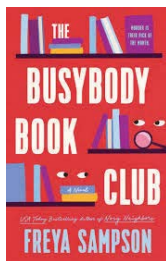
Set in Northern Virginia in the 1960s, a group of four suburban women bond over the newly published Betty

Friedan's *The Feminine Mystique*.



The Bookshop of Secrets
By Kerry Barrett
HQ Digital, 2025

Set in 1940s Lisbon, a city filled with refugees and spies, this novel follows the journey of a young British actress who discovers the bookshop where she works is a front for British intelligence.



The Busybody Book Club
By Freya Samson
Berkley, 2025

A quirky, dysfunctional book club in a Cornish village unexpectedly finds itself solving a real murder after money goes missing and a member dies.



The Missing Pages
By Alyson Richman
Union Square & Co.,
2025

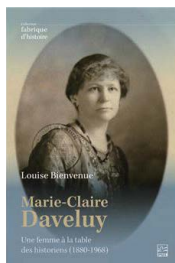
A ghost story and a love story. A creative retelling of the building of the Widener Library at Harvard University as a memorial to Harry Widener, a young book collector who was lost on the Titanic.

Judy Dunn retired in 2011 after six years as assistant dean academic, Faculty of Information, UofT and 15 years as program co-ordinator, School of Information Management, Dalhousie University.

Find a **compilation** of Good Reads on the **ELA website**. ■

Book Reviews

Edited by Sally Press



Marie-Claire Daveluy; une femme à la table des historiens (1880-1968)
By Louise Bienvenue
Québec, Presses de l'Université Laval, 2025

Reviewed by Peter McNally

Aside from brief obituaries, biographical information on Canadian librarians can prove elusive. It is a pleasure, therefore, to welcome this monographic study of a pioneering Quebec librarian, Marie-Claire Daveluy (1880-1968). Written by Prof. Louise Bienvenue (Université de Sherbrooke),

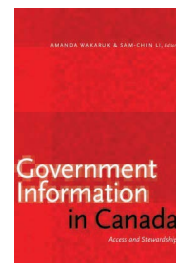
this biography – recipient of le prix Lionel Groulx – could serve as a model for studies of other Canadian librarians.

Born to a middle-class family with financial problems, Daveluy received the best education available at the time for a Francophone woman in Quebec. At an early age, she became part of Montreal's vibrant French-language cultural and intellectual community. The study recounts her career as a journalist, political activist, children's author and historian. Her biography of Jeanne Mance (1606-1673) is an acknowledged classic.

Needing an income to help support her family, in 1917 she became a librarian in Montreal's newly-opened Bibliothèque municipale, where she soon emerged as a driving force. In 1920, she attended the McGill University Summer Library School. She played a central role in establishing Quebec's first French-language library education program and its first library association, predecessors of: École de bibliothéconomie et des sciences de l'information (EBSI), Université de Montréal and l'Association pour l'avancement des sciences et des techniques de la documentation (ASTED).

Daveluy was a feminist, nationalist and fervent Catholic. Although poorly paid and denied promotion due to being a woman, she received many honours. This profusely illustrated and footnoted French language book includes a detailed bibliography and name index. It deserves wide readership.

Peter McNally is Professor Emeritus at McGill University, School of Information Studies. ■



Government Information in Canada: Access and Stewardship, 1st edition
Edited by Amanda Wakaruk and Sam-chin Li
University of Alberta Press, 2019

Reviewed by Michael White

“Government information is not something that most people think about

Continued on page 7

Continued from page 6

until they need it or see it in a headline.” So begins *Government Information in Canada: Access and Stewardship*.

When the book was published in the spring of 2019, few people would have expected that within a year government information would be in the headlines every day and hotly debated. The COVID-19 pandemic and its aftermath, growing political instability in Western democracies, global trade wars and the increasing impact of climate change highlight the vital role government information plays in robust democratic societies.

Unfortunately, in recent years governments in many countries, most notably the U.S., have restricted access to government information or eliminated it entirely. A recent casualty is the CIA's *World Factbook*, which had been published in print since 1971 and online since 1997.

Government Information in Canada was written for librarians, journalists, researchers and ordinary people who are interested in how government information in Canada is produced, disseminated and preserved. The authors are librarians and information professionals with many years of experience working with government information. Several have worked in tribunal and legislative libraries and at Library and Archives Canada.

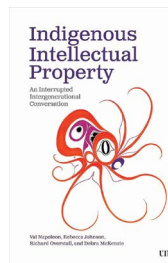
The book is organized into 11 chapters in three sections. The first section provides historical background on the publications of Parliament, royal commissions and administrative tribunals, Library and Archives Canada publications and digital collections and government publication depository programs at the federal, provincial and territorial levels. The second section focuses on government publishing practices in Alberta, Saskatchewan and Ontario. The final section describes initiatives to digitize and preserve government information, collect at-risk government publications and make government information in legislative libraries more accessible.

Each chapter has notes and a bibliography. A useful list of abbreviations is also provided. The thorough index provides easy access to hundreds of topics

of interest. One weakness of the book, which the editors acknowledge, is the lack of information about government publishing and dissemination practices in British Columbia, Quebec and Atlantic Canada. Nevertheless, this book is a valuable introduction to an essential function of government that shouldn't be taken for granted.

An open-access version is available from the University of Alberta Press.

Michael White is a science and engineering librarian at Queen's University. He previously worked for the Patent and Trademark Depository Library Program in the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office and has published several articles and book chapters on patent information. ■



Indigenous Intellectual Property: An Interrupted Intergenerational Conversation
Edited by Val Napoleon, Rebecca Johnson, Richard Overstall, and Debra

McKenzie
University of Toronto Press, 2024

Reviewed by Deb Thomas

The right of Indigenous peoples in Canada to control their own lives through Indigenous legal orders is being raised in various fields, including health care, resource management, education and intellectual property. This book focuses on intellectual property concerns and the need for them to be derived, at least in part, from existing and relevant Indigenous legal orders which are, the editors contend, “an integral part of the governance of Indigenous society.”

Val Napoleon asserts that “Indigenous legal orders, while still existing and operating, have been disrupted, displaced and undermined by various colonial forces” and require rebuilding. Debra McKenzie concludes there must be “universal recognition of the proprietary interest that Indigenous societies hold in their cultural and societal expressions.”

An issue unique to Indigenous communities is that existing state intellectual property systems generally require a known individual creator and lack coverage of oral expressions and knowledge. McKenzie explains “the dichotomy of protectable and unprotectable ideas” at the heart of current intellectual property law and the concept of public domain that can come into effect if a distinct creator is not identified. She goes on to say that Indigenous societal and cultural expressions often end up in the public domain and are therefore unprotectable because they have no specific creator but are a product of “evolving iterations of a tradition.” As a result, these Indigenous expressions are marketed as exotic through misappropriation and misrepresentation. And Western law courts are ill-suited to respond to what could be described as thefts of intellectual property.

Indigenous Intellectual Property provides a new, uniquely Indigenous perspective on intellectual property law. Recommended for anyone interested in learning more about the concerns of Indigenous creators and communities about their intellectual property rights.

Deb Thomas recently retired from a 40+ year career in libraries, 30 years of which were in public library management. She is an ELA Board member. ■

Another Book of Interest



The Kind Librarian: Cultivating a Culture of Kindness and Wellbeing in Libraries
Helen Rimmer
Facet Publishing, 2024

This book “addresses the critical need to foster kindness and wellbeing within library workplaces.” Facet Publishing was formerly the Library Association Publishing and is the publishing arm of **CILIP: the library and information association. ■**

Heather Turnbull, P.A.V.E. and How It Can Help Your Library

By Julia Schneider

Heather Turnbull, the Canadian representative for Chicago-based **P.A.V.E.** (Pro-active, Anti-Violence Education) has presented, in recent months, her organization's broad-based approach to resolving library issues to interested groups here and in the U.S.

Her ELA Zoom presentation, *Building Resiliency in a Complex World and Workplace*, on Nov. 20, had 40 attendees, evincing a strong interest in how to deal with challenges that have arisen in public libraries. As she noted, "the agenda has changed radically over the past 10 years" as the expectations of the public [about library services] have been changing.

Given that these expectations have increased, now including social as well as traditional services, staffing and budget have not. The onus is on libraries to find ways to help staff cope with pressures and situations not felt in the past. For P.A.V.E., an organization committed to helping marginalized workers in diverse workplaces, this involves listening to everyone, recognizing

conflicts, promoting self-care, fostering interpersonal and team communication and working with organizations to find solutions that come from within while guiding from without through its intervention and guidance.

Turnbull pointed to a 2022 urban library trauma study that showed "68.5 percent of library workers have experienced some form of harassment, verbal abuse or violent encounters with patrons." The study stressed this is not something to ignore.

In her ELA session, Turnbull mentioned the Alameda County Public Library in the San Francisco area as an example of P.A.V.E. procedures and their success. In a session after the Jan. 15 ALA Summit on Library Safety and Security Zoom presentation, attendees had an opportunity to hear more about this library from its CEO Deb Sica. According to Sica, the library was experiencing many problems that were affecting its ability to provide proactive service when she happened to hear of a group that was working with the nearby Parks and Recreation Department. She looked into the

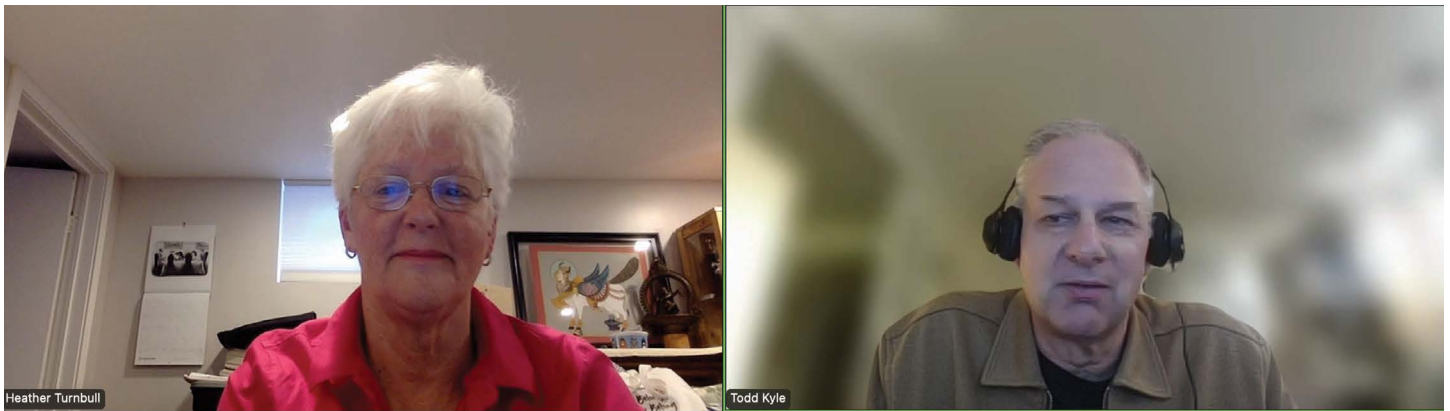
organization and is now ending a three-year P.A.V.E. intervention which, she says, has taken the library "from hopeless to hopeful," its sense of purpose renewed.

