



**ELAN**

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Ex Libris Association Newsletter

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**Albert Campbell Library Tour**

By Carmen Königsreuther Socknat



September 26, 2024, proved to be a beautiful day, both weatherwise and librarywise, as our small group of Ex Librans was treated to a warm welcome from the Adult Services librarian and his colleagues, and a walk through this award-winning TPL Scarborough branch. Built in 1970, it was closed in 2019 for renovations. It reopened in 2022, full of natural light, open spaces, and marvelously undulating wooden ceilings that seem to pull in the user to explore and enjoy the surroundings. And this large library is certainly all about community involvement and connection! We began with the indigenous-plant garden at the entrance, alongside an Indigenous artist's colourful mural that continues into the library's children's section. There we found a tactile early-literacy centre with a pollinator theme mirroring the garden. Further along, we saw a striking collage entitled I am Scarborough, a joint community and library project completed in 2023 as part of the Artists in the Library residency program, in which more than 70 community members contributed self-portraits. Creative learning opportunities abound for users in the Digital Innovation Hub that includes 3-D printers, robotics, virtual reality, high-definition video cameras, and a green screen. There are many quiet

reading areas, including the green roof and reading terrace, and also bookable spaces for collaboration. The branch has a wide variety of programming for children, teens, and adults, and it was evident from our visit that it has quickly become woven into the fabric of community life.

Our field trip concluded with a delicious lunch at Mama's Boys Burgers, nearby.

Vivienne James is to be congratulated on another well-planned and enjoyable outing; it was worth the drive to Scarborough!

**Carmen Königsreuther Socknat** is an ELA member, having retired in 2022 after 38 years in academic libraries. ■

**Upcoming ELA Events**

**May 15, 2025**

Tour to Stratford, Ontario:  
Stratford PL and a play — *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels*

**May 27, 2025**

**Michael Dudley** presents a webinar on the importance of curating our collections and speaking events — with plurality always in mind.

## Outgoing President's Report

By Deb Thomas



It has been an honour to serve as ELA president — with an active and engaged board — for the past three years. With confidence, I passed on the role to President-Elect David Harvie at the March 4th AGM, when we also welcomed three new board members — Sally Press, Carole Moore, and Elizabeth Ridler (returning).

I am proud of what we have accomplished, including offering educational webinars on various topics,

launching our Indigenous-Student Bursary in 2023 and awarding it to two students, awarding the W. Kaye Lamb Award to deserving library programs, adding more entries to our growing biography database, offering tours of interesting libraries, attending major Canadian library conferences, and beginning the process of organizing and digitizing our archives — all while continuing our longstanding objective of sharing information and encouraging discussion about issues of the day in library and archival fields.

In this issue you will find a review of

our fall webinar and a notice about an upcoming webinar, an article about our latest tour, an update on our Indigenous-Student Bursary, and a note on our W. Kaye Lamb Award — as well as book reviews and updates on our colleagues recognizing retirements, awards, and deaths.

I will continue on the board as past president, and look forward to more great things from ELA!

*Deb Thomas recently retired from a 40-plus-year career in libraries, 30 years in public library management. ■*

## Incoming President's Report

By David Harvie



As a relatively new ELA member and the newest board member, I am surprised and honoured to find myself elected as the new president. I have agreed to take on this responsibility with the support and guidance of the board, committees, and membership. I am reassured by the energy and dedication of the members that I've observed during my time on the board.

A debt of thanks is owed to Deb Thomas, now past-president, for all

of her hard work during her tenure. I look forward to her calm insights and quiet advice into the workings of ELA and the library sector in Canada.

While I don't presently have any grand vision for ELA, I do plan to watch and consider how the organization may evolve and direct its energies, as we continue to move into uncharted and unparalleled times of political and social change. It is said that the future is all around us, waiting in moments of transition, to be born in moments of revelation. No one knows the shape of that future or

where it will take us. I only know that as librarians and archivists we are prepared to meet it, choose to make a difference, and make it better.

If there was ever a time for us to raise our voices in support of our professional ideals and values, it will be in the coming years. I hope you will join me.

*David Harvie is a recently retired public librarian with a background in library automation, digital literacy, and administration. ■*

## ELA Education Committee

By Deb Thomas

For the past few years, ELA's Education Committee has organized webinars and talks on topics ranging from disaster responses for libraries, human impacts of cyberattacks, Indigenous librarianship, intellectual freedom, and Ontario Carnegie libraries.

The committee attempts to present a variety of issues and perspectives, and we are interested in hearing your suggestions for topics of interest to you — and any presenters you wish to recommend. Please contact committee chair **Todd Kyle** or committee member, Deb Thomas, with ideas.

## Welcome to New ELA Members

*We're proud to welcome these new ELA members:*

Bob Gibson, Wakefield, QC  
 Dan Henderson, Markham, ON  
 Liz Kerr, Hampton, ON  
 Anita Brooks Kirkland, Waterloo, ON  
 Christine Middlemas, Richmond, BC  
 Julie Spurrell, New Westminster, BC

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

By Todd Kyle



**C**FLA-FCAB held its third national forum as part of the OLA Super Conference on January 29. Highlights included a panel discussion on

the opportunities and challenges for library associations in the future, an overview of CFLA-FCAB's federal advocacy strategy, and an update on the work of some of the federation's strategic committees.

CFLA-FCAB has been hard at work implementing the key actions from its new strategic plan.

Updates on these actions are as follows.

- **Communication and Member-Engagement Strategy:** Anne

Bailey Communications completed the strategy, and Focus Communications is contracted to implement it. The first priority is the redevelopment of CFLA-FCAB's website and the development of a refreshed brand for the federation.

- **Advocacy Strategy:** Government-relations consultant, Impact Public Affairs, drafted this strategy that focuses on the federal funding need for libraries as social-infrastructure key components.
- **Governance Review:** To ensure the federation's sustainability and viability, CFLA-FCAB has engaged Dr. Margaret Law to complete an organizational review.

The Copyright Committee continues

to be active. In particular, the Working Group on Accessibility is close to finalizing a guide on Accessible Content: A Guide to the *Copyright Act of Canada* in Searching for Accessible Formats and Producing and Distributing Alternate Formats. The Climate-Action Committee has also been successful in securing funding from Environment and Climate Change Canada to develop a climate-action literacy tool kit for libraries.

Michael / Michelle Rogowski, CFLA-FCAB's office co-ordinator, has left the organization. The board thanks them for their dedication and service. CFLA-FCAB is currently establishing processes to support its administrative needs going forward.

*ELA is a CFLA-FCAB member.*

*Todd Kyle is CEO, Brampton Public Library. He was 2021 CFLA-FCAB chair. ■*

## Welcome to new ELA Board Members 2025 as members-at-large

**C**arole Moore joined the University of Toronto Libraries (UTL) in 1968, when Ontario libraries began to be known worldwide for their progressive development in collections, services, and new technology. At UTL, Carole has served in reference, cataloguing, and technical services, and as chief university librarian for 25 years, retiring in 2011. She has a continuing interest in supporting collaborative efforts to make our culture more accessible through digital technology.

**Sally (Dayton) Press**, was born and grew up in Harare, Zimbabwe, studied at the University of Cape Town (UCT) from 1972 to 1975 (BA English and French, post-graduate program in librarianship). She worked as map librarian at the

University of Zimbabwe for two years. Back in Cape Town, she worked in the UCT Cataloguing Department, then moved into the Special Libraries sector to set up a technical library at the first South African nuclear power station. In 1988 Sally and her family moved to Canada where she worked at the Ontario Ministry of Energy Information Resource Centre. Other positions in the GTA included setting up a technical library for the Canadian Plastics Institute, working as an information specialist with the Canadian Health Network, setting up technical libraries for engineering companies (MMM Group and Coffey Geotechnics), and working at Seneca College Library. She also worked on various contracts including the Canada Ontario Export Forum, with

Maggie Weaver. Sally and her husband retired to Kingston, Ont., in 2019.

**Elizabeth Ridler** started her career as a teacher-librarian in a high school in Pembroke, Ont. She then received an MLIS from Western University. After running the Lakeland Library Region in northern Saskatchewan, she moved to New York City's Brooklyn Public Library as a branch manager. Elizabeth served three terms as councillor-at-large in the American Library Association. She has served on judging panels for Crime Writers of Canada. Retiring to Toronto in 2011, she has been an ELA board member-at-large, vice-president, president, and past-president, and was a judge of the W. Kaye Lamb Award. ■



## ELA at OLA



Liz and John Warrener at the ELA booth, OLA Super Conference, January 2025

## Indigenous-Student Bursary Committee Report

By Deb Thomas



The Bursary Committee (Deb Thomas, Lorisia MacLeod, Tom

Eadie, and Bob Henderson) is pleased to report that the \$2,500 bursary has been awarded to a second recipient — a graduate student in the Master of Information program at U of T. She has asked that no further personal details be shared in our bursary promotions, but sent us this brief testimonial: “Receiving this bursary has significantly eased the financial burden of my studies, allowing me to dedicate more time and energy to my academic and professional goals. This support has been valuable in helping me to remain focused on achieving success in my program.”

Last year’s bursary recipient William Fayant, who is studying to be a library technician, recently sent us a letter of thanks in which he wrote, “Working toward this degree is just the first step

for me, however, as I would like to eventually continue my studies with a master’s in Library Science, after completing my degree and gaining first-hand library work experience. It is thanks to your generosity that I am now able to successfully take these initial, but significant steps toward my life goal.”

**Indspire** continues to manage the bursary awarding for ELA, as it is better able to determine financial need and Indigenous status.

**Library Bound** has continued its generous support of the bursary with another \$500 donation. It has also helped promote the bursary by including our flyers and bookmarks at its library-conference booths. The remainder of the annual budget (\$2,500 bursary + \$300 Indspire administration fee) is raised through generous donations by ELA membership and the library community.

We continue to seek additional sponsors and donors. If you can suggest potential sponsors, please contact committee chair **Deb Thomas**. ■

## W. Kaye Lamb Award

By Christina Wilson

**L**ibraries across Canada deliver award-worthy programs and services that benefit seniors and deserve recognition. ELA recognizes these efforts with the W. Kaye Lamb Award, presented every other year.

The call for applicants will be issued this spring and the winner announced this fall. The W. Kaye Lamb Award Committee requests members’ help in seeking out worthy candidates among the Canadian libraries that you visit and use.

So, if you know of a library delivering excellent service to seniors, through a program, services, procedure, or even a building design, please let us know!

For more information, contact Committee Chair **Christina Wilson**. Learn more, including examples of past award winners, at the awards page on the *Ex Libris* [website](#).

**Christina Wilson**, recently retired as CEO, Red Deer PL, has worked for public and post-secondary libraries in Ontario and Alberta. ■



Prepared for:



# Cyberattack at Toronto Public Library (TPL) — Imagine!

By Julia Schneider

Imagine you have a library with millions of items, without a readily accessible record of them or a way to check them out. Then multiply this library by 100 in the system, which itself is the biggest in North America, even bigger than New York City's. And then realize you need to deal with this yourself, because the monetary demands on TPL by the cybercriminals who have made this nightmare a reality are out of this world, and paying is also against library policy.

On Saturday, October 28, 2023, Moe Hosseini-Ara, TPL's director of Branch Operations and Customer Experience, didn't have to imagine this scenario; he lived it. He also survived the year that followed and lived to tell 27 ELA members on Zoom all about it on November 15, 2024, little more than a year after that dreadful day.



**Moe Hosseini-Ara, TPL's director of Branch Operations and Customer Experience**

Firstly, the ransom was rejected out-of-hand. No ill-gotten gains for criminals were involved; recovery was all done in-library.

What had to be done? A lot!

- The computer backup had to be duplicated for check-out, with a heightened level of security.
- The catalogue had to be up and running (taking four months).
- Five thousand computers in 102 locations needed to be cleared and restarted.
- All 850,000 items that had been checked out manually, while the above steps were taken, had to be put on a spreadsheet and checked out.

What and who was involved?

- A deployment of 15 trailers held the books and records.
- The immense efforts of what Hosseini-Ara termed the "incredibly service-oriented TPL staff" were made.
- Three management levels participated, including the Cyber Response Leadership Team, the Library Operations Centre, and the Management Response Team (responsible for communications across the many different levels of staff).
- Legal firms versed in dealing with cybercrime, were required, because "there is a lot of legality and liability around this," according to Hosseini-Ara.

"It is a source of pride," he says, "that we never shut down for a single day." After a year, only the libraries' photocopying operations were not fully operational.

What was the public response to the attack? At the beginning, Hosseini-Ara says, the public expressed a lack of understanding as to why recovery took so long. Over time this changed to gratitude for everyone's work to restore full access to the collections.

Likewise, the media was initially critical but changed their tune. After several negative responses at the beginning, later reviews admired the major feat TPL accomplished.

Nowadays Hosseini-Ara knows more about cyberattacks than he ever wanted to know. Unfortunately, he says, once you've experienced one, it is like seeing a red car; they are everywhere, and no one is immune.

**Julia Schneider** (B.Ed. Queens; M.L.S. Western '75; MA 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 a member of the ELA board. ■

The electronic version of this article has been corrected for the date of the Zoom presentation.



**TPL trailers**  
Photo credits: Toronto Public Library

## 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](mailto:bob.exlibris@gmail.com).

## Corrections to ELAN

Any corrections to this issue have been/will be made to the digital issues on our website.

