



ELAN

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Ex Libris Association Newsletter

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Alvin Schrader, Recipient of the 2016 CLA Outstanding Service to Librarianship Award

By Frances Davidson-Arnott

The Canadian Library Association/Association canadienne des bibliothèques presented the 2016 CLA Outstanding Service to Librarianship Award to two recipients, Rebecca Jones and our own Alvin Schrader. The CLA press release said, "Alvin Schrader is Professor Emeritus and former Chair of the School of Library and Information Studies at the University of Alberta ... After retiring in 2009, Alvin served for four years as Director of Research to the University of Alberta Libraries professional staff, mentoring and advising them in their conduct of research projects. His deep commitment to librarianship as a profession has informed all of his teaching and research activities over the years. These include intellectual freedom and censorship, sexual and gender minority library services, Internet access and filtering, academic librarianship, inquiry methodology and theory construction, research methods, library leadership, measurement and evaluation of library services, publishing, and international librarianship ... he



Alvin Schrader and Sandra Singh, President of the Canadian Library Association and Chief Librarian of the Vancouver Public Library.

Photo credit: Valoree McKay

was the first Canadian representative to the Committee of Freedom of Access to Information and Freedom of Expression created in 1998 by the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions. Recently Alvin led the successful revision of the 'Statement on Libraries and Intellectual Freedom' approved by CLA Executive Council in 2015." ■

Hold This Date!

**November 7, 2016 — Ex Libris Association
2016 Annual Conference and AGM**

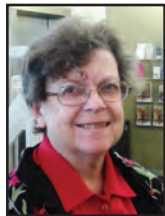
The conference will be held at Northern District Branch, Toronto Public Library, Orchard View Boulevard and Yonge Street.

Marion Misters, owner of Sleuth of Baker Street, will speak on awards and the business of mystery books.

Zafar Bangash, journalist and Director of The Institute of Contemporary Islamic Thought, will speak on Islamic literature and libraries in the GTA.

President's Report

By Elizabeth Ridler



As President of Ex Libris, I sent a letter of concern to the Honourable Dale Kirby, Minister of Education and Early Childhood Development, about the planned closure of 54 public libraries (more than 50 percent of provincial branches), in remote and small communities of Newfoundland and Labrador. Newfoundlanders depend on these branches for their equal access to the Internet, information resources, literacy support, and job searches. I also appreciated suspension of these closures and the appointment of a steering committee for a complete service review of provincial library resources and organization. I recommended appointing a librarian to the steering committee. (See the article by Dick Ellis in this issue, page 6.)

The Ex Libris board follows with interest the foundation of the Canadian Federation of Library Associations/Fédération canadienne des associations de bibliothèques after the dissolution of the Canadian Library Association (CLA), but awaits more information before recommending membership. The executive director of the Ontario Library Association, Shelagh Paterson, speaker at the Ex Libris AGM and conference on November 7, 2016, is part of the team launching the Canadian Federation of Library Associations/Fédération canadienne des associations de bibliothèques. Stay tuned for developments. (See the article by Shelagh Paterson in this issue, page 7.)

Also at the conference in November 2016, Marian Mistern, co-proprietor of Toronto's Sleuth of Baker Street, will showcase her interactions with mystery-fiction readers and review how she co-ordinates judges for the Crime Writers of Canada Arthur Ellis Awards for the best Canadian crime/mystery writing. As 2015 Arthur Ellis best crime-

novel category judge, I read 82 crime novels and chose the winner with two other judges. Awards were presented May 26 at a banquet in the Arts and Letters Club in Toronto.

The Ex Libris board is pleased once again to welcome Tom Eadie as its newest member. Board member Agatha Barc, working with Secretary Jean Weihs, has started her *ELAN* Indexing Project which will complete indexing *ELAN* issues; all indices will be merged in one master *ELAN* index with new *ELAN* issues added. Congratulations to our Archivist, Nancy Williamson, for 100 biographies of notable Canadian librarians published in the Ex Libris database. Thanks go to Website Committee Chair Lorne Bruce, who arranged for the University of Guelph to sponsor the Ex Libris listserv. Congratulations to board member Alvin Schrader, Past President of CLA, who was awarded the CLA Outstanding Service to Librarianship Award. (See the article by Frances Davidson-Arnott in this issue, page 1.)

Doreen London arranged a very successful May tour of the new Ryerson University Student Learning Centre. (See the article by London in this issue, page 3.)

The Ex Libris board is reviewing plans to honour the 150th anniversary of the confederation of Canada next year. The W. Kaye Lamb Award will seek nominations for the 2017 award for library services for older adults.

Congratulations to the new Librarian of Congress Carla D. Hayden, confirmed by the United States Senate in July. Hayden will be the first librarian in 40 years to hold the office. President of the American Library Association (ALA), 2003 to 2004, she served while I was an ALA councilor at large. Hayden was Chief Librarian of the Chicago Public Library system and the Enoch Pratt Free Library of Baltimore, and served on the U.S. National Museum Library Services Board since 2010. ■

Ex Libris Biography Project

By Nancy Williamson

The Ex Libris database now contains 101 names. We will continue to add to it as we have material ready.

If you have information, please continue to send it to us. A few members have begun to send us biographical information about themselves to be used later. This is extremely useful, and we would be happy to receive it from others. ■

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 Ex Libris 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.

Welcome to New ELA Members

We're proud to welcome the following new ELA members:

Joyce Garnett, London, ON

Joyce Thomson, Halifax, NS

Alanah White, Halifax, NS

Tour of Ryerson's Spectacular New Library

By Doreen London, *Tour Organizer*

On May 9, 2016, 14 members of Ex Libris participated in a tour of the Student Learning Centre (SLC) at Toronto's Ryerson University, led by Madeleine Lefebvre, Chief Librarian, along with Cecile Farnum, Communications and Liaison Librarian and the help of a student volunteer. The SLC is located at Yonge and Gould streets, the site of the former landmark, Sam the Record Man.

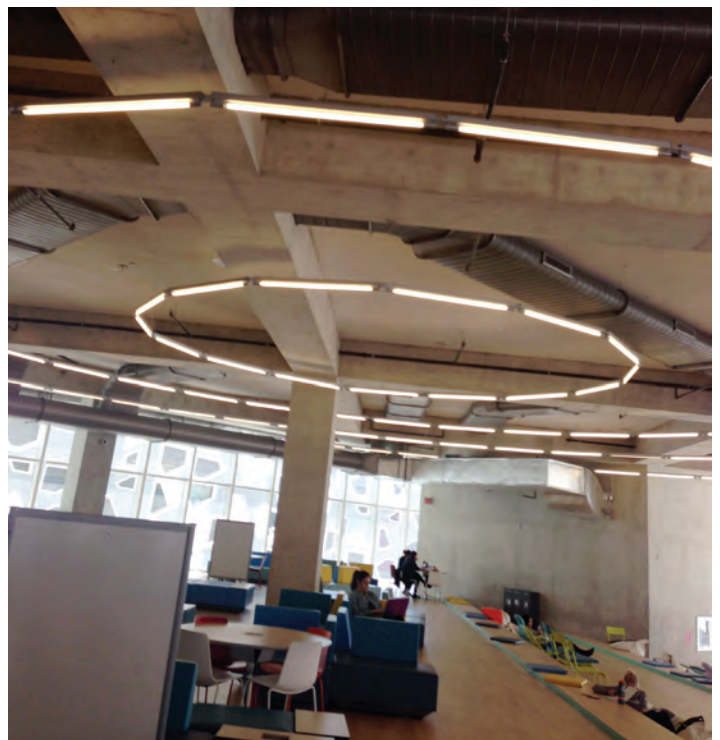
The SLC, a 21st-century library, opened on February 23, 2015. The building was designed by Snøhetta & Zeidler Partnership Architects, with input from the chief librarian. The SLC won a 2016 AIA/ALA (American Institute of Architects/American Library Association) Library Building Award, as well as a prestigious 2016 AIA New York Design Award. The SLC is an eco-friendly building with a glass exterior and three roof gardens.

It is truly an amazing building. We toured eight brightly colour-coded floors, including the blue-sky-and-beach floor, which features collaborative, bookable work space; the quiet study-only floor; the red casual-seating area with seminar rooms, computer labs, and instruction classrooms that have special dry-erase paint on the walls; the bright green learning-support centres for students, including those with disabilities; and the digital-media learning experience featuring 3D printers. The second floor provides library help with access directly into the original library, and the main floor features an amphitheatre, welcome desk, café, and more. This facility offers everything today's students would want. The SLC is open to the public and is definitely worth a visit.

Following the tour, 11 members met at the nearby Pickle Barrel for a very enjoyable lunch. ■



Photo credit: Doreen London



Technology Unmasked: Online Library Literature, Part II

By Stan Orlov



In the last issue, we looked at Canadian journals on the subject of librarianship. Today, let us explore the other types of library-related online publications in Canada. Again, we will use the *Ulrich's Periodicals Directory* that lists 242 Canadian library-related periodicals. While it is probably not a complete list, it is the most comprehensive one that I could find. After crossing out ceased titles, we end up with 94 active periodicals, of which half (47) are newsletters. The list also includes 10 bulletins,

nine directories and nine reports, plus a few occasional handbooks or catalogues. The vast majority of periodicals are still offered in print (81 print, 31 online), with 20 titles being published in both formats.

The oldest-running publication in our list is the *Directory of Special Libraries in Eastern Canada*, which from 1932 until 1973 was called *Directory of Special Libraries in Montreal*, published by the Special Libraries Association. It is closely followed by the *APLA* (Atlantic Provinces Library Association) *Bulletin*, which was initially published as the *MLA* (Maritime Library Association) *Bulletin* from 1936 until 1958.

There is an amazing variety of publishers and topics. From Canadian Library Association to Centre Régional Bibliothèque de l'Abitibi-Témiscamingue, from Gananoque Public Library Board to City of Vancouver Archives, many Canadian institutions and groups continue to regularly bring us news and opinions about the latest developments, inform us of programs and events, and serve as a forum for everyone interested in the field of librarianship in Canada. ■

Stanislav Orlov is systems librarian at Mount St. Vincent University in Halifax. Please send your questions and comments to stan.orlov@msvu.ca.

National Priorities of our New National Association

By Shelagh Paterson, *Treasurer, CFLA-FCAB*

The Canadian Federation of Library Associations/ Fédération canadienne des associations de bibliothèques (CFLA-FCAB; <http://cfla-fcab.ca/>) has identified two areas of focus for its inaugural year: the library response to the calls to action of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada, and input into the 2017 parliamentary review of Canada's 2012 *Copyright Modernization Act*.

CFLA-FCAB is now incorporated, has hired Kevin Brennan (a senior project officer tasked with putting this new organization into operation), has a bilingual website and social media accounts, and is welcoming new members. The inaugural AGM will be held in conjunction with the Ontario Library Association Super Conference in Toronto from February 1 to 4, 2017, and the inaugural national policy forum is scheduled with the Alberta Library Conference in Jasper, Alta., from April 27 to 30, 2017.

At the final CLA Conference

in June, CFLA-FCAB extended thanks to the Canadian Library Association for 70 years of service with the following remarks:

"On behalf of libraries and library associations across the country, we, as members of the interim board for the Canadian Federation of Library Associations/Fédération canadienne des associations de bibliothèques, would like to present this plaque to the Canadian Library Association (CLA) executive. This plaque is a small memento, expressing our deepest gratitude to the Canadian Library Association and its dedicated volunteers and staff for tirelessly championing our values, impacting public policy, and strengthening our community over the past 70 years.

"CLA has been the national voice for libraries on issues regarding access to information, privacy, intellectual freedom, accessibility, and copyright. CLA has promoted and protected the cultural, economic and educational health of

communities through their libraries.

"In 1946 when CLA was formed, after decades of trying to make it happen, the words spoken at the first proceeding still ring true today. G.R. Lomer, Librarian of McGill University and Director of the Library School, said, 'As members-to-be of this new, and I trust lusty, Canadian Library Association, let us see to it that this convention does not fail in the purpose for which it was called. This can be done only if each of us gives what he or she can of personal energy and selfless co-operation, and of social vision. Let this day be the V-Day of our profession in Canada in its war against apathy, ignorance, narrow-mindedness, selfishness, and regionalism of any kind.'

"We celebrate the contributions of CLA to Canadian society with our colleagues across the country. At this point in history, we wanted to thank everyone involved throughout the 70-year history of CLA, and mark this moment with appreciation and respect." ■

Visiting the Artist: Leighton House Museum

By Guy Robertson



Brilliant, handsome, and charming, Frederic Leighton (1830–1896) was one of Victorian Britain's more popular artists. He adopted

classical themes for his big paintings, which glow with antique splendor and imperial confidence. You will find his work in galleries and private collections all over the world. To get a sense of the man and his art, however, you should visit his residence — now the Leighton House Museum — in London's Holland Park Road.

Crossing the threshold, you feel you are entering the artist's mind; Leighton had every room designed and decorated to reflect his taste and sensibility. From an aesthetic perspective, the Arab Hall on the main floor is the centrepiece, with its magnificent dome and tile work. While its dome is small compared with those that surmount many European cathedrals, it seems monumental. Some visitors want to see nothing more but, if you leave after only viewing the



Photo credit: Jocelyn Davidson-Arnott



Photo credit: Courtesy of Leighton House Museum and The Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea

Arab Hall, you will miss items that are equally interesting, if not as colourful.

From the hall, you take the stairs to the second floor to see Leighton's studio. Here he produced and displayed his works, including paintings, drawings, sculptures, plaster casts, and maquettes. Convivial and an excellent host, he entertained guests in his studio before and after dinners in the small but exquisite dining room on the main floor. In 1895, guests could see Leighton's most famous painting — *Flaming June* — in its heavy frame on an easel in the studio. Currently this image of a sleeping woman resides in the Museo de Arte de Ponce in Puerto Rico; in the past decade, it has appeared on loan to The Frick Collection in New York and to London's Tate Britain.

Despite his generous nature and love of social events, Leighton remained an intensely private man all his life. He never married. There is a rumour that he fathered a child, possibly with one of his models. But the evidence for this is tenuous, and there is no proof for the once-common supposition that he was bisexual or gay. His second-floor bedroom is the museum's plainest room, dimly lit and with little more than a single bed. In modern parlance, Leighton kept it simple.

Considering his professional commitments — he eventually became the President of the Royal Academy — you might assume that he had little time for intimate relationships. But



Photo credit: Justin Barton

like many Victorians he maintained a voluminous correspondence with friends and acquaintances all over Europe, writing at the desk in the library that was added as an extension to the main floor between 1877 and 1881. The books have been dispersed, but it is safe to assume that Leighton's shelves were crammed with reference books such as dictionaries of the European languages he spoke, guides to different regions and cities (particularly in France and Spain), gallery catalogues, and artists' biographies. Photos of the library from his time show a desk stacked with books along both sides. Around the desk, Leighton hung drawings and etchings by Ingres, Alfred Stevens, Val Prinsep, and Alphonse Legros. Today, above the desk one sees *The Apotheosis of Marcantonio Bragadin*, attributed to the 16th-century school of Tintoretto.

Leighton also kept books on tables and shelves in the studio. It is reasonable to assume that he read wherever he felt comfortable and whenever he had time or needed information pertaining to a classical theme or to another artist's work. But Leighton seems to have used his bedroom for nothing more than sleeping, after a hectic day of painting, drawing, writing or reading. ■

Note: Flaming June will be on display at Leighton House Museum from November 4, 2016, until April 2, 2017. www.rbkc.gov.uk/subsites/museums/leightonhousemuseum1.aspx

Church Archives

By Doug Robinson

Shortly after I retired as a librarian I started working in a church archive one day a week for the next 10 years until early last year. I had often done research in archives and found many similarities between libraries and archives. My longtime interest in genealogy also resulted in my frequent use of archives.

Church archives provide a very valuable and reliable source of information for people who are doing family research or other historical research that might involve church records. These church records are normally original records, so we are viewing the information written by ministers, priests, or other church officials at the time events took place. With the keen interest in genealogy nowadays, many church records have been transcribed, and the result is a secondary source of information, which may include errors made by the person doing the transcribing. The original records may contain errors, as well,

as I discovered when some ancestors of mine were baptized as “Robertson” rather than “Robinson.” However, original records are clearly preferable to transcribed ones, especially when they are used for legal purposes. Many people ask for copies of these records when they need to prove a date of birth, marriage, or death, and church archives can usually provide a certified copy for legal purposes if the record is not restricted. There is normally a charge for this service.