Reached at the P.A.V.E. booth at the January 2026 OLA Super Conference, Turnbull said the final report of Alameda's cohort groups, which includes all employees and their teams, is just wrapping up, and that interest in P.A.V.E. is spreading. As Arlene Limas, founder and CEO of P.A.V.E. put it on at the January Summit presentation, everyone is looking for "safer, healthier, and more communicative workplaces."

The **presentation** video and the **PowerPoint slides** can be viewed on the ELA website.

Thanks to Deb Thomas for arranging this webinar.

Julia Schneider (B.Ed. Queens; M.L.S. Western '75; M.A. Waterloo; B. Journalism U. of King's College, Halifax) has worked in school and prison libraries as well as classrooms around the world. She is an ELA Board member. ■



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This article is the third in a series of histories of special libraries in Canada. Series editor, Suzette Giles.

A History of Federal Government Libraries in Canada – Part 1

By Ross Gordon

Most government libraries in Canada before 1918 were affiliated with the country's legislative bodies. Some federal departments and institutions maintained their own libraries in Ottawa, such as the Departments of Agriculture, Defence and Mines along with the Dominion Archives and the Supreme Court, whose collections were offshoots of the Library of Parliament.

In 1918, the list expanded when libraries were established at the National Gallery of Canada, the Dominion Bureau of Statistics and the Department of Labour. The National Research Council of Canada's library dates from 1924, followed by those of Transport Canada in 1925 and the Bank of Canada in 1935.

The Library of Parliament had a fundamental role in creating library services for government in Canada. It had held continuous legal deposit since 1841 but did not act as a de facto national library with service to the general public. It collected material but didn't share it. It wasn't until 1953 that the National Library of Canada (NLC) was created, using a large collection from the Library of Parliament's holdings (Gordon).

A nationwide survey of Canada's libraries whose findings were published in 1933 (the Ridington Report) identified the absence of a national library as one factor that inhibited the development of libraries in general but specifically that of government libraries.

The Ridington Report blamed the poor showing of government libraries on federal and provincial administrations that had starved the institutions of both funding and appropriately trained staff.

When Charles McCombs followed up the Ridington Report in 1940, he found the overall situation of Canadian government libraries unchanged. An example he gave was of the Library of Parliament which held an estimated 500,000 titles so poorly arranged and catalogued that the collection was almost useless.

The Canadian Library Association (CLA), founded in 1946, began to address some problems through its Government

Reference Libraries Committee. In 1948 it recommended government publications be distributed and collected in an organized manner and training of future library staff include government documents.

Improvements among government libraries accelerated with the general post-war expansion. In 1953 CLA worked with the new National Library to make government libraries a priority.

The 1950s marked a decade of significant gain for the departmental libraries within federal and provincial governments. In the late 1940s, 51 such libraries existed at the federal level, most in Ottawa. Of the larger libraries, the Department of Agriculture, the Dominion Bureau of Statistics and the National Research Council, each held more than 50,000 volumes and reported substantial loans. Roughly one-third of staff had formal library training.

By 1956 the number of departmental libraries had increased to 109 at the federal level. Fifty-seven of these federal libraries were located in the National Capital Region, nine others in Ontario and the rest spread across Canada as branches of Agriculture Canada and the Department of Fisheries and Oceans.

In 1968 the highly specialized nature of some federal libraries was recognized in a survey undertaken by National Librarian W. Kaye Lamb and Chief Librarian of the National Science Library Jack E. Brown. They designated as "stand alone" libraries those of the departments of Agriculture, Labour, National Health and Welfare and National Defence, as well as those of agencies such as the Geological Survey, the National Gallery of Canada, the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, the National Museum, the Public Archives and the Supreme Court.

"Stand alone" status acknowledged the size, professional specificity and authority of these collections, circumstances that led Lamb and Brown to recommend the National Library avoid duplicating the collecting activities of these libraries. With highly trained staff, they contrasted with the work-a-day collection held by other departments and agencies which were

"textbooks, manuals and handbooks."

Many struggled for recognition within their departments. Lamb and Brown declared, "We feel that it is essential the librarian should be in close contact with officials at the policy-making level."

Libraries continued to expand in the 1970s with additions such as those in the offices of the Solicitor General and the Auditor General. In 1974 a survey by the NLC identified many problems concerning services, staffing and infrastructure. The problems stemmed from small budgets and low staffing (apart from scientific research libraries which were much appreciated by their departments).

In the end, 157 recommendations were made for greater integration among government libraries, noting the NLC had the statutory authority to co-ordinate federal library services. This led to the NLC establishing the Council of Federal Libraries (CFL) in 1976 with the goals of improving the use of federal library resources, advising the national librarian on matters related to library services and access to information within the federal government and promoting co-ordination and professional development among federal library staff. Co-ordinated through the NLC, resource sharing enabled hundreds of libraries to function more economically and improve client services (Goodman).

The NLC had been the de facto leader of the federal government library community since 1969 and was the best place to create a home for their shared services and professional development. The NLC did not just create the CFL. It spoke on behalf of all libraries in Canada and made the case for continued funding and expansion. As did the CFL, the NLC also pushed back on the tsunami of stories relegating the library world into the dustbin as the growth of the Internet giant replaced professionals with easy-to-use keyboard answers. This was a time where cost cutters would blithely state libraries could be closed and the funds put into technology and nothing would be lost in the transition. It was a time for true

Continued on page 10

Continued from page 9

professionals to stand up and guard their resources.

The CFL had the role of federal government library co-ordination and leadership and advised the NLC accordingly. It co-ordinated joint ventures with NLC guidance and support and offered a forum for the discussion of federal library, information and information technology policies, programs and procedures to inform the federal government.

Another NLC initiative was the creation of the Canadian Book Exchange Centre (CBEC) in 1973. A resource-sharing service, CBEC was a redistribution centre, a clearing house that arranged for the exchange of publications deemed surplus by one library but needed by another. Material "weeded" from one collection could find a home in another.

By 2002 there were almost 300 federal government libraries. Many had agreements to co-operate on technologies such as catalogues and interlibrary loans and even reference services.

CFL set up a consortium to offer discounts on information products and services, especially for electronic databases, journals and ebook accounts, to federal government member libraries. This meant library budgets could be stretched out a bit more, offering a good look for the library in house. The idea of a virtual library gained traction. Rather than every library negotiating its own contract with the publishers, they could sign on to a pre-negotiated deal and in some cases share access to the same intranet pages, a time

and money saver.

The CFL supported the clustering of libraries by subject or mandate. Several libraries that worked in a legal milieu would work together to share best practices, knowledge tools and information services without the need for overlap. They could specialize in one area and then share services in a broader legal area. The same worked for scientific departmental libraries.

Within them, many federal departments and agencies have a number of libraries which are networked formally. For example, a central or lead library often has functional authority over all libraries within a given department. Or it may have direct authority for the staff and budgets. In addition, federal librarians have always relied heavily on informal networking and sharing arrangements which they create themselves within and across departments or agencies. There are many types of informal arrangements. Catalogue information sharing, material borrowing, referral between libraries to get questions answered, and information sharing on professional topics are some examples. In depth collecting in specialized areas has continued despite price increases and static acquisitions budgets, through reducing collection building in peripheral areas. Scanning and other electronic-based means have given libraries the ability to acquire materials quickly for clients on a request basis.

The federal government libraries offered the best of both worlds, virtual electronic, internet-based sources (with

some education and usage tools added) and the knowledge of professional librarians to sort through the tonnage of in-house and external information. The libraries became increasingly adept at what was becoming known as knowledge management for their departments.

They proved their worth and survived into the new millennium having shown not every information project needed an IT solution. The NLC foresight was borne out by the success of federal libraries in departments and agencies across Canada.

Part 2 will appear in the fall issue.

Ross Gordon was director of information management at Environment and Climate Change Canada prior to retirement and now does historical research. ■

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A Brief History of Library Conferences: Looking Back at the First Meetings of ALA and OLA

By Michael White

Which came first, the librarian or the library conference?

It depends on how you define a librarian. Prior to the late 19th century, the occupation of librarian required no professional training or credentials. With education or experience in a variety of fields, librarians were people who learned or invented librarianship on the job (i.e. scholars, journalists, teachers, booksellers, publishers, antiquarians and

professionals). Occasionally, they would meet to share ideas and discuss common problems. This brief history of library conferences looks at how they have changed over time.

Professional conferences have played a key role in the development of librarianship for more than 150 years. In fact, one could argue modern librarianship arose out of conferences. In 1876, 103 librarians met in Philadelphia at a Convention of Librarians and

established the American Library Association (ALA), the first professional organization for librarians. A decade later in 1887, Melvil Dewey, librarian of Columbia University and one of ALA's founding members, welcomed the first class of 20 students to his new School of Library Economy, the first professional training program for librarians.

Within a few years, library schools, associations and conferences proliferated

Continued on page 11

Continued from page 10

around the world at the local, regional and national level. In Canada, the first library association was the Ontario Library Association (OLA), founded in 1900. As librarianship became more professional and specialized in the late 1890s and early 1900s, new library associations, each with its own conference, appeared (i.e., Medical Library Association (MLA) in 1898, American Law Library Association (AALL) in 1906, Special Libraries Association (SLA) in 1909, and ALA's Agricultural Libraries Section in 1911).

Library conferences were key to the development of librarianship because they met several critical needs. First, they allowed librarians to discuss common problems, debate ideas, and share research and best practices. Association business meetings and the election of new officers were usually conducted at conferences. Conferences also promoted professional networking and informal information sharing (i.e., gossip). Many conferences offered continuing education programs, which was important when library schools were few and far between. Finally, conferences often included exhibitions where vendors and publishers could display their latest books, supplies, furniture and equipment.

Library conferences have evolved over the years. Until the early 2000s, conferences were strictly in-person affairs. Attending a national or international conference often required traveling great distances and spending a week or more away from home and work. This could be a barrier to librarians working in smaller libraries. When I worked in my hometown public library in the early 1990s, the director, assistant director and children's librarian would take turns going to ALA. Today, many library conferences and meetings are completely online or offer attendees a hybrid option. Librarians can participate in conferences from the comfort of their home, office or even cottage.

The cost of attending conferences has always been a challenge for some librarians, especially those working for employers who provide little professional development support. In the past 20 years conferences have

become more expensive. Registration fees for more specialized conferences are now approaching \$1,000 USD. Travel and lodging costs have also increased. Conferences are an important source of revenue for library associations, especially in recent years as membership has declined.

What were library conferences like 150 years ago? Let's consider ALA and OLA.

The first ALA meeting was held Oct. 4 to 6, 1876, during the Centennial Exposition in Philadelphia. The host was the Historical Society of Pennsylvania. The meeting was relatively small compared to more recent ALA conferences. The attendees included 103 librarians, 90 men and 13 women, many of whom would shape librarianship well into the 20th century (i.e., Melvil Dewey, William Frederick Poole, Charles Ammi Cutter and Ainsworth Rand Spofford). The conference was free, and attendees could take advantage of the special Centennial train fares.