## Techology Unmasked! Social Media

By Stan Orlov



Over the past six months, major social media platforms have undergone significant changes. Facebook and Instagram, both owned by Meta, have relaxed content-moderation policies by reducing reliance on third-party **fact-checkers**. While this policy shift encourages free expression, it may also allow misinformation to spread more easily. Meanwhile X (formerly Twitter) has seen further polarization, as minimal moderation and paid verification cause many moderate users to leave in favour of alternatives such as **Bluesky**, which emphasize decentralized

and thoughtful conversation.

TikTok faces severe challenges, after a recent U.S. law threatened to ban the app unless its Chinese owner meets new security measures. Although enforcement has been temporarily postponed, the uncertainty is forcing creators and users to seek other short-video platforms, further fragmenting audiences.

Recent changes in social media have led libraries to rethink how they connect with their communities. Although libraries have always been present online, the fast-changing digital scene has encouraged them to tailor their messages more carefully. Now many libraries are juggling accounts on different platforms: Facebook for

older patrons, Instagram and TikTok for younger users, and even new spaces such as Bluesky for professionals and niche groups. This flexible, community-focused approach helps libraries share news, events, and resources in a way that suits each audience, even as the online world becomes more varied and unpredictable. See: <https://www.slideshare.net/slideshow/public-library-social-media-in-a-post-twitter-world/273337853>.

Please send your questions and comments to [stan.orlov@msvu.ca](mailto:stan.orlov@msvu.ca).

*Stanislav Orlov is Systems Librarian at Mount Saint Vincent University in Halifax. ■*

## Save Our School Libraries

By Julia Schneider

“I know I’m preaching to the choir,” Ontario Library Association (OLA) Executive Director Michelle Arbuckle told ELA members on Zoom, March 4, 2025, before she and fellow OLA staffer, Lily Kwoh, began their Save Our School Libraries presentation. The two have made the same presentation to many audiences since the threat to school libraries emerged last April. That was when the Ontario Ministry of Education eliminated protected funding for school libraries, under its Core Education Funding Mode (CEFM) — throwing libraries into a precarious state. Now funds previously dedicated to school libraries can be used for anything from textbooks to erasers, while accredited school librarians can face layoffs or reassignment.

OLA and the 1,300 members of its affiliate, the Ontario School Librarians Association (OSLA), vehemently oppose this change and have been doing their utmost to bring it to public attention in a campaign aimed at the general public, parents, and the media. At a time when the government is showing great interest in STEM and literacy test scores, Arbuckle is quick to point out, it is contradictory to cut back its greatest resource, the school library.

“School librarians are the champions of literacy,” she says, and “a properly staffed library is a classroom geared to success.” Arbuckle says many parents of young children assume their kids have a school library, believe every school should have one, and are surprised to hear that isn’t the case — in fact, even in 2017 only 52 percent did.

Before the election, OLA had voiced its concern to Education Minister Jill Dunlop; with Ford’s re-election, it will continue lobbying to update the CEFM, with the creation of a sub-allocation for school libraries, to fully protect this funding and restore annual reporting and accountability.

What can the public do to make their voice heard?

- Sign the OLA petition.
- Get a digital tool kit (for use on social media).
- Stand for school-board election (the strategy now being used by right-wing pro-censorship advocates).

ELA members engaged Arbuckle in a lively Q & A after her talk. Sam Coghlan commented that, at a time when Premier Ford constantly stresses the economy, the best way to bolster our economy is by ensuring school graduates are literate and able to think for themselves on the job, and the school library is best suited to help them achieve that.

Elizabeth Ridler, a former American Library Association councillor-at-large, drew on that and her school-library experience to caution against censorship in libraries and advised the Ontario

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School Library Association to partner with teachers' groups to oppose cuts.

Visit the ELA website to find the PowerPoint **presentation of this webinar.** ■



## How and Why I Became a Librarian

By Jami van Haften

I first became aware of libraries when we lived in Bruce Mines, Ont. My mother, Catharine McAdam, was asked to set up the town's library. The town began to use a former Presbyterian church as a museum in the early 1960s with one or two rooms allocated to the library. I still recognize that space today.



**Bruce Mines Museum**  
Photo credit: Jami van Haften

Mom solicited book donations from friends and neighbours. She told me that her first step was to contact Kay Climie and Katherine Punch at the Sault Ste. Marie Public Library to ask for help. After they connected her to a regional library service, a rotating collection of books regularly supplemented what was already on offer.

My most traumatic library moment was when I borrowed *Bambi* and my mother's fox terrier ate it. That was probably a traumatic moment for both of us, now that I think about it.

We moved from Bruce Mines to the Sault in 1964. My next library memory is visiting the Carnegie Library on Queen Street. I remember the staircase, because the children's books were on the third floor. The building had beautiful wood panelling, and I remember the sun



**Kay Climie**  
Photo credit: Sault Ste. Marie Public Library Archives

shining through the windows; everything glowed. Little did I know that, within five years, I would be a library page!

In 1968 Katherine Punch hired me, and she is the reason I became a librarian. I remember that first interview, unlike any other interview since. She knew who I was, and she had already decided I was hired. From that day forward, she was my mentor. The city had received federal funding to build a new main branch as its Centennial project. We had outgrown the old Carnegie library, and Mrs. Punch's brother-in-law, Mayor James L. McIntyre, and his council recognized the need for a new building.

It was a magical time to work in the new Centennial Library. I loved the job, but, like many librarians I have met, it was not my planned career path. I thought I was headed into a journalism



**Katherine Punch**  
Photo credit: Sault Ste. Marie Public Library Archives

career, helped by the fact that my family owned the local newspaper. Sadly, by the time I graduated from university, we had sold the family business. I still have the journalism bug, and that parallel of librarianship and journalism followed me throughout my life wherever I lived.

During Mrs. Punch's career, she wrote articles for the local newspaper, national magazines, and professional journals. In 1978 she received the Ontario Library Trustees Award for Outstanding Librarian. At her retirement in 1981, she was lauded for her contribution as an information and local-history specialist. I had observed first-hand her work to singlehandedly index the *Sault Star*. She spent hours and hours scrolling through microfilm reels and typing catalogue cards to create a local history index. The last summer I worked at the library, Mrs. Punch dropped boxes of newspaper clippings in front of me and asked me to sort the articles into categories and topics. Those binders are still in the local history collection today. She and I shared a passion for local history.

I worked in the MacOdrum Library at Carleton University during my

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undergrad years. After graduate school (M.L.I.S., University of Michigan, '79), I worked in the federal government (Ottawa, 1979–1981), a school (Red Lake, Ont., (1981–1982), Sport Information (Ottawa, 1982) and college libraries (Belleville, Ont., 1989–1994). My husband, Steve, worked with the Ontario Geological Survey. By the time I landed my last job in Sudbury in 1995, in a medical library this time, I knew my degree was my ticket to any job I wanted.

Each job was a step in my learning process. My first job in the Finance/Treasury Board Library was a series of contracts in the cataloguing department. Developing project management skills, I was exposed to the DOBIS cataloguing

system and that early exposure to online cataloguing was prescient.

The Loyalist College job was perfectly timed, too, because I was at home with two young children, and used the Saturday hours to keep my hand in. I was already attending night school at Loyalist to learn DBase, DOS, and the Internet. I discovered databases on CD-ROM. During the interview, I think Ron Boyce was more interested in learning how to pronounce Aberystwyth (where I had gone to summer school) than anything else!

Later my boss at the Cancer Centre joked I was hired because I wasn't related to anyone in the building, and I used the word "Internet" more than once and

seemed to know what it meant! The first Internet connection in the hospital was in my office, using a modem, in the days before Netscape and Windows.

As a volunteer, I took on leadership roles with Friends of Canadian Libraries (1998–2016). I retired in 2014, and moved home to the Sault. I am on the Library Board, the Municipal Heritage Committee, and the Historic Sites Board. I am a member of the Ontario Library Service Board Assembly for my population group and served on the Ontario Library Service Board, when OLS-North and SOLS merged (2021–2024). ■

## McGill University Library: An Historical Overview

By Peter F. McNally

The history of the McGill University Library can be organized into five distinct periods.

### Beginnings: Medical Library

Established by Royal Charter in 1821, McGill began teaching in 1829, when the Montreal Medical Institution became the university's medical school. From its foundation in 1823, the institution had a library, housed in professors' residences and offices (Martha Benjamin. *The McGill Medical Library, 1829–1929*. MLS thesis, McGill University Library School, 1960). See the article by Amanda Ross-White, in this issue, page 10 for more on this library's history.

### Librarians: 1843–1893

With the opening of the Arts Building and creation of the Faculty of Arts in 1843, a library began operating under the direction of a librarian who was also a professor. The principal's office housed the library until 1862, when it was moved into the west wing of the Arts Building. By 1893 it contained 35,000 volumes.

### University Librarians — 1892–1964

Redpath Library opened in 1893, with an addition in 1901, both of which were funded by Peter and Grace Redpath, who also provided financial support for and donations of



Postcard of Redpath Library McGill University ca. 1908

Image credit: McGill University Archives

outstanding collections.

The first university librarian, Charles Gould (1892–1919), was a leading Canadian librarian of his day — introducing Canada's first library-education program, helping initiate Canadian library associations, and establishing the first interlibrary-loan procedures. Gerhard Lomer (1920–1947) supervised construction of the library's 1921 addition, and converted the library school into a graduate program. Richard Pennington (1947–1964) supervised the 1952 extension and published a literary hoax, *Peterley Harvest*.

During these years, campus libraries proliferated and a highly decentralized library system emerged. The authority of the university librarian outside Redpath Library was uncertain. The Great Depression of the 1930s and the

Second World War limited collection growth. Even so, benefactions permitted specialized research collection growth.

### Directors of Libraries: 1964–2010

Burgeoning enrolment and research activity led McGill to create the position of director of libraries, with authority over all university libraries, as a first step toward their reorganization. Of the eight directors, three were women — including Marianne Scott who would later serve as national librarian of Canada.

In 1969/1970 McGill opened a new main library complex — McLennan Library — and a gutted and reconfigured Redpath Library. New medical and law libraries opened, and other libraries modernized. In 1965 a Department of Rare Books and Special Collections was created.

The impact of information technology and shifting financial support resulted in McGill Library staff declining significantly between 1970 and 2000; librarians were reduced from 90 to 59, library assistants from 310 to 159. In the 1970s McGill librarians received (non-professorial) academic status.

### Deans of Libraries: 2010–

Growing appreciation of the library's

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academic mission saw two women with earned doctorates successively leading the McGill Library and receiving the title of dean. Major preoccupations during these years included furthering electronic-technology projects, strengthening collections, and consolidating libraries. Between 1970 and 2020, the number of libraries at McGill declined from 22 to 9.

Developing a new main library has proven difficult. The reconfiguration of the McLennan-Redpath complex, "Fiat Lux," was indefinitely postponed in 2024 for political/financial reasons. A collection-storage facility in Valleyfield, south-east of Montreal, opened in 2023.

*This brief overview reflects the author's extensive writing on this topic in various publications.*

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



Reading room, Redpath Library (Redpath Hall) ca. 1893  
Photo credit: McGill University Archives

## 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 ELA members for publication in *ELAN*. Please submit your articles on items of interest to our members, including your memoirs of 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.

## Donate to ELA

Would you like us to extend our programming? A donation or bequest to ELA helps us broaden and increase our activities. All donations are tax deductible. To enhance recruitment, we offer a GIFT MEMBERSHIP option, whereby a current member can make a \$10 tax-deductible donation for each individual and, in return, be able to invite someone to join ELA for a one-year free trial membership. You can use this donation/gift option as often as you like.

Options for donations include cheque, CanadaHelps, and e-transfer. Please mail your cheque to Bob Henderson, 66 Walkerton Drive, Markham ON L3P 1H8. If you prefer to donate through e-transfer, please email Bob at [bob.exlibris@gmail.com](mailto:bob.exlibris@gmail.com).

This article is the first in a series of histories of special libraries in Canada.

## A Very Brief History of Medical and Health Libraries in Canada

By Amanda Ross-White

In March 2024 the **College of Physicians and Surgeons of British Columbia** (CPSBC) decided to close its medical library, one of the oldest in the country. Just a week prior, the Canadian Agency for Drugs and Technology in Health (now **Canada's Drug Agency**) laid off half of its library staff. These decisions sent shock waves through Canada's small medical-library community and has prompted many to ask about medical libraries. What are they? Who do they serve?

Being librarians, we need to start with a terminology clarification. The terms 'medical library' and 'health library' are often used interchangeably although in Canada, since the founding of the **Canadian Health Libraries Association / Association des Bibliothèques de la Santé du Canada** (CHLA-ABSC) in 1976, we have generally preferred the term 'health library.' This choice is out of a deep desire to ensure health libraries are welcome and open to all health professionals and, even in some cases, patients. Historically the first medical libraries were often physicians' private collections and were closed to nurses, pharmacists, dentists, physiotherapists, and any of the other numerous health-care professionals who might be in need of medical information. Choosing the term 'health library' intentionally includes these groups. Founded in 1904, the CPSBC Library was an example of a private library open only to its physician members.

The Medical Library Association, headquartered in Chicago, uses 'medical library' in its name, reflecting its much older history. It was founded in 1898 and, ironically, two of its founders were Canadians — **Margaret Ridley Charlton** a librarian, and Sir William Osler, a physician. Today health librarians and libraries can be found in a variety of settings where health information is needed, from Canada's 17 (soon to be 19) medical schools, most larger hospitals, public-health agencies,

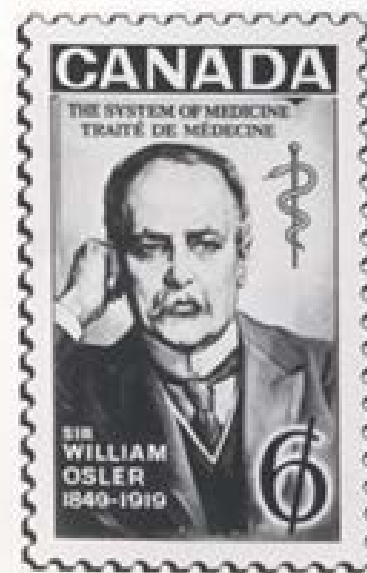


**Margaret Charlton**

Photo credit: National Library of Medicine

government agencies, and non-profits. Health libraries, at least in cases where physical materials are kept, almost always catalogue their materials using NLM Classification, rather than LCC or DDC more commonly found in public libraries.