Probably the most sought-after records are found in the registers of baptisms, marriages, and burials. These records and other records are not identical for every denomination, so it is important to read carefully the information provided on the website of the particular denomination. For example, some denominations have adult baptism rather than infant baptism, and some include the date of birth along with the date of baptism.

Other records, such as membership

lists, can be useful to researchers in determining when a family member joined a particular church or transferred to a different one. A wide range of other records in church-archive collections are usually identified in the acquisitions-policy statement of a particular church archive. Some archives have detailed listings of their holdings, as well.

Church archives are normally linked to a particular denomination. Some denominations have only one archive in Canada. Others have archives in different regions or provinces, which can be beneficial to users who want to visit the archives to do research. Researchers should contact the church archive in advance, to make sure that the church record they are seeking is in the archive and not still in a church. Some church archives have larger collections whereas some have limited space and focus more on getting records from congregations or parishes that are closing or amalgamating. ■

Ex Libris has a New Listserv — exlibrisca@listserv.uoguelph.ca

By Lorne Bruce

Back in the spring, a listserv was created to enable Ex Libris Association (ELA) members to communicate more easily. This came in response to questions at our annual conference last November, when use of the Microsoft email Outlook service was raised. Many people were more familiar with the traditional list-server protocols.

Using the new listserv is easy, or so it is said! This type of email messaging has been around for 30 years and most ELA members have used it already.

There are about 170 ELA members with emails entered into the service, so it's easy to reach many people at one time. The address is exlibrisca@listserv.uoguelph.ca. It's been in operation for a few months, so it's likely that you have already received messages. Posting messages is easy — send to exlibrisca@listserv.uoguelph.ca. Please

note that you can only send mail to the list from the email address under which you are subscribed through our annual subscriptions. Remember that emails to the list should always have an accurate subject line, because your message goes to all subscribers.

For security reasons, after sending a message (or reply) you will receive a return email from the listserv asking you to confirm that you did indeed send a message. Reply to the message and your posting will be sent to everyone. This is also a second chance to decide that you actually want to send the message!

ELA does not send you a lot of messages, so don't worry about your mailbox filling up during a vacation. If you want to unsubscribe, DO NOT send the request to listserv. Send it to lbruce@uoguelph.ca, and your name will be removed.

Also, various email services (Gmail,

Hotmail, Microsoft, Yahoo, etc.) have various ways of handling listserv messages that can be refused outright, filtered out, or entered as 'junk' in your mailbox. So keep your messages and replies simple! If you want to send pictures to ELA members, for example, use our Facebook page, instead. ■

Notice to Members

Help us keep our email listserv current. If you and/or someone you know are/is not receiving our emails, please send your new email address to Bob Henderson at bob.superrover@gmail.com.

Why I Became a Library Technician

By Susan Morley

Several factors came into play that steered me down the “library skills path,” including the Library Club at Chinguacousy Secondary School — bless the teacher librarian there! My push toward a library career lies with the convergence of three factors: local history, my local newspaper, the *Brampton Guardian*, and a Canada Youth Grant. I’ve also always been a reader, and I know that influence lies firmly with my parents, who were keen readers. My mother, Eileen, who grew up in Depression-era Winnipeg, would often talk about the marvels of visiting the local library and riches that could be found there. My tween years were filled with wonders that included *The Heroes (or Greek Fairy Tales for My Children)* by Charles Kingsley, *The Saint* by Leslie Charteris, and *The Lost Continent* and the Barsoom series by Edgar Rice Burroughs ... imagine being transported across space in an astral body? The latter may have contributed to a desire to be an astronomer, but my science skills were dismal so I moved on. Throughout high school I was aiming to be an accountant, but it became pretty clear that wouldn’t be a good use of my skill sets.

By 1974 I was an active member of the Library Club at Chinguacousy Secondary, which I thought was more of a hobby than steps toward any career. Enter the Canada Youth Grant program and a summer job offer from the Brampton Library, Chinguacousy Branch. To my surprise, I was accepted and began my first “library job,” indexing my city’s newspaper, the *Brampton Guardian*, for the library’s local-history collection.

The next surprise came when I was offered a part-time job over the school year to continue the project plus spell off the librarians at the reference-inquiry desk. By then I had acquired a very special knowledge set, which the administration chose to capitalize on. This pattern of full-time summer and part-time school-year jobs continued for two years. I even made the local newspaper, myself, and



“Experience made her certain about career.”

Photo credit: *The Brampton Guardian*, published with permission, Patricia Lonergan, Editor-in-Chief, Metroland South

was featured in a Thursday, August 19, 1976, article entitled “Experience made her certain about career.”

I don’t remember why I chose the library-technician versus the librarian path, but I suspect it was economics. A college diploma was much more affordable, and guaranteed to get me into the workforce upon graduation. So, after much discussion, off I went to Sheridan College of Applied Arts and Technology (as it was then called) and enrolled in the Library and Information Technician program. Post-graduation I did have a stint in the public library sector, but soon realized it really wasn’t for me, so I kept checking for other options. To my surprise, one of my field placements — the Canadian Standards Association (CSA) Group Information Centre — called me with a job offer and the rest, as they say, is history.

In hindsight I could have pursued a master’s degree in library and information science, but my interests leaned towards computer technology, so the next item ticked off my list was an information technologies support services diploma, also with Sheridan. Several other job-related courses followed, always with a nod to information technology.

(Didn’t the “librarian” have a better understanding than anyone else?)

Next career milestone — webmaster. Other milestones included establishing online access to more than 1,000 technical-standards documents (2004); creating and maintaining a community of practice (CoP) long before we ever heard of wikis (2006); use of computer-based training (2012); and creating a federated search service (2014), which allows staff around the world a one-stop search service to all of the Information Centre’s online resources, including third-party commercial databases. During 37 years with CSA, until my retirement in 2015, several achievements were acknowledged by awards: two of significance were the Ontario Association of Library Technicians/ Association des bibliotechniciens de l’Ontario’s 2005 Innovation Award that acknowledged creation of the online library catalogue and corporate webmaster role, then the Special Library Association (SLA) Engineering Division’s 2013 Engineering Librarian of the Year Award that recognized a life career in that field. It’s been a very rewarding career, and, yes, I still enjoy reading the *Brampton Guardian*. ■

Crisis in Newfoundland & Labrador Public Libraries

By Dick Ellis

When it was suggested that I write a piece putting the present situation in Newfoundland & Labrador Public Libraries (NLPL) into perspective, I immediately set to work, choosing the Great Fire of 1846 in St. John's as a starting point (all the subscription and tradesmen's libraries were burned out). That approach rapidly took me beyond the suggested number of words, so I will fast forward to 1995 and report that when Paul Martin set out to save Canada from bankruptcy by diminishing transfer payments, libraries in Newfoundland and Labrador felt the brunt of the cutbacks. The provincial librarian of the day was encouraged into retirement after a spat with the premier and a series of accountants have assumed the title of Director of Provincial Libraries since then. The provincial *Public Libraries Act* was amended in 1996 to make the change of titles official. Six regions were cut to three, losing qualified librarians as they had previously been classified as managers.

Skipping over another couple of decades — except to note that NLPL were not notable beneficiaries of \$100+ per barrel oil revenues — we come to the present financial crisis in the province, owing to the drop in oil prices and the ill-considered

The resulting outcry is unprecedented in my experience.

decision of the previous government to underwrite the development of a new power-generation facility at Muskrat Falls in Labrador.

The new Liberal government elected last November responded to the suddenly discovered (!) crisis by asking all departments and agencies to create a plan to cut costs by 30 percent in three years. The Provincial Information and Library Resources Board was one such agency, and according to sources who are not authorized to speak publicly, it came up with three options, none of which received a majority of the votes cast at the board meeting. Apparently the board could not choose between the three options: slitting its throat, committing seppuku or reviving the tradition of self-immolation in a good cause. It is notable that of the 10 members on the board, six are appointed directly by the minister responsible.

With the board unwilling to take drastic measures and unable

to negotiate alternative plans, the minister told the board to cut the libraries in the smallest communities, allowing him to make statements such as “85 percent of the population is within a 30-minute drive to a library.” The very libraries needed most by their communities were those slated to be cut.

The resulting outcry is unprecedented in my experience. The local library community, led by the Newfoundland and Labrador Library Association, supported significantly by the Atlantic Provinces Library Association, other library groups, writers, and local arts communities, mobilized social media to protest the minister's plan. The minister has backed down, postponing the first round of cuts and authorizing the board to hire EY (previously Ernst & Young) to study the situation. The board will set the terms of the study, presumably with ministerial approval. There is, after all, an assistant deputy minister appointed to the board.

The basic problem is very simple: the province spends less than half the Canadian Urban Libraries Council average per-capita library expenditure on the NLPL. Whether the present protest is sufficient to change that figure, or just rearrange the pain, is anyone's guess. ■

Upcoming Event: Toronto Tour

The next Toronto library/museum tour will begin at 10:30 a.m. on October 13, 2016, at the Redpath Sugar Museum, at the corner of Queen's Quay East and Jarvis Street.

This museum follows the history of sugar procuring and refining from Toronto's earliest days, and illustrates the historic background of the economic development of Toronto and Canada. Curator Richard Feltoe

will lead the private tour.

An optional lunch will be held at the delightful waterfront restaurant Against The Grain, a two-minute walk from the museum. Details to be announced on the listserv. ■

Please contact Shirley Lewis (shirleylewis6@yahoo.com) to reserve your spot.

Donate to Ex Libris

Would you like us to extend our programming? A donation or bequest to Ex Libris helps us broaden and increase our activities. All donations are tax deductible.

Libraries Named after Librarians

By Suzette Giles

This is the 11th in a series of articles about outstanding librarians and the libraries named after them.

Louise Riley Branch, Calgary Public Library

If you were a child in Calgary or southern Alberta from 1943 onward, you may have benefited from one of Louise Riley's innovations. Every Saturday morning, CFAC radio broadcast a children's story hour from Calgary Public Library. If you are a little younger, you may have read one of her children's novels: *Mystery Horse* (1950), *Train for Tiger Lily* (1954), or *A Spell at Scoggin's Crossing* (1960). *Train for Tiger Lily* won the bronze medal for the Canadian Library Association Book of the Year for Children Award. In 1951, her novel for adults, *One Happy Moment*, was published.

Margaret Louise Riley was both an accomplished author and an exceptional librarian. Born in Calgary in 1904 to Harriet Waterhouse and Ezra Hounsfield Riley, a prominent politician and son of pioneers, she took English at McGill University, followed by further studies in children's libraries at the University of Wisconsin.

Her career as a librarian began in 1930, when she joined the Calgary Public Library with the responsibility of continuing the development of services to children and of the juvenile collection. Staff were encouraged to pursue further professional development, and in 1941 Riley won a Carnegie Fellowship scholarship of \$1,300 from the American Library Association, to attend Columbia University for post-graduate training.

Until her appointment as assistant librarian in 1949, Riley oversaw the introduction of many innovative programs that led to the Calgary Public Library being viewed as outstanding in the services offered to children and teens. One innovation, in 1938, was setting up a dedicated space, the John Buchan room, with books for young adults. Another was introducing a story hour in 1942. There were book talks, displays, puppet shows, films,



Bookmobile with W.R. Castell and Louise Riley

Photo credit: Courtesy of Calgary Public Library

craft clubs, and local experts who gave children an introduction to chess and stamp collecting. The school board was persuaded to provide a grant toward the purchase of 400 books for pleasure reading, to be placed in three schools, then a librarian visited one morning a week to check out the books and give advice to students about their reading.

A tradition of exceptional service to children and young adults was established that the library has maintained to the present day.

In 1949 Louise Riley was appointed assistant librarian, a position she held until her death in 1957. Children's services continued to be a priority of the library, but Riley played a wider role in the development of library services during the latter years.

In 1950 Riley offered the first courses at the University of Alberta, in school librarianship, to qualified teachers. The popularity of the courses resulted in the appointment of a full-time professor in 1964, and to the opening of the School of Library Science at the university in 1968.

Riley's contributions to library service and the library profession extended into the wider library community and the social milieu of Calgary and southern



Margaret Louise Riley

Photo credit: Courtesy of Glenbow Archives, (M-8375-70-2)

Alberta. She was elected President of the Alberta Library Association in 1948, served on the executive of the Canadian Library Association, and can be considered one of the founders of these organizations. She was chairman of the Alberta Library Board and campaigned vigorously for regional libraries.

She was a popular public speaker and, together with fellow librarian Georgina Thomson, was a long-term member of the panel of the popular CFAC radio show *State Your Case*.

Riley died in Edmonton in 1957. Library director W.R. Castell said that 'Louie' Riley was known as "one of the finest librarians for children's work in Canada." The Canadian Library Association opened a memorial fund in her memory and scholarships were awarded in subsequent years. Calgary opened a new library branch in October 1959 and, in recognition of her career and especially her work with children, it was named for her. ■

Thanks to Alvin Schrader for suggesting a number of Alberta librarians for this column, including Louise Riley and Penny McKee. The ResearchPlus team of Calgary Public Library was very supportive and supplied much of the information.



Book Reviews

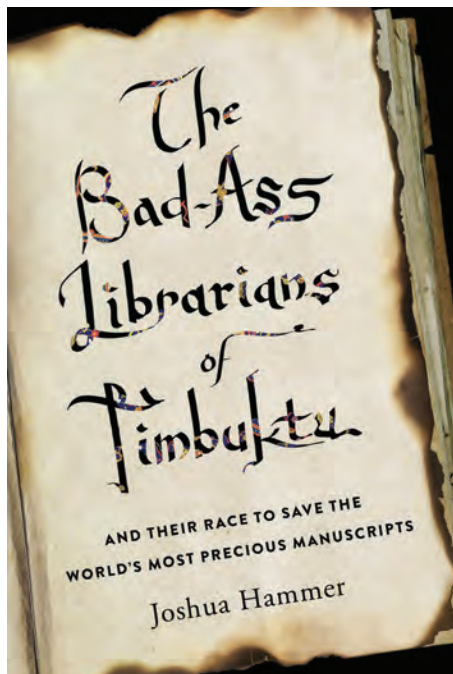


The House of Twenty Thousand Books

by Sasha Abramsky
New York Review Books, 2015.
ISBN: 978-1590178881. \$26.24

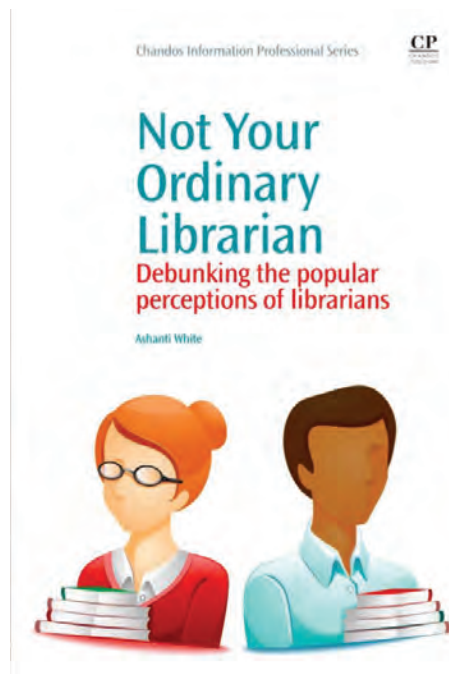
Reviewed by Rick Fickel

This is a loving and readable memoir of one of the greatest collectors and scholars of Judaica, the author's grandfather, Chimen Abramsky. In a modest London home close to Hampstead Heath, and to Highgate Cemetery where Marx is buried, he housed a fabulous collection of almost 20,000 volumes of rare Judaica and early accounts of British



Marxism and communism. The son of a rabbi, Yehezkel Abramsky, Chimen Abramsky was born in 1916 near Minsk, Russia. He moved to Palestine in the 1930s, then settled in Britain a few months prior to World War II.