At the first session, officers were elected. The first ALA president was Justin Winsor, head of the Boston Public Library and later Harvard Library. Winsor served as ALA president until 1885 and for a few months in 1897.

Eleven papers were presented on topics such as the preservation of pamphlets, sizes of books, relations between librarians and readers, copyright and libraries, popular objections to public libraries and the qualifications of librarians. The latter paper was presented by Lloyd P. Smith of the Philadelphia Library Company. Smith argued that a librarian should have a "natural love of books" and be a "devourer of literature" from early youth. His ideal librarian was a "walking catalogue" and "living cyclopedia." He acknowledged librarians have no time to read in the library. Instead, Smith encouraged librarians to spend their evenings reading to "keep abreast of the literature of the day and wisely select the more important books for purchase." This advice is certainly familiar to many current librarians who have spent evenings flipping or scrolling through publisher catalogues.

Several publishers attended the

meeting but did not exhibit their wares. Instead, attendees could peruse books at vendor exhibits and national pavilions at the Centennial Exposition. After the final session on Friday morning, attendees toured the library of the recently completed Masonic Temple on Broad Street. The conference concluded Friday evening with a reception and dinner in the historical society. The first ALA conference was a resounding professional and social success, *Library Journal* noting, "The friendships made or renewed, the meeting especially of old friends who till now have never got nearer than the three-cent postage-stamp, made the Conference one of hearts as well as heads".

The first OLA meeting was held in the spring of 1901. The year before, in 1900, ALA held its annual conference at McGill University in Montréal. This was the first time ALA had met in Canada. The success of the conference inspired some of the Canadian attendees, nine librarians from six libraries in Ontario and Québec, to propose the formation of a Canadian Library Association. At an informal meeting in the office of C.H. Gould, McGill's librarian, a committee was formed to organize the new association. A few months later, however, the committee abandoned the idea of a national association in favour of establishing an Ontario association. A draft constitution was drawn up, provisional officers appointed and a date selected for the first meeting. The decision to organize an association in Ontario may have been influenced by the large number of libraries in the province. In 1900, there were about 439 Ontario libraries holding 1.2 million volumes with a combined annual circulation of 2.5 million. In comparison, Québec had 41 libraries with 670,000 volumes. The rest of Canada had 27 libraries with 215,000 volumes.

OLA met for the first time April 8 to 9, 1901, in the Normal School in Toronto. The 33 attendees, the Originals, included representatives from two dozen public, college and university libraries. At least two women attended, Florence White of McMaster University and Lois Saunders of Queen's University. The

Continued on page 12

Continued from page 11

constitution was approved, committees appointed and officers elected. The first president was James Bain, Jr., Toronto Public Library chief librarian.



James Bain, Jr.
Photo credit:
Toronto Public
Library

The program was organized into three sessions. Nine papers were presented on topics relating to small libraries, Canadian history and poetry, traveling libraries and projects of interest to OLA. At the second session on Monday evening, James Bain and John Miller, deputy minister of education, gave addresses. Letters of

congratulations from Henry James Carr, president of ALA, and Melvil Dewey, director of the New York State Library, were read. Susie Frances Harrison, a well-known novelist, poet and music composer commonly known by her pen name, Seranus, presented a paper entitled “The Influence of Scenery on Character.”

During the final session Tuesday morning, an interesting discussion took place concerning the treatment of library patrons suffering from “infectious diseases,” especially tuberculosis. Mr. R. Neilson of Ayr, Ontario asked if such patrons could be banned from the library. James Bain replied that studies conducted by the ALA and British Library Association found almost no evidence that diseases could be transmitted by books. R.J. Blackwell of the London Public Library also noted there was no legal basis for prohibiting ill patients from using the library. Of course, this is an issue with

which librarians still grapple.

The proceedings do not mention social activities such as receptions or dinners. However, it’s likely some of the attendees may have dined together. There were no organized library tours or exhibits.

Michael White will continue researching professional development in librarianship. His article about OLA and ALA conferences during WWI and WWII will appear in the Fall 2026 *ELAN* issue. ■

For more information on early ALA and OLA conferences, see the following sources.

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How and Why I Became a Librarian

By Mary McConnell

Over the stone bridge, past the Shakespearean Gardens and the Perth County Courthouse, across St. Andrew Street, through the heavy front door, and up the creaking oak staircase to the children’s department of the Stratford Public Library.

I made this trip countless times – on my own – in the 1950s and 60s. Once there, I would select a pile of books for Miss Henderson to check out with her pencil dater. Remember those? Back then, I didn’t have a burning desire to become a librarian. That came later.

I completed a BA in French and English at York University, followed by a year at Shaw’s Business College where I learned more marketable skills such as typing and speedwriting. After working in an insurance office for two years, I applied to Dalhousie’s library school in 1975. Although I did meet the qualifications, all the non-Maritime spots had already been filled for the next academic year. By then, I was convinced that I wanted to work in a library, so I sent a general inquiry to York University and was invited to an interview for a position in the Scott Library serials

department. While I was there, a vacancy opened up in the cataloguing department. Was I interested? Within minutes, I was sitting across from three cataloguing librarians who reviewed my resumé and questioned me about my education and work experience. They referred to Elsie (LC) and Mark (MARC) several times when describing the position, and I remember wondering who these people were. Despite my unfamiliarity with library terminology, I was hired.

When I started working at Scott Library, we were still using manual typewriters to type up 3x5 cards. When I left 13 years later, we were cataloguing in an integrated library system. I remember being asked by the department head to experiment with online cataloguing using the University of Toronto Library Automation System (UTLAS) because I could “type quickly and had common sense.” When the library purchased the NOTIS system, I was pleased to be selected as a member of the planning and implementation task force. I found the operations management and staff training aspects of

the process so engaging that I enrolled in the MBA program at York, focusing on organizational behaviour.

After graduation, I realized you can take the woman out of the library, but you can’t take the library out of the woman. So off I headed to the Faculty of Information at UofT where I specialized in technical services.

In 1995, I accepted a term cataloguer position at the University of Regina and relocated my family to Saskatchewan. After one year, I was appointed Head of Cataloguing and Processing Services, a position that I held until 2000. Then I moved to the University of Calgary for a similar role, but with responsibility for five times the number of staff. In 2004, I transferred to library administration where my responsibilities included the overall management of finance and human resources, the co-ordination of strategic planning and operational analysis and deputizing for the vice provost.

Administration turned out to be a good fit, and I stayed there until my 2018 retirement, sometimes taking on

Continued on page 13

Continued from page 12

secondments as an acting department or branch head when the incumbent was on leave or the position was being recruited. During this time, I filled seven interim assignments and worked in 12 offices in eight buildings. Having the opportunity to work directly with different staff groups across the organization was very rewarding. Although my administrative responsibilities didn't vary significantly, my position title changed five times. If I had been at liberty to choose a title to best describe my organizational role, I would have chosen the one that I once came across in a classified ad — Chief

Simplicity Officer.

Most of my library career took place back of house, which suited me just fine. There was, however, one notable exception when I co-curated an exhibition in the Nickle Arts Museum: *Editions and Impressions: Collectors and their Love of the Works of L. M. Montgomery*. Twenty years later, in the fall of 2025, I revisited this experience when I was invited to speak to an undergraduate English class studying the works and legacy of Montgomery.

Recently, I rediscovered an article written by my great-grand-aunt, Agnes

Helen Fairbairn (1864 – 1964). She worked in the Redpath Library at McGill before moving to Toronto in 1907 to be an assistant to Hugh Langton, University Librarian at UofT. Her publication *Library Work for Canadian Girls* was part of the East and West series (May 2, 1914, p 141). I particularly enjoy this comment: “In library work, as in most other occupations, the sense of humour need not lie dormant. Indeed, it will help you many times to make a little joke of what might otherwise be a vexation.” ■

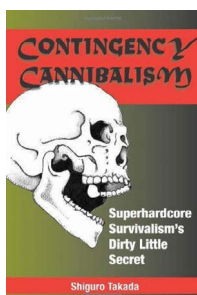
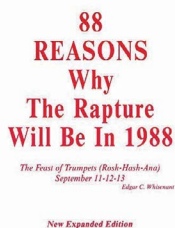
Odd Books Out

Compiled by Leslie McGrath

A short selection from the librarians' blog Awful Library Books

about their weeds:

88 Reasons Why the Rapture Could be in 1988 (1988) – The contributor notes it “somehow managed to remain in the stacks until 2022.”



Contingency Cannibalism (1999) – was found in the “survival and wilderness” section.

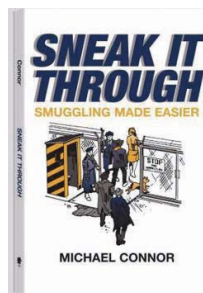
Mind and Vision: a handbook for the cure of imperfect sight without glasses, 7th ed. (1972) –

Describes how perfect vision may be achieved by staring into the sun, eyes shut. The contributing librarian's post, published in 2023, called it “a wonderful example as to why we need to weed our health sections regularly.”

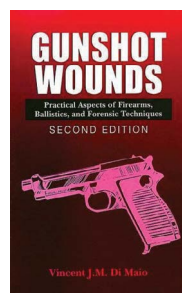


The 100 Deadliest Karate Moves (1982) – The sample provided, in the “front snap to lower back,” your adversary may experience a “broken back, bruised

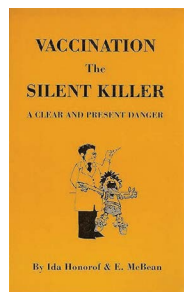
kidneys and extreme pain ... result: may be permanently crippled... [so get] medical attention immediately,” p.14.



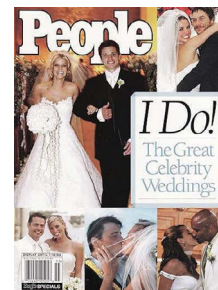
Sneak it Through: Smuggling Made Easier (1984) – “You name it, weapons, controlled substances, oranges ... you can sneak it through” (jacket copy). A companion volume to *Duty Free*.



Vaccination the Silent Killer: a clear and present danger (1977) – Part of a large influx of COVID-19 era donations. The book “was rushed into production to stave off another polio vaccination disaster which is now being planned.” From the preface.



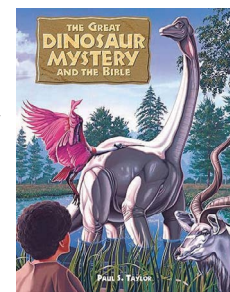
Gunshot Wounds, 2nd ed. (1999) – contains more than 400 pages of graphic images. This book was found on the shelves of “a little rural public library.”



I Do: the Great Celebrity Weddings (2005) – A “fun” celebrity topic, but the posting librarian calls it unsuitable for library purchase because such information

becomes “dated so fast.”