While McGill University's Osler Library is one of the premier libraries in the history of medicine — not just here in Canada, but globally — its founding in 1929 was relatively late. There are much earlier historical records of medical libraries in Canada. The Halifax Garrison Medical Library was founded in 1817, and contained an estimated 500 books and 18 periodicals including subscriptions to *The Lancet* and the *Edinburgh Medical and Surgical Journal*. It may have burned down in 1866, along with the army hospital, in November of that year, or may have merged with the more general Halifax Garrison Library prior to that date, the records are unclear. Hôtel Dieu hospital's apothecary library, in Quebec City, appears to have opened earlier, with the first record of a donation in 1782. Over



**Sir William Osler postage stamp**

Photo credit: McGill University Archives

the next century, multiple physicians donated their personal collections to the library so that, by 1900, it contained 180 volumes. Descriptions of the earlier incarnations of the McGill Library include one by a former student in 1925: "entering the old Côté Street building, the museum was on the right side of the passage and the library on the left." With the move to McGill, "the old building in Côté Street was sold and in 1872 we moved to our own college building where the Biological building now is. The new building was very commodious compared to the old one in Côté Street, but it was roughly finished, the walls being all plain brick with no plaster. The library was well furnished by the dean, Dr. George W. Campbell, and the museum was much improved and more spacious, as was the dissecting room." In 1823 the McGill Library precursor was founded at the Montreal General Hospital. Margaret Ridley Charlton was librarian at McGill, from 1895 to 1914. She was the first trained librarian to take the role, and is believed to have studied under Dewey during a summer course

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**Osler Library, undated**  
Photo credit: McGill University Archives

at Amherst College. Her decision to help create the MLA stemmed largely from her dissatisfaction with ALA, as “their problems are not our problems” (quoted by later MLA president Marcia Noyes). In addition to having separate organizations for professionals, she was adamant that the libraries themselves be separate. Writing to a colleague on July 25, 1898, she states, “I am very much opposed to [the] idea of medical libraries in public libraries and strongly maintain that medical libraries should be housed by themselves.”

Most Canadian medical libraries developed along with the explosion of scientific information and investment in higher education in the postwar period. In some cases, new libraries were built just for scientific and medical information, such as the Sigmund Samuel Library (now named the Gerstein Science Information Centre) at the University of Toronto in the 1950s. Queen’s University built a new medical library in 1978. Some, like University of Western Ontario, had separate medical libraries, but later merged — as mentioned in the *Bibliotheca Medica Canadiana* — in 1979. In this light, some of the threats health libraries

faced have come from other libraries. In academic libraries, some universities, such as Western, have merged their respective disciplinary libraries into one library. Another threat comes from the desire to eliminate liaison roles in academic libraries, so positions are interchangeable, making it more difficult to forge strong relationships with faculty and build unique skills in serving medical and health professionals. Hospital libraries face constant budget-cut threats, particularly when politicians insist they never cut ‘front-line staff,’ which can lead to bad publicity, but are more than content to cut administrative positions, which is less newsworthy. In hospitals that have formal partnerships with universities, it can also be challenging to insist on a hospital library when doctors have access to the university library through their adjunct status. Even today, many hospital funders have a hard time understanding that it isn’t just doctors who need access to current, accurate scientific information.

As someone who started their career as a public librarian, and as someone married to an academic librarian in another discipline, I see health libraries and librarianship as unique. Much like

Margaret Ridley Charlton, I understand why these libraries and the organizations that serve them have separate roles and serve very different patrons. Hospital librarians often go on rounds with doctors, responding to their information needs in real time. As they discuss the patient before them, a hospital librarian can provide information to the health-care team immediately. I have delivered training on how to search databases to perfusionists in the heart-lung room, while they are monitoring a patient undergoing heart-lung surgery. My nursing students regularly need assistance in finding images of assorted skin diseases for presentations, and I need to both help with copyright concerns and ensure the image is sufficiently “NSFW.” In health libraries, there is no image classified as Not Safe For Work! And I am often mindful of the costs of providing information directly, versus teaching patrons to find it themselves. When an anesthesiologist makes \$750,000 per year, it isn’t really a good use of scarce resources to have them learn to fill out an ILL form.

However, not everything about health libraries is distinct. The reference question, and the skills learned about how to find out the real information need, are as vital as in any other library. The cost of maintaining the collection seems to be ever spiralling upward, with no end in sight. Even the building may not be unique. Next September, when Canada’s newest medical library opens at Toronto Metropolitan University’s Brampton campus, it will be housed in the same building in which I started my career: Brampton PL’s old Chinguacousy Branch.

As our national organization, the CHLA-ABSC, celebrates its 50th anniversary next year, we hope you’ll join us in the celebration! For more about the organization, and what we do, visit our [website](#).

**Amanda Ross-White**, MLIS, AHIP, is the nursing librarian at Queen’s University Library, where she has been since 2004. She is also current president of CHLA-ABSC. ■



## Treasures of British Libraries: The Tate Britain Library and Archive

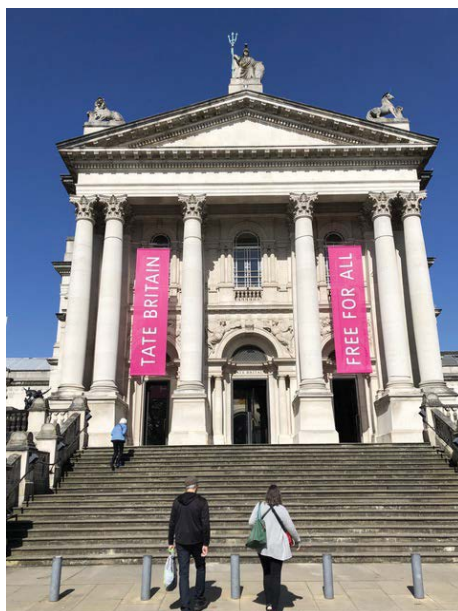
By Guy Robertson

Recently, at London's Tate Britain Gallery, a mysterious and beautiful woman appeared in a stunning off-the-shoulder black dress. Nobody knew her. She caused an immediate stir. When people saw her, she turned away without speaking. Everyone called her "Madame X" and, eager to find out more about her, curious gallerygoers turned up at the Tate's Library and Archive.



**Portrait of Madame X**  
Photo credits: Guy Robertson

Reference librarians revealed the woman was the subject of a portrait, entitled *Madame X*, by John Singer Sargent. In fact, her name was Madame Virginie Amélie Avegno Gautreau. Born in Louisiana in 1859, she married a French banker twice her age and scandalized Paris with her undeniable beauty and infidelities. During her life on and off canvas, she captivated and always will captivate anyone who sees her. She has sent countless art history students to libraries, where they have consulted various sources that discuss Sargent's portrait, which he completed in 1884. Usually it is on display at New York's Metropolitan Museum of Art (The Met), but occasionally *Madame X* travels to different galleries for the purpose of entrancing a broader public. Hence, it landed in London and, for weeks, she



**The library's front facade (above) and interior (below right)**

drew large crowds of admirers, many of whom ended up with racing pulses at the Tate Library's reference desk.

Happy is any student or gallery visitor who consults the resources at the library, the holdings of which comprise more than half a million publications on British art since 1500, and on art from other countries and epochs since 1900. Especially popular are books, journals, and electronic materials on art movements and specific artists.

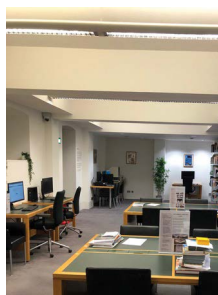
"While I wanted works on Sargent's life and career, I was mostly interested in the library's ephemera," says Kelly, a Nova Scotian graduate student who is writing her doctoral dissertation on the social history of art exhibitions. She delights in examining items that are most often discarded and forgotten: posters, handbills, brochures, invitations, and calling cards. "These can be important historical artifacts. To me, they tell stories that don't appear in the standard histories. In a sense they're priceless rubbish." While she began her research by examining the library's 19th-century exhibition catalogues, lately she finds herself gravitating toward more modern material, such as artists' photobooks and zines.

"Of course I spend a lot of time on the Tate's public records," says Kelly.

"That's a fine source of information on the Tate's exhibitions going back to the 1890s and right up to the development of new facilities in Liverpool, St. Ives, and the Tate Modern on Bankside, which is a brief bus ride from the Tate Britain. I'm interested in finding out more about the Tate's activities during and after the Second World War."

Kelly plans to delve into the Tate Archive whenever she has time. There, she can study the personal papers of artists, including their correspondence and sketchbooks. She will also discover recordings of various modern artists, as well as their miscellaneous photographs, including images of their installations. As she carries out her research, she will take advantage of the Tate's Scan and Send service that is free for those conducting non-commercial research and private study, within the limits of current copyright laws.

As for Madame X's portrait? Having taken her admirers from the Tate's exhibition gallery to the Library and Archive, it has returned to New York, where it entrances Met visitors. But Tate



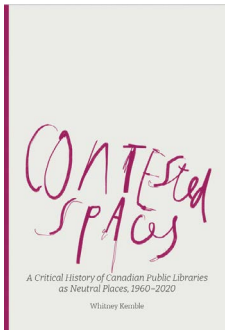
Library patrons will continue to ask about *Madame X* and, no matter how much information they glean from various sources, she will remain enchanting and mysterious. John Singer Sargent

considered her portrait his best work, and those who see it cannot deny its subject's charm, which she bears on the most elegant shoulders of the later 19th century.

First-time visitors to the Tate Library and Archive must register for a Reader account. For full information, visit the [library's website](#).

*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. ■*

## Book Reviews Edited by Frances Davidson-Arnott



***Contested Spaces: A Critical History of Canadian Public Libraries as Neutral Places, 1960–2020***  
By Whitney Kemble  
Litwin Books & Library Juice Press, 2024

Reviewed by Lorne D. Bruce

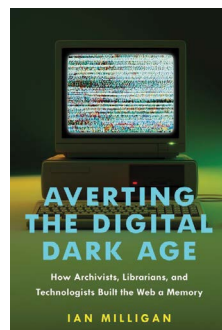
Whitney Kemble, a librarian at U of T Scarborough, has contributed this important work in the growing field of ‘critical librarianship,’ about the vexed issue of ‘library neutrality’ in public library–event bookings from 1960 to 2020. She has identified 33 controversial events held in Canadian public libraries, using various resources such as contemporary newspaper articles. Although eight gatherings were cancelled, the majority took place. There are too many episodes to discuss in this short review, but *ELAN* readers will likely remember Mississauga PL’s cancellation of its 1978 screening for *The Naked Civil Servant*, a BBC film about a man’s gay lifestyle that was ‘ahead of its time,’ at least for the library. More recently Meghan Murphy’s 2019 presentation on gender identity at Toronto PL’s Palmerston branch, sparking notable opposition from LGBTQ2S+ organizations, took place and highlighted different perspectives on TPL’s intellectual-freedom policy.

What do we learn from these Canadian experiences? Defining neutrality in a liberal democracy is difficult — in *Contested Spaces*, we find references to ideas such as impartiality, absence of bias, equality and equity of treatment, tolerance, even-handedness, objectivity, and indifference. Since the 1960s, librarians have been divided on the issue of attempting to embrace neutrality or foster social responsibility in a community context. The traditional stance supposes the public library uncritically dispenses information or avoids inappropriate influence or improper advice through intellectual

freedom and event policies. But of course, on certain societal values — such as literacy, racism, or social justice for disenfranchised minorities — libraries cannot be value-neutral. Indeed, the author concludes, “the values of safety, inclusion, and diversity regularly are trumped by the values of intellectual-freedom and freedom of expression in libraries” (page 130). After the growth of New Public Administration theories (seldom referenced in library works) in the U.S., during the 1960s, public managers at all levels emphasized social equity rather than social equality. Equity recognizes that different levels of support for persons or groups must be provided to achieve *fairness* in service outcomes. Equality seeks to treat people in the *same way* regarding opportunities or rights, with less regard for their needs or differences. The two ideas overlap, but there is a difference between practising ‘fairness’ and ‘sameness.’

Neutrality is still a recognized value in library work because it espouses tolerance and accommodation to people and groups with different ideas and goals. However, Kemble’s criticisms in her well-researched monograph stand out in a Canadian context and make us consider whether our current policies that uphold neutrality are adequate or a fruitless ethical search. Her publisher, Litwin Books & Library Juice, is known for its academic quality, and this book is a valuable addition to the debate on neutrality in a liberal democratic society.

*Lorne Bruce was a librarian at the University of Guelph until retiring in 2012. He previously worked in two smaller Ontario public libraries.*



***Averting The Digital Dark Age***  
By Ian Milligan  
Johns Hopkins University Press, 2024

Reviewed by David I. Harvie

*Averting the Digital Dark Age* explores the rapid

shift of how affluent Western countries confronted the fear of a digital dark age. Milligan demonstrates how a culmination of processes and decisions — particularly around legal deposit and copyright — and events such as the terrorist attacks of 9/11, created the over-abundance of digital historical records we possess today. The book demonstrates how decisions made by librarians, archivists and others, in response to this challenge, have had far-reaching implications to today’s web archiving and digital preservation landscape.