Working at a rare-book shop in London, he entered the world of radical British politics. His home quickly became a meeting place for the country's leading Marxist intellectuals, economists, and historians. What delights is the description of the atmosphere accompanying this world of ideas. There is food, copiously and continually delivered by his wife Miriam. There are ferocious arguments and debates, and friends and family scurrying about a home literally stuffed to the rafters with treasures.



Abramsky abandoned his radical politics following Krushchev's revelations of Stalin's brutal regime. Despite a lack of academic credentials but armed with his immense knowledge of Judaica and British communism, he became a professor and chair of Jewish and Hebrew Studies at University College, London, and a visiting professor at Brandeis and Stanford universities in the United States.

This account of what some might see as an obsessive hoarder may disappoint readers interested in an academic understanding of radical politics or even bibliographic antiquarianism. It is, however, a charming picture of a unique personality in a vibrant world of ideas and beliefs, friends and foes, and — above all — family.

continued on page 11

Books of Interest to Members

ELAN welcomes news about books by ELA members. Send a brief description or an advertising brochure to: jean.weihs@gmail.com.

...continued from page 10

The Bad-Ass Librarians of Timbukto: And Their Race to Save the World's Most Precious Manuscripts

by Joshua Hammer
Simon & Schuster, 2016.
ISBN: 978-1476777405. \$27.91

Reviewed by Julia Schneider

Abdel Kader Haidara didn't set out to be a hero or a librarian. He wanted to be a trader like his father. The elder Haidara became involved in manuscript preservation in his latter years at the Ahmed Baba Institute of Higher Learning and Islamic Research, but he had made

his fortune before that, ensuring a legacy for Abdel and his 11 siblings.

As it turned out, part of Abdel's inheritance was the distinction of being named custodian of the family library, which included some 40,000 manuscripts. Many families in Mali have had manuscripts hidden away in metal containers, storage bins, and caves. They date from the 16th-century golden age in Timbukto, when the culture was rich and before the country was invaded by outsiders. Until UNESCO began work to form the Ahmed Baba Institute in 1964 to preserve Malian culture, there was no organized effort to preserve these manuscripts or central place to keep them.

Joshua Hammer's book is the wholly riveting story of the circumstances that changed a modest man into a titan of manuscript preservation.

Starting in 1984 Abdel Kader Haidara travelled the land to find manuscripts, finagled ways to get libraries for them, and then rescued the manuscripts from those very libraries when Islamist extremists threatened to destroy them. He had saved 400,000 irreplaceable manuscripts from termites, mould, and water damage only to have to move them out of the way of an even more destructive enemy.

Reading *Bad-Ass Librarians* will introduce you to the legacy of a small but fascinating country, change the way you look at Africa and Islamic culture, and reveal what one man can do to save his culture. It is an eye-opening book; thanks to Hammer's personal experiences, style, and extensive research, it is also an absolutely bad-ass read.

Highly recommended.

Not Your Ordinary Librarian: Debunking the Popular Perceptions of Librarians

by Ashanti White
Oxford, Cambridge,
New Delhi: Chandos, 2012.
ISBN: 978-1843346708. \$80

Reviewed by Wendy Scott

Now that Batgirl is the most famous television librarian, has the old stereotype of a librarian (a middle-aged, hair-in-a-bun spinster with a forbidding expression) been replaced? Ashanti White does not think it has — and she thinks it must be, if librarians are to get the respect and support of the public.

Ashanti White (an author, poet, MLIS from University of North Carolina at Greensboro, PhD in Transformative Studies from California Institute of Integral Studies) begins her examination of the librarian image by describing her own early experience in a public library, where her appearance as an African-American in "brightly colored, frequently changing hair ... blatant tattoos, and eccentric clothing" attracted and baffled her adolescent users, who asked her, "where's the glasses and the bun?" She was nothing like their idea of a librarian. Her youth and style made her far more accessible to those users than most of her middle-aged, conventionally dressed colleagues, she suggests.

Much of her research is a study of portrayals of librarians in the media: movies, television shows, and literature — both positive and negative. Four

appendices provide lists of films featuring librarians, and a fifth lists some "good librarian websites." How true are these portrayals? Not many, she says, and images matter. When the real qualifications and capabilities of librarians are not made clear, the profession suffers: in the quality of service libraries support, in the public's use of those services, in the funding libraries receive from their communities and organizations, and in the difficulty of recruiting the best-qualified and more diverse candidates into the field.

Not Your Ordinary Librarian, one of a Chandos series "aimed at the busy information professional," is designed as a reference tool for practising librarians. It is also a textbook for Information Studies students, particularly those planning to work in public libraries, and contains suggestions for changing old stereotypes.

Community-Led Librarianship: Spreading the World

By Sam Coghlan

I continue to call myself a librarian, albeit a “retired librarian,” because I continue to believe in inclusion — not just that my communities should make room for everybody, but also that every individual should be enabled to participate in community on whatever terms they choose (within the law, of course). Librarians are about equity, empowerment, and intellectual freedom. Now — not only as a librarian, but also as a community member who believes in equity, empowerment, and intellectual freedom — I welcome the community-led librarianship (CLL) movement.

CLL, to me, means libraries trying harder to “get it right” — to not only listen to their community, but to hear what is said and to act on it. CLL means letting community members help decide and design what their library will do, moving beyond outreach to collaboration. CLL means trying to include everybody by doing more than saying “all are welcome,” by also going out to wherever people are. CLL especially means building relationships with people who don’t usually use libraries and learning their culture and language in order to ask them, in ways they can understand, how their library might help. CLL means not only listening to their answers, but also including them in the decision making.

I first became aware of CLL about a decade ago when, at conferences, I heard of a federal government grant that four urban public library systems (Halifax, Regina, Toronto, Vancouver) were using to learn how to better serve marginalized populations. What I recall most vividly is hearing the librarians involved in the project

Librarians had to leave their libraries, learn the culture and the language of the people they were hoping to reach.

describe how building relationships with the marginalized required that librarians stretch well outside their comfort levels. Librarians had to leave their libraries, learn the culture and the language of the people they were hoping to reach, and go way beyond the middle-class culture and typical rules-based solutions of traditional librarianship. A tool kit (www.librariesincommunities.ca/resources/Community-Led_Libraries_Toolkit.pdf) ensued.

CLL means librarians and libraries learning how to survive in a new culture that is somewhat alien. It reminds me of the work of Dr. Ruby Payne and her *Bridges Out of Poverty* approach, which recognizes that people moving from one class to another must leave behind aspects of the old and make changes to their lifestyle that may be painful and are best accomplished with the aid of a mentor (*Bridges Out of Poverty: Strategies for Professionals and Communities* by Ruby K. Payne, Philip E. DeVol and Terie Dreussi Smith).

I’m heartened that many libraries serving communities of various sizes across Canada are implementing CLL, and not just the four library systems involved in the original grant.

I haven’t undertaken research to compare how CLL is being unfolded, but I understand that there are several local or regional tool kits developed or under development. An early proponent of the CLL approach from Great Britain, John Pateman, is now the CEO of the Thunder Bay Public Library in Ontario, and has been quite active in promoting CLL adoption. His five blog posts to the Community-Led Library Service Network at clacommunityled.wordpress.com/resources/ illustrate the fact that changing the culture of a library is not a simple process. Each post deals with a different aspect: strategy, staff structure, service culture, service structure, and systems. Pateman also edits a CLL column, “Open for All?” in the online newsletter of the Ontario Library Association, *Open Shelf* (www.open-shelf.ca/).

The Community-Led Libraries Committee of the Ontario Library Association will be hosting its second Community-Led Libraries Think Tank this fall. See accessola.org/web/OLA/OPLA/Committees/Community-Led_Libraries/OLA/OPLA/Community-Led_Libraries_Committee.aspx.

CLL does call for a shakeup in a librarianship culture that can sometimes be complacently middle-class. I agree wholeheartedly with the aims, but I am also impressed by the extent to which librarians are spreading the world, sharing best practices, and helping each other out. I see the state of librarian culture as a glass half full (or more). Hopefully, via community-led librarianship, the best that librarians have to offer will permeate into hitherto forgotten corners of our communities. ■

When You Move

When you move, please remember to send your new address to Ex Libris Association, Faculty of Information, University of Toronto, 140 St. George St., Toronto, ON M5S 3G6.

British Columbia News



By Guy Robertson

This summer **Vancouver Public Library (VPL)** offered an extensive series of programs in the Central Library's **Inspiration**

Lab. Patrons were invited to learn more about basic digitization, audio editing, sound and video recording, desktop publishing, vlogging (video blogging), and Photoshop. Very popular were the 90-minute sessions on self-publishing, concentrating on developing and disseminating e-books. Outside the Inspiration Lab, VPL invited patrons to sign up for workshops on crowdfunding, mobile apps, and LinkedIn. For those interested in creative writing and language, there were workshops on writing for teens and public speaking. Outside the Central Library, VPL branches organized a well-received series of children's programs. For the very young, there were the Babytime, Toddler Storytime, and Pyjama Storytime programs. Notably successful was *Man in the Moon*, which featured language play for fathers (or male caregivers) and their infants.

The **University of British Columbia (UBC) Library** announced winners of the UBC Library Recognition Awards. Jeremy Buhler, an assessment librarian, won the Employee Excellence Award for his subject expertise and strong focus on his work. Phoebe Chow, an Asian Library program services assistant, has been selected as this year's Unsung Hero for her unwavering commitment and positive attitude to her work. This year's Innovation Award went to Meghan Waitt, Collections Management Coordinator in the library's Central Technical Services, for her outstanding problem solving and guidance during library branch moves over the last few years and in the implementation of new software.

Following the UK's Brexit referendum, several B.C. academic and

public libraries have received inquiries from British librarians regarding job openings. These librarians are mostly recent graduates of British library science programs, although a couple have decades of experience in administration, technical services, and collection development. When asked why he wanted to work in Vancouver, one job seeker noted that "it's a long way from London, and one can watch whales from the beaches." Another preferred to work in Victoria because "there are fewer bears there than in the mountains." A young cataloguer said that she was well-prepared to live and work in B.C. because "it rains often in Manchester, and [she is] used to the damp." The grass is always greener on distant lawns.

Prairies News



By Alvin M. Schrader

Edmonton Public Library has received approval for a major renovation of its downtown **Stanley A. Milner Library**, to

start in 2017. Design plans more than triple the children's library space, and include a separate makerspace, Lego feature, indoor playground for kids, and the main makerspace, as well as quiet reading and study areas beside banks of windows. A two storey-tall interactive digital display screen, modeled after Australia's University of Queensland Library, is also planned, as is a private day-care space. During construction the library will relocate to downtown space owned by the University of Alberta. Renovation costs are estimated at \$62.5 million. Reopening is scheduled for 2020.

Calgary Public Library hosted its 42nd annual Volunteer Recognition Event as part of National Volunteer Week in April. More than 2,500 volunteers contributed about 57,000 volunteer hours last year — an estimated economic value of \$1.5 million.

In 2016 Universal Music Canada

donated the entire EMI Music Canada archive to the **University of Calgary Library**. During its 63 years, EMI signed or distributed more than 200 Canadian artists of many musical genres. The collection includes 18,000 video recordings, 21,000 audio recordings, and two million photographs and documents, as well as demo tapes, album-cover art, and publicity photos. It's expected to take three years to transfer and catalogue the archive before it can be offered online and on campus.

University College of the North (UCN) and the **Mathias Colomb Cree Nation** in Manitoba opened the **UCN/Pukatawagan Public Library** in March 2016, in the third such partnership formed by UCN.

Last June **Manitoba Education Resources Library** celebrated 100 years of service, while **Thompson Public Library** celebrated 50 years.

The Manitoba Libraries Working Group, chaired by Manitoba Library Association (MLA) President Alix-Rae Stefanko, is exploring the amalgamation of the province's major library associations: MLA, the Manitoba Association of Library Technicians, the Manitoba School Library Association, and the Manitoba Library Trustees Association. A town hall meeting was held at the 2016 Manitoba Libraries Conference in May; another is scheduled for September. Slides from the first town hall and the terms of reference for the working group are posted at mla.mb.ca/mblibraries.

The 2016 Saskatchewan Libraries Conference celebrated the 20th anniversary of *The Libraries Co-operation Act*. Read about the Saskatchewan Multitype Library Board, created by the act, at journal.lib.uoguelph.ca/index.php/perj/article/view/3547. Watch the conference keynote speaker Joseph Boyden at youtube.com/watch?v=iP627swi-1I.

The **Saskatchewan Library Association** is planning a ground-

breaking project for early 2017, One Book, One Province Saskatchewan, with the theme Tolerance and Understanding. The goal is to increase literacy and to establish a reading culture by providing opportunities for residents to become more socially engaged in their community through a shared story. The project also aims to promote the value of libraries and literacy organizations, while raising their profile in the province.

Ontario News



By Vivienne James

In response to customer demand and the board's vision for more open hours, **Toronto Public Library (TPL)** will open six more branches on Sundays from September to June, and eight branches will be the first to begin year-round Sunday service. Expanding Sunday service supports the City of Toronto's Poverty Reduction Strategy by extending access to essential services including space, technology, and information.

With funding from Google.org and the City of Toronto, TPL has instituted an innovative WiFi-hotspot lending-library program to give Torontonians free Internet at home. The pilot program has started in six branches located in designated Neighbourhood Improvement Areas, which serve large numbers of low-income households that are unlikely to have Internet access at home. "We need programs like this one to help close the digital divide," said Vickery Bowles, City Librarian. Mayor John Tory said, "We are choosing to invest in people by providing Internet access to neighbourhoods which need it most. The program will give our vulnerable residents the opportunity to look for jobs, do homework or use city services."

Ottawa Public Library has released the list of twelve candidate sites to be evaluated as the best possible location for its planned flagship **Ottawa**

Central Library. In June a special day of learning activities around the theme of sustainability was held to mark the Silver LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) certification for the **Beaverbrook Branch.** Some notable qualifying features for certification include: energy-efficient mechanical systems, daylight harvesting, solar-shading devices, and much more.

The winner of the 2016 Forest of Reading Golden Oak Award is *Residential Schools: With the Words and Images of Survivors* by Larrie Loyie, co-authored by Wayne K. Spear and Constance Brissenden (Indigenous Education Press, 2014).

Hamilton Reads — in the spirit of Canada Reads — selected the latter's 2016 winner in an attempt to connect with book lovers and build community. *The Illegal* by Lawrence Hill (HarperCollins, 2015) tells the story of the plight of undocumented refugees and asylum seekers.

A piece of Toronto history has found a new home at **McMaster University's William Ready Division of Archives and Research Collections.** A newspaper column headlined "Why can't the Queen shop Honest Ed's?" was written during a royal visit in the 1980s by award-winning journalist and McMaster alumnus Gary Lautens. A poster-size version, which hung for 30-plus years outside Honest Ed's, was presented to Lautens's widow by David Mirvish and she, in turn, donated it to the Lautens archive.

Recipients of the Ontario Association of Architects New Library Building Award this July were **Centennial College Ashtonbee Campus Renewal & Library (MJMA), TPL Fort York Branch Library (KPMB Architects), Haliburton County Public Library (HavenCraft Designs), TPL Scarborough Civic Centre Branch (LGA Architectural Partners with Phillip H. Carter), and Ryerson University Student Learning Centre (Zeidler Partnership Architects with Snøhetta).**

Quebec News



By Pierre Guilmette and Peter F. McNally



After damage to the building had led to its closing in 2010, Quebec City reopened the **Biblioth que Jean-Baptiste Duberger** in July 2016. Renovated with the assistance of a \$240,000 investment, it now contains 20,000 volumes, along with eight computer stations to serve the Duberger neighbourhood where many citizens do not have Internet access at home. Quebec City has seen an increase in library use, with loans to youth increasing by 64 percent in 2015. By 2020 an increase in subscribers to the public library network is expected to rise by 35 to 40 percent.

The **Universit  Laval Library** has highlighted the 400th anniversary of William Shakespeare's death with an exhibition held from April 22 to October 21, 2016. A dozen old books drawn from the library collections are displayed, along with engravings illustrating some of his best-known works such as *Macbeth*, *Romeo and Juliette*, and *Hamlet*.