The Great Dinosaur Mystery and the Bible (1989) – Classified as juvenile nonfiction, this book shows a biblical character, possibly Adam, “lovingly petting the little Parasaurolophus” (according to the librarian), and small, young dinosaurs trooping onto the ark, the text explaining “it would have been foolish to fill up the space ... with the oldest, biggest adults...” (p. 32).



Leslie McGrath worked at TPL as a children's librarian and a branch head for 10 years and senior department head of the Osborne Collection of Early Children's Books for 23 years. ■

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<https://awfullibrarybooks.com/>.



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SPECIAL ANNIVERSARY ISSUE

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IN NEW WAYS TO ACHIEVE OUR GOALS.

Thank you to John Warrener who designed the 40th ELA anniversary logo.



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SPECIAL ANNIVERSARY ISSUE

2026



Getting together for an in-person library tour in Ottawa in 2007.



ELA exhibiting and speaking at the OLA Super Conference in 2008 and 2009.



The 2008 and 2015 award winners receiving the W. Kaye Lamb Award.



Members across the country continue to get involved as seen at tours in 2012 and 2024.

Treasures of British Libraries: The Portico Library, Manchester

By Guy Robertson

“When a man is tired of London,” said Dr. Samuel Johnson to Boswell, “he is tired of life; for there is in London all that life can afford.”

This is not strictly true. After all, if a man, or a woman, or anyone else were tired of London, they might simply need a break from its heavy traffic or its high prices or the lack of free tables in the British Library’s café. They might also want to investigate 19th century library history, which could inspire them to take a train to Manchester and visit the Portico Library, in the building it has occupied since it opened in 1806.

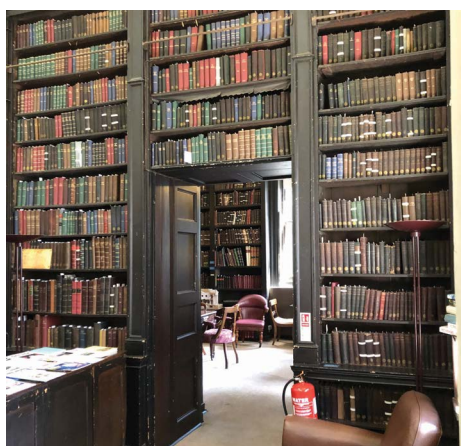


Photo Credits: Guy Robertson

Designed by Georgian architect Thomas Harrison (1744-1829) in the Greek Revival style, the Portico retains its original dignity in a modern and bustling city centre. Its development relied on 400 subscriptions from local businessmen who wanted a well-appointed and comfortable repository for newspapers and what they called Polite Literature, the subject heading that appears over the shelves on two walls. In fact, the term refers to what the Georgian middle class found pleasurable to read, rather than doctrinal or morally instructive. Under that subject heading, one finds titles of novels and poetry, natural history, theology, mythology, philosophy and the occult.

Early library members included Peter Mark Roget (1779-1869), author of the first English thesaurus, and John Dalton (1766-1844), who conceived the modern atomic theory and contributed to stoichiometric chemistry. While her

husband served as the Portico’s chair, author Elizabeth Gaskell (1810-1865) was permitted to use the collection for entertainment as well as research purposes. She borrowed novels by Dickens, Scott and Charlotte Bronte, as well as biographies and histories. Until 1870 and the passage of the Married Women’s Property Act, only men were allowed to become members — too late for Elizabeth. But other women were allowed to sign up and take advantage of the collection which had become one of Manchester’s main cultural hubs.

In 2017, the Portico became a registered charity. It prides itself on its programs for diverse communities and local artists. Noted for special events and exhibitions, it also offers the Portico Prize, a biannual award for a book that demonstrates “the spirit of the North [of England].” To support children’s literacy, it distributes the prestigious Portico Sadie Massey Awards.

What attracts many visitors to the Portico is its collection of more than 25,000 books, most published during the 19th century. First editions of Elizabeth Gaskell’s novels including *North and South*, *Cranford* and *Mary Barton* are popular with researchers, as is Samuel Ringgold Ward’s *Autobiography*. Born in 1817 to a family of slaves in Maryland, Ward escaped with his parents to New Jersey and New York. Eventually he became a prominent abolitionist and travelled widely to share his ideas. In his *Autobiography*, he describes his time in Manchester and surrounding communities in the 1850s and might have personally donated a copy to the Portico.

Other noteworthy works in the collection include Giovanni Battista Belzoni’s *Plates Illustrative of the Researches and Operations of G. Belzoni in Egypt and Nubia* (1822), an attractive elephant folio that contains etchings and hand-coloured lithographs of ancient Egyptian antiquities and artworks; Henry de Laspee’s exhaustively illustrated *Calisthenics; or the elements of bodily culture* (1856); and, of special interest to lexicographers, Kwong Ki Chui’s *A dictionary on English phrases with*

illustrative sentences: to which are added some English proverbs and a selection of Chinese proverbs and maxims ... (1881). Published before the 19th century but nonetheless popular with researchers are a 4th edition (1688) of Milton’s *Paradise Lost* and James Cook’s *A voyage towards the South Pole, and round the world* (1777). These books are useful not only for research purposes but also for informative exhibitions.

Visitors note that the Portico is one of the more comfortable libraries in which to browse or sit and read. It lacks hard chairs and bright signage. It is quiet. The wooden shelves — tall and dark — seem to welcome the examination of their contents, and the librarians appear out of nowhere to help visitors reach desired volumes. But many Mancunians also recommend the Portico Kitchen, the restaurant which usually offers a free table and an excellent menu. If he were around to edify us with his wisdom, Dr. Johnson would recommend the fish chowder, and rightly so.



The Portico Library, 57 Mosley Street, Manchester, M2 3HY. Free entry to all.

Guy Robertson is an instructor at Langara College, teaching library history, reference services, and records management. He is a disaster planning consultant and the author of five books on library and archival topics. ■

Canadian Federation of Library Associations/ Fédération canadienne des associations de bibliothèques (CFLA-FCAB)

By Todd Kyle



Under the leadership of its board as well as Executive Director Margaret Law, CFLA-FCAB continued the transition away from standing committees

on intellectual freedom, copyright, Indigenous matters, climate action and cataloguing and metadata standards to a series of time-limited task forces. The initial three task forces approved are:

- Understanding the legislation about hate literature;
- Recruitment of Indigenous people into librarianship;
- Copyright and artificial intelligence.

Continuing the important work on copyright, CFLA-FCAB and CARL-ABRC (the Canadian Association of Research Libraries) released a new guide for members called *Accessible Content: A Guide to the Canadian Copyright Act on Searching for*

Accessible Formats and Producing and Distributing Alternate Formats. This guide provides a clear, practical overview of the laws governing access to and use of copyrighted materials for people with perceptual disabilities in Canada. It covers how these laws are applied, offers a checklist of requirements, shares best practices and provides practical advice for everyday situations. The guide also includes recommendations on eliminating barriers to access and a glossary of relevant terms.

CFLA-FCAB is also moving ahead with several significant partnering initiatives at the national level, ensuring a library voice in important Canadian issues. These include Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC), the Canadian Daisy Consortium and Public Safety Canada's Centre for Community Engagement and Prevention of Violence.

The CFLA-FCAB Intellectual Freedom Award was awarded this year to two people: Dick Ellis and Toni

Samek. Dick Ellis was known for his intellectual freedom work with both the CLA and CFLA-FCAB and was instrumental in organizing the national survey of challenged materials in libraries that formed the basis of the Centre for Free Expression's Canadian Library Challenges Database (see Awards p 23); sadly, he passed away in December 2025 (see Obit p 24). Toni Samek was recognized for her work in ensuring intellectual freedom is taught in Canadian library graduate programs as well as her frequent publication, advocacy and speaking engagements on intellectual freedom for both library and academic audiences.

Finally, the federation has redesigned and revamped its website, which can be viewed at www.cfla-fcab.ca.

Todd Kyle is CEO at the Brampton Public Library. He was CFLA-FCAB Chair for 2021. ■

Upcoming Events

ELA Library Tour

Art Gallery of Ontario, Library and Archives, Toronto, May 1, 2026

Watch for the report in the Fall 2026 issue of *ELAN*.

When You Move

When you move, please remember to send your new address to Bob Henderson
66 Walkerton Drive
Markham, ON L3P 1H8,
or
bob.exlibris@gmail.com.

Let's Stay in Touch

Help us keep our email listserv current. If you are not receiving our emails, please send your new email address to Bob Henderson, bob.exlibris@gmail.com.

Perhaps you know someone who ought to be receiving our emails or someone who might want to join Ex Libris. Send that information to Bob, too. And please pay your membership dues.

News from Canadian Library/Information Studies Schools



Compiled by Judy Dunn

University of British Columbia iSchool, Library, Archival and Information Studies (SLAIS)

By Guy Robertson

The SLAIS and UBC Library became partners in December in an internship program for Indigenous MLIS and MALIS students, including those who self-identify as First Nations, Metis or Inuit. Student interns receive free tuition for one year of full-time program participation. They will also be offered part-time jobs in the **Xwi7xwa Library**, (pronounced *way-wah*) UBC's dedicated Indigenous library branch. The school announced the 2025 Continuing Awards, which are given to students who will continue their programs into 2026. Linnea Thorson won the Terry Eastwood SLAIS Award. Georgia Franklin, Kendall Wilber, Zanelle Iwen and Cath Ayres received scholarships for their academic performance. The iSchool held its **iSchool Research Day** on March 6. All iSchool students, faculty members, adjunct professors and sessional lecturers presented their contributions in various forms and media to their colleagues. The event is popular not only for its professional and technical content, but also for the opportunities it provides for socializing and meeting people involved in different fields.

University of Alberta, School of Library and Information Studies (SLIS)

By the SLIS Administration; edited by Kenneth Garipey

SLIS congratulates Dr. Toni Samek on her retirement and holds deep gratitude for her 31 years of commitment to teaching, service, and

scholarship in intellectual freedom and social responsibility. We also congratulate 12 MLIS graduates who convocated Nov. 19, 2025. We welcome Dr. C. Andersen as dean and vice-provost of the College of Social Sciences and Humanities effective Oct. 1, 2025, and new term instructors Dr. Mahdi Ganjavi, Laina Kelly, Alison Rukavina and Connie Wong. Director Dr. Kenneth Garipey continues to serve as a member of the Strategic Planning Steering Committee to help guide the development of the Faculty of Education's new plan.

Western University, Faculty of Information and Media Studies (FIMS)

By Becky Blue

FIMS was pleased to present in September 2025, the new Western Libraries-FIMS MLIS Fellowships for Black and Indigenous Students to incoming students Savannah Simon and Olivia Couchie. The award covers the cost of tuition and fees for three terms and provides two paid co-op terms with Western Libraries. It was time again in March 2026 for FIMS to welcome ALA representatives to campus for the cyclical review and MLIS re-accreditation process. The review took place March 1 to 3 and incorporated input from across our LIS community. It kicked off with a first-day reception that brought together students, faculty, alumni and professionals from Western Libraries, London Public Library and partner organizations.