By following a series of individuals — such as information scholar Margaret Hedstrom, Microsoft executive Nathan Myhrvold, science fiction writer Bruce Sterling, Internet Archives founder Brewster Kahle, and organizations such as The Long Now Foundation and national libraries — Milligan demonstrates how a web memory was created. He points out that the main challenges presented to archivists and librarians were not — surprisingly — technological, but were, rather, organizational in nature.

Milligan concludes his work by stating that, while the digital dark age was largely averted by 2001, a digital dark-age fear still persists. Despite the Internet Archive establishment and national library programs, the question remains how sustainable their holdings will be over the long term. Without active investment, digital content disappears. The widespread preservation age also presents new questions of data privacy and the ‘right to be forgotten.’ Milligan argues that the value of a society-wide ‘right to be remembered’ outweighs, in general, the value of an individual’s right to be forgotten.

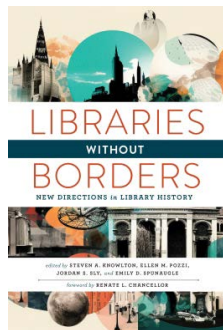
“The web naturally forgets,” Milligan concludes, “and it’s up to us to help it remember.”

*David Harvie, MLS, is a recently retired public librarian with a background in library automation, digital literacy, and administration.*

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**Libraries Without Borders: New Directions in Library History**  
 Edited by Steven A. Knowlton, Ellen M. Pozzi, Jordan S. Sly, and Emily D. Spunaugle  
 ALA, 2024

Reviewed by Peter F. McNally

The American Library Association's Library History Round Table holds the Library History Seminar (LHS) every five years. Due to COVID, the 14th seminar was held virtually in June 2021.

The introduction indicates that this volume is not the proceedings of the 14th LHS, but is "rather a collection of

papers presented at the seminar or tied to its theme, libraries without borders" (page xix). Full disclosure: I co-presented a paper (not included in the volume) at the seminar.

The book contains seven well-researched and well-written articles, covering a range of American topics such as race within a library-and-information context, a library dedicated to the theology of St. Mary, bibliographic instruction, overdue books, importation of foreign propaganda, and library-history methodologies. There are also an introduction and afterword.

Rounding out the volume is Renate Chancellor's keynote address, *The Hill We Climb: Towards Equity and Inclusion in Library and Information Science*, as well as Lorien Roy and Rea N. Simons's concluding essay, *Illuminating Diversity*

in *History Research and Education: A Shared Past, Present, and Future*. Both emphasize the need for the profession and library history to be more inclusive of Black, Indigenous, People of Colour (BIPOC) and the LGBTQIA+ communities. Critical-race theory and equity, diversity, and inclusion standards are highlighted.

Roy and Simons contend that "majority white researchers and writers ... should step away from the belief that they can become culturally competent and, instead, work to understand cultural humility" (page 152).

The book has black-and-white illustrations, is footnoted, and has an index. It is recommended to anyone interested in library history. ■

## Libraries — a Place for Everything

By Leslie McGrath

Ten unusual items held by distinguished libraries and archives include:

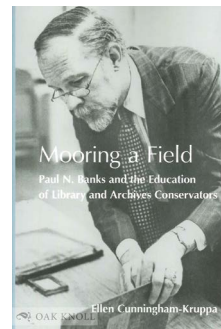
- a preserved mole's skin used as evidence in a Civil War widow's pension claim, sent from the front by her husband as a souvenir (National Archives and Records Administration, USA),
- a book made of cheese slices (Oxford, Tufts),
- human hair (BL, Folger),
- wax death masks (State Library, Melbourne),
- a spirit trumpet for séances (Cambridge),
- an unreadable booklet encased in concrete (University of Chicago),
- Jumbo the elephant's tail (Tufts),
- Jack Kerouac's blood (NYPL),
- a paper knife with a handle made from Charles Dickens's cat's paw (NYPL), and
- name-embroidered KKK (or KK Klan) robes and hoods once worn by Texas A&M University's distinguished alumni (Cushing Memorial Library & Archives, Texas A&M) that the Cushing Library's dean explains as valuable evidence of "mistakes we can learn from."

Lorna Wallace's "[10 of the Weirdest Things held in Libraries and Archives](#)," *Bizarre*, February 1, 2023. Fact checked by Jamie Frater.

*Leslie McGrath worked at Toronto PL as a children's librarian and a branch head for 10 years, and senior department head, Osborne Collection of Early Children's Books for 23 years.*

## Other Books of Interest

Recommended by Peter F. McNally



**Mooring A Field: Paul N. Banks and the Education of Library and Archives Conservators**  
 By Ellen Cunningham-Kruppa  
 Legacy Press, 2019



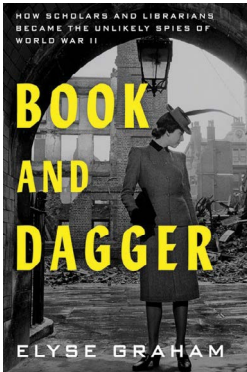
**First in the West: A History of Emporia State University School of Library and Information Management**  
 By Robert Grover Bluestem, 2022





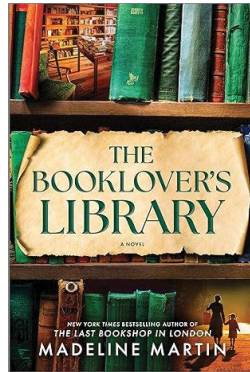
## Good Reads

By Judy Dunn



**Book and Dagger: How Scholars and Librarians Became the Unlikely Spies of World War II**  
By Elyse Graham  
HarperCollins, 2024

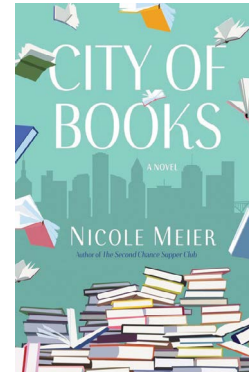
An inspiring, true story about a group of humanities scholars who helped beat the Nazis underlines the crucial role played by the book in espionage.



**The Booklover's Library**  
By Madeline Martin  
Hanover Square, 2024

Another Second World War novel by the author of *The Keeper of Hidden Books* and

*The Last Bookshop in London*, is set in Nottingham, England. It tells the story of a single mother, her daughter, and the power of literature.



**City of Books: A Novel**  
By Nicole Meier  
SparkPress, 2024

The author of this novel — set in a bookstore in Portland, Oregon, and loosely inspired by events during

COVID — describes it as a love letter to independent bookstores everywhere.



**The London Bookshop Affair: A Novel of the Cold War**  
By Louise Fein  
William Morrow, 2024

With a backdrop of the Cold War and the Cuban Missile Crisis, a London

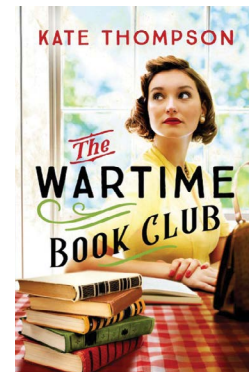
bookshop is involved in an espionage network.



**The Royal Librarian**  
By Daisy Wood  
Avon, 2024

The action in this dual-timeline novel swings between Windsor Castle during the Second World War and present-day Philadelphia.

The royal princesses and the Duke of Windsor have key roles in this story of family, war, secrets, and spies.



**The Wartime Book Club**  
By Kate Thompson  
Hatchette Book Group, 2024

Set in the occupied Channel Isle of Jersey during the Second World, this story

is inspired by true events. Faced with shortages of food and medicine, book banning, and other threats by their Nazi occupiers, the islanders show great courage and turn to the library as a source of comfort.

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

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

## Books of Interest to Members

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

### Trump 2.0: On the Decline of an Informed American Electorate

By Julia Schneider

Chatting ahead of the ELA board meeting in early November 2024, members speculated about what might happen to our understanding of accurate information if Donald Trump were to be elected to a second term in office. After the election I wrote the following:

When I taught Information Literacy, as the teacher-librarian from 2014 to 2016 at the American School of Ulaanbaatar in the capital of Mongolia, my classes were full of international students and my curriculum, curiously enough (given the school's name), was that of the Ontario College of Teachers. I taught my grades 6 to 8 students how important it was to use only reliable sources in their research — no Wikipedia — and helped them identify such sources, along with cautioning them how damaging spurious information sources could be to their research.

Eight years later, I looked at the American election results and wondered what my Mongolian, Korean, and Taiwanese middle-school students would have thought. I suspect they would be appalled: all the reliable sources and dire warnings by informed worldwide analysts seem to have been ignored, as the U.S. voters voted en masse for the one person whose personality, record, and aversion to facts seemed sure to disqualify him from contention. Instead, his disqualifications seemed to work in his favour, his very unique lack of qualifications drawing votes.

Does this mean that vibes rather than veracity, the present rather than the future, and entertainment rather than careful and informed study influence voters in parts of the world in which we live? Why would any sane person put their life into the hands of a self-absorbed, self-aggrandizing, and

potentially dangerous man?

What happened to the press, the source of reliable political information? Trump killed it or, at least, severely damaged its credibility through his antagonistic attitude and unrelenting attacks. What took its place? A reliance on his openly right-wing voice, Fox News, and other biased sources. The very name of Fox News would seem cautionary, but, when impulse and group affiliation overrun intelligence, the results are almost predictable. Except to those, whoever and wherever they might be, who are schooled in information literacy and the importance of evaluating sources — especially when the world's fate depends on their research.

*Postscript: This was written before the death, at 100, of the 39th president, Jimmy Carter. I listened to those talking about his life and record, and I mourned the death of a leader one could trust. ■*

### British Columbia News

By Guy Robertson



In December the **Greater Victoria Public Library (GVPL)** permanently closed the **Nellie McClung Branch** after 50 years, as part of the District of Saanich's

Library and Affordable Housing Project. Its temporary replacement, the **Nellie McClung Express Branch**, was scheduled to open in February. Smaller than other GVPL locations, this branch will offer selections of popular materials, and allow pick-ups and returns. Construction of a new, permanent branch will take approximately three years.

In January the **Vancouver Public Library (VPL)** offered the popular *How the Universe Works: The Sky is Falling!* Dr. Aaron Boley, a professor in UBC's Department of Physics and Astronomy and the Canada Research Chair in Planetary Astronomy, intrigued his audience with a description of space junk and expressed the hope for greater international co-operation to keep Earth's orbital environment open and safe for future use.

In February VPL reminded staff members of its policy against **wearing political symbols** in its workplace. After a few complaints, the administration asked non-Palestinian staff members

not to wear pro-Palestinian symbols such as kaffiyehs and watermelon pins. Chief Librarian Dawn Ibey stated that the policy reinforces VPL as safe and welcoming for all patrons.

**Renovations on the fifth floor** of **Bennett Library**, on the Burnaby campus of Simon Fraser University, began in 2023. This spring furniture and IT equipment will be installed, library staff will return to the floor, and patrons will be able to request and pick up materials. The complete reopening is planned for this summer.

In January, to celebrate Family Literacy Day, **Surrey Libraries** offered patrons activities including Dot, Dash,

and Bee-Bot robotics coding, book bowling, paper crafts, an Early Years Play Area Mobile Library, and the ever-popular Snail Mail Social Walter Meet & Greet, Popcorn, and more. Drop-ins were welcomed, and the South Surrey Recreation & Arts Centre was a fine venue in which patrons could learn about library services.

The 39 branches of **Vancouver Island Regional Library (VIRL)** have the third-largest public library collection in B.C. and serve an area of more than 42,000 square kilometres. In December VIRL released its **lists of the most popular items** borrowed in 2024. Not surprising to many librarians, the top adult-print fiction titles were Kristin Hannah's *The Women*, Barbara Kingsolver's *Demon Copperhead*, and John Grisham's *The Exchange*. Patrick deWitt's *The Librarianist* appeared in tenth place. Gabor Mate's *The Myth of Normal: Trauma, Illness and Healing in a Toxic Culture* was the most popular adult non-fiction title.

In January **UBC Archives** announced its acquisition of the **Peter Wall Institute of Advanced Studies** records of the institute that Vancouver philanthropist Peter Wall helped to establish in 1991 to encourage scholars from different fields to collaborate on research projects.

From November 2024 to this May, **North Vancouver District Public Library (NVDPL) Parkgate Library** will be renovated to include new automatic sliding entrance doors, additional reading and studying space on the first floor, a “refreshed” children’s area, and improved plumbing, HVAC, and power.

## ELAN in Electronic Format

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## Prairies News

By Alvin M. Schrader



In August 2024, the Manitoba Library Association Prison Libraries Network's **Position Statement on the Prisoners' Right to Read** reached a milestone

in its sustained advocacy efforts with an endorsement from CFLA-FCAB. As recognized by the *Corrections and Conditional Release Act*, incarcerated people in Canadian prisons do not relinquish their rights and freedoms under the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms*. The position statement calls upon correctional institutions and prison libraries to actively promote literacy, including technology and Internet literacy, to assist prisoners' successful rehabilitation and eventual reintegration into the larger society. The statement also points out the critical role of all Canadian libraries in supporting successful reintegration.

In June 2024, **South Central Regional Library (SCRL)** was awarded the inaugural **Human Rights Book Award** by the Manitoba Library Association and the Association of Manitoba Book Publishers. For the past few years SCRL has been in the spotlight, both locally and nationally, amid questions about what content is appropriate for a public library to offer. The Award acknowledges SCRL's navigation of that difficult period and recognizes a nominee's “strong resolve in upholding human rights, inclusivity and equity in library access for their library, or in the library community at a local, regional, provincial, or national level.”