L'Association des biblioth caires du Qu bec/Quebec Library Association (ABQLA) held its 84th annual conference, May 4, at the Gelber Conference Centre, Montreal. The theme was "Biblioth ques En Mouvement/Libraries Moving Forward." The incoming President of ABQLA is Leticia Cuenca, **Jewish Public Library.**

Chris Lyons, Head Librarian, **Osler Library of the History of Medicine, McGill University**, was elected to the Grolier Club, the oldest society for book collectors, scholars, and bibliophiles in the United States. He is also guest editor of "Medical Examinations: Book History at the Osler Library of the History of Medicine," a special issue (Vol. 53, No. 2) *Papers of the Bibliographical Society of Canada.*

Maritimes News



By Tanja Harrison

Nova Scotia public libraries and museums teamed up to offer the first-ever 'culture pass,' a downloadable, electronic pass to gain regular admission (one adult or one family) to all 28 Nova Scotia museum sites from June 1 to September 5. The pilot program provided the pass for a three-week period, free of charge with a public library card. To date, the initiative has seen high demand.

The fifth annual **One Book Nova Scotia** title will have been announced by the time of printing, and various libraries across the province will be hosting award-winning Newfoundland author Donna Morrissey for a fall reading tour of her book, *The Deception of Livvy Higgs*.

Cape Breton University (CBU) celebrated the opening of its new wind farm, and university representatives claim it is now the first carbon-neutral university in the world. CBU also drew international attention for its open-access, online course, MIKM 2701: Learning from Knowledge Keepers of Mi'kma'ki. The first streamed class drew 15,000 people, and the course Twitter feed trended top 10 in Canada for 12 weeks.

On New Brunswick Literacy Day, Post-Secondary Education, Training and Labour Minister Francine Landry announced that the province was investing in a pilot project to promote literacy and lifelong learning. Beginning May 1, 2016, the provincial government is investing almost \$1 million per year to cover extra staffing costs, to allow the following libraries to open every day: **Saint John Free Public Library, Moncton Public Library, Fredericton Public Library, Campbellton Centennial Library, and Mgr. W.J. Conway Public Library.**

Thanks to a grant from its alumni foundation, Prince Edward Island's

Holland College is anticipating a new digital literacy space at **Charlottetown Confederation Centre Public Library**, which promises state-of-the-art technology in a comfortable, flexible, and collaborative environment. Construction coincides with a new bookable service for students and faculty — three mobile-charging carts each with 20 iPads, one cart for each **Holland College Library** location, to provide on-demand computer-app labs for instruction.

Robertson Library has announced the KindredSpaces project, an online discovery tool to explore the digitized L.M. Montgomery Research Collections housed in the library at the **University of Prince Edward Island (UPEI)**. The site, which features the Ryrie-Campbell collection donated by Dr. Donna Jane Campbell, was launched at the international L.M. Montgomery Institute Biennial Conference held in P.E.I. Dive into Montgomery's world at kindredspaces.ca.

Attention stargazers — there's a new telescope in town! UPEI and the amateur sidewalk astronomers of Charlottetown group have partnered with the **Charlottetown Public Library** to offer a six-inch Dobsonian reflecting telescope for one-week loans. The metre-high telescope requires assembly but comes with instructions and a step-by-step YouTube video created especially for the project. And you thought museum passes were popular — sign me up for that wait list!

Newfoundland & Labrador News



By Dick Ellis

Elsewhere in this issue (see article on page 6), faithful readers will find a reflection on the public library situation here. Just as there was no Alberta story — recently — except the Fort McMurray fires, there is no story out of this

province except that of our libraries.

News from Canadian Library/Information Studies Schools



Compiled by Judy Dunn

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

By Guy Robertson

SLAIS welcomed two new tenure-track faculty members. **Dr. Jennifer Douglas** (Archival Science) conducts research into areas such as personal papers and literary archives, archival arrangement and description, the history of archival theory, and online communities. Currently she is the editor of *Archivaria*, the journal of the Association of Canadian Archivists. **Dr. Muhammad Abdul-Mageed** (Information and Media Studies) has interests in social media, natural language processing, and machine learning. At present he is a fellow at the Center of Computer-Mediated Communication at Indiana University. In April, as a parting gift to her SLAIS colleagues, staff members, and students, retiring Professor **Judi Saltman** laid out four tables in the school's common space and loaded them with books and other materials that she had collected during her career. In the ensuing acquisitional frenzy, the tables emptied quickly. Saltman was delighted that her beloved treasures had found new homes. SLAIS administrators were relieved that there were no casualties during the event.

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

By Toni Samek

SLIS welcomed new Assistant Professor **Dr. Keren Dali**, Postdoctoral Fellow **Dr. Angela Pollak**, and our inaugural Communications and Assessment professional, **Marjorie Henderson**. Meanwhile, 46 students convoked

in June 2016, including the first 20 online students to complete their MLIS fully online and our first combined MBA/MLIS graduate. Incoming student **Kayla Lar-Son** will spend the summer in an indigenous-student internship at University of Alberta Libraries. Students and faculty presented at seven different societies at the Congress of the Humanities and Social Sciences, reflecting the diversity of our research.

A paper published in the recent issue of the *Journal of the Association for Information Science and Technology* ranked SLIS as one of the top-40 departments in the world that contribute to the LIS literature. The research paper entitled, "Disciplinary, National and Departmental Contributions to the Literature of Library and Information Science 2007–2015," makes use of 31 journals from 2007 to 2012. SLIS radiates a positive energy!

Western University, Faculty of Information and Media Studies By Becky Blue

Good wishes were extended this summer to **Rosanne Greene**, longtime Manager of Graduate Student Services, as she retired on June 30, 2016. Greene held her position for 17 years, and played a vital role in maintaining Western's highly successful MLIS co-op program. The relationships that she developed with employers through personal contact and site visits will continue to serve students well for many years to come.

With Greene's retirement, **Brandi Borman** (MLIS, 2002) has stepped into the manager's role, bringing her experience from previous positions with Western University and Huron University College.

Another exciting development saw the Graduate Resource Centre library implement TOR technology and launch a TOR relay — a first for Canadian libraries. The relay is part of a larger campaign to train students in open-source software and in the use of privacy- and data-security tools, and speaks to the foundational values of the library profession.

University of Toronto, Faculty of Information By Kathleen O'Brien

Professor **Wendy Duff** has been named to a two-year term as our ninth dean. Professors **Jeremy Packer**, **Sarah Sharma**, **Alex Hanna**, **Olivier St-Cyr**, and **Periklis Andritsos** have joined us. Renovations to our fourth and fifth floors are well under way for September. This fall, an inaugural class of corporate and business professionals will take Canada's first Executive Master of Information (MI) program in Information Systems & Design (ISD-E). The Coach House Institute has been renamed **The McLuhan Centre for Culture and Technology**. Professor **Patrick Keilty** co-edited the latest journal, *Library Trends*, the first LIS journal dedicated entirely to race, gender, or sexuality. Students **Alicia Dotiwalla** and **Jennifer Yang** are in Paris, interning at UNESCO, as part of the first course-credit internship placement program of its kind in Canada. Professor **Chun Wei Choo** won a prestigious 2016 JJ Berry Smith Doctoral Supervision Award at U of T, where he has supervised 14 percent of the faculty's PhD graduates over the past twenty-four years.

University of Ottawa, School of Information Studies By Mary Cavanagh

University of Ottawa's École des sciences de l'information/School of Information Studies (ÉSIS) continues to grow, following successful American Library Association accreditation in 2014. Professor **Mary Cavanagh** has been appointed acting director for 2016/17, during which period ÉSIS will also be conducting an international search for a director to begin a three-year term starting July 2017.

Dr. Heather Morrison's research project on open-access scholarship, "Sustaining the Knowledge Commons," was renewed until 2017. **Dr. Inge Alberts** was awarded an SSHRC Insight Development Grant to explore automated email classification and institutional IM policies. Professors **Marina Pavlovic**

(uOttawa Common Law) and **Mary Cavanagh** received a grant from the Law Foundation of Ontario to map telecom consumers' information behaviours in the context of CRTC's Wireless Code. ÉSIS 2016 graduates took up positions in the LIS field in public- and private-sector organizations in the National Capital Region, New Brunswick, and northern Ontario communities.

McGill University, School of Information Studies By Peter F. McNally

Professor **Benjamin Fung** has been awarded a Canada Research Chair (CRC Tier 2) in Data Mining for Cybersecurity. He aims to enhance the data-sharing and data-mining capabilities for health-care and cyber-security professionals. The award is a \$100,000 annual grant over five years. PhD student **Fei Shu** has received a FRQSC Doctoral Fellowship, in support of his research on the difference between Web of Science and local Chinese bibliometric databases. His study will assist understanding of whether international bibliometric databases can be used to evaluate national research performance. The School has introduced three 15-credit graduate certificate degrees, designed for students or professionals holding a bachelor's degree or higher: Graduate Certificate in Digital Archives Management, Graduate Certificate in Information & Knowledge Management and Graduate Certificate in Information Architecture.

Université de Montréal, École de bibliothéconomie et des sciences de l'information (EBSI) By Isabelle Bourgey

Among the various research projects that EBSI's faculty worked on last year, one was very close to national news. In the fall of 2015, as Canada had the longest federal election campaign in its history, political parties produced a large number of official documents. However, the proliferation of documents made their analysis more complex for both political scientists and voters. This

was the context in which the project “Les mots de la campagne” was led by Professor **Dominic Forest** and his research team. The objective of this project was to apply text-mining methods to official documents published during the 2015 campaign, to automatically extract information that would have been much more difficult to extract manually. The results of this project (in French) can be found on the website www.lesmotsdelacampagne.com.

Dalhousie University, School of Information Management (SIM)

By Sandra Toze

Dr. Sandra Toze has been appointed as director of SIM for a five-year term. **Dr. Bertrum MacDonald** finished his term as interim dean of the Faculty of Management (FOM). Along with his EIUI research team, MacDonald published a book, *Science, Information, and Policy Interface for Effective Coastal and Ocean Management*. **Dr. Louise Spiteri** is back from her sabbatical, during which she edited and contributed to a new book *Managing Metadata in Web-scale Discovery Systems*. Spiteri is currently

the President of the Association for Library and Information Science Education. **Dr. Vivian Howard** was elected president of the Canadian Association for Information Science, and has been reappointed as Associate Dean, Academic, FOM. In June, SIM Faculty member **Ryan Whalen**, defended his PhD dissertation entitled *Knowledge Recombination, Diffusion, and Research Team Composition: Understanding 21st-Century Innovation* at Northwestern University, where he concurrently completed his JD degree. MLIS student **Alison Brown** was awarded the 2016 Stephanie Downs Memorial Award.

Milestones

By Merlyn Beeckmans, with contributions from Frances Davidson-Arnott

Obituaries

Adele Annett died on August 2, 2016, in Toronto. Following her graduation from the University of Toronto's (U of T) School of Library Science in 1961, Adele took a position at the St. Michael's College John M. Kelly Library. In 1966 she joined the cataloguing department in the main library at U of T, where she worked until her retirement in 1994.

Wendy Blue died on June 7, 2016, at age 47. She graduated from McGill University with an MLS and worked for many years at Novartis and McGill University Health Centre Montreal Neurological Institute.

Françoise Cameron (née Pluvinaige) died on May 5, 2016, in St Boniface, Man. She taught French in many different places (The University of Winnipeg, Alliance Française, MIELS). She completed an MA in French literature at the University of Manitoba. Later, she trained as a library technician and worked in that capacity at École Belmont and Victory School in the Seven Oaks School Division.

Clarisse Cardin died August 9, 2016, at age 98, in Saint-Sauveur des Monts, Que. She held various positions at the National Library of

Canada (now Library and Archives Canada), including Chief of Subject Analysis, Chef intérimaire, Division de la bibliographie nationale, and Chef de la Division du catalogue systématique de la Bibliothèque nationale. She was involved in professional activities, including with The Bibliographical Society of Canada, and was Secretary of the Canadian Committee on Cataloguing. She was the author of a frequently cited work, “Bio-bibliographie de Marius Barbeau,” *Archives de folklore, publications de l'Université Laval*, Vol. II, 1947, prepared for the diploma of librarian at the École de Bibliothécaires of the University of Montréal.

Mavis Olive Cariou died on April 17, 2016, in Toronto. She was a Professor of Library Studies at the University of Toronto for many years and a valued member of Ex Libris Association.

Onil Dupuis died on August 10, 2016, at age 66, in Montréal. For 35 years he was head of the university libraries section at La Conférence des recteurs et des principaux des universités du Québec. He also worked with the Corporation des bibliothécaires professionnels du Québec, the 48th World Congress of the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions, and

the Association pour l'avancement des sciences et des techniques de documentation (ASTED). Awarded the Canadian Association of Research Libraries Award of Merit in 2011, he received a Lieutenant Governor of Québec Award in 2014.

Paul Dumond died on January 2, 2016, at age 68, in Cornwall, Ont. After working as a teacher/librarian at St Lawrence School (now École secondaire La Citadelle) from 1970 to 2001, he began a new career as a law librarian at SD&G Law Library.

Ingrid Ilse Epp (née Neufeld) died on June 25, 2016, at age 78. She completed her BLS and MLS at the University of Toronto (U of T). Epp became University College (UC) Librarian at U of T in the late 1970s, after the UC Library had been without a librarian for several years, and most of its collection had been transferred to Robarts Library. She re-established the UC Library and built a collection to support the college's academic programs. For several years prior to her retirement in 1993, much of her time was devoted to the newly acquired Purdy Collection: more than 3,000 volumes of Canadian literature collected by the poet Al Purdy. Completing an MA in history just prior to her retirement in 1993, Epp embarked on a new project to

catalogue the Peter J. Braun Russian Mennonite Archive, publishing a finding guide and book of translations.

Donalda Ewart Badone (née Hastie) died on July 26, 2016, at age 88. She earned a BLS from the University of Toronto and also qualified as a teacher. She worked as a teacher/librarian at Drewry Public School, North York, Ont. Badone also helped organize Scholastic Book Fairs and reviewed many children's books for library journals.

Helen Kathleen Gray died on June 13, 2016, at age 96. She held a Library Science degree from Simon Fraser University and spent 20 happy years working there as a librarian.

Graham R. Hill died on April 13, 2016, at age 70. He served as University Librarian at McMaster University. He was a copyright expert and a respected leader of the Ontario Council of University Libraries.

Jim Ingram died on May 30, 2016, at age 69, in Toronto. He worked in the University of Toronto Science and Medicine Library in the late 1970s and early 1980s before being hired as the photographer in the Department of Preservation Services where, in 1984, he became supervisor of the Reprographics Section, producing microfilm and microfiche of brittle books. As a result of his experience, Ingram wrote *Guidelines for preservation microfilming in Canadian libraries*, which was published in 1993 by the National Library of Canada (now Library and Archives Canada).

John Willard Kilgour died on March 9, 2016, at age 75. He attended McGill University and worked at the University of Toronto Libraries.

Diana Lim died on August 2, 2016, at age 68. She had a fulfilling career as a librarian at the National Library of Canada (now Library and Archives Canada).

Margaret (Joyce) MacIntosh died on June 6, 2016, at age 90. She graduated from St. Francis Xavier University

(BSC 1946) then received her BLS in 1967 from the University of British Columbia. She worked for the Canadian Department of Agriculture from 1946 to 1967, then moved to the libraries division, which provided selective dissemination of agricultural information to research stations and headquarters across Canada.

J. MacRee (Mac) Elrod died on June 16, 2016, at age 84, in Victoria. He was director of Special Libraries Cataloguing in Victoria since 1979. Prior to that, he held library positions at the University of British Columbia, Ohio Wesleyan University, and Central Methodist University. He received his MLS from Peabody College in 1960.

Patrick Jerome (Jerry) Malone died on March 10, 2016, at age 75, in Windsor. Malone started at the University of Windsor as a librarian trainee in August 1969, rising through the ranks to become a Librarian IV in 1981, a position he held until his retirement in August 2000. He was a member of the Essex County Historical Society.

Elizabeth (Bette) Mogan died on May 10, 2016, at age 97, in Toronto. She was a retired teacher-librarian for the Toronto District School Board.