University of Toronto, Faculty of Information (FI, iSchool)

By Ann Brocklehurst

FI held a Festschrift celebration for its late dean, Professor Brian Cantwell Smith, who died in September 2025, just days after his retirement. Scholars from around the world gathered to discuss Smith's contributions to artificial intelligence, philosophy and information education. Smith held UofT's Reid Hoffman Chair in Artificial

Intelligence and the Human from 2018 until his retirement. His full academic obituary can be seen on the FI website along with videos from the Festschrift. The faculty's recruitment campaign continues as it looks to replace several retirees including Professor Leslie Regan Shade for whom a retirement celebration was held in late 2025. FI Dean Javed Mostafa has been voted chair-elect of the iSchools organization. A long-term participant in iSchools, Dean Mostafa has been involved as both an independent academic member and as a dean, volunteering for key activities, providing organizational support and sponsoring iSchools conferences and events.

University of Ottawa, School of Information Studies

By André Vellino

Admissions for 2025-26 are at an all-time high for the school, with 38 first-year students. Professor Jada Watson has been appointed to the position of vice-dean of Academic Affairs and Educational Innovation in the Faculty of Arts. Dr. Kevin Kee is joining our ranks and returning to academic research and teaching after serving 10 years as Dean of the Faculty of Arts. He is also cross appointed to the Department of History. André Vellino's three-year term as chair ends in June. His sabbatical year will be focused on how to help academics master the art of collaborating with AIs when AIs become smarter than they are.

McGill University, School of Information Studies

By Peter McNally

The School of Information Studies has developed a master's program in Cybersecurity Analytics, which is currently undergoing formal review. It is anticipated that formal approval will soon be forthcoming. The school expects that in the spring it will leave its temporary quarters at 3465 Durocher St, a few blocks

Continued from page 18

east of McGill’s downtown campus, where it has been stationed for the past year, while necessary repairs and remodelling were undertaken at its home base, 3661 Peel St.

Université de Montreal, École de bibliothéconomie et des sciences de l’information (EBSI)

By Isabelle Bourgey and Martin Bélanger

Professor Clément Arsenault retired at the end of August 2025. He was hired in 2001 and served as director 2010 to 2014 and 2015 to 2017. He taught cataloguing and classification and was also known for his delicious cookies. Professor Vincent Larivière received the Acfas Thérèse Gouin-Décarie Award, an award that recognizes the excellence of his work in the social sciences and the influence of his commitment to a more open, inclusive and accessible science. He also appears once again in the rankings published by Clarivate Analytics, which lists the world’s most cited researchers in their field. Professor Dominic Forest has been appointed editor-in-chief of the journal Digital Studies/ Le champ numérique for a five-year term. Library and Archives Canada awarded Julie-Lise Simard (PhD student) and Sabrina MacGregor (MSI student) Price McIntosh bursaries. Encouraging diversity, this bursary is designed to support students whose programs of study relate to Canadian documentary heritage.

Dalhousie University, Faculty of Management, Department of Information Science (DIS)

By Philippe Mongeon and Sandra Toze

We were excited last fall to welcome our new MI students as well our inaugural PhD in DIS. Our Dalhousie Library and Information Alumni Association (DLIAA) hosted its annual Outstanding Alumni and welcome event, where **Jane Arnold (MLIS 2008)** was celebrated for the many ways in which her

work exemplifies excellence in archives and librarianship and her deep commitment to service and community engagement which has inspired many. We launched the inaugural Alan H. MacDonald Information Science Public Lecture on Nov.25, 2025, with a lecture by Dr. Anatoliy Grudz, From Prompt to Propaganda — How Generative AI Fuels Disinformation and Misinformation and What We

Must Do. Our own alumnus Lucas Maxwell (MLIS 2007) gave our 2026 Dalhousie-Horrocks National Leadership Lecture, Using Dungeons & Dragons for Well Being and Developing a Sense of Community. During this engaging virtual lecture, we honoured MI/JD student Kelti McGloin who was selected as the 2025 recipient of the Dalhousie-Horrocks National Leadership Scholarship.



Carnegie Library, Vancouver, BC

Write for ELAN

The Newsletter Committee welcomes contributions from our members. We are seeking articles, news items, and ideas that you think would be of interest to *ELAN* readers. Please submit your articles, including memoirs of your early days or important figures in librarianship, library history, your own career, and your current activities in the field. We especially need contributions to our regular feature, “Why I Became a Librarian.” For submission information, see the back page.

Publications by Members

ELAN welcomes news about books by ELA members. Send a brief description or an advertising brochure to
Frances.Davidson-Arnott@senecaretirees.ca.

News from the Provinces & the North

Atlantic News

By Penny Logan



3-D printing a liver — all in a day's work for Kara Thompson, liaison librarian at the School of Nursing and Cape Breton Medical Campus at Cape Breton University (CBU).

Part of Thompson's job is to work with the 30 students at the new Dalhousie Medical School satellite campus at CBU. Over the next four years, the medical student body will grow to 120, a significant addition to Nova Scotia's roster of doctors. The new school will get its own building soon. The students will work in the provincial health authority's Nancy Dingwall Health and Counselling Centre that will treat 10,000 patients a year.

And that 3-D printed liver? It will be used in a lesson for students who need to learn about the portal triad where the hepatic artery, portal vein and bile duct meet. Medical librarians have interesting jobs.

One of the services Cape Breton students can access is *Beyond the Books*, an online book Thompson co-authored with Amanda McNeil, senior library technician in Circulation Services and Outreach at CBU. A chapter on **Library Lingo** is a great starting point for students.

Emily Blackmore, Children's and Youth Collections and Services Librarian with the Newfoundland and Labrador Public Libraries, shares the good news that efforts are afoot to re-ignite the Newfoundland and Labrador Library Association. A group met recently and are planning a one-day conference in May. Blackmore will be taking over the Newfoundland and Labrador News with the next issue of *ELAN*. Emily is past president of APLA and brings great enthusiasm to her new role.

Terri Winchcombe, president of the Atlantic Provinces Library Association (APLA) is excited that there will be an in-person conference June 15 to 18, themed **Together We Thrive: Sustaining Libraries & Communities**

in Dartmouth, N.S. This will be the first in-person conference in several years. APLA has been actively recruiting new members both at the Nova Scotia Community College Library Technician program and at the Dalhousie MI program. In addition, there are efforts, such as the SOAR (Strengths, Opportunities, Aspirations, Results) exercise and a recent membership poll, seeking insight into APLA members' expectations of the association to give the executive a framework. Winchcombe notes that membership of APLA has been growing steadily in the past few years, and there is much enthusiasm for a return to an in-person conference.

Penny Logan worked in public and hospital libraries and retired in 2015 as manager of library services for the Nova Scotia Health Authority.

Quebec News

By Pierre Guilmette and Peter F. McNally



Association des Bibliothécaires du Québec Library Association (ABQLA) held a mini-conference, Nov. 5, 2025, as part of the multi-day conference held in Montreal by **Le Congrès des professionnel-le-s de l'information** (CPI). Conference plans for 2026 remain unclear.



Peter McNally delivered a virtual presentation — "ABQLA — Past, Present and Future" on Jan. 28, to remind the association that planning should soon begin for its 100th anniversary in 2032.

The Quebec Public Libraries Association (ABPQ) and Réseau Biblio du Québec have given Quebec public libraries an overall score of 66 percent, based on acquisitions budget, opening hours, accessibility, human resources and floor space/seating capacity. Public libraries are popular with the public but receive much less support in the regions than Montreal PL does.

Public indignation over an English-language book club being

denied access to a Montreal public library branch led city officials to reverse previous policy and instruct city employees that cultural events at municipal venues — including libraries — are not restricted to the French language. Artists and residents are free to use other languages.

The Canadian Health Libraries Association is celebrating 50 years this year at their **conference** in Quebec City.

The Centre des livres rares des bibliothèques de l'Université du Québec à Montréal (UQAM) recently acquired a significant bequest of rare and antique books. In addition to the collection assembled a few years ago (see "Quebec News," in *ELAN*, **Fall 2020**, page 13, and, **Spring 2022**, page 18), the library has acquired three new collections: about 300 titles from the Institute of Applied Arts, Montreal; about 350 titles from the Montreal Technical School; and about 300 titles from Collège Mont-Saint-Louis, Montreal.

The Maison de la littérature, part of the Quebec City library system, celebrated its 10th anniversary in 2025. The public who visit it in Old Quebec City consult a collection of some 25,000 documents, including a specialized collection of Quebec literature. It also hosts cultural activities such as exhibitions and meetings with writers and artists. Over the last 10 years, the maison has welcomed about 1,000,000 visitors and 5,000 artists. It is an environment that fosters encounters with artists and writers.

Ontario News

By Vivienne James



Library and Archives Canada completed one of its largest digitization projects (\$25 million), processing about six million federal Indian Day School records.

Beth Greenhorn, manager of the **Day Schools Project**, acknowledged this initiative's importance as a step toward reconciliation.

London Public Library (LPL) For **Black History Month**, LPL presented a Black Canadian Authors Spotlight,

offering two curated booklists (adult and children), covering a diverse range of genres and stories. Co-hosted by the London Black Heritage Council, the BHM grand finale event at Wolf Performance Hall featured multiple genre performances and delicious Black cuisine. **The Friends of LPL** presented a generous gift of \$100,000 to the library board to support value-added programs and services.

Kitchener Public Library received the **Angus Mowat Award of Excellence** for its Wellbeing and Community Connections initiative. This project is among the first in Canada to integrate social support within the library for all community members, reflecting the library's unwavering belief in the dignity of every person who enters.

Ottawa Public Library (OPL) offers youth aged nine to 18 the opportunity to become published authors through the annual **Awesome Authors Writing Contest**. Numerous writing workshops are planned to support these young writers. The **Osgoode Branch** celebrated its 100th anniversary in November with a day of activities and light refreshments. The opening of the new **Adisoke Central Library is delayed** beyond the planned mid-2026 date due to contractor issues.

The Friends of OPL recently received a grant from the Princess Warrior Charitable Fund through the Ottawa Community Foundation, dedicated to literacy and lifelong learning.

Toronto Public Library (TPL) received the Award for Innovation from the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Gaming for its AI upskilling initiative. Residents now have free access to AI tools, training and programming to help build essential skills for using artificial intelligence responsibly. Ending in December 2026, the two-year **program** was funded by Google.org's AI Opportunity Fund. In November 2026, TPL hosted an online symposium discussing innovative ways libraries uphold democracy and intellectual freedom, featuring an international panel of library leaders and highlighting how libraries build civil trust and support the freedom to read.

City Council approved **Guelph**

Public Library's (GPL) 2026 operating and capital budget, including a 16 per cent operating increase as the library prepares to move to its new central library facility at the end of 2026. A grant from **Project Winter Survival** enabled GPL and the Health Outreach Engagement team to distribute 20 winter survival kits to homeless community members ahead of the coldest night of the year Feb. 28.

Hamilton Public Library is facing a **major opioid crisis** and considered temporarily closing the central library to address safety concerns. The library remained open, recognizing its role as a shelter for people especially during the cold winter.

Western University presents a new lunchtime series at **Scholars Lab**, Weldon Library, featuring faculty discussing their latest books and highlighting new campus community scholarship.