The Winnipeg 150 Committee recognized **Gilles Lesage**, retired directeur général de la Société historique de Saint-Boniface, for his strong voice in advocating for the preservation and promotion of the heritage and role of the Franco-Manitoban community in St. Boniface and the City of Winnipeg, and for ensuring that the early Métis presence and the history of Louis Riel are not only preserved and maintained, but heard and valued. His pioneering work with the Association for Manitoba

Archives has played an important role in encouraging small and large city archives to develop their full potential and meet national standards.

**Saskatoon Public Library (SPL)** began construction of a **new central library** to replace the 60-year-old Frances Morrison Central Library in June 2024, after a redesign was required to avoid cost overruns and fit the existing project budget of \$134 million. Completion is targeted for 2027.

SPL appointed **Carol Shepstone** as the new director of libraries and CEO effective November 4, 2024. Her distinguished career includes more than two decades of senior administrative roles in libraries across Canada including at the John M. Cuelenaere Public Library in Prince Albert, Sask. and the University of Saskatchewan, and as university librarian at Mount Royal University, Calgary, and chief librarian at Toronto Metropolitan University.

In May 2024 — in time for National AccessAbility Week and in recognition of the need for collective efforts to create a barrier-free Canada — **Regina Public Library (RPL)** announced that “hearing loops” would be available at each branch for customers with hearing loss. RPL is among the first public libraries to implement this technology.

**Calgary Public Library** was recognized for its extensive renovation of the **Fish Creek Branch** that included the addition of Engine 23, a decommissioned fire engine previously installed in the former central library. An immersive playing-and-learning experience for children and families, it provides a hands-on approach to literary skill-building and safety education.

On June 20, 2024, **Edmonton Public Library** CEO **Pilar Martinez** was elected chair of The Urban Libraries Council at its annual member business meeting. The council comprises more than 180 library systems from major urban areas across North America.

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



## Ontario News

By Vivienne James



Black History Month was celebrated.

**McMaster Libraries** featured book displays and an in-person event called **Diasporic Dreams: Afrofuturism**

as **Anti-Oppression** that invited people to dream about new and vibrant futures, free from oppression and anti-Black racism. Staff read from Afrofuturist literature by authors such as Octavia Butler and W. E. B. Du Bois.

**Wikipedia Edit-A-Thon**, organized by library staff at Toronto Metropolitan University (TMU), **Toronto PL**, U of T, and York U, held editing sessions to help improve coverage of Black histories. **Hamilton PL** celebrated the life and legend of Hamilton jazz legend, **Jackie Washington**, featuring award-winning musician Ken Whiteley.

**Ottawa PL** celebrated with **events** in English and French, including films, traditional storytelling, Afro-Caribbean dance, workshops, Afro-Futurisme, and sci-fi Fridays.

**Jacqueline Spencer** was appointed Archivist of Ontario, in November 2024, and is the first Black woman to lead the archives.

**The Government of Ontario** announced an increase of \$1.25 million in annual funding for First Nations public libraries.

**Ontario University Libraries** celebrated **Fair Dealing Week** to highlight the crucial issue of balancing the rights of copyright holders with the needs of users. The **University of Guelph** offered online webinars and discussions about the impact of fair dealing on education and research.

**De Cerebro: An Exhibition on the Human Brain** (January to April) at **Thomas Fisher Rare Book Library**, U of T, covered not only medical texts, but delved into philosophy, human consciousness, psychology, pharmacology, and the paranormal, raising the question “What is a ‘normal’ mental state?” A \$1 million gift from **Friend of the Fisher, Mark Andrews**, will support book-science

research and innovation.

Botswana’s Khama III Memorial Museum and **U of T Libraries** launched a **digitization project**, supported by U of T funding. The two-year project will digitize 100,000 items, providing long-term preservation and global research access.

In a collaborative effort to support Indigenous students and their learning, **York U Libraries** opened the **Miinkaansing** (pronounced mee-ni-kahn-en-sing) Indigenous Reading Room, where “Indigenous people can gather as a community and engage with each other.”

The **Portuguese Canadian History Project**, partnering with **York U Clara Thomas Archives and Special Collections**, has secured \$500,000 from members of the Portuguese Canadian community and the Toronto Consulate of Portugal to document community stories and contributions for five years.

**McMaster University Libraries (MUL)** has a new, campus-wide system comprising the university’s **Health Sciences Library**, **H. G. Thode Library of Science and Engineering**, **Mills Memorial Library**, and the renewed **Innis Library** (scheduled to open in fall 2025 at the McLean Centre for Collaborative Discovery). MUL will support communities across Ontario, as a new partner through **the Community Scholars Program** that will assist non-profits and charitable organizations by granting free access to academic journals and research for their staff. McMaster is the first university outside BC to join the program that originated in 2017 at Simon Fraser University.

**Jeremy Podeswa** — film and television director of *Fugitive Pieces*, *Game of Thrones*, and also a TMU Image Arts graduate — donated archival material from his career to **TMU Libraries**, including scripts, storyboards, photos. The material provides insight into the creative process from script to screen, acting as a road map for young filmmakers. Following an Ontario Ministry of Colleges and Universities directive, **TMU Libraries** is also providing **alternatives and options** for

faculty to create, use, and find course materials that will reduce student costs.

Many Ontario PLs reported on increased community use and involvement, as well as municipal-council support for their budgets. **TPL’s** Vickery Bowles noted the **surge of people using TPL**, the growing importance of public libraries as community hubs and their critical role in addressing the digital divide. While book browsing remains the primary draw, usage patterns are shifting as access to technology has become increasingly important. Toronto Mayor Olivia Chow announced that all **TPL branches will be open seven days** a week by July 2026.

**TPL** celebrated **Freedom to Read Week** with limited-edition library cards, book bags, curated reading lists featuring banned or targeted books, and sold-out events featuring critical conversations about intellectual freedom and democracy.

**Guelph PL** also reported growth in use, and services have been added in response to community changes and patrons’ needs. Its Strategic Plan 2025/2028, **From Barriers to Bridges: Becoming a Pillar of Public Value**, launched in January.

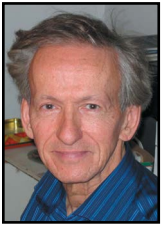
**Ottawa PL (OPL)** received a generous donation of \$1.5 million from the **RBC Foundation Community Infrastructure Fund** to support retrofits, repairs, and upgrades to increase accessibility and environmental sustainability to public spaces. In March **OPL added 39 hours** of service to eight of its 10 rural branches, enhancing client service.

**Richmond Hill PL (RHPL)** started **RHPL On the Go** — convenient and accessible express kiosks where members can borrow and return books for all ages and interests.

*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.*

## Quebec News

By Pierre Guilmette and Peter F. McNally



Due to a dramatic decrease in provincial funding for capital projects in Quebec universities, McGill University's "Fiat Lux" project was cancelled. The project would have included demolition of **Redpath Library's** 1952 wing and **McLennan Library's** northward extension. In anticipation of the project going forward,



the book collections were moved last year, from the two libraries to the university's new collection-storage facility in Valleyfield. In light of changing circumstances, revised planning is underway for the renovation and reconfiguration of the McLennan-Redpath complex and other McGill libraries. The impact on the operating budgets for academic libraries, resulting from recent funding changes and reductions for Quebec universities (particularly in the anglophone sector), remains unclear.

In October 2024 L'Association des bibliothèques publiques du Québec (Quebec Public Library Association) published an **assessment of the state of public libraries**, based on five main criteria: acquisitions, opening hours, surface area, number of seats, and human resources. The entire system scored 66 percent, up from 64 percent the previous year. The Montreal region stands out with a score of 94 percent, while the Saguenay-Lac-Saint-Jean region scored 50 percent lower than the provincial average. Lack of staff is the main identified weakness.

The **Paul-André-Paiement Library**, located in the Charlesbourg borough near Quebec City, is undergoing major renovations, while major renovations to the **Le Prévost Library** in Montreal are slated for completion in 2029 or 2030. In 2024 the Montreal suburb of Laval was approved for funding of the construction of a cultural complex that will include an art gallery, an

auditorium, a dance studio, and a large library, with an expected completion in 2027.

*Pierre Guilmette is a retired librarian, Université Laval.*

## Maritimes News

By Penny Logan



**Tanja Harrison** began reporting for this column in 2011. I am very sad to report that Tanja died at age 54, on December 2, 2024 (see "Obituaries" in this issue, page 23). Tanja

had a huge impact on the Maritimes library community, and is greatly missed by all whose lives she touched.

The Maritimes Health Libraries Association/Association des Bibliothèques de la santé and the Newfoundland and Labrador Health Libraries Association amalgamated to form the Atlantic Health Libraries Association/Association des bibliothèques de la santé de l'atlantique (**AHLA/ABSA**). Both organizations have been chapters of the Canadian Health Libraries Association/Association des bibliothèques de la santé du Canada, and will maintain that status as one chapter. The first AHLA/ABSA president is Scholarly Communications and Health Sciences Librarian Kaitlin Fuller, Saint Francis Xavier University. She notes that online collaboration has become usual practice and the combined membership of more than 100 members can provide the same quality of events without duplicating efforts. Kaitlin credits the work of Melissa Helwig (former **W. K. Kellogg Medical Library** head) and "the two Alisons" — Alison Manley (formerly of **Miramichi Regional Hospital Library**) and Alison Farrel (Research Data Management librarian at **Memorial University Health Sciences Library**), for their years of work meshing two organizations into one.

Denise Corey is library director for **Cumberland Public Library** and past president of the Nova Scotia Library Association. This awards season she

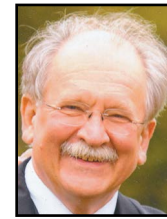
encourages all of us to nominate deserving people for awards in your area. Some who may be noted in Nova Scotia are those who worked on the new public library funding-formula review. The current formula has been in place for five years, ending March 31, 2025.

Two new medical schools are slated to open this fall: one in **Cape Breton** (affiliated with Dalhousie University), the other on the **campus of UPEI**, Charlottetown, affiliated with Memorial University. The demand these two new schools make on the university libraries will be interesting to watch.

**Penny Logan** worked in public and hospital libraries, retiring in 2015, as manager, Library Services, Nova Scotia Health Authority.

## Newfoundland & Labrador News

By Dick Ellis



Two stories from the Happy Province.

As part of this year's 100th anniversary of the founding of Memorial University College — now Memorial University — the university has named 100 exceptional builders on whose efforts its present success rests. Among that group is Agnes Cecillia O'Dea, the founding director of the library's Centre for Newfoundland Studies and the winner of the 1987 Marie Tremaine Medal of the Bibliographical Society of Canada, for her major publication with Anne Alexander, the 7,000-entry *Bibliography of Newfoundland and Labrador*. In 1965 F. Eugene Gattinger, then university librarian, asked her to gather from the general collection, all the books she could find dealing with Newfoundland and establish a separate reading room for them. From that beginning today's separate collection exceeds 92,000 titles and 41,000 vertical files. Agnes called it "the forever collection." For more information, see <https://www.mun.ca/100/centennial-100/agnes-odea/>

and for a brief biographical sketch, see <https://www.exlibris.ca/doku.php?id=biographies:agnes-c-odea>.

Meanwhile, out around the bay, branches of the **Newfoundland and Labrador Public Library** are doing what Newfoundlanders have done for eons: making something from nothing. In this case, the two part-time branch staff at the **Bay Roberts Public Library** created a \$500 summer reading program for the local population of 5,794. It was so successful that Toronto Dominion Summer Reading Contest judges created a new Small but Mighty Award in recognition of those who do important things with scarce resources. The submission can be viewed here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wjcnSZLttAU> and a full report on the project and its conclusion is here: <https://nlpl.ca/wp-content/uploads/2025/02/Insights-Winter-2025.pdf>.

*Dick Ellis is Librarian Emeritus at Memorial University.*

## News from the North

By Julie Ourom



In February **Northwest Territories Public Libraries** recognized UN International Mother Language Day as part of Indigenous Languages Month.

Nunavut libraries launched “**CBC corner**,” a digital portal to facilitate access to CBC and Radio-Canada content and resources.

The Government of the Northwest Territories launched NWT **Climate Change Library**, while the **Hay River Public Library** presented a timely discussion of Arctic sovereignty by local resident Jordan Groenewegen.

**Whitehorse Public Library (WPL)** offered an **Outreach Clinic** with Service Canada, Canada Revenue Agency, and the library’s outreach worker. Continuing from the STEAM 2024 summer camp for youth held in libraries across the North, **WPL**

and Yukon University co-sponsored **Science Saturdays** through the fall and winter.

**The Dawson City Community Library** continued its annual Double Bob Potluck, celebrating Robert W. Service and Robbie Burns, to raise funds for its longstanding operation of the historic Berton House (childhood home of Pierre Berton) as a **residence for guest writers**.

Nunavut’s **Ilitaqsiniq Public Library** reopened, renamed to honour Elder Catherine Quluq Pilakapsi, a former library employee.

Activities in northern public libraries included **Iqaluit Centennial Library’s** Winter Book Club, **WPL’s** popular Indigenous Book Club, various libraries’ Blind Date with a Book, and **Iqaluit Public Library’s** creative writing workshops, Writing the North. Programs also included painting nights at **Hay River Public Library**, Perler Bead Night at **Inuvik Public Library**, mitten making at the **Aklavik Public Library**, and **Yellowknife Public Library’s** Name That Tune contest for music and trivia lovers.