Mary Roddy died on May 9, 2016, at age 64. She held a BA (1975) and an MLIS (1991) from the University of Toronto. She won a Canadian Library Association award for her article "Libraries and AIDS Education." Her work life included a time at the Centre for Industrial Relations Library, followed by membership in a research team at the Gerstein Science Information Centre until 1997. Then she joined the staff at Robarts Library.

Niva Rowan died on August 2, 2015, at age 86, in Toronto. She worked as a teacher-librarian with the Durham Region School Board, and was responsible for setting up the first libraries for the Durham Region Board of Education.

Wiebke Smythe (née Pusch) died August 16, 2016, at age 81, in

Toronto. She was the lead volunteer at The Library Book Room, Robarts Library, University of Toronto (U of T), and was an active member of the alumni association at the U of T Faculty of Information and a member of Ex Libris Association.

Jean Tener died on May 5, 2016, at age 85, in Calgary. After receiving a BA and an MA in history from the University of Alberta, she joined the Department of Rare Books and Special Collections at the University of Calgary, eventually serving as University Archivist.

Kathryn (Kathy) Therrien died on April 16, 2016, in Toronto. She worked at Toronto Public Library. Her specialty was film.

Murray John Waddington died on March 30, 2016, at age 71, in Ottawa. He held a BEd and a BFA from the University of Saskatchewan, and a BLS from the University of Toronto. His long career included being a cataloguer and reference librarian at the Murray Library (University of Saskatchewan), cataloguer and Head of Technical Services (National Gallery of Canada), Reference and Collection Development Librarian (Toronto Reference Library, Fine Arts Department), and Associate Librarian and later Chief Librarian (National Gallery of Canada, Library and Archives).

Doreen Westgarth died on February 29, 2016, at age 88, in Vancouver. She held a BA and an MLS from the University of British Columbia — degrees earned while being the mother of three young children. She enjoyed her work as a librarian at Vancouver Public Library.

Jim Whitridge died on August 28, 2016, at age 91, in Ottawa. A veteran of World War II, he was a career civil servant and librarian at what was then the federal Ministry of Labour. An avid gardener, patron of the National Arts Centre, and choral singer, he earned a 25-year Ontario Volunteer Service Award for his work with Meals on Wheels and *Vistas*, a community newspaper.

Varna Zenier Wilmeth died on July 23, 2016, at age 91, in Santa Fe, NM. She lived in Ottawa, and for many years was a librarian at Carleton University.

Barbara (Rae) Yeates died on April 30, 2016, at age 89, in Toronto. She earned an MLS from the University of

Retirements

Toronto and then worked at Hamilton Public Library as a reference librarian.

Rita Campbell, Liaison and Special Projects Librarian, and former University Librarian of St. Francis Xavier University (StFX), was honoured at a retirement reception at StFX this spring.

Rudi Denham, CEO at St. Thomas Public Library since 2006, announced her forthcoming retirement at the library's January board meeting. The flexible date depends on the progress of the upcoming library building project, which is planned for 2017. She said, "I've been a professional librarian in three different provinces for 36 years, and for over 25 of those years I've served as CEO." In 2014 she received the Ontario Public Library Association Special Recognition Award for being the ten-year editor of one of their newsletters called *HoOPLA*.

Patrick Ellis, Associate University Librarian (Resources) and head of the W. K. Kellogg Health Sciences Library at Dalhousie, retired at the end of June after 36 successful years with Dal. Before retiring he was presented the award for merit from the Canadian Health Libraries Association.

Mark Haslett is retiring after 20 years at the University of Waterloo. He was Associate University Librarian, Information Services. He initiated TRELLIS, a shared cataloguing venture with the University of Guelph and Wilfrid Laurier University. He was also involved with digital learning through such groups as Canadian Research Knowledge Network.

Trina O'Brien Leggott, Chief Librarian at the Confederation Centre Public Library, Prince Edward Island Public Library Service, retired this summer after a long and successful career in public libraries.

Penny Logan retired on October 30, 2015, as Manager of Library Services, Nova Scotia Health Sciences Library, after a 30-year career in health and public libraries. She was presented with the Atlantic Provinces Library Association Advocacy Award last year to recognize her exemplary work in library promotion, advocacy, and outreach.

Maggie MacDonald retired as CEO of the Chinook Arch Regional Library System in September 2015 after 33 years of service. She holds an Honours BA from Queen's University, an MLS from the University of Toronto and an MA in history from York University. She chaired the Alberta Public Library Electronic Network (APLEN) Standing Committee from 1999 to 2013. She was also Second Vice President of the Library Association of Alberta, 1992 to 1994.

Elaine MacLean, Liaison and Collection Librarian at St. Francis Xavier University, was honoured at a retirement reception at the university this spring, after a long and active career in academic libraries. Over the years Elaine has had many achievements, including serving as President of the Atlantic Provinces Library Association (APLA) and winning the APLA Merit Award.

Audrey Mark, Director of the Pahnkshimon Nuyeh'ah Library System, in northern Saskatchewan, retired on May 31, 2016, after 36 years of service. Her many accomplishments include assisting in the multilingual Northern Reading Program, and implementing numerous province-wide library automation programs.

Susan Morley, Ex Libris Association member, retired as Manager Information & Knowledge Management, from CSA Group (Canadian Standards Association) October 30, 2015,

following 37 years of service during which she developed many innovative services. Morley has been professionally active with several organizations, including Ontario Association of Library Technicians/Association des bibliothécaires de l'Ontario and Special Libraries Association (see her article in this issue, page 7).

Stephen Sloan retired after a diverse 28-year career with the University of New Brunswick. Sloan held several roles over the years and leaves as the head of both the Science & Forestry and the Engineering & Computer Science libraries.

Rick Walker, Manager of Library Services for Winnipeg Public Library, is retiring after more than 33 years of service. He oversaw many major improvements in the system. He also served as President of the Canadian Association of Public Libraries and

Awards

has been a member of the Canadian Urban Libraries Council since 1998.

Betty Harris, Ex Libris Association member, was made Librarian Emerita of the University of the Fraser Valley, June 2016.

Penny Logan, Ex Libris Association member, was awarded Honourary Life Membership in the Canadian Health Libraries Association/Association des bibliothèques de la santé du Canada at the association's conference in Toronto on May 17, 2016.

Memorial University was the winner of the 2016 Atlantic Provinces Library Association Advocacy Award for their "Check It Out!" program, which aims to celebrate the importance of libraries in communities and the culture of innovative programming and services at the Queen Elizabeth II Library.

Charlotte Raine, long-standing member of Saskatchewan School Library Association and now retired, and **Allan Johnson**, retiring Library Director and CEO of Southeast

Regional Library in Weyburn, Sask., received the 2016 Saskatchewan Library Association Frances Morrison Award for outstanding service to libraries in Saskatchewan.

Crystal Rose is the winner of the 2016 Outstanding Alumni Award from the Associated Alumni of Dalhousie University's School of Information Management. Rose will receive her award at the annual welcome reception on September 28, 2016, in the Rowe Building on the Dalhousie campus.

Alvin Schrader, Ex Libris Association member, has been awarded the 2016 CLA Outstanding Service to Librarianship Award. (See the article by Frances Davidson-Arnott in this issue, page 1.)

Anne Wade, Manager, Information Specialist and lecturer, Centre for the Study of Learning and Performance, Concordia University, has won the L'Association des bibliothécaires du Québec/Quebec Library

at Dalhousie University, has been appointed the new University Librarian of the University of King's College.

Donna Bourne-Tyson, University Librarian at Dalhousie University, is the chair of the Canadian Federation of Library Associations from July 2016 to January 2017.

Camille Callison, immediate Past President of the Manitoba Library Association, is the indigenous representative on the Canadian Federation of Library Associations/ Fédération canadienne des associations de bibliothèques (CFLA-FCAB) interim board. The first annual general meeting for CFLA-FCAB will take place in early February 2017 during the Ontario Library Association Super Conference.

Susan Cleyle, formerly Director of Distance Education, Learning and Teaching Supports at Memorial University, has been appointed University Librarian for Memorial University Libraries.

Lou Duggan, formerly the Cataloguing and Metadata Librarian at Saint Mary's University, has been appointed the new University Librarian at St. Francis Xavier University.

Robin Hepher was appointed CEO

of Chinook Arch Regional Library System (Alberta) on October 1, 2015. He joined the system in 2007 after three years as Reference Librarian and then as Electronic Services Librarian in Lethbridge Public Library. He received his MLIS from Western University in 2004. He served as chair of the Southern Alberta Information Network, an official Canadian Library Association (CLA) network for a number of years, and chaired the CLA Robert H. Blackburn Distinguished Paper Award Committee until 2015.

Michael Shires was elected to a two-year term as President of the Saskatchewan Library Association at its 2016 AGM. He is Collection Development Librarian and Liaison Librarian for Economics and Indigenous Studies at the University of Regina.

Alix-Rae Stefanko, President of the Manitoba Library Association, has been appointed to the Canadian Federation of Library Associations/ Fédération canadienne des associations de bibliothèques (CFLA-FCAB) as the Prairie Provinces board member for Manitoba and Saskatchewan; she is also secretary for the interim board. **Peter Bailey**, President of the Library Association of Alberta, is the Alberta CLFA-FCAB board member and vice-chair of the interim board.

Appointments

Association Anne Galler Award for Outstanding Library Service.

Jennifer Adams, formerly the Reference and Cataloguing Librarian at the Sir James Dunn Law Library

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To access the indexes, go to:
http://www.exlibris.ca/doku.php?id=elan:newsletter_list.

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ELAN

www.exlibris.ca

Ex Libris Association Newsletter

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Refined History: A Visit to the Redpath Sugar Museum

By Tom Eadie

On October 16, 2016, a group of Ex Libris members toured the Redpath Sugar Museum located in the Redpath Sugar Toronto Refinery at 95 Queen's Quay East. Richard Feltoe, Curator and Redpath Corporate Archivist, led the tour, which featured his knowledgeable explanations, displays of artifacts, and an interesting video about sugar production.

Redpath Sugar began as the Canada Sugar Refining Company, established in Montreal in 1854 by John Redpath (1796–1869). Born in Scotland and orphaned when young, Redpath rose from obscurity to eminence. An apprentice stonemason, he immigrated to Canada at the age of 20. Over time Redpath became a building contractor involved in the construction of many well-known Montreal buildings, including Notre-Dame Basilica, the Montreal General Hospital, and the Bank of Montreal headquarters. He was a principal contractor for the Rideau Canal. An increasingly prominent citizen, he was actively engaged in key social and political issues, such as the Rebellions of 1837, the Durham Report, the Underground Railroad, and Canadian Confederation. The elements of his and his family's activities are well represented in the museum's collection, and provide insights into the development of Canada as a nation.

The museum sets the historical



Richard Feltoe, Curator and Redpath Corporate Archivist, above. Enjoying lunch at Against the Grain, below.



development of sugar production and refining in the context of social issues (such as the transporting of Africans to serve as slave labour in the West Indies), and of the technical developments that reduced costs and led to increasing per capita consumption of sugar. The advertisements of the early 20th century, promoting the healthy benefits of sugar, may seem ironic in light of current concerns about overconsumption, but evoke a strong sense of the times for which they were written and provide a fascinating example of the industrialization of foodstuffs.

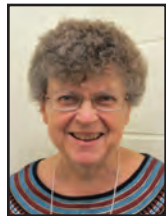
The tour was followed by lunch at the nearby urban tavern Against the Grain. The menu was interesting, the beer-and-wine list excellent, and the view of the harbour superb. Conversation flowed! Many thanks to Shirley Lewis who made the arrangements for the tour. ■

Hold This Date!

November 6, 2017 —
Ex Libris Association 2017
Annual Conference and AGM

President's Report

By Elizabeth Ridler



The Ex Libris Association (ELA) has a 2017 membership in the Canadian Federation of Library Associations/ Fédération canadienne des associations bibliothèques (CFLA-FCAB) dating from the Ontario Library Association Conference, when board member Barbara Kaye observed the CFLA-FCAB AGM and Treasurer Bob Henderson delivered the membership fee to the CFLA-FCAB Senior Project Executive Kevin Brennan. The Ex Libris board understands that the CFLA-FCAB has an interest in Ex Libris historical work in *ELAN*, its bibliographic database of famous Canadian librarians and library workers, Ex Libris plaquing libraries named for Canadian librarians, and the W. Kaye Lamb Award.

Thanks to Rick Ficek and Bob Henderson for their organization of the successful ELA 2016 Annual Conference. (See the article by Barbara Kaye in this issue, page 3.) Work has already commenced for the 2017 Annual Conference, scheduled for November 6, 2017. Rick Ficek will investigate possible speakers.

The Ex Libris board welcomed Tom Eadie and Wendy Newman as elected new members; Tom Eadie accepted the vice president's position to be confirmed at the 2017 AGM. Thanks to Sam Coghlan, Lorne Bruce, and Suzette Giles, who stepped down as board members, for all of their contributions to Ex Libris. Thanks to Lorne Bruce who, in co-operation with

Bob Henderson, continues to oversee the Ex Libris listserv and website. Suzette Giles will continue her work on *ELAN*. Congratulations to board member Agatha Barc, who completed her project to index all *ELAN* issues, posted to the ELA website by Lorne Bruce. Congratulations to our Archivist, Nancy Williamson, for 106 biographies of notable Canadian librarians, published in the Ex Libris database; Ex Libris members look forward to the biographies of the late Brian Land, Katherine Greenfield, and Maureen Woods. The Ex Libris board appreciates John and Liz Warrener for their 11 years of organizing Ex Libris exhibit tables at various library conferences.

Shirley Lewis arranged an informative October tour at Redpath Sugar Museum and Library. (See the cover story by Tom Eadie in this issue.) Vivienne James is arranging a tour of the Royal Canadian Military Institute Library on May 15, 2017. (See below).

Thank you to Rick Ficek, chairman of the W. Kaye Lamb Committee, who reviews plans for the award to seek nominations for the 2018 Award for service to seniors; the CFLA-FCAB has agreed to help with publicity for the award.

Lorne Bruce and Peter McNally honour the 150th anniversary of Confederation with articles throughout this issue.

I wish to thank all Ex Libris members and board members for their support and participation in the ELA during my second year as President. ■

Ex Libris Biography Project

By Nancy Williamson

As of January 2017, there are 106 names in the database, including David Sinclair, Maria Flora Zielinska, Aegidius Fauteux, Gerald Richard Lomer, and Hugh Hornby-Langdon.

Among names being worked on are Katherine Greenfield, Brian Land, and Maureen Woods.

Names and biographies are welcome. Please contact Nancy Williamson. ■

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 Ex Libris 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.

Upcoming Event: Toronto Tour

The Ex Libris Spring 2017 Toronto library/museum tour will take place on Monday, May 15, 2017, from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. We will tour the Royal Canadian Military Institute, which has an extensive reference collection of military history, science, art, and artifacts. It is located at 426 University Avenue.

The free tour will be followed by lunch (optional). Please contact Vivienne James if you are interested in attending or want more information (vjames@sympatico.ca).

Welcome to New ELA Members

We're proud to welcome the following new ELA members:

Donna Burton, Toronto, ON
Dorothy Drew, London, ON
Jim Forrester, Lakefield, ON
Sally Press, Thornhill, ON
Karen Wierucki, Toronto, ON

ELA 2016 Annual Conference Report

By Barbara Kaye



Marian Misters, above left, spoke about crime writers' associations and awards



Our 2016 Conference was held on November 7 at the Northern District Branch, Toronto Public Library. The main morning speaker was Marian Misters, co-owner of *Sleuth of Baker Street* in Toronto. She spoke about the evolution of national crime writers' groups, beginning with the Mystery Writers of America in 1945, followed by the Crime Writers' Association (in the U.K.) in 1953, and finally the Crime Writers of Canada (CWC) in 1982. In 1984 the CWC instituted the Arthur Ellis Awards, named after the professional alias used by those who served as Canada's official hangman. From a single best crime-novel award, it has expanded to include eight categories of crime writing, including Best Short Story, Best First Novel, and the Unhanged Arthur for best unpublished crime manuscript.