Western Libraries' Archives and Special Collections showcased its latest acquisitions in March, including medieval manuscripts and more at the **Rare Books Open House**.

University of Windsor Archives expanded its collections to include local Caribbean history with the launch of a new project titled **From Mango to Maple**.

University of Toronto Libraries: A new exhibition opens at the Fisher Library: **Arctic Fever: Image and Narrative in North Circumpolar Voyaging of the Long Nineteenth Century**. The exhibition of items from the library's collections will run through April 24.

York University Libraries: Three Indigenous student artists have transformed the **Miinkaanensing Indigenous Reading Room** into a space embodying Indigenous identity and experience.

Vivienne James worked at TPL for more than 25 years, was branch head of Queen Saulter, St. Lawrence and Spadina Rd. libraries and was responsible for adult collection development for the Black and Caribbean Heritage Collection (Parkdale) until retiring. She is an ELA Board member.

Prairies News

By Alvin M. Schrader



Calgary Public Library won the **Library Journal 2025 Marketer of the Year Award** in recognition of its marketing and communications team for its communications

strategy following the 10-week recovery period after a cyberattack in October 2024 (first reported in *ELAN* Fall, 2025). Dubbed the Comeback Campaign, the plan rolled out in three stages: The Library Goes Analog...for Now, Making It Work and We Are Connected! Each stage focused on communicating available services, rather than the unavailable, balancing positivity with the reality of severe service disruptions. The award comes with a \$2,000 (U.S.) cash prize and was featured in the *Library Journal* October 2025 issue.

Edmonton Public Library appointed Olivia Street its **2025 Musician in Residence**, continuing its commitment to nurturing Edmonton's vibrant arts community. Street is an Edmonton-based songwriter, performer, artist manager and educator. She has four critically acclaimed albums, was nominated for Rock Artist of the Year at the 2022 Western Canadian Music Awards and was recognized among the 2023 Edmonton Music Prize top three winners. Her music has taken her to the U.K., Europe, Japan and across Canada. She teaches songwriting, music business and other courses at MacEwen University and directs the TD Music Artist in Residence Program. She has served as a juror for the JUNOs, FACTOR and the Edmonton Arts Council among others. Street will offer mentorship, skill-building, one-on-one sessions and workshops for artists looking to learn about the business of music.

University of Regina hosted the **Indigenous Storytelling program** in February 2026 in collaboration with campus partners and the Regina Public Library, featuring Saskatchewan Poet Laureate Louise Bernice Halfe (Sky Dancer), artist and author Sandra Lamouche and University of Calgary

faculty member Melanie Kloetzel.

Winnipeg Public Library has announced Ariel Gordon its 2025-2026 **Writer-in-Residence**, Oct. 1, 2025, to Apr. 30, 2026. Gordon is a Winnipeg/Treaty 1 territory-based writer, editor, author of seven books, co-ordinator of Writes of Spring, a National Poetry Month project with the Winnipeg International Writers Festival and poetry editor of *The Goose*. Gordon has been a publicist for University of Manitoba Press and the Winnipeg International Writers Festival and a copy editor for the Winnipeg Free Press. The Writer-in-Residence program is a free service for emerging and established Manitoba writers of all genres, funded by the City of Winnipeg, the Winnipeg Public Library Board, the Friends of the Winnipeg Public Library and Manitoba Sport, Culture, Heritage and Tourism.

Alvin M. Schrader is Professor Emeritus at the University of Alberta, School of Library & Information Studies.

British Columbia News

By Guy Robertson



ELA's expression of sympathy and support for the people of Tumbler Ridge and the victims of the February mass shooting appears on page 4. Five of the victims died in the local secondary

school library. This tragedy is the worst in Canadian history to have occurred in a library. ELA reaffirms its commitment to the safety of library patrons and staff and to the security of our communities.

Vancouver Public Library's Top 10 Borrowed Books of 2025. This annual list has become a valuable resource not only for librarians across Canada, but also for patrons seeking advice about what to read next. At the top of the list for adults was **Briana West's** *101 Essays That Will Change the Way You Think*. For young adults, **Sarah J. Maas's** *A Court of Thorns and Roses* was the most popular. For children, five volumes of Jeff Kinney's *Diary of a Wimpy Kid* series appeared among the top 10 titles.

In February, the **Greater Victoria Public Library (GVPL)** updated its

Reading Together resource list to help parents support the development of their children's literacy. GVPL also announced that in 2025, **Kritin Hannah's** *The Women* was the most popular print and e-book fiction, and **Rebecca Yarros's** *Onyx Storm* was the top title in audiobook borrowing. GVPL has seen a substantial increase in digital checkouts, with 2.5 million recorded in 2025. While the library will continue to promote the use of digital materials, their affordability will remain a serious concern without larger budgets.

The **Surrey Public Library** is now called **Surrey Libraries**. Recently it became the first library in Canada designated a **Certified Sustainable Library**, awarded by the Sustainable Library Certification Program. This designation is given to libraries that demonstrate leadership through their environmentally sound practices.

In February, the **North Vancouver District Public Library** continued its popular program **Mindfulness Meditation for Managing Stress and Enhancing Well-Being**. Intended for adults and especially for seniors, this program teaches participants the basics of meditation, including proper breathing techniques, mindful movement and self-compassion and mindfulness through the senses.

University of BC Library's Rare Books and Special Collections (RBSC) division offers **reading room visits by appointment**. Library staff will continue services to patrons during a construction project that will limit access to storage areas. Patrons should give RBSC advance notice regarding item retrieval, especially fragile items. Recently RBSC hosted a hands-on class for **urban forestry students**, who learned how historical records could support research into urban ecology, greenspace management, sustainability and related topics.

Fraser Valley Regional Library (FVRL) continues to offer **The Playground**, its STEAM education program, which allows young patrons to combine their studies of Science, Technology, Engineering, the Arts, and Mathematics rather than focus on these subject areas individually. The Playground includes a collection of items

that support learning, healthy lifestyles and environmental sustainability. FVRL has provided its Birdwatching Backpacks to families who sought opportunities to spend more time together outdoors. The most unusual item in the Playground collection is a bat detector, which patrons can connect to their phones through the Echo Meter Touch app. It facilitates bat detection and tracking in local neighbourhoods. Silverwing fans, take note.

News from the North

By Julie Ourom



Olympic fever attracted visitors as northern libraries partnered with CBC/Radio-Canada to **live stream** the 2026 Winter Olympics and Paralympics and cheer on Team Canada. Hay

River (NWT) Public Library's trivia contest used CBC resources. The Friends of the Iqaluit Centennial Library (ICL, NU) book club discussed Frederik Backman's poignant novel, *Beartown*, about youth hockey in a small Swedish community.

Literacy is widely promoted. ICL's weekly Munchie Mondays promotes literacy through reading challenges for kids. The **Yukon Literacy Coalition** offers programmes in Whitehorse and throughout Yukon, including Family Literacy Day. Whitehorse Public Library (WPL, YT) offers adult ESL conversation with the Multicultural Centre of the Yukon. Yellowknife Public Library (YPL, NWT) offered TAILS: Read to a Dog for kids to practice reading with a St. John Ambulance therapy dog. Hay River's (NWT) Centennial Library offered Saturday morning breakfast and cartoons with the NWT Literacy Council, and the **FOLD Reading Challenge** through the Festival of Literacy Diversity. YPL offered Kids Read Indigenous Authors kits.

Programming. Board games are popular including scrabble, Lego, chess and more at **Hay River's NWT Centennial Library**, with dominos used in a Build a Mexican Train event, and a Friday the 13th superstitious story night. WPL offers role-playing games for teens

and chess tournaments, hosted Blind Date with a Book in various locations, and hosted legal education seminars through Yukon's Public Legal Education Association. Inuvik Centennial Library (NU)'s beaded earrings workshop was fully subscribed.

Libraries aren't immune to problems faced elsewhere, as a recent [CBC article](#) describes an altercation at YPL. After a catastrophic fire destroyed the Tagish Community Library (YT) in 2025, a [mobile library](#) is helping to re-build this major community hub.

Julie Ourom was director, Yukon Public Libraries from 1990 to 2014. She previously worked at public libraries in B.C., including Kitimat and Richmond, and in Moose Jaw, Sask.

Archives News

By Susan Hart

Greetings fellow Ex Librans. Here is a wide angle view identifying three burning issues that archivists across Canada are concerned about — as evidenced in conferences, journals and discussions online and in person (sources include last June's [Association of Canadian Archivists](#) 50th anniversary conference in Ottawa and the February gathering of SCRAP, an archivists' drinking group based in Victoria, B.C.).

Vulnerable Digital Records

Nothing would reach our provincial or national archival establishments without records management and archival appraisal which entails tackling digital records and the systems in which they live. The challenges are immense. Paper records can survive decades of benign neglect, but digital

records only survive by being migrated to new systems every five or 10 years. While there is an international standard for doing this properly, it isn't widely understood or implemented. Government accountability and historical awareness are very much at risk. What will be the record of our time? This is a solvable problem, if archivists and our allies can convince bureaucracy to tackle it. Check out the encouraging resources available from the UBC-based [InterPARES Project](#) and the International Digital Preservation Coalition's very approachable [online handbook](#).

Truth and Reconciliation

Some of the most valuable work undertaken by Canadian archivists in recent decades is to help Indigenous communities uncover and catalogue terrible truths about Canada's decades of colonial history. At the forefront of this work is the [National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation Archives](#) based

at the University of Manitoba, and led by [Raymond Frogner](#), an ACA Fellow since 2020. (A sobering example of the key archival records that almost did not survive is outlined in the very moving documentary [The Pass System](#).)

Archives of Marginalized Communities

Canadian archivists today are actively working to ensure our archival holdings will better reflect the variety of cultural backgrounds, lifestyles and perspectives that exist in our communities. This movement is well reflected in our leading international journal [Archivaria](#) and in archival conference programs. Check out [UnArchived](#) — a fabulous, heartwarming NFB documentary (which won an ACA award in 2024!) available free online.

Susan Hart is a former B.C. Government archivist and has been active in the Association of Canadian Archivists and the Archives Association of British Columbia. ■

Awards to Members

ELAN includes only awards and appointments of national importance and high relevance to our members. Look for these in the news sections. A Canadian awards page is available on [ELA's website](#).

Dick Ellis was recognized posthumously with the [CFLA-FCAB Intellectual Freedom Award](#) for his ongoing commitment to CFLA-FCAB's work in the area of intellectual freedom and his previous work with the CLA Intellectual Freedom Committee.

Peter Hajnal was recognized for his significant contributions to the University of Toronto's G7 Research Group over many decades. An article detailing his achievements, *Documenting Diplomacy: Peter Hajnal and the G7 Research Group*, appears on the G7 Information Centre [website](#).

Dr. Bertrum MacDonald received a Canadian Association for Information Science (CAIS) [Career Achievement Award](#) in 2025. "In recognition of exceptional achievements as a researcher in the field of information science in Canada and internationally."