*Julie Ourom was Director, Yukon Public Libraries (1990–2014). She previously worked at public libraries in B.C. (including Kitimat and Richmond) and in Moose Jaw, Sask.*

## To Save Space

*ELAN* will only include 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](https://www.exlibris.ca/doku.php?id=awards:canadian-library-awards).

## 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

In December the school announced its Graduating Awards winners who included **Levasseur Joseph** (Ken Haycock Award in Library and Information Studies), **Karen Barrow** (Ruth Cameron Medal for Librarianship) and **Maria Mulder** (Richard Hopkins Award). Archives students were also rewarded for their scholarly efforts. **Laura Moberg** won the Roy Stokes Medal in Archival Studies, and **Kira Vandermeulen** received the Friends of the Richmond Archives Prize. Originally from Vietnam, **Trinh Nguyen** came to UBC, after falling in love with a photo of the university’s Rose Garden showing mountains in the background. She is now a public scholar studying for a PhD in Library, Archival and Information Studies. Her research involves a qualitative approach to studying decentralized project teams, with the aim of understanding their information use and communications practices. Upon completing her doctorate, she hopes to work in the public sector and research-intensive organizations such as think tanks.

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

By SLIS administration; edited by Kenneth Gariepy

On November 26 SLIS congratulated 17 MLIS graduates in the Universiade Pavillion. Students **Amy Lim** and **Euncho Ko** received the ALA Spectrum Scholarship, and **Lim** also received the ARL Kaleidoscope Scholarship. **Jessica Sadie Dawn Anderson** received the



Price McIntosh Bursary from LAC. In faculty news, Drs. **Michael McNally** and **Tami Oliphant** were promoted to professor. Drs. **Brenda Reyes Ayala** and **Oliphant** were awarded sabbaticals. Dr. **Ali Shiri** and Drs. **Danielle Allard** and **Oliphant** received significant SSHRC grants for their respective projects. Dr. **Toni Samek** moderated the sold-out Evening with Margaret Atwood at the Jubilee Auditorium. CFLA-FCAB appointed academic colleague Dr. **Margaret Law** to complete its organizational review. Academic colleague **Gail De Vos** launched her latest book, *The Watkins Book of Urban Legends*. Lastly, SLIS received a record number of applications for fall 2025, demonstrating the continuing high demand and competitiveness for entry into the program.

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

By Becky Blue

FIMS is excited to offer Canada's only full-time online MLIS program this spring. Applications opened on March 1, 2025, and the first online MLIS cohort will begin in January 2026. We continue to offer the same high-quality, in-person studies as always, with intakes in September and May. FIMS bids farewell to Dean Lisa Henderson who wraps up her term on June 30, 2025. During her time as dean (January 2019 to June 2025), Lisa led the faculty through the pandemic, as well as the constant evolution of FIMS and its programs — a turbulent six years. Thank you, Dean Henderson.

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

By Ann Brocklehurst

After a year of consultations, the faculty is preparing to launch its 2025/2029 academic plan. In January U of T approved the plan, Nurturing, Transforming and Impacting our World with Information. In keeping with the new plan, the reconstituted iSchool Institute has appointed **Chris Ferguson** as director. **Ferguson** leads academic and industry excellence

through professional education, research translation, and community partnership. The institute recently hosted its first talk featuring **Sarah Drummond**, who built one of the first Service Design practices in the U.K. The faculty has also begun a major recruitment campaign to replace several retirees and about-to-be retirees. Please visit our new website to keep up with faculty news and upcoming events including the spring Alumni Reunion.

#### **University of Ottawa, School of Information Studies**

By André Vellino

It is with a mix of sadness and gratitude that the school announces Professor **Mary Cavanagh's** retirement as a full-time professor, effective June 30, 2025. It's no exaggeration to say that, without Mary, the school simply wouldn't exist, let alone have the unique identity it has today. Not only was she the first full-time faculty to be hired in 2009 (just after completing her PhD at U of T), but she has also been instrumental in shaping every aspect of our school, from the curriculum's first iteration to selecting the faculty we have today. She guided us through two successful accreditations (2014 and 2022), generated tangible excitement about the school in the National Capital Region and beyond, and recruited cohort after cohort of students, each more impressive than the last. Mary intends to remain an adjunct professor at the school, but she will be sorely missed and impossible to replace.

#### **McGill University, School of Information Studies**

By Peter F. McNally

The school has received full and unconditional re-accreditation until 2031, under the 2015 American Library Association Committee on Accreditation Standards, following an on-site visit in September 2024. In March the school's faculty and staff will move from 3661 Peel Street to temporary quarters at 3465 Durocher Street during building renovations. Most lectures are held in other buildings so there will be little impact

on teaching. The school's return to the Peel Street building is expected in January 2026.

#### **Université de Montreal, École de bibliothéconomie et des sciences de l'information (EBSI)**

By Isabelle Bourgey and Martin Bélanger

Last Fall EBSI awarded 16 scholarships worth a total of \$49,000. These are awarded annually, thanks to the generosity of former professors, graduates, and members of the school's staff, in recognition of academic excellence and to support the students' academic progress. Two master's students, **Caroline Robinson** and **Sabrina Mac Gregor**, also received Price-McIntosh bursaries from Library and Archives Canada. In January 2025, organized by the Association des étudiantes et étudiants de l'EBSI (AEEEBIS) and the McGill Information Studies Student Association (MISSA), the annual Job Fair welcomed 27 organizations (about 50 professionals) and more than 100 EBSI and McGill students. On the faculty level, Professor **Vincent Larivière** has been appointed co-holder of the Quebec Research Chair on the discoverability of scientific content in French, which aims to examine and optimize the use of French in research. Over the next five years, the Fonds de recherche du Québec will award \$1.5 million to the chair.

#### **Dalhousie University, Faculty of Management, Department of Information Science**

By Philippe Mongeon and Sandra Toze

Four department members are leading two large-scale projects as part of the Transforming Climate Action research program, one of the most intensive investigations into the ocean's role in climate change. One project examines how we can transform climate policy-making and implementation, led by Drs. **Isabelle Caron**, **Bertrum MacDonald**, and **Sandra Toze**. The other, led by Dr. **Philippe Mongeon**, investigates the production, dissemination, and use of research on oceans and climate change.

Our 2025 Horrock's Leadership Lecture, Drag Story Time: Leading library values, featured **Danielle Hubbard** (MLIS, '13) and **Ashley Machum** (MLIS, '09), and honoured **Carolyn Smith**, this year's recipient of the Dalhousie-Horrock's National Leadership Fund. The department will also be hosting the 2025 conference of the Canadian Association for Information Science, May 27 to 29, 2025. Congratulations to **Alison Brown**, who received a Management Teaching Excellence Award, and to Dr. **Louise Spiteri**, who celebrated 25 years at Dalhousie University.

## Awards to Members

Professor Emeritus **Peter Francis McNally**, School of Information Studies, director of the History of McGill Project, and longtime ELA member, was awarded the King Charles III Coronation Medal in recognition of his dedication to preserving and promoting history. A respected historian and monarchist, Peter has enriched the understanding of Montreal, Quebec, and Canada through his teaching and commentary.

**Lincoln Pelham Public Library** CEO, **Julie Andrews**, CEO, and **Donna Burton**, board chair and ELA board member, accepted the OLITA Technology Advancing Libraries Award, on behalf of the Library Technical Services Team, at the 2025 Awards Gala, OLA 2025 Super Conference.

**Dianne Thompson** (McKellar Township Public Library Board vice chair and new ELA member), along with **Debbie Woods** (board chair) accepted The Joyce Cunningham Award for Public Library Board of the Year at the OLA Super Conference.

## Milestones



### Obituaries

Compiled by Frances Davidson-Arnott and Bob Henderson

**Shirley Mooney Aabjerg** died January 14, 2025, age 89, in Victoria. BLS (U of T, '60). She was manager of Library Services for *Pacific Press*, *Vancouver Sun*, and *Vancouver Province*. A pioneer in the digitization of newspaper archives and active in the Special Libraries Association news division, she received wide acclaim throughout North America.

**Joan Albu** died January 21, 2025, age 94, in Beaconsfield, QC. She taught Grade 2, then, in her fifties, she earned a BA at McGill. She worked at Westmount Children's Library until retirement.

**Judith Ann Appleby** died January 5, 2025, age 77, in Montreal. MLS (McGill, '71). Judy worked at Concordia, as a reference librarian, then as head of the Vanier Library, Loyola campus. Later, she became head of Reference at the Webster Library, Sir George Williams campus, until 2009.

**Ian MacLeod Baird** died October 28, 2024, age 77, in Victoria. MLIS (Western, '88). He was a reference librarian at UVic until he retired. He loved books, history, and railways.

**Luce Bernardin** died October 7, 2024, age 101, in Boucherville, QC. The City of Saint-Bruno's first professional librarian, she promoted reading and access to culture throughout Montarville. The library, originally located above the Saint-Bruno fire station, expanded under her leadership, then moved to its current location.

**Arthur Black** died February 9, 2025, age 91, in Kentville, NS. BLS (U of T, '70). After working as a reference librarian at the Halifax City Library, he became a school library co-ordinator in the Sydney system, then the school librarian at

Riverview High School, Coxheath, NS, until 1993.

**Désirée Bradley** died January 18, 2024, age 81, in Vancouver. BLS (U of T, '67). As a librarian, she specialized in information retrieval.

**Sandra Burgess (née Kinloch)** died November 9, 2024, age 82, in Victoria. BLS (McGill, '64). She was a librarian at U of Saskatchewan.

**David Chamberlin** died June 30, 2024, age 78, in Victoria. MLS (UBC, '74). He worked at McPherson Library, UVic, then for BC Archives and Records, first as a librarian, then an archivist. He was an archivist for UVic and the City of Victoria.

**Anna Lisa Chiota (née Sforza)** died February 5, 2025, age 69, in Hamilton, ON. MLS (Western, '79). Working at the St. Catharines PL, she grew friendships and lent her expertise by serving on many committees and associations. After retirement, Anna continued volunteering and pursuing committee work.

**Mary Lou Dawn Conrad** died November 29, 2024, age 62, in Wolfville, NS. She was web manager for Vaughan Memorial Library, Acadia U, for more than 30 years.

**Madeline Jane Cooper** died December 19, 2024, age 90, in Alliston, ON. BLS (U of T, '58), MLS (U of T, '71). Jane spent her career as a librarian at U of T, progressing to head of Circulation at Robarts Library.

**Robert Crispo** died October 19, 2024, age 78, in Quebec City. B.Bibl BLSc (U of Ottawa, '72). He worked until retirement at the Library of Laval University, part of the group of specialist librarians responsible for collection development.

**Josephine "Jo" Croft (née Hurst)** died December 21, 2024, age 87, in Toronto. BLS (U of T).

**Lucille Vaughan Cuevas** died January 14, 2025, age 101, in Guelph, ON. BLS (McGill, '50). A renowned children's storyteller, she was the first Black woman to graduate in Library Science at McGill and the first Black woman employed as a teacher in the Protestant School Board of Greater Montreal.

**John Martin Cummings** died January 27, 2025, age 94, in Calgary. He was head biomedical librarian at Vancouver General Hospital.

**Rose Pinto de Souza** died January 11, 2025, age 83. MLIS (Western, '94). After earning her degree at age 53, she was a librarian at Vanier College from 1975 to 2010.

**Mary Ann Elvidge (née Dorken)** died December 19, 2024, age 95, in Montreal. BA (McGill, '49), MLS (McGill, '65). She was a reference librarian at McGill's Faculty of Law and the first full-time librarian at the Montreal law firm formerly known as Ogilvy Cope.

**Ann Delores General (née Bomberly)** died April 22, 2024, age 89, in Hagersville, ON. Beginning as a junior librarian, she became longtime head librarian for Six Nations, where she was instrumental in acquiring the Mary Sickman Collection. Ann proudly collaborated in research on the Six Nations of the Grand River, most notably with anthropologist Annemarie Shimony of Wellesley College, MA, on her book *Conservatism Among the Iroquois*.

**Twyla Gibson** died October 18, 2024, age 71, in Iowa City, IA. MA, PhD (U of T). She was an assistant professor, U of T, **Faculty of Information** (2007–2011), a senior fellow of the McLuhan Program in Culture and Technology (2005–2006), a visiting fellow at Harvard (2010–2012) then an assistant professor in the School of Information Science at the U of Missouri.

**Virginia Ann Gillham** died January 30, 2025, age 83, in Guelph, ON. MSLIS (U of Illinois Urbana-Champaign). She was head of the Documentation Centre for many years at U of Guelph, then university librarian at Wilfred Laurier (1992–2002). A founding member and chair of the Friends of Guelph PL, she was an ELA member and has a tribute on our [website](#).

**Marjorie Goodfellow** died October 26, 2024, age 86, in Sherbrooke, QC. BLS (McGill, '60), MLS (McGill, '67). She worked briefly at the Citizenship and Immigration Canada library, Ottawa, before taking positions in Montreal, the

last in Sir George Williams U library. She was also active in the library world as a library consultant and did genealogical research for clients and herself, publishing and speaking on those topics.

**Patricia Greene** died September 4, 2024, age 78, in Hamilton. For many years, she was the Local History technician at Brampton PL.

**Eugeni Christine Haba (née Dzvinka)** died October 3, 2024, age 87, in Toronto. After graduating from Ryerson's Library Technician program, she worked at the Toronto Board of Education and several Toronto libraries.

**Helen M. Hadden** died January 25, age 99, in Hamilton, ON. BLS (U of T, '48). She worked at Toronto PL before her marriage in 1952. From 1965 to 2018, she volunteered at the Art Gallery of Hamilton where she not only lead tours, but started the library and built up an impressive collection.