Just before the annual business meeting, Shelagh Paterson, Executive Director of the Ontario Library Association (OLA), provided us with an update on the development of the Canadian Federation of Library Associations/Fédération canadienne des associations de bibliothèques (CFLA-FCAB), which officially came into being following the final dissolution of the Canadian Library Association. A nonprofit corporation (not a charity), the CFLA-FCAB is a

focused federation with a mandate to serve as the voice of Canada's library communities. It is currently working on four major issues: copyright, intellectual freedom, e-book pricing, and Indigenous library services. Also under development is an issues/policy forum with conferences of member associations, which will move around the country. The first AGM of the CFLA-FCAB took place February 1, 2017, at the OLA Super Conference in Toronto (for information and updates, visit <http://cfla-fcab.ca>).

After lunch, we enjoyed a presentation on Islamic literature by Shaykh Ibrahim Hussain, Imam and Executive Director of the Madina Seminary (madinaseminary.ca) in Mississauga, Ont., and one of the instructors in the seminary's Center for Nonviolence and Peace Studies. Born in the U.K., Shaykh Hussain grew up surrounded by books, and has dedicated his entire career to the field of Quranic studies. Quoting Thomas Carlyle, he spoke passionately about the power of a good book as "the purest essence of the human soul." Yet, because one word or one sentence can influence so many people, the biggest challenge in building a library for Muslims and all Canadians is to acquire quality resources that promote a thorough understanding of the Islamic faith. ■



**Celebrating 150
Years of Canadian
Libraries: Carnegie
and Rockefeller**

Andrew Carnegie (1835–1919), the Carnegie Corporation of New York (1911–) and the Rockefeller Foundation (1913–) have profoundly influenced Canadian libraries and librarianship. Between 1883 and 1924, Carnegie funded construction of approximately 2,500 public libraries worldwide, including 125 in Canada.

After 1919, Carnegie focused on library education: accreditation standards and financial assistance to upgrade schools — including McGill University's Library School. Between 1927 and 1930, McGill moved from being a summer school, to a sessional program, to a graduate program offering a one-year Bachelor of Library Science, and weathered falling enrolment during the Great Depression.

The Carnegie Corporation supported Canada's pioneering efforts in regional libraries — Fraser Valley (1929–1936) and Prince Edward Island (1933–1936) — which served as models worldwide. It also funded the first national study of Canadian libraries, John Ridington's *Libraries in Canada* (1931). Between 1932 and 1935, more than \$214,800 was granted for college and university library collections across the country.

Dovetailing with the Carnegie-funded study was Charles F. McCombs's "Report on Canadian Libraries" (1941) for the Rockefeller Foundation. The two foundations thereafter worked together, supporting the Canadian Library Council (1941–1946) and its successor the Canadian Library Association (1946–2016) — directly through funding the two associations, and indirectly through such things as funding the takeover of the *Canadian Periodical Index*, developing the Canadian newspaper microfilming project, regional library-archival projects, and library-personnel exchanges. The Massey-Lévesque Royal Commission on National Development in the Arts, Letters and Sciences report (1951) was largely able to ignore libraries, because Carnegie and Rockefeller had taken care of them. Was this cultural imperialism or philanthropy from a good neighbour? — Peter F. McNally

Correction

Denise Lim's obituary in *ELAN* No. 60/Fall 16 incorrectly gave the name Diana. (See Milestones in this issue, page 18, for a revised notice.)

Taking it to the Streets: Summit on the Value of Libraries, Archives, and Museums [LAMs] in a Changing World

By Wendy Newman



It was great to attend via webcast while sipping a fine Merlot at home. Hosted by Library and Archives Canada and the Canadian Museums

Association, the program included keynotes and panels. The stated focus: “When budgets are tight and the market for information is crowded, LAMs are being called on more and more to demonstrate their value.”

Author Charlotte Gray opened with a sad confirmation that Canadians know little of our history. We need to spend more time in libraries, archives, and museums. Mark O'Neill, who heads the Canadian War Museum, talked about the unique power of objects to engage, inform, and inspire. Content expertise helps us to share multiple perspectives on the same events. Patrice Landry, of the Swiss National Library and formerly with the National Library of Canada, spoke on identifying, capturing, and communicating the value and impact of cultural institutions, and shared a conceptual value framework proposal. He made a strong case that assessment and evaluation should be core activities.

Victoria Dickenson, a museum consultant, shared examples of museum partnerships and noted that libraries are currently more active in this area. Maureen Sawa, of the Greater Victoria Public Library, talked about effective collaborations, such as cultural-institution passes and partnership with the Victoria Native Friendship Centre, which have increased access, improved efficiency, and broadened public impact. Liz White, Head of Strategy Development, British Library, talked about defining value, including economic value and cultural value.

Simon Brault (Canada Council for the Arts) and Andrew Tessler shared stunning examples of creativity nurtured by galleries, libraries, archives, and museums (GLAMs). Actor Derek Kwan was inspired and assisted by the

Vancouver Public Library Inspiration Lab to make his documentary film, *Taste of Identity*. Digital artisan Eric Chan (a.k.a. eepmon) spoke of institutions, not just as exhibit space, but as “creative media” in themselves. Michael Wallace, Theatre Museum Canada, spoke on two projects, including *The World Remembers*, 1914–1918, a collaborative initiative revealing international names and images from World War I. Pamela Wright, Chief Innovation Officer of the National Archives in the U.S., presented work done by the National Archives and Records Administration's (NARA) User Experience Working Group, which now has a Wikipedian in Residence. Donna Livingstone, CEO of the Glenbow, talked about challenges and responses created by budget shortfalls.

Would it actually have more impact to hire more Wikipedians than archivists?

Toronto Public Library CEO Vickery Bowles talked about the essential role of libraries as catalysts for “smart” cities, unleashing the power of citizens through access, opportunity, and connections. Paul Gilbert of The Bateman Foundation talked about competition from digital entertainment and suggested that we demand government support for a national strategy. John Roberts of the Archives of Ontario observed that we must ask why this is important and respond in ways that resonate with our decision-makers.

The consensus? A thriving future requires collaboration to strengthen the value and impact of libraries, archives, and museums. There was resounding approval of the Ottawa Declaration:

***“Ottawa Declaration (December 2016) Gathered in Ottawa for the Taking it to the Streets Summit, members of the library, archival and museum communities commit to find new ways of working together to increase the visibility and impact of memory institutions. By adopting this Declaration, we commit to continually adapt and reinvent our institutions, and to promote the full value of libraries, archives and museums to Canadians.*”**

Together, we will:

- ***Increase collaboration between our institutions and our networks at the local and national levels to catalyze new partnerships that spark creativity and enhance engagement;***
- ***Develop innovative programs and services, and adopt technologies that empower us to engage our publics; and***
- ***Enrich and expand access to our collections to ensure that our institutions contribute significantly to the public good and sustainable development.”***

Technology Unmasked: Hoopla

By Stan Orlov



While indie-rock fans and nostalgists have been fueling the vinyl-records renaissance (with sales of LPs and 45s outstripping digital sales in the U.K.), not everyone has the necessary equipment at home or can come to the Toronto Reference Library and listen to more than 15,000 LPs available on the fifth floor. No worries — public libraries have mobile users covered. One of the most popular ways to get music (as well as videos and audio books) on a computer, smartphone, or tablet from a library is Hoopla. Midwest Tape, a library vendor of audio books, CDs, DVDs, and other media, noticed that long-standing streaming services, such as Netflix, Audible, and Pandora, were not available in libraries, so it launched a new pay-per-circulation media-streaming service for public libraries that was Beta-tested in 2013 and has gained popularity since.

Today, more than 1,200 libraries in the U.S. and Canada — including Toronto, Vancouver, Calgary, and Ottawa — offer the Hoopla service. All you need is your library card and a browser on your computer, or an iOS or Android app on your smart device, then you can choose from hundreds of thousands of albums, and thousands of videos and audio books. Music will be borrowed for one week, movies and TV episodes for three days. Every time you check out an item, the library will pay between \$0.99 and \$2.99, but it will be free to you. If you are interested in trying this service, ask your local library. Chances are, you can use it right away — unless, of course, you are in the mood for a satisfying needle drop on your trusty turntable. ■

Stanislaw Orlov is systems librarian at Mount St. Vincent University in Halifax. Please send your questions and comments to stan.orlov@msvu.ca.



Celebrating 150 Years of Canadian Libraries: Legislative Libraries

Legislative libraries support legislators in carrying out their constitutional and political responsibilities. Canadian legislative libraries are among the oldest examples found anywhere in the world; some are the earliest libraries in their jurisdictions, served as virtual public libraries for their communities, functioned as de facto archives for their jurisdictions, and provided leadership in provincial library development.

Legislative libraries began frequently as informal collections of books, formed in tandem with the establishment of a legislature. Only later were many of them formally constituted as libraries.

Although Canada's earliest legislatures appeared in the Maritimes, the earliest legislative libraries were in Upper and Lower Canada — Ontario and Quebec. Both libraries merged in 1841 to form the Legislative Library of the Province of Canada. In 1849 a Montreal riot over the Rebellion Losses Bill led to the legislature and library burning down. With Confederation, the reconstituted library became the Library of Parliament in Ottawa, which in 1876 moved into its distinctive building attached to the Centre Block on Parliament Hill.

Church Archives, one thing leads to another...

By Doug Robinson

In my recent article in *ELAN* No. 60/Fall 2016, I mentioned the types of information that can be found in church records. These records can also be very useful in steering researchers to various non-church records. For example, in baptismal, marriage, and death records, clergy sometimes note the exact location of the family residence. This information can enable a researcher to more quickly identify land records, which can provide information on when a particular family settled there and bought a property, and show subsequent changes in ownership. Land records often contain copies of wills, which can be a valuable source of information when doing family-history research.

Church records can also help narrow a search and save time for researchers who are searching library holdings, such as newspapers and local histories, for more detailed information on individuals or families. Newspaper obituaries often list relatives of the deceased person, who live in other parts of the country. Knowing this information will enable searchers to determine if there are local newspapers for that area, as well as appropriate church records for that person. Finding these tidbits is very exciting.

The close relationship between archives and libraries is evident. Wise researchers make full use of both. ■

	Legislature	Library
Nova Scotia	1758	1862
Prince Edward Island	1773	1847
New Brunswick	1784	1841
Lower Canada (Quebec)	1791	1802
Upper Canada (Ontario)	1791	1802
Newfoundland & Labrador	1832	1836
Province of Canada	1841	1841
Dominion of Canada	1867	1867
Ontario	1867	1867
Quebec	1867	1867
Manitoba	1870	1870
British Columbia	1871	1871
Saskatchewan	1905	1905
Alberta	1905	1906
Northwest Territories	1975	1992
Yukon	1978	—
Nunavut	1999	1998

— Peter F. McNally

Celebrating Canada's Stunning Urban Library Branches

By Barbara Clubb, City Librarian, Ottawa Public Library, Retired



Scarborough Civic Centre Branch,
Toronto Public Library

Photo credit: Courtesy of Toronto Public Library



Jasper Place Branch,
Edmonton Public Library

Photo credit: HCMA Architecture + Design



Civic Centre Resource Library,
Vaughan Public Libraries

Photo credit: ZAS

Over the past decade, new and renovated public libraries have been showcasing our great Canadian architects and their most spectacular, innovative works. Last spring *ELAN* covered central libraries. This is the first of a continuing combination *ELAN* newsletter and Ex Libris Association website feature series highlighting Canada's stunning new and renovated branches. Bookmark them for your travels — you will be inspired and warmly welcomed.

Shown here are enticing exterior pictures of **Edmonton's Jasper Place**

Branch, Vaughan's Civic Centre Resource Library, and Toronto's 100th branch, the Scarborough Civic Centre Branch. For more information and photos on these and six other branches, go to www.exlibris.ca/doku.php?id=occasional_papers:occasional_papers_list. Read about **Brampton's Gore Meadows Community Centre and Library, Calgary's Nose Hill Library, Mississauga's Meadowvale Community Centre and Library, Ottawa's Beaverbrook Branch, Thunder Bay's Mary J. L. Black Library, and Waterloo's John M.**

Harper Branch.

All feature striking design, natural light, technological and physical adaptability, accessibility and flexibility, environmental sustainability, sensitivity to surroundings (both natural and cultural), and the creation of remarkable points of pride in these nine community gathering centres. Technology is leveraged at every turn and includes self-check systems, maker spaces, creative studios, wireless access, hot-spot loans, and more. Four are part of a larger community facility. And there are still lots of books! ■

Stratford Festival Archives

By Judy Ginsler

From the outside, 350 Dour Street in Stratford, Ont., looks like an ordinary warehouse. But step inside and you will find a hidden gem — the Stratford Festival Archives, founded in 1967. The archives document the festival's history from its beginnings in 1952. Among its treasures are a robe worn by Alec Guinness in the inaugural 1953 production of *Richard III*, a copy of William Shakespeare's Fourth Folio, and a chair said to have been owned by the Bard himself.

Archives Director Liza Giffen says it's impossible to give an exact number of the vast holdings. There are several thousand costume pieces, more than 2,000 design sketches and props, tens of thousands of photographs, and hundreds of thousands of letters, script pages, and other papers, as well as videos of productions. Included are the personal archives of festival

luminaries, including theatre designers Tanya Moiseiwitsch and Brian Jackson, Artistic Director Richard Monette, and Music Director Stanley Silverman.

Strict archiving protocols are followed. Prompt scripts and design bibles are included, as well as two full costumes from each production. According to Giffen, "We have to discuss very carefully what to take and what to leave. Every costume ... costs money: we have to make sure that the festival gets the most out of this financial expenditure, whether it is through reuse or keeping the material so that craftspeople and designers of the future can learn from the best."

Parts of the collection are currently being digitized, beginning with the photographs and the design sketch collection. Costumes and props are being photographed, and an online catalogue called Adlib is being launched. Care must

be taken to preserve and protect such a unique, valuable collection. A halon gas-based fire-suppression system is used. The environment is climate controlled, and materials are kept in acid-free enclosures.

Although most researchers are festival staff or company members, the archives are accessible to the public free of charge, Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., although calling ahead is advisable. Some materials require permission for use. For a fee, staff will assist with research and will provide photocopies and reproductions when copyright allows. Although materials generally cannot be borrowed, they are sometimes loaned to galleries or museums for short exhibitions.

Tours of the archives, which are available to the public on Thursdays and Fridays from June to October, attract 300 to 400 people each year. Highly recommended! ■

A Memory of Marie F. Zielinska (1921–2016)

Prepared by Ralph W. Manning, with contributions from Irena Bell, Frank Kirkwood, Marianne Scott, and Jean (Guy) Weerasinghe

Marie passed away as she had lived — fully prepared, with her ducks all in a row. Not only did she leave detailed instructions about her funeral, including who was to make the food for the reception, but she wrote her own farewell letter to friends and family.

Born in her beloved Kraków, Poland, Marie was intensely proud of her aristocratic heritage which “will become just a tiny drop in the sea of Polish history after 700 years of existence.” While living in Warsaw, Marie earned a degree in engineering and, in 1947, received an MA in agricultural studies. After immigrating to Canada, she lived in Toronto before moving to Montreal, where she was employed at what is now the Allan Memorial Institute at the McGill University Health Centre. She was initially a laboratory technician, but, after fulfilling her lifelong dream to study library science, she became the institute’s librarian.

She was appointed Chief of the National Library of Canada’s new Multilingual Biblioservice (MBS) in 1973, a position that she held for 23 years. Marie was a dynamic director, loved her work, her colleagues, and her plants. The office had east- and south-facing windows, which most office workers nowadays would love, but, on hot summer afternoons when the sun beat in, the staff fought to stay awake and closed the drapes to keep cool. Marie would burst into the room and, seeing her beloved plants deprived of sunshine, insist at the top of her Polish-accented voice, “Open the curtains! We face an eternity of darkness!”

Marie was a joy to work with and an inspiration. She created a wonderful work atmosphere for her staff, who came from many diverse backgrounds. Her outgoing nature was such that long-lasting friendships were encouraged, and staff still kept in touch years after the closing of MBS in 1995. Marie was warm and generous, and many friends were the lucky recipients of her hospitality.