Amanda Ross-White, library scientist, Queen's Joanna Briggs Collaboration of Health Care Quality at Queen's University, was awarded the 2025 [OHLIA Outstanding Achievement Award](#) which recognizes individuals or teams who made significant and lasting contributions to health librarianship in Ontario.

Milestones



Obituaries

Compiled by Frances Davidson-Arnott and Bob Henderson

Douglas Abbott died Feb. 8, 2026, age 79, in Welland, ON. Starting at Halifax PL, he worked at the Concordia U Library for 10 years before going to U of T's Thomas Fisher Rare Book Library. Later, he was a branch head in Bowmanville before working at Welland PL for 27 years, **retiring in 2011**.

Amanda Erin Adams died Feb. 16, 2026, age 47, in North Bay, ON. MLIS (Western '09). She was law librarian, Nipissing Law Association (2009-22).

Catherine Jane Adams died Nov. 16, 2025, age 70, in Winnipeg, MB. MLS (McGill '93).

Mary Kathryn Boyle Arnold died Feb. 16, 2026, age 50, in Victoria, BC. MLIS (Dalhousie '09). A poet, her work appeared in the Fiddlehead, Antigonish Review, Lesbian Quarterly, Dalhousie Review and many others.

Arnold (Arn) Tate Bailey died Dec. 7, 2025, age 93, in Collingwood, ON. MLS (Western '71). He was head librarian at East York Collegiate, Toronto. He was an active ELA member for many years and president (2007).

John Buchanan Black died Sept. 13, 2025, age 85, in St. Andrews, Scotland. He was chief librarian at U of Guelph. His technological innovations included a CD-ROM library catalogue and early computer conferencing capability (CoSy). He was the first Canadian ARL chair. He was named Honorary Chief Librarian, Beijing Agricultural Library. Later, he became Director of Information Systems at International Red Cross, Geneva.

Bruce Donald Boland died Nov. 2, 2025, age 70, in Corner Brook, NL. He was a librarian at Corner Brook City Library and then at NL Forestry Dept. until retiring. He enjoyed researching the history of Curling and Corner Brook.

Sheila Butler died Sept. 10, 2025, age 79, in Toronto, ON. As her children grew older, she trained as a library technician and then worked for Toronto PL and York Region School Board.

William Yu-Fang Chen died July 23, 2025, age 98, in Saskatoon, SK. BLS (U of T '63). Librarian Emeritus, U of Saskatchewan, where he was a cataloguer (1967-1994).

Ann Conacher (née Randle) died Oct. 21, 2025, age 92, in Toronto, ON. Ann spent more than 50 years as a member of the Toronto Garden Club. She had retired from working on TGC's archives just recently.

Deborah Anne Marie Cormier (née Pineau) died Nov. 10, 2025, age 71, in Dartmouth, NS. She retired from the Halifax Dockyard after 30+ years working as a librarian.

Christine Dewar died Oct. 19, 2025, age 84, in Winnipeg, MB. BLS (U of A '76). As a teacher-librarian, she provided professional development for teachers, was a specialist in young adult literature and was active in the Manitoba School Library Association.

Valerie Anne Downs (née Thompson) died Jan. 19, 2026, age 84, in Toronto, ON. BLS (McGill '64). She worked at Public Archives of Canada, Library of Parliament, WesternU and Ontario Institute for Studies in Education (U of T), from where she retired and became Librarian Emerita (2009).

Janet "Jane" Evelyn Draper (née Smith) died Dec. 27, 2025, age 87, in Sherbrooke, QC. MLIS (Western '93). She operated a financial planning business and then served as a reference librarian at Bishop'sU for 24 years before her retirement (2004).

Theresa Loretto Duffy died Dec. 21, 2025, age 91, in Toronto, ON. She went on to teach high school at Senator O'Connor College for 29 years, and even found the time to earn a library degree and finish her career among the bookshelves at O'Connor.

Richard "Dick" Harold Ellis died Dec. 2, 2025, age 83, in St. John's, NL. MLS (U of Washington). Librarian Emeritus, MemorialU. After working at U of Washington and SeattleU, he came to Memorial as head of acquisitions (1971), eventually becoming university librarian (1980), a position he held for 25 years. He received many awards, including CACUL Outstanding Academic Librarianship (1999) and APLA Merit (2007). He was an active ELA member and a regular *ELAN* contributor.

Margaret Anne Ferley (née Johnson) died Dec. 28, 2025, age 77, in Ottawa, ON. She was a librarian at ConcordiaU for many years.

Anna Ruth Fiander died Feb. 9, 2026, in Halifax, NS. MLS (Dalhousie '71). She worked at Killam Library before joining Fisheries and Oceans Canada from where she retired as manager, regional libraries after 27 years. Recipient of the Queen Elizabeth II's Diamond Jubilee Medal (2012).

Patricia "Pat" Flickinger (née Biggins) died Jan. 7, 2026, age 94, in South Surrey, BC. FLA (Library Association, U.K.), BLS (U of T '63), and MLS (U of T '71). She was a travelling librarian in rural Oldham (Greater Manchester area), a reference librarian at U of Guelph for several years and then held a senior position at Capilano College.

Edwin Galipeau died Feb. 14, 2026, age 87, in Ottawa, ON. He was a librarian at Saint PaulU, cataloguing the library's unique collection.

Joan Elizabeth Gazeley (née Campbell) died July 30, 2025, age 88, in Ottawa, ON. BLS (U of Ottawa '62). At library school she excelled at cataloging. She

retired as head of the Department of Agriculture Library.

Garry Grant Gesell died Nov. 5, 2025, age 79, in Estevan, SK. BEd and BA (U of Regina), Library Technician Dipl. (Saskatchewan Institute of Applied Science and Technology). He was a librarian at S.E. Regional Library, Weyburn, and Provincial Library, Regina.

Walter Wayne Giesbrecht died March 8, 2026, age 69, in Richmond Hill, ON. MLIS (Western '88). He was a librarian at **York U** (1988–2020) and created the first YUL website. He worked with IASSIST and the Data Liberation Initiative. His interests included early internet integration, data accessibility and web design. **He mentored many.**

Robyn Guest died Oct. 2025, age 75, in Ottawa, ON. A long-time public servant with the City of Ottawa, she was pivotal in developing many projects, including Ottawa's new Central Library (Ádisöke).

Barbara Gunther died Dec. 29, 2025, age 84, in Richmond Hill, ON. BLS (U of T '65). She worked at Metro Toronto Reference Library's Languages and Literature department, retiring (1999) after more than 20 years of service.

Donald James Haugen died Nov. 6, 2025, age 76, in Brandon, MB. Library Technology Dipl. (Red River Community College). He was employed by the Province of Manitoba (1973-August 2011) until his retirement.

Patricia Lynne Henry died Oct. 18, 2025, age 75, in Orillia, ON. A library technician, she served as the librarian at the Simcoe County Law Library, Barrie, for 34 years and was an active Ontario Law Association member.

Susan Leslie Higgins (née Hallawell) died Nov. 28, 2025, age 72, in Kemptville, ON. MLS (U of T '78). She worked in Library Services for the Health Protection Branch, Ottawa, then at Kemptville PL. She then became

North Grenville PL's CEO (1992-2018), until her retirement.

Ione Patricia Hooper (née Otto) died Dec. 3, 2025, age 75, in Calgary, AB. MLS (UBC '74). She first worked at Alberta Environment. Most of her career was at U of Alberta, first in cataloguing and then in the Business and Rutherford Libraries.

Amanda Rose Horsman died Jan. 23, 2026, age 41, in Moncton, NB. MLIS (Dalhousie '08). She was a medical librarian at Université de Moncton (2010-2019), and then became **The unLibrarian**, a freelance librarian providing independent information services.

Melanie Gillian Houlden died Oct. 11, 2025, age 69, in Summerland, BC. MLS (UBC '83). She worked at Surrey PL (from 1983), becoming chief librarian (2012). She was BCLA President (2005-2006).

Françoise Caron Houle died Nov. 16, 2025, age 83, in Gatineau, QC. After studying at Laval and OttawaU, she worked for Canadian Department of Foreign Affairs and National Archives of Canada. She was a dedicated archivist.

Stephanie Danielle Jeanes died Feb. 14, 2026, age 44, in Moosejaw, SK. MLIS (U of Alberta '23). She worked in reference at Moose Jaw PL for 15 years and, from October 2024, was assistant head librarian at Palliser Regional Library.

Bonita (Bonnie) Jehu (née Trent) died Nov. 10, 2025, age 81, in Perth, ON. MLS (McGill '67). She was Blacker-Wood (Zoology) Librarian, at McGill, then head of reference in the Medical Library. She was the first CARL executive director, part-time (1984-1986). Thereafter, she was a library consultant.

Elfriede Josephine Maria Juneau died Oct. 27, 2025, age 100, in Ottawa, ON. She was a librarian at Ottawa PL for many years.

Suzanne Margaret LeBlanc died Feb. 18, 2026, age 69, in Ottawa, ON. MLS (McGill '79). She was hired by the **Bank of Canada**, Ottawa, working primarily in the library and on specific projects on metadata and digital information in the organization. The metadata standard she created is still largely used there. She retired in 2012.

Denis LeMay died Aug. 23, 2025, age 78, in Quebec City, QC. MLS. A member of the Quebec Bar, he served as senior librarian at LavalU Law Library and taught as a lecturer in the Faculty of Law (2007-2021). Among other accomplishments, as **CALL/ACBD** president, he signed the first contract to have a national office in Kingston, ON. He received the Denis Marshall Award for Excellence in Law Librarianship (2003) and was named an Honoured Member of the Canadian Association of Law Libraries (2010). He was a prolific author.

Jessica Elizabeth MacLennan died Aug. 16, 2025, age 77, in Blues' Mills, NS. MLS (Dalhousie '72). Over a long career, she worked in almost every kind of library — college, university, school and public. She was school library consultant, English Program Services, NS. Department of Education.

Elizabeth Mary Mahoney died Nov. 25, 2025, age 97, in Toronto, ON. MLS. She worked for years as the **librarian** for a Sarnia chemical company.

Ofelia Morden Marcos died Sept. 27, 2025, age 76, in St. Catharines, ON. BLS (University of the Philippines). She was a librarian at Toronto Reference Library.

Marjolaine (Marjo) Martel died Nov. 12, 2025, age 62, in Dollard-des-Ormeaux, QC. A graduate of College Maisonneuve in Montreal, she was a library technician for 35 years at St. Mary's Hospital, Montreal, retiring in November 2019.

Margaret McKay (née Hall) died Dec. 12, 2025, age 100, in Winnipeg, MB. BLS (McGill '65). She was a teacher-librarian in Winnipeg.

Isabella Christina McLeod (née Leitch) died Dec. 17, 2025, age 99, in Kingston, ON. BLS (McGill '49). She was a teacher-librarian at Loyalist Collegiate and Vocational Institute, Kingston.

Gary Allan Mitchell died Feb. 9, 2026, age 71, in Victoria, BC. MAS (UBC '85). He was deputy provincial archivist and director of the BC. Archives (1991-1998), and became provincial archivist (1998-2014), after which he was appointed Provincial Archivist Emeritus.