**Tanja Harrison** died December 2, 2024, age 54, in Dartmouth, NS. MLIS (Dalhousie, '96). A **recognized leader** in Canadian academic librarianship, Tanja was university librarian for both the Nova Scotia College of Art and Design and for Mount Saint Vincent U. She was an active **ELA** member and a regular *ELAN* contributor.

**Katherine Sioe Bwee Hauw** died August 21, 2024, age 89, in Toronto. A graduate of the Library Technician program, Ryerson, she worked in the Medical Library Department, Michael Garron Hospital until retirement.

**Pearl Grace Hazen** died December 7, 2024, age 91, in Saint John, NB. BLS (U of T, '62). She was a librarian at Toronto PL, a resource officer/librarian for the Community Information Centre of Metro Toronto, a library instructor at NB Community College in Woodstock; as well as a branch manager for Saint John East PL, Saint John West PL, and, lastly, Sussex PL.

**Kathryn Yvonne Hilder (née Johnston)** died October 18, 2024, age 91, in Fredericton, NB. BLS (U of T, '55). She was a reference librarian at UNB Harriet Irving Library from 1974 to 1998.

**Gwendoline Anne Hoar** died October 20, 2024, age 80, in Vancouver. MLS (UBC, '76). After working for Thompson Berwick & Pratt Architects and the attorney general's office, she moved to Lawson Lundell Law firm in 1977 for the rest of her career.

**Alix Joyce Irvine** died October 14, 2024, age 101, in Victoria. BLS (McGill, '47). She worked at Winnipeg PL, as a reference librarian in the U of Manitoba Library Government Documents Department, then as head librarian at the Legislative Library of Manitoba.

**Frederic Carl Israel** died August 5, 2024, age 91, in Midland, ON. BLS (U of T, '58). Fred spent his career working in Ontario public libraries (Kitchener, St. Catharines, Richmond Hill). Director of the Windsor PL from 1968 to 1992, he received the W. J. Robertson Medallion from the Ontario Library Boards Association for outstanding leadership in the advancement of public library service in Ontario. Fred and his late wife **Callie** were longtime active **ELA** members.

**Margaret Jean Silver Kamester** died March 3, 2025, age 95, in Kitchener, ON. She studied history at Bristol U and education at Oxford, then became a librarian, working in Bristol PLs, taking evening courses. Moving to Canada, she enrolled at **Concordia** part-time, earning a graduate diploma in library studies and working as a cataloguer in a public library. A feminist writer and scholar, she returned to Concordia for Women's Studies.

**Carole Klipa** died December 14, 2024, age 78, in Windsor. MLS (U of Michigan). She spent her career in Windsor, first as a high school history teacher, then as a teacher-librarian and library consultant.

**Zora Kusec** died June 21, 2024, age 97. MLS (Western, '71). She worked at U of New Brunswick (1971–1978), then at Western U until 1991.

**William George "Bill" Latham** died November 29, 2024, age 88, in Dorchester, ON. BLS (UBC, '71). As the Lord Dorchester SS librarian, he pioneered online resources at the school.



**Charlene Lee** died January 17, 2025, age 36, in Toronto. MLIS (Western, '14). She worked for Toronto PL, becoming Sanderson branch head.

**Olga Lendvay** died April 8, 2024, age 98, in Ottawa. In the U.S. she studied library science and agriculture, then worked for the UN and WHO, stationed in Washington, Costa Rica, Rome, and, later, for CIDA, in Ottawa.

**Patricia Little** died October 23, 2024, age 87, in Kingston, ON. After years working as a nurse, she became head of the Rideau Lakes PL and, later, head librarian at Millhaven Maximum Security Prison.

**D. Alexander MacDonald** died November 2, 2024, age 81. Alex was head librarian for Thompson Nicola Regional Library, Kamloops, BC, starting in 1979 as a cataloguer. He retired in 2005.

**Stuart Mackay** died August 28, 2024, age 71, in Edmonton. MLIS (U of A, '87). His library career was principally with Yellowhead Regional Library. He also taught in the U of A MLIS program.

**Alan Derek Marsh** died September 29, 2024, age 96, in Ottawa. He was chief librarian, Ottawa U, for most of his career.

**Reverend Linda May Maw (née Coppin)** died November 12, 2024, age 79, in Toronto. BLS (U of T, '70). She worked as a librarian at U of T Library, then at Ontario Hydro. In 2003 she was ordained as a United Church of Canada minister.

**Catherine Margaret McBurney** died March 10, 2025, age 94, in Montreal. Peggy was one of the founders of the LaSalle PL. She started as a library volunteer in 1959, in LaSalle Heights, where she sat on the executive as 'librarian.' In 1973, the city bought the library for \$1. Catherine retired in 1992.

**Mary Patricia McCrimmon** died December 30, 2024, age 95, in Toronto. BLS (U of T, '52).

**Robert Hughes Michel** died February 4, 2025, age 80. MA and PhD (McGill). He was a senior archivist (1974–1995), McGill Archives. After retiring, he

was archivist, special project: Phyllis Lambert Collection, Canadian Centre for Architecture (1995–2002).

**Margery Elaine Miller (née Williams)** died October 27, 2024, in Calgary. BLS (U of T, '50). She worked at Vancouver PL, Calgary PL in Children's Literature and Reference Materials, taught cataloguing at U of Calgary, and set up a downtown corporate library, all while raising three children.

**Joan Maxine Mitchell** died October 16, 2024, age 80, in Waterloo, ON. BLS (U of T, '70). She worked in libraries in Vancouver and Liverpool, U.K., before starting her professional career at Wilfrid Laurier, and became the first Archives and Special Collections librarian.

**Selima Mohammed** died in December 2024, age 88. MLS (McGill, '70). In 1972 she began working at the McGill Library, becoming the original cataloguer for Music, Fine Arts, & Architecture. She served on countless cataloguing and subject-specialty committees, was acting music librarian at the Marvin Duchow Music Library for one year, and won the 1995 McGill Librarian Excellence Award.

**Hugh Morrison** died October 22, 2024, age 77, in Port Alberni, BC. MLIS (UBC, '04). A teacher, then teacher-librarian, he went back to school to complete an MEd at the U of Portland and an MLIS at UBC.

**Charles Hugh Mountford** died October 13, 2024, age 85, in Stratford, ON. A high school librarian, he took a sabbatical to attend the U of London and complete an MA in librarianship.

**Tony (Anthony) O'Kelly** died February 29, 2024, age 77, in Victoria. MLS (McGill). He worked 40-plus years as a reference librarian at BCIT.

**Barrie Jacqueline Ogden (née Kullman)** died January 5, 2024, in Logan Lake, BC. BLS (UBC, '68). Barrie (also known as Barrie Campbell) worked as a librarian in London, ON.

**Dianne Olive Pammatt (née Smoothy)** died July 17, 2024, age 78, in Bridgenorth, ON. MLS (UBC, '73). She taught in Ottawa, then became a scientific librarian for the National Research

Council Canada, first in Ottawa, then in Saskatoon as the manager of the NRC Information Centre at the Plant Biotechnology Institute, retiring in 2005 after 33 years.

**Margaret "Peggy" Paterson** died September 30, 2024, age 97, in Brantford, ON. BA (McMaster). She was a librarian in Brantford.

**Helen M. Petchey** died January 15, 2025, age 102, in Sackville, NB. She earned degrees in Arts and Education, UNB, and (as a Beaverbrook Scholar) a certificate in Education at London U. In 1960 she became a teacher-librarian, then a renowned author of historical books about the Dorchester, NB, area. She was recognized with awards, including the American Association for State and Local History Award for Excellence (1993).

**Lana Pinsky** died October 2024, age 71, in Halifax. She was Halifax PL's North End branch reading support co-ordinator for 30 years.

**Isabel (Ebie) Fraser Pitfield** died September 6, 2024, age 81, in Vancouver. BLS (U of T, '68). She worked at NLC and CLA, in Ottawa, then at UBC Library. She was director for the Vancouver Writers and Readers Festival. She also played a key role on the team that digitized the Vancouver bibliography, a Vancouver Historical Society initiative.

**Aili Ploom** died December 23, 2024, age 89, in Burlington, ON. BLS (U of T, '59). She was head librarian for the Hamilton Wentworth Library.

**Martha Pluscauskas (née Heard)** died December 5, 2024, age 85, in Toronto. BLS (McGill, '61). Having a passion for information and learning, she was the editor for Canada Books in Print, served as a school librarian and, ultimately, became the East York Board of Education library services co-ordinator.

**Bernice Mavis Polvi** died January 16, 2025, age 66, in Edmonton. MLIS (U of A, 2000). She worked in public libraries, U of A Special Collections Library, law libraries, and as an electronic information–management specialist, retiring in 2016.

**Catherine “Kitty” Power** died October 29, 2024, age 106, in St. John’s. After graduating from Memorial and Mount Saint Vincent universities, she enjoyed a long distinguished career at Newfoundland PLs.

**Dorothea Reimer** died October 26, 2024, age 98, in Calgary. MLS. She worked as a teacher and teacher-librarian. From the 1980s, she and her sister served as music librarians at the First Baptist Church, Calgary; the library was dedicated in the Reimer name.

**Robert “Buck” Bruce Richards** died December 13, 2024, age 95, in Fredericton, NB. BLS (U of T, ’66). A published poet, he was regional librarian at the Restigouche Regional Library until 1987; then, in Fredericton, he worked in library services with the NB Department of Tourism, Heritage and Culture, retiring in 1990.

**Miriam Ellinor Richert (née Nielsen)** died Saturday, December 7, 2024, age 90, in Regina. Library science (U of A). In Regina, she worked for the provincial library.

**David Alexandre Roy** died in March 2025, in Newmarket, ON. LIT (Seneca ’97), MLIS (Western, ’07). Dave was a library technician at the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources (1997–2001), then a reference librarian at WSIB from 2003.

**Heather Saunders** died March 6, 2025, age 48, in North Bay, ON. MIST (U of T, ’07). She was art librarian at Purchase College (SUNY), manager at Harris Learning Library (Nipissing University), Director of Ingalls Library (Cleveland Museum of Art), copyright and scholarly communications librarian (University of Winnipeg), and dean of Libraries and Archives (Acadia University).

**Helen Judith Saunders** died August 31, 2024, age 59, in Ancaster, ON. MLIS (Western, ’89). She worked at Imperial Oil Ltd., starting as a business researcher, and became a respected leader and expert in human resources, contract negotiation, and procurement.

**Jean-Marie Scantland** died June 28, 2024, age 102, in Quebec City. B.Bibl BLS (U of Ottawa, ’54). He was a reference

librarian at the Library of Parliament (1954–1960) and director at the Queen’s Printer Library, in Ottawa (1960–1963). He worked at Université Laval, as part of the library management team (1963–1985) until retiring. He was active in professional associations, including ASTED and the Corporation des bibliothécaires professionnels.

**Lucie Scheiwiller** died July 10, 2024, age 59, in Longlac, ON. She was the librarian at Longlac branch for 14 years until 2024.

**Janice G. Sellers** died August 1, 2024, age 78, in Toronto. MLS (Western, ’69). She was a volunteer teacher with CUSO in Kano, Nigeria, then became an ESL teacher and teacher-librarian with the Toronto District School Board. During retirement Janice volunteered with CNIB and learned to read and teach braille.

**Stephany (Rajca) Shanoski** died November 16, 2024, age 86, in Akron, OH. BLS (McGill, ’62). She worked for the Akron Law Library Association, rising to become head librarian.

**David Sharplin** died November 15, 2024, age 92, in Fort Saskatchewan, AB. BLS (U of T, ’67). He was a librarian in the U of A Humanities and Social Sciences Library.

**Lisa Joan Sherlock** died May 20, 2024, age 58, in Toronto. MLS (U of T, ’92). She began her career at E. J. Pratt Library, Victoria College in 1993, becoming chief librarian in 2014.

**Barbara Louise Skelton (née Sparks)** died September 27, 2024, age 89, in St. Catharines, ON. BLS (Université de Montréal). A teacher-librarian at Richmond Hill High School, she retired in 1984.

**Frances Joan Skene (née Manning)** died June 17, 2024, age 86, in Vancouver. BLS (UBC, ’70). A serious fan of science fiction, she worked at Vancouver PL.

**Ronald John Slater** died November 15, 2024, age 74, in Guelph, ON. MLS (Western, ’73). For 31 years he was a librarian at Laurentian University, a specialist in the use of technology in libraries.

**Kim Smeenk** died November 4, 2024, age 53, in Washington. MLS (U of T,

’96). Starting her career at Belleville PL, ON, she moved on to research positions in Michigan City, IN; Washington State Library; and Washington State Department of Transportation.

**Donald Angus Smith** died March 4, 2024, age 88, in Toronto. For many years, he worked at U of T’s Robarts Library, in Serials, Human Resources, and Cataloguing.

**France Smyth** died December 1, 2024, age 52, in Lac-Baker, NB. Maîtrise (Université de Montréal, EBSI, ’95). She was a librarian at Région de bibliothèques du Haut-Saint-Jean, Edmundston, NB.

**Jean Elizabeth Soper** died September 26, 2024, age 106, in Kingston, ON. BLS (McGill, ’40). She worked in the Arboretum Library, Central Experimental Farm, Ottawa, and was a librarian at the Canadian War Museum from 1967.

**Julia Elizabeth Stewart** died November 16, 2024, age 53, in Fredericton, NB. MLIS (Dalhousie, ’06). She was the director of the Fredericton PL.