Marie was always active in the



Marie Zielinska

Photo credit: Courtesy of Teresa Oliviero

Polish communities of Montreal and Ottawa, as well as in the International Federation of Library Associations (IFLA), where she was instrumental in the establishment of the IFLA Library Services to Multicultural Populations Section, one of her lifelong passions. She was on the board of the section for a number of years, and subsequently remained as a personal affiliate.

At her funeral, rather than hearing eulogies from others, we heard from Marie herself. She had written a farewell letter to her family and friends. The letter concluded with the following words: “As these words are spoken, my soul will already be on its journey to heaven. Before you lay my body to rest, I would like to thank you all for everything that you have done for me, the love that you showed, for your friendship and allegiance.”

Marie was a longtime member of Ex Libris Association and a contributor to *ELAN*. ■

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**Celebrating 150
Years of Canadian
Libraries: British
Columbia Public
Library Commission**

Although the *Free Libraries Act* was enacted in British Columbia in 1891, it followed the pattern of local control set by Ontario in 1882. After the British Columbia Library Association formed in 1911, it began lobbying for a provincial co-ordinating body to encourage and supervise local libraries, an important step in the development of Canadian libraries. In 1919, B.C. enacted a new *Public Libraries Act*, which addressed a public library commission, travelling libraries, public library associations, municipal public libraries, and union library districts.

Three unpaid, appointed citizens, acting for three years, comprised the provincial Public Library Commission. It was authorized to co-operate with library officials, to operate travelling libraries, to arrange training, and to allocate government appropriations to public libraries. Most importantly, the commission’s work was supported by a superintendent (who had to be a qualified librarian) and staff funded by the province. Together, the commissioners and superintendent submitted an annual report to the B.C. provincial secretary, which outlined current conditions and recommended improvements.

The commission was an advisory, co-ordinating body for maintaining and developing public libraries. With grants from the Carnegie Corporation of New York, it launched a trial project in the Fraser Valley from 1930 to 1934, to establish the value of regional systems. From this time on, it continued to support other regional library and district systems in B.C. This pattern of development grew in importance after other provinces — New Brunswick, 1929; Prince Edward Island, 1935; Nova Scotia, 1938; and Quebec, 1959 — adopted similar commission-style advisory bodies. This broke the mould of localized municipal control of libraries and furthered library progress in rural Canada after the Depression and World War II. The commission continued its work until 1968, when it was renamed the Library Development Commission, then replaced in 1978 by the B.C. government’s Library Services Branch. — Lorne Bruce

Library Treasures of Britain: The Royal College of Surgeons Library and Hunterian Museum

By Guy Robertson



Can your dedication to librarianship override your taste for the morbid and bizarre? You must wait until the summer of 2020 when the Royal

College of Surgeons (RCS) Library and the Hunterian Museum — both on the same site in London's Lincoln's Inn Fields — will reopen in their redesigned and reconstructed glory, and once again welcome librarians who wish to test their professional dedication against their curiosity about what the Hunterian exhibits and specimen jars contain.

Until the spring of 2017, visitors to RCS could examine the extensive physical collections and chat with staff librarians about surgical literature from the 15th century to the present. Archival displays of historical materials were often related to current events and notable anniversaries. In what was one of the quieter spots in London, RCS fellows, members, affiliates, and students conducted research into countless medical topics, historical as well as current. Reference staff members directed patrons to databases such as Ovid Medline and EMBASE, which index thousands of biomedical journals.

During reconstruction, the library will continue to administer a blog that offers stimulating material on a plethora of topics. Recent and memorable examples include Susan Isaac's "The dangers of tight lacing: the effects of



The RCS Crystal Gallery

Photo credit: Courtesy of the Hunterian Museum at the Royal College of Surgeons of England

the corset" — an examination of the medical effects of the corsets worn by women in the 18th and 19th centuries — and "Rat Day: Boston, 13 February 1917." Issacs notes it has been 100 years since Boston's attempt to decrease its rat population through a contest with awards for the highest number of dead rats delivered to sanitary yards.

"Of course the extensive work on the two old buildings will disrupt our activities for a while," said a retired surgeon who had used the library for many years. "However, this is not the first time we've had to rebuild. During the Second World War there was a lot of bomb damage, and it was necessary to put things back together as best we could. Fortunately we managed to save a good deal of material from our library and the college's archives. Some of the more interesting museum artifacts survived as well."

The surgeon insisted that Canadian children's librarians tour the Hunterian Museum "as a mark of respect." Why?

He led the way into the museum and pointed to a display case in which there sits the skull of a bear.

"That skull belonged to Winnipeg, a black bear that A. A. Milne saw in the London Zoo. And now you know the source of *Winnie-the-Pooh*. People say that Winnipeg was ill-treated, but that's not true. The poor beast died of old age; you see that she died toothless, as so many of us do."

What else in the museum would interest librarians? The surgeon appeared delighted to answer. "Of course these days librarians are fascinated by computers. Charles Babbage was an early computer nerd, wasn't he? In a glass container over here is half of his brain. It doesn't look much different from yours or mine, but he was a very clever chap. Incidentally, the other half is in the Science Museum, across the road from the V&A."

Some of the glass cases hold artifacts intended to interest physicians and surgeons more than anyone else. For example, few of us would be overcome with joy to discover the pickled rectum of Thomas Thurlow, Bishop of Durham (1737–1791), and we should feel little aesthetic bliss upon examining the upper denture made for Sir Winston Churchill in 1941. Nevertheless such artifacts have a grisly attraction that can draw us away from even the most stimulating library catalogue entry. Or are we made of sterner professional stuff? In 2020 it will be worth a visit to Lincoln's Inn Fields to find out.

www.rcseng.ac.uk ■

News We Are Watching

The **American Library Association (ALA) Task Force on the Context of Future Accreditation** held a series of four online forums in August and September of 2016, in order to obtain input from the LIS community — faculty, graduates, and current students. Canadian librarians and LIS graduates participated in the August 25th webinar. The final report of the task force will

be presented to the ALA Executive Board at the April 2017 meeting. We will report on it in the next issue.

The **Federal Science Library (FSL)** is a new initiative that allows users to search the print collections and repositories of seven government science departments and agencies, using a single interface — Canadian Agricultural

Library, Environment and Climate Change Canada Library Services, Fisheries and Oceans Canada Library, Health Library, National Science Library, and Natural Resources Canada Library. The FSL collection includes online and print material and, when possible, the content is available, free of charge, for viewing or downloading from <http://science-libraries.canada.ca> ■

Why I Became a Librarian

By Sandra Black

When I was working on my master's degree at one of the several incarnations of "library school" at the University of Toronto, my favourite class was one called Library Administration with Dr. John Wilkinson. It was a small group, with lots of fun and much discussion. For my term paper, I was to investigate "the personality of librarians." It's a good thing I hadn't done that research before getting my BLS. I *chose* librarianship; it was not a fallback position.

As an "air force brat," I had moved with my parents to many cities, and within cities. We always immediately found the nearest public library. In Weston, Ont., at the ripe old age of 12, I was considered a "scarlet woman" by the parents of one of my friends, when they saw me at the library with a boy! In Calgary I worked as a page for the renowned reference librarian, Georgina Thomson — filing and retrieving magazines, giving locations to customers/patrons, and so on. She was inspiring.

When I attended Queen's University, the library's attraction was studying on the top floor — to meet people. It was so long ago that undergrads were not allowed in the stacks, so there was considerable activity up in the reading room. It had its own benefits.

After graduating from Queen's, and following three years as a personnel officer in the Royal Canadian Air Force, I joined IBM as a systems engineer in Toronto. It was an exciting time and milieu, but also very stressful. Sometimes I'd be in a customer's office,

trying to make something work, but mainly I was teaching clients in IBM classrooms. It was all very new and changing; sometimes the instructors were barely one lesson ahead of the students. Two years of that were enough, and I moved into the IBM Information Department, providing information for inquirers about computers and for IBM staff — about companies, government, and so on. It was challenging but frustrating, because the sources I knew about were so limited.

On a whim, I made an appointment for an interview at U of T's School of Library Science and, after a brief and rather far-ranging chat with Professor John Marshall, was admitted. I graduated with a BLS in 1968.

My IBM background was unusual at the time, for librarians. At my first two jobs, with McMaster University and the University of Manitoba, I was both a reference librarian and *the* Systems Librarian. There were some wild times getting online circulation systems running. Then I went to Mohawk College and had to do it all over again, really from scratch that time! There was so much close contact with students and faculty that I loved it. After I became the Chief Librarian in 1981, all of my background in personnel and systems came into play. During my time as Director of Learning Resources, we gradually built to nine libraries, then, just as gradually, reduced to four. Life was never dull, and the staff was very professional and committed to our students. I (almost) always looked forward to going to work.

So, I'm glad I became a librarian! ■



**Celebrating 150 Years
of Canadian Libraries:
*The Ontario Free
Libraries Act***

The first province-wide legislation to establish free public libraries in Canada was enacted in Ontario in 1882. These libraries were available to municipal residents without direct charge and were financed primarily by local tax revenue. The *Ontario Free Libraries Act, 1882* exemplified Victorian liberal-democratic ideas about local control, municipal taxation, and public access. First, a petition approved by ratepayers in a municipal election was required prior to formation of a library board by council bylaw; in effect, a board was created by popular assent. Second, three elective bodies normally shared board appointments: the municipal council together with the public- and separate-school authorities. In theory, this practice helped safeguard library boards from sectarian and party interests. Third, appointments were for limited two- or three-year periods in an overlapping arrangement to allow for continuity, an important planning consideration when municipal terms of office were normally one year. Finally, the library board was entitled by law to levy a modest "Free Library Rate" — originally a maximum one-half mill on taxable assessment — and was obligated to submit its yearly estimates to council for approval.

The adoption of this legislation served Ontario reasonably well for decades. The law satisfied the liberal-democratic belief that libraries generally were educative institutions and the conservative (or elitist) preference for non-elective offices in which "prominent persons" could exercise some form of direction in local government. The 1882 act became an influential model for subsequent legislation in western provinces: British Columbia, 1891; Manitoba, 1899; Saskatchewan, 1906; and Alberta, 1907. The Ontario legislation was revised many times to include provincial funding and entirely revamped as *The Public Libraries Act, 1966* to better address the realities of rural library service and changing political realities in provincial and local government. — Lorne Bruce

Notice to Members

Help us keep our email listserv current. If you and/or someone you know are/is not receiving our emails, please send your new email address to Bob Henderson at bob.superrover@gmail.com.

When You Move

When you move, please remember to send your new address to Ex Libris Association, Faculty of Information, University of Toronto, 140 St. George St., Toronto, ON M5S 3G6.

Libraries Named after Librarians

By Suzette Giles

This is the 12th in a series of articles about outstanding librarians and the libraries named after them.

Alexander Calhoun Library, Calgary Public Library

In February 1911, when Alexander Calhoun arrived in Calgary, there was an impressive Carnegie Corporation of New York-funded library building already under construction, and the library board had been eager to hire a qualified and experienced “librarian.” Calhoun seemed an excellent candidate.

Born in Fenelon Falls, Ont., on November 17, 1879, Calhoun studied classics at Queen’s University. Principal George Grant stressed the responsibility graduates had to provide leadership in the cultural, intellectual, and civic life of their communities, and this resonated with Calhoun.

While a high school teacher at Fort William, Ont., Calhoun became Chairman of the Library Board and was involved in the establishment of the city’s Carnegie-funded library. Inspired to make his career in librarianship, he interned at Ottawa Public Library and Redpath Library at McGill. In his application for the Calgary position, he stated “... I firmly believe there is only one way to organize a library, and that is to introduce modern methods from the beginning.” The references he provided sent glowing letters outlining his competence, experience, and good character, although there was also mention of his outspokenness and him being “a man of very decided opinions.”

In his 34 years as City Librarian, Calhoun — with his strong opinions and formidable organizational skills — established a library that had an intellectual and cultural impact on all ages, education levels, and classes. Under his leadership, the library was an innovator in many areas, often being among the first in Canada to provide a service or meet a need. In 1911 Calhoun proposed the opening of branch libraries — a rather revolutionary idea at the time — and, by 1913, the Crescent Heights branch was

opened, but the economic conditions precluded any further expansion.

Early on Calhoun recognised the importance of specialist services for children; a children’s librarian was hired, the second such position to be created in Canada. In 1930 Louise Riley (*ELAN* No. 60/Fall 2016) became the Children’s Services Librarian and was credited with developing a department that was deemed “outstanding in the Dominion.” In 1938 a room was set aside exclusively for the use of children in grades 7 through 9, the first such collection in any public library in Canada.

Calhoun strongly believed that a library should function as “the people’s university” and a “Temple of Knowledge,” and the library and its services were promoted to diverse groups in the community. Librarians such as Riley and Georgina Thomson (*ELAN* No. 51/Spring 2012), as well as Calhoun, were much in demand as speakers. They participated in radio broadcasts, wrote book reviews and columns in newspapers, and the library offered a wide variety of programs and lecture series. Calhoun also stressed the importance of professionally trained staff, and provided staff with leaves of up to a year, to pursue further studies. The 1933 survey of libraries in Canada, conducted by The Dominion Bureau of Statistics, noted Calgary’s “record” in sending staff to university.

During the Depression, the library continued to provide a high level of service, even as staff took pay cuts while taking on extra duties. All members of the community, including the unemployed and transient, were encouraged to use the library.

At the national and provincial levels, Calhoun was involved with the formation of the Canadian Library Council (which became the Canadian Library Association) and with the Alberta Library Association, becoming president when it was reconstituted in 1944. He also sat on the Alberta Library Board.



Photo credit: Courtesy of the Calgary Public Library, Community Heritage and Family History Special Collection

A biography of Calhoun estimates he was active in more than twenty-five organizations unrelated to his library work, his involvement continuing after retirement in 1945. In 1953 his work with the Calgary Arts Council and the Calgary Arts Centre was recognised with an Honorary Doctor of Laws degree from the University of Alberta. He served on the executive of the Canadian Club for many years, and was awarded lifetime memberships by the Canadian Cancer Society, The John Howard Society of Canada, and the Knights of the Round Table (the first Canadian so honoured). After his retirement, Calhoun also helped found a Golden Age Club. Politically, he was an early and active member of the Co-operative Commonwealth Federation (CCF). In addition, he was a member of the Alpine Club of Canada for more than 40 years and continued climbing into his eighties.

Alexander Calhoun lived for almost a century, dying in February of 1979. Under his leadership, the Calgary Public Library became an outstanding example of the influence a library could have in its community, while he, personally, had a lasting impact on many community organizations in present-day Calgary. In 1954 the Alexander Calhoun Library was opened; it was replaced with a new building, still bearing his name, in 1981. ■

Much of the information was supplied by ResearchPlus team of Calgary Public Library and the sources they recommended, which included Alexander Calhoun by Donna Lohmes and Barbara Nicholson. Calgary Public Library, 1987.

I Remember Brian Land

By Jean Weihs

Brian and I both entered the University of Toronto Library School in the fall of 1952. For the previous 15 months, he had been in a sanitarium recovering from tuberculosis. When he was being discharged, Brian told me, the doctor had warned him that, because of his medical history, he would have to enter a working milieu where there was little stress. The doctor advised librarianship as a suitable profession. (As Brian rose from one responsible job to another through subsequent years, we had many a laugh about “stressless librarianship.”)

In those days it was mandatory to write a thesis as part of the requirements for a library science degree. Because the time in the library science program was only one year, the faculty allowed two students to collaborate. Since both of us had an undergraduate degree in political science and economics, Brian and I did. Our topic was unionism in public libraries, and we were astounded, a couple of years after graduation, to have a public library’s union ask permission to read our thesis.

There were only five or six men in our class. Bill Morley had been an RAF pilot, and the women in the class thought him very romantic. The men sometimes went to a nearby pub; women were not welcome in pubs at that time. These men scandalized some of the professors and delighted the female students with a very funny presentation



Brian Land

Photo credit: Courtesy of University of Toronto, Faculty of Information

at the faculty Christmas party.

When Brian was Dean of the Faculty of Library Science, he tried to hire me to teach cataloguing, but the university administration would not allow it because I did not have a PhD. Brian, who also did not have a PhD, fought back, and we both laughed and snarled that a man could be dean without a PhD, but a woman could not be a professor! He lost the fight.