Vivienne Monty died Nov. 11, 2025, age 77, in Toronto, ON. MLS (U of T '73). She worked for **YorkU** Libraries for 40 years (1973-2013) in various positions and areas, including Government Documents and Administrative Studies Library, Glendon College Leslie Frost Library and Internet co-ordinator. She was CLA and CASLIS president, and SLA Toronto Chapter chair. Among her awards were SLA Librarian of the Year (1987), CACUL Outstanding Academic Librarian (1997) and CLA Outstanding Service to Librarianship (2008). She had been an ELA member for many years.

Shelagh Isabel Murray (née Swaine) died Oct. 13, 2025, age 92, in Victoria, BC. BLS (U of T '56), A librarian at YorkU's Scott Library, she helped manage the massive shift from manual to computerized cataloguing (late 1980s-early 1990s).

Brian McCullough Owens died Sept. 3, 2025, age 73, in Scotland. Master of Librarianship (U of Washington '79), PhD Archival Studies (U of London '98). Archivist Emeritus of the Leddy Library Archives & Special Collections. He worked at Alberta Provincial Archives, U of A Library, Alberta Society of Archivists, City of Calgary Archives, McGillU Archives and U of Windsor (1994), where he established the archival studies master's degree program and served as the university archivist, Archives, Rare Books and Special Collections, until retirement (2015).

Flora Elaine Patterson died Nov. 16, 2025, age 94, in Willow Beach, ON.

BLS (U of T '57). She was chief of the Serials Division and then director of the Reference Branch, NLC (early 1970s). She retired as Public Services Branch director (early 1990s). She was a member of ELA, as well as many other professional associations. See the ELA **biographies** and **memories** sections.

Luba Pendzey died Oct. 21, 2025, age 94, in Toronto, ON. MLS (U of T '72). She joined U of T's Robarts Library (1967). Specializing in bibliographic organization and Slavic studies, she ultimately became head of Slavic section, retiring in 1997. She continued to be very involved in library affairs in Eastern Europe.

Valdis Petersons died Nov. 1, 2025, age 89, in Toronto, ON. He had a lifelong career in the foreign languages section of U of T's Robarts Library, which made good use of his knowledge of multiple languages, his love of books and his appreciation of the knowledge that they recorded.

Wanda Proulx died July 26, 2025. She was a former CEO, Lanark Highlands PL, Lanark Village, ON.

Harvey Ratchford died Jan. 2026, age 64. MLIS (Western '87). He taught in the library technician program at Nova Scotia Community College (from 2001).

Norma Jean Richards died Feb. 4, 2026, age 86, in St. John's, NL. She worked in the Medical Records Department of the General Hospital before joining the Legislative Library as assistant librarian (1967), **retiring as legislative librarian** (1997). She was awarded the Canada 125 medal (1993).

Marilyn (Lyn) Saunders died Jan. 4, 2026, age 76, in Ottawa, ON. She worked as a library technician at CarletonU Library all her adult life. She served a term as Ottawa Science Fiction Society president and was co-founder of Lyngarde Writers Group of Ottawa, which produced many published authors.

Edith Wendy Scott died Dec. 29, 2025, age 79, in Toronto, ON. MLS (U of T '76). She was a librarian at Centennial College for many years.

Ann Carolyn Timpson died Sept. 11, 2025, age 82, in Europe. She briefly was a teacher in Newmarket and as an Overseas Volunteer Teacher in Taiwan. For many years she answered questions on the help line at Toronto Reference Library. She was church librarian at St. Paul's Anglican Church, Barrie, ON.

Hannah Elizabeth "Betty" Tolan (née MacLennan) died Jan. 31, 2026, age 93, in Sydney, NS. She was the children's librarian at Orillia PL (1954-1956). She lived in the United States for many years.

Jean (Miyazawa) Turnbull died Sept. 11, 2025, age 92, in Vancouver, BC. MLS (U of Washington). She was a teacher, librarian and research assistant at Selkirk College and UBC. She had been a board member of Selkirk College and Trail BC School District.

Isabel Van Lierde died Nov. 25, 2025, age 94, in Ottawa, ON. She was serials librarian, National Gallery of Canada, when she retired in 1997.

Richard Virr died Dec. 23, 2025, age 83 in Montreal, QC. After a brief period in the McGillU Archives, he joined McGillU Libraries, Rare Books and Special Collections (1984) and was chief curator (2006-2016). For many years, he taught descriptive bibliography in the McGill School of Information Studies.

Margaret G Walter (née Rainforth) died April 27, 2025, age 97, in Vancouver, BC. BLS (McGill '50). She was a librarian in Quebec, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia, and then head of adult services at West Vancouver Memorial Library, retiring in the 1980s. In retirement, she contracted her services to other libraries and a popular bookstore in Vancouver.

Cairine Mackay Wilson died Oct. 24, 2025, age 75, in Grimsby, ON. MLS (McGill '77). She held management positions at many major companies and organizations, including Mattel, Gilbeys, Rubbermaid Canada, CAA, Financial Post and EDS Canada. In the final 20 years of her career, she was vice-president, corporate citizenship at the Chartered Professional Accountants of Canada. She retired in 2017.

Mary Louise Wilson (née Barlow) died Oct. 14, 2025, age 76, in Toronto, ON. MLS (U of T '92). She was a law librarian at RBC, corporate law department library and manager of the Law Group Library. She was active in Toronto Association of Law Libraries, Canadian Association of Law Libraries and SLA Toronto Chapter.

Suseelavathy "Susili" Wilson died Oct. 8, 2025, age 97, in Toronto, ON. She qualified as a professional librarian in the U.K. Moving to New Brunswick (1972), she was a librarian at UNB. The papers she collected, safeguarded and brought out of Sri Lanka, during the 1983 pogrom, formed the foundation of the S.J.V. Chelvanayakam and A.J. Wilson archival collections at U of T Scarborough.

Roman Wasyl Zurba died Jan. 6, 2026, age 75, in Mississauga, ON. MLS (U of T '80). After graduation, he worked at Atomic Energy and then started a 30-year career at CIBC, in various library, information and learning management roles. He was the husband of Cynthea Penman, ELA secretary.

Obituaries are brief, due to space constraints. You can access a published obituary for each person by visiting the online issue of ELAN, then click on the name. The ELA website, <https://exlibris.ca/history/memories-and-tributes>, provides more information celebrating the lives of our members.



Retirements

Compiled by
Suzette Giles

Surinder Bhogal, Chief Librarian of Surrey Libraries, BC., retired in January 2026. Joining Surrey Libraries in 1999, she became deputy chief librarian in 2012 and chief librarian in 2016. She has a BSc from University of Manchester (UK) and a MLIS from University College London (UK). Julie Balenzano is Acting Chief Librarian.

Cathy Ching, Director of South Central Regional Library, MB., since 2016, retired October 2025. She had been with SCRL since 2004. In 2024 the Manitoba Library Association, in partnership with the Association of Manitoba Book Publishers, awarded SCRL its inaugural **Human Rights Book Award**. This recognized the library's stand against a push to ban children's sexual education books from the collection and defund the library. The new director is Gail Hildebrand.

Diedre Crichton retired in September 2025 after 12 years as CEO of Gananoque PL, ON. Under her leadership GPL participated in the TD Summer Reading Program for Children, coming **top in 2023**, set up a display gallery of local artists' work at the library entrance and developed resources for all ages. She has a BA from Queen's University and a MLIS from U of T. Before joining GLP, she was at Mississauga PL, Saskatoon PL and Chief Librarian and Director at Parkland Regional Library. Rachel Brown is the new CEO.

Rose Dotten, CEO of Shelburne PL, ON., retired Oct. 18, 2025 after 17 years. She has a BA from Western and a BEd and MLS. Before joining SPL, she taught at Ontario Institute of Studies in Education and helped build libraries in Bermuda, Trinidad and Belgium, followed by a stint as the librarian at U of T Schools. Upon coming to SPL, she oversaw the installation of the internet

and the development of the library website. Under her auspices, SPL won the TD Summer Reading Club in 2016 and 2019 and placed third in 2025. The new CEO is Shannon McGrady.

Dr. Susan E. Parker, University Librarian, UBC, since 2017, will retire June 30, 2026. During her time at UBC, the Library's Strategic Framework was developed, as well as work related to UBC's Inclusion Action and Indigenous Strategic Plans. Space renovations, new programmes and important acquisitions such as a Shakespeare First Folio have also occurred. Before coming to UBC, Dr. Parker held librarian positions at Tufts University, Harvard Law School, California State University, Northridge and UCLA where she was deputy university librarian for 12 years. She has an MLS Academic Librarianship from Queens College (NY) and a PhD in Industrial and Organizational Psychology from Capella University (MN).

Margie Singleton, CEO Vaughan PL, ON., for 18 years, retired March 1, 2026. She joined VPL in 2000. Margie has a BA from Queen's University and an MLS from Dalhousie University. During her tenure as CEO, not only did the number of library branches double, but the library and the board were the recipients of numerous **awards** in recognition of their outstanding achievements in many areas. These awards include Margie's designation as 2026 Ontario Champion by the Ontario Library Association, the King Charles III Coronation Medal in 2025 and the Dalhousie Library and Information Alumni Association, Outstanding Alumni Award in 2023. VPL also garnered the 2024 Canadian HR Reporter's 5-Star DE&I Employer and Best Place to Work awards and the ALA PR Xchange award in 2023 and 2024 among others. The new CEO is Lisa McDonough.

Suzette Giles held a number of positions at Ryerson University Library 1975 to 2010, and was the data librarian at retirement.

Indigenous Student Bursary Activities

By Deb Thomas



ELA's Indigenous Student Bursary has been

awarded to an Indigenous student in a program of library and information studies for the 2026 school year.

Savannah Simon, a candidate in the Masters of Library & Information Science at Western University, said, "Receiving the bursary has supported me by easing the financial burden of the high cost of living. As a graduate student in Library and Information Science, the workload is extremely heavy. Finding time to pick up a

part-time job is nearly impossible. Thankfully, the ELA's support has allowed me to devote my focus to my studies and excel in my program, stress-free of any financial burden. As a Mi'kmaw woman, I am forever grateful to have your financial support and investment in my future. Wela'lin (Thank you) (Pronounced *well-ah-lin* or *wil-lah-len*)."

This marks the third time the bursary has been awarded. The \$2,500 bursary was created in 2023. In 2025, we expanded the possible pool of recipients to students in education programs intending to graduate with qualifications to be teacher/school librarians. We are thankful for Indspire's considerable assistance

in finding eligible candidates for the bursary and determining the appropriate recipient.

We are aware that this modest bursary does not cover a significant portion of the increasing costs students face to complete their degree. But it is certainly appreciated assistance. Our goal is to eventually have a bigger fund to offer a larger bursary. To accomplish that, more sponsors are needed. Library Bound has continued its generous annual gift of \$500. The remainder is made up of generous donations from ELA members and others in the library community.

More information on the bursary and how to donate can be found on our [website](#). ■

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