**Suseela Subbarao** died October 25, 2024, age 97, in Edmonton. She was a librarian at U of A, started the library program at Grant MacEwan College, then became the first editor of the Alberta legislature’s Hansard. She retired as managing editor of the *International Journal of Entomology*.

**Nola Tait** died January 19, 2025, age 90, in Strathroy, ON. She spent many years as a librarian at the **Inwood Library**. She loved to read and to write poetry.

**Timothy “Tim” Thorne** died April 4, 2024, age 69, in Kitchener, ON. MLIS (Western, ’89). An accomplished musician, he spent his career serving the Kitchener-Waterloo area.

**Serge Vaisman** died January 16, 2025, age 80, in Montreal. MLS (McGill, ’75). He worked in the McGill Library, then, in 1976, became the founder and owner of Montreal’s Art 45, one of Canada’s longest-running galleries.

**Mary Elizabeth Henderson Vise** died December 2, 2024, age 87, in Hamilton, ON. MLS (U of T, ’82). She

was a librarian at the Cross Cultural Communications Centre, then at the Canadian Environmental Law Association, where she was the founding librarian for the Resource Centre for the Environment and the Law. She retired in 1997.

**Liselotte “Lilo” Von Ketelhodt** died February 11, 2024, age 101, in Naramata, BC. With her documentation from the Vienna Nationalbibliothek, proving she had passed the ‘Staatsexamen’ as a librarian, she obtained a position at Toronto PL, where she worked for many years.

**Mary Ann “Molly” Walsh** died June 19, 2024, age 89, in Montreal. MLS (McGill, '77). Molly, who earned her MLS while a single mother of two, worked as a children’s librarian at Montreal Children’s Library until she retired. She was president of ABQLA (1988–1989), and won the ABQLA Membership Award (1991), the Anne Galler Award (1991), and the ABQLA Lifetime Achievement Award (1992).

**Margaret “Peggy” Dyke Walshe** died September 15, 2024, age 73, in St. Catharines, ON. MLS (U of T, '75). She worked at Toronto PL, Ontario Medical Association, Inco Metals Library, CNIB Library, CISTI, and Kitchener PL. After retirement, Peggy owned a consulting company, called Libraries in Transition and served on the **ELA Board**.

**Weina Wang** died September 22, 2024. MSc. Information Systems, (U of Sheffield, U.K.) Weina joined TMU Libraries in 2008, as Borrower Services Systems librarian, becoming head of Borrowing and Lending Services. Previously, Weina worked at the University Health Network as electronic services librarian.

**Joan Margaret Dodsworth Ware** died May 17, 2024, age 96, in Kanata, ON. Juggling full-time work and raising three rambunctious boys, she graduated from Algonquin College with a Library Technician Diploma. She became chief librarian of the small Kanata library, which grew into the Kanata PL during her tenure. It was an early adopter of an automated circulation program and networked interlibrary loans.

**Jean Wheeler** died October 27, 2023, age 83, in Toronto. MLS (U of T, '78). She was a U of T reference librarian and, later, acting head, SIS Library, McGill. She was also an independent bibliographer, indexer, abstract writer, and editor, who received U of T’s Arbor Award for her support of the Trinity College library. Jean was a long and active **ELA** member, creating the first **ELAN** index.

**Moira Leslie Winston (née Real)** died September 26, 2024, age 77, in Toronto. MLS (Western, '73). She was head librarian at the Oshawa PL Jess Hann branch.

**Emily Woodward (née Stewart)** died October 17, 2015, age 101, in Regina, SK. She was the head librarian at the Regina Prince of Wales Library, retiring in 1979.

**Carole Ann Yeaman** died February 5, 2024, age 82, in Almonte, ON. MLS (McGill, '64). She worked for the National Library and Archives of Canada and, after raising her children, she returned to work for the Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada.

**Mary Eunice Zabinsky (née Hart)** died September 28, 2024, age 100, in Toronto. She worked in the York U Map Library for many years.

**Barbara Ellen Zimmer (née Wilson)** died February 4, 2025, age 80, in Saskatoon. MLS (Columbia). She was a librarian at Saskatoon PL, program head of the Kelsey Institute of Applied Arts & Sciences, Library Technician Program (1969–1975), and an instructor of Library & Information Technology, at SIAST for 30 years.

*Obituaries are brief, due to space constraints. You can access a published obituary for each person by visiting the online issue of ELAN, then clicking on the name (shown in green). The ELA website, [exlibris.ca/doku.php?id=elan:memories-and-tributes](https://exlibris.ca/doku.php?id=elan:memories-and-tributes), provides more information celebrating the lives of our members.*



## Retirements

Compiled by  
Suzette Giles

**Anne Adams**, archivist processing specialist at Brock University, ON, retired in November 2024, after a 35-year career. While an undergraduate, Anne began as a part-time library assistant, then worked in positions including Circulation Desk assistant and supervisor of the Listening Room, before joining Archives and Special Collections in 2011. Among the complex collections she organized are the Woodruff Family Fonds, a nationally recognized project that took nine months.

**Janet Banfield**, CEO and chief librarian of the Township of Ramara PL, ON, retired January 3, 2025. Janet began her 25-year career with the development of the Ramara Centre, which includes the library and opened in 2001. She garnered a number of awards, including the Public Library Service Award – Ministers Award for Innovation in 2006, the Business Achievement Award for “Greatest Contribution to the Community,” in 2008, and another Minister’s Award for Innovation, in February 2015, for managing a county-wide library partnership for the redevelopment of accessible, user-friendly websites. Elise Schofield is the new CEO.

**Charlotte Beck** retired from the UBC Woodard Library in February 2024, after a 25-year career. As a reference librarian, her speciality was health sciences. Prior to joining UBC Libraries, she was hospital librarian at the Richmond Hospital for eight years. She was an active member of the Health Libraries Associations of British Columbia (HLABC) and Canada (CHLA) from 1990. In 1996 she received the Canadian Hospital Librarian of the Year Award. She served as vice president/president of HLABC (1998–1999) and vice president/president/past president of CHLA (2012–2015).



City Librarian **Vickery Bowles** will retire from the Toronto PL mid-2025. She has been a member of the library's executive team since 1998 and city librarian since 2015. Her tenure highlights — including intellectual-freedom leadership, enabling increased access, transforming public spaces, enhancing digital services and infrastructure, responsive collections, equity and inclusion, business operations, and pandemic response. She is the board vice-chair for the Urban Libraries Council based in Washington, DC, a member of the Canadian Urban Libraries Council, the Federation of Ontario Public Libraries, and the Toronto Region Board of Trade Smart Cities Working Group.

The July 2024 report of the Burnaby PL's chief librarian noted a number of retirements, including **Susan Gow**, an auxiliary librarian across the system for 12 years, **Rachel Grant**, who retired after 22 years after serving as librarian 1 at the Kingsway and Metrotown branches, then in acquisitions and collections; **Randi Robins**, who retired after 16 years spent mainly as children's librarian at the Metrotown and McGill branches; and **Heidi Lee**, a clerk in the cataloguing department, who retired after 34 years.

Professor **Mary Cavanagh**, School of Information Studies at the University of Ottawa, will retire June 30, 2025.

The first full-time faculty member in the School of Information Studies in 2009, she has been an integral part of the school's development and success. She was acting director (2016–2017), becoming director in July 2020 and guiding the school through two accreditation processes (2014 and 2022). She obtained an MLIS degree from Western University ('86) and a PhD from U of T ('09). Prior to the University of Ottawa, she was at Ottawa, Regina, and Kingston Frontenac PLs.

**David Christensen** retired on July 12, 2024 after 29 years with the Strategic Policy Branch Public Library Services, a unit of Manitoba Sport, Culture and Heritage that is responsible for the *Public Libraries Act*. He played a significant role in the development of fILL, a system that connects the province's public libraries

to facilitate interlibrary loans and the acquisition and management of a wide range of print and electronic resources.

**Kathleen De Long**, deputy chief librarian and executive director of Libraries and Museums, University of Alberta, retired in November 2024. Over a 45-year career with U of A Libraries, she twice served as interim vice-provost and chief librarian (2017–2018) and acted as interim chair of the U of A School of Library and Information Studies (2020–2022). Kathleen earned MLIS ('79) and MPA ('91) degrees from U of A and a PhD ('12) from the Simmons College Graduate School of Library and Information Studies. She is an accomplished researcher and prolific author, principally about library leadership. Kathleen was also a leader in many library associations, boards, and advisory committees. An ELA member, her honours include U of A Librarian Emeritus, CARL's Distinguished Service to Research Librarianship Award, the U of A Distinguished Alumni Award from the Library and Information Studies Alumni Association, CACUL's Outstanding Academic Librarian Award, and the Beta Phi Mu International Library Science Honor Society.

**Elaine Dickie**, director of Barrhead Library, AB, for 23 years, retired on December 31, 2024.

**Beth Dodds** retired in November 2024, after 26 years at Sechelt PL, B.C. She was the Public Services and Interlibrary Loan supervisor.

**Alex Juorio**, director of Library Services, Prince Albert PL, SK, retired in December 2024 after about 20 years with the library and director since 2010. Alex attended the University of Saskatchewan and Western University. After 11 years as deputy director, Greg Elliott is the new director.

**Susan Klinck**, children's co-ordinator at Renfrew PL, ON, retired in December 2024 after 36 years at Renfrew and 43 years as a librarian.

**Heather P. Lank**, parliamentary librarian since June 2018, retired in October 2024. Dr. Lank joined the federal civil service in 1990 and began a 27-year career with the Senate of Canada in 1991, initially as a committee clerk, then progressing to principal clerk of the Senate Chamber Operations and Procedure Office (2015–2018). She holds a master's degree and a doctorate in sociology from U of T. **Christine Ivory** is her successor.

**Parkland Regional Library**, part of Saskatchewan regional library with 54 branches, reported the retirement of four branch librarians in 2024: **Helen Mottershead**, Dysart branch, in March; **Gloria Erickson**, Churchbridge branch, in May; **Kim Kizlyk**, Kelvington branch, in June; and **Corrine Zawyrucha**, Annaheim branch, in July.

**Maureen Penn**, library director of Lac La Biche County Libraries, AB, retired in December 2024. She was director for the last half of a 30-year career in public, school and specialized libraries. Maya Fisher is the new library director.

**Rose Toenders** will retire from Sechelt PL, BC, after 34 years of managing acquisitions.

*Suzette Giles held a number of different positions at Ryerson University Library from 1975 to 2010, and was the Data Librarian at retirement.*

## Notice to Members

Help us keep our email listserv current. If you and/or someone you know are/is not receiving our emails, send your new email address to Bob Henderson at [bob.exlibris@gmail.com](mailto:bob.exlibris@gmail.com).

The names of potential new members may also be sent to Bob Henderson at the same address.

And please submit any outstanding membership dues.

## Haskell Free Library and Opera House

After years of free access by Canadians and Americans, the library has become a focus of **controversy**.

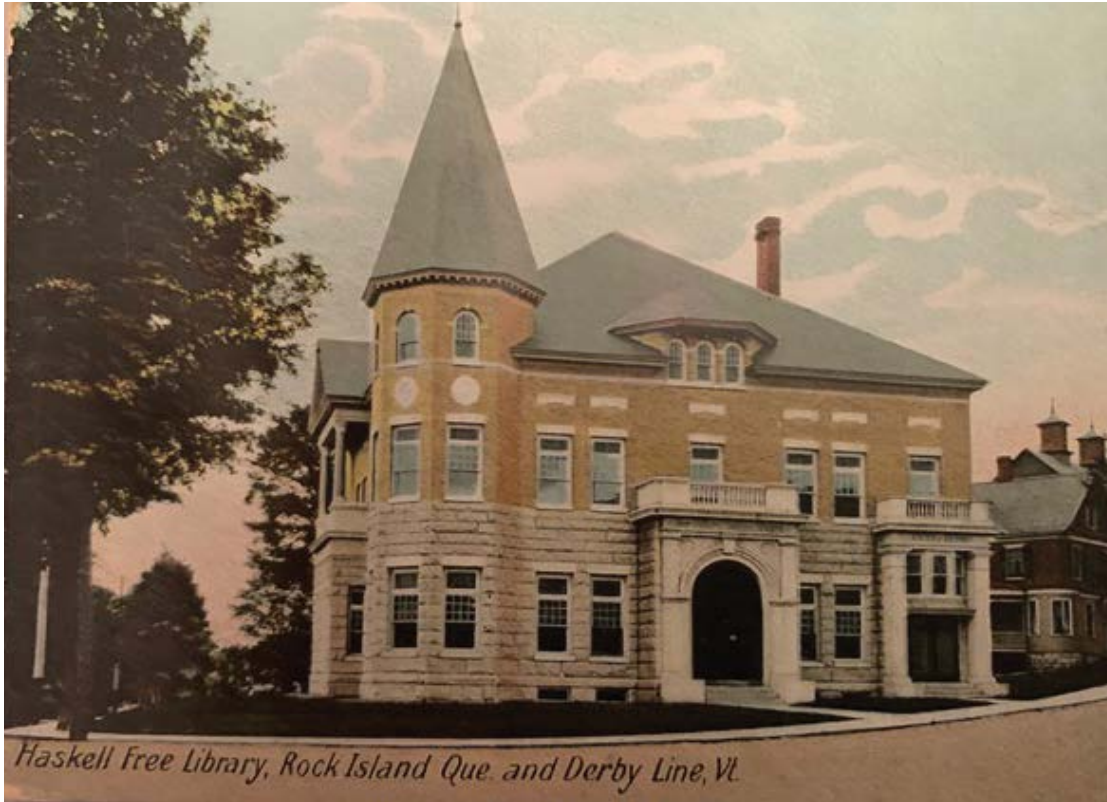


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