We also collaborated on “saving” ELA when it was failing and its finances were in bad shape. Brian assumed the role of ELA President and I became Secretary-Treasurer. After several years, he passed on a stable ELA to his successor; I am still here as secretary.

I shall miss this charming man and his humorous take on life. ■



**Celebrating 150 Years
of Canadian Libraries:
Library Education**

Canadian library education emerged prior to World War I, concurrently with the appearance of academic library buildings — led by McGill and the University of Toronto — Carnegie Corporation of New York-funded public libraries, and specialized business and government libraries.

After running an apprenticeship program from 1896, McGill inaugurated Canada’s first academic program for librarianship in 1904 — a summer program with Melvil Dewey as consultant. Assisted by Carnegie, McGill began a sessional program in 1927 for high school graduates, which changed to a one-year Bachelor of Library Science (BLS) program in 1930 for those with bachelor’s degrees. In Toronto, a summer program begun in 1911 was upgraded — with the support of U of T — to a sessional program in 1928, and a BLS in 1936.

Accreditation standards introduced by the American Library Association in 1925 resulted in McGill’s accreditation in 1927 and U of T’s in 1937. In the 1960s, however, accredited programs emerged at University of British Columbia (1961), University of Western Ontario (1967), University of Alberta (1968), and Dalhousie University (1969). The French-language school in Montreal, established in 1937, became a department of the Université de Montréal in 1961, and was accredited in 1969. The bilingual school at the University of Ottawa (1935–1975) was revived in 2007 and gained accreditation.

In 1968 the schools agreed to follow McGill’s 1965 decision to drop the one-year BLS in favour of a four-term two-year master’s program as Canada’s accredited degree for professional practice in librarianship.

Doctoral programs have emerged in the various schools, following the lead of U of T (1971) and Western Ontario (1973). All the schools have added the word “Information” to their names and degrees; some have dropped the word “Library.” Alternative professional programs are provided in cognate disciplines such as archival studies. — Peter F. McNally

Books by Members

Sheila S. Intner and Jean Weihs. *Standard Cataloging for School and Public Libraries* 5th Edition (Santa Barbara, Calif.: Libraries Unlimited, 2015).

Lois Mai, Chan, Sheila S. Intner, and Jean Weihs. *Guide to the Library of Congress Classification* 6th Edition (Santa Barbara, Calif.: Libraries Unlimited, 2016).

Wendy Newman contributed to **R. David Lankes**, *The New Librarianship Field Guide* (Cambridge, Mass.: MIT Press, 2016); an article in *Creating a Culture of Evaluation: Taking Your Library from Talk to Action* (Toronto: OLA Press, 2017); and to **Susan W. Alman and Jennifer Jumba**, eds., *MOOCs Now: Everything You Need to Know to Design, Set Up, and Run a Massive Open Online Course* (Santa Barbara, Calif.: Libraries Unlimited, 2017).

Jean Weihs, and Sheila S. Intner. *Beginning Cataloging* 2nd Edition (Santa Barbara, Calif.: Libraries Unlimited, 2017).



Book Reviews

Edited by Susan Ibbetson

The Little Paris Bookshop: A Novel

by Nina George

New York, Broadway Books, 2016.
ISBN: 978-0553418798. \$12.59

Reviewed by Arn Bailey



The little Paris bookshop is a houseboat docked in the Seine. People who board are advised by Jean Perdu (a significant name), who practises bibliotherapy. His perfect love with

Manon, another man's wife, ended twenty years before with her letter, which he refused to read. Catherine, his neighbour, presents it again to the embittered man. Opening it, he learns he was wrong in his assumptions. Now he must live with love, regret and grief. Casting off, he has with him Max, who suffers from writer's block. They pick up an Italian bartender and save a woman, another writer, from the water. With much soul-searching Jean comes to terms with his emotions, establishes a home, works in a bookstore, deals in rare books, and invites Catherine to join him. He faces Manon's husband Luc, drinks wine at her grave, and learns more about the girl working in Luc's vineyards who is also of interest to Max.

Readers will find senses stirred with food, flowers and frogs "singing a capella," abundant allusions (Hesse, Chewbacca); thoughtfulness ("... what vexes death the most — to see us drinking life to the final draft?"); a list of therapeutic books (*Don Quixote* "when ideals clash with reality"); and an essay on "The Power of Books to Heal." ■

For Your Reading Pleasure ... Recent Books Featuring Librarians

Reviewed by Shirley Lewis



The Invisible Library
By Genevieve Cogman
Tor, 2016. ISBN: 978-1447256236. \$17.55

This is the first in a new fantasy series. Irene is a professional spy for the mysterious library, which harvests

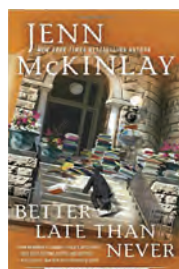
fiction from different realities. And, along with her enigmatic assistant Kai, she's posted to an alternative London. Their mission: to retrieve a dangerous book. When they arrive, it has already been stolen. London's underground factions seem prepared to fight to the very death to find *her* book.



The Rain Sparrow
By Linda Goodnight
HQN, 2016.
ISBN: 978-0373789146. \$18.80

When a thriller writer, Hayden Winters, visits the southern town of Honey Ridge,

he meets a timid local librarian, Carrie Riley. Together they delve into the mystery surrounding a fragile youngster hiding in the local inn.

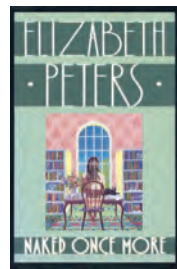


Better Late Than Never
(*A Library Lover's Mystery*)

By Jenn McKinlay
Berkley, 2017.
ISBN: 978-0451488640. \$10.99

Lindsey Norris, librarian of Briar Creek

Public Library, becomes involved in murder when an overdue book turns up, offering a clue to a brutal local murder.



Naked Once More
By Elizabeth Peters
Grand Central, 2013
(Kindle Edition). \$9.99

Ex-librarian Jacqueline Kirby has become a bestselling author. She is drawn into a new mystery when

another bestselling author mysteriously disappears and Jacqueline's research leads to danger.



Murder in the Museum
By John Rowland
Poisoned Pen Press, 2016.

ISBN: 978-1464205798. \$15.35
When retired academic Professor Julius Arnell dies in the Reading

Room of The British Museum, no one suspects homicide — until Inspector Shelley is assigned to the case. It's a light mystery with some clever twists, a delightful reissue of the 1938 original.

Books of Interest to Members

ELAN welcomes news about books by ELA members. Send a brief description or an advertising brochure to: jean.weihs@gmail.com.

British Columbia News



By Guy Robertson

In October 2016 the **Libraries Branch of the BC Ministry of Education** released a new strategic plan for public libraries, entitled

“Inspiring Libraries, Connecting Communities: A vision for public library service in British Columbia.” The four components of this plan are fostering connected communities: advancing access to information and resources; building capacity: enabling inspiration and innovation; working together: creating lasting and sustainable partnerships; and sustaining our success: enhancing governance and demonstrating impact.

The purpose of the plan is to ensure that, through the implementation of new technologies, public libraries will offer a broader range of services to an increasingly diverse population. Libraries throughout B.C. must continue to build relationships with their growing communities, and provide users with new services based on digital resources. A number of librarians have expressed concerns about the practical implications of the plan. With a provincial election in May 2017 and misgivings about the continuing strength of B.C.’s economy, there are differing opinions about the feasibility of new technological developments and their sustainability. The boom in B.C.’s real estate market might not last much longer, and a downturn could lead to budget cuts that could affect libraries’ operations.

In January and February librarians in Vancouver and Victoria dealt with periods of cold weather that surprised local residents unaccustomed to icy sidewalks and slippery streets. “I didn’t leave Toronto’s winters to discover the same grief in Vancouver,” said a **Vancouver Public Library** children’s librarian. “Colleagues in neighbouring communities have expressed concerns about children with frostbite appearing

for storytimes. And when users open the front door to my branch, a big gust of cold air hits the reference desk. I’ve been leaving on my coat for entire shifts.”

A librarian at a Vancouver engineering firm had a more positive perspective. He said: “In southwest B.C. we’re not used to freezing temperatures, but fortunately our cold snaps don’t last long, and the mercury does not dip more than a few degrees below zero. And spring is in the offing. I am certain of this because my friends at local public libraries are already planning their summer reading — a sure sign that the season is about to change.”

Prairies News



By Alvin M. Schrader

Digital Library North (DLN) is a searchable library and archive, a venture between the

Inuvialuit Cultural Resource Centre and Dr. Ali Shiri, a professor in the University of Alberta School of Library and Information Studies. The goal is to provide layered and multi-level access to language resources, oral history, family history, image collections, and a range of cultural-heritage materials, accessible on phones, tablets and computers as well as to schools. DLN will be making presentations in the six Inuvialuit Settlement Region communities this spring. Intellectual property issues need to be resolved before Internet access is available. The project is funded by Canada’s Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council to 2017.

The Read Alberta eBooks project, a partnership between **Alberta Public Library Services Branch** and the Book Publishers Association of Alberta, launched in February 2017 on public library websites across the province, gives better reader access to locally-created content. More than 1,000 e-books, produced by 24 Alberta publishers, are available through the Canadian e-book distribution platform, Cantook Station, representing the largest collection of its kind in Canada,

and encompassing many genres. Print copies of many titles are available in library branches. Ongoing provincial investment is needed to help the publishing industry recover and grow. Over the past 15 years, 40 percent of Alberta’s professional book publishers have relocated, sold their assets out of the province, or shut down entirely.

Edmonton Public Library relocated its downtown main library, the **Stanley A. Milner Library**, to the University of Alberta’s Enterprise Square in December 2016, to facilitate a major renovation, with a reopening scheduled for 2020.

Edmonton Public Library began lending 40 cellphone-size Wi-Fi hotspots, with unlimited data, to holders of library cards in July 2016. A two-year pilot program, the service targets 116,000 Edmontonians without home Internet access.

University of Calgary Libraries and Cultural Resources cancelled 887 journals and 700-plus other academic resources valued at \$1.5 million, at the beginning of January 2017, generating some faculty backlash. Since 2012 cancelled subscriptions and resources have totalled more than \$2.1 million.

Saskatoon Public Library is home to what is believed to be the first library space in the province permanently dedicated to reconciliation. Read for Reconciliation houses a full set of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada (TRC) reports, as well as numerous books about Canada’s residential schools. The idea was suggested by Eugene Arcand, a member of the TRC’s Indian Residential School Survivor Committee. The library is working with Reconciliation Saskatoon to gather names of recommended authors and books for the collection.

Saskatoon Public Library became a focus of controversy in late January 2017, when it cancelled Conservative leadership candidate Brad Trost’s anti-abortion meeting at one of the branches, stating concern about its ability to handle anticipated protests. The library

noted the event was initially booked as a “day of reflection,” and the listed organizational affiliation as “none,” finding out too late that it was being promoted as a campaign event for Trost and was organized by the Campaign Life Coalition of Saskatchewan.

In November 2016 the Manitoba Libraries Working Group (MLWG) released its proposal, after two years of deliberations to try to amalgamate the four major library associations in the province — Manitoba Library Association (MLA), Manitoba Association of Library Technicians (MALT), Manitoba School Library Association (MSLA), and Manitoba Library Trustees Association (MLTA). MLA and MLTA have approved the restructuring proposal. MALT has provided a letter of support, but will not hold a vote until their AGM in May 2017. The MSLA voted to withdraw. The MLWG moves forward with the goal of reaching the newly restructured association in 2018.

The University of Manitoba Faculty Association Librarians and Professors went on strike November 1, 2016, over teaching loads, job security, collegial power, and performance review. An agreement was reached three weeks later, after a conciliation officer was appointed by the Province of Manitoba.

The Prison Libraries Committee of the MLA, chaired by Kirsten Wurmman, Librarian at **Winnipeg Public Library**, was featured on CBC Radio in February 2017 (find the interview at www.cbc.ca/radio/nowornever). The committee supports Open Library programs in the Winnipeg Remand Centre, the Women’s Correctional Centre, the Headingley Men’s Prison, and The Pas Correctional Centre. Among the books requested by inmates are Cree and Ojibwa dictionaries, a biography of Muhammad Ali, *Wuthering Heights*, poetry by Robert Frost, and *In Search of April Raintree*. Wurmman and the Prison Libraries Network were leaders in having the position statement “Prison Libraries Network: The Right to Read” adopted by the Canadian Library Association

and the Canadian Federation of Library Associations/Fédération canadienne des associations bibliothèques.

Ontario News



By Vivienne James

Nominees for the Ontario Library Association’s Forest of Reading Evergreen Award, which highlights the diversity of adult Canadian literature (fiction and nonfiction), were announced in January. Votes from readers will be tallied, and the winner will be announced in September during Ontario Public Library Week.

At **Guelph Public Library** teens in grades seven through 12 get another chance to express their creative thoughts in “It’s ALL Write: Teen Short Story Contest Short Story” and “Judge a Book by its Cover Contest,” both ending April 8, 2017. Newcomer stories are encouraged, and the sky is the limit as entrants use their artistic talents to design a book cover.

Ottawa Public Library (OPL) is marking Canada’s 150th anniversary by celebrating the art of storytelling throughout the year. This February, the OPL received city council approval for the new flagship **Ottawa Central Library** — a 216,000 square-foot joint facility with Library and Archives Canada at 557 Wellington Street. According to Tim Tierney, Chair of the OPL Board, this presents “a unique opportunity to elevate the cultural significance of this facility and give it national stature.”

McMaster University Library has recently licensed the National Film Board’s collection of streaming videos, making them available for classroom use, thus providing online access to more than 3,000 features, documentaries, and animated films in English and French.

Newly redesigned, the **Madeleine and Monte Levy Virtual Museum of the Holocaust and the Resistance**

uses moving personal accounts and other primary sources to help scholars and the public better understand the Holocaust and resistance movements of World War II. The nucleus of the collection was from noted collector Michel Brisebois, and the collection now contains a database of more than 54,000 eyewitness testimonies.

Toronto Public Library’s (TPL) digital circulation tops three million, putting Toronto in first place among library systems. Use of e-books and e-audio books continues to increase, while growing demand for print adult and children’s books remains strong.

An exhibit at TPL, *Vice & Virtue*, explores changing attitudes and regulation of such things as alcohol and tobacco use, and homosexuality, and reveals a seedier side of this straight-laced city in the late 1800s and early 1900s. From May 20th to July 30th, to celebrate Canada’s 150th birthday, TPL and Passages Canada present *Destination Canada*, which explores our diverse experiences of migration, arrival, and finding a place of belonging from early settlement to the present.

Quebec News



By Pierre Guilmette

The **Saint-Jean-Baptiste Library**, part of the Quebec City public library system, occupies the old St. Matthew’s Church on Rue St-Jean. In November 2016, the library closed for a \$350,000 renovation; it is expected to reopen in March 2017. The work will revive the neo-Gothic features of the building, which dates back to 1848. The stained-glass windows and religious furniture have been preserved.

The historic **Maisonneuve Library**, located at the intersection of Rue Ontario E. and Blvd. Pie-IX in Montreal, will be expanded and renovated at a cost of \$23 million between 2018 and 2020. It opened in 1912 as the city hall for Maisonneuve, a municipality that was incorporated

into the city of Montreal in 1918. It then became home to l'Institut du radium from 1927 to 1956, and, since 1981, has housed the Maisonneuve Library. Two annexes will be added, to accommodate the acquisition of 15,000 additional items, for a collection totalling 85,000 items.

More public libraries in Quebec are offering free access to their services. Fourteen percent of libraries in 2014 charged user fees, while only 5.8 percent charge fees in 2017 (fees range from \$5 to \$20 per year). According to the l'Association des bibliothèques publiques du Québec, only 16 towns in the province now charge a fee. The drop is a factor in the growing number of patrons at public libraries.

D'obscurantisme et de lumières. La bibliothèque publique au Québec des origines au 21^e siècle by François Séguin (Montréal, Hurtubise, 2016) details the development of public libraries throughout Québec — from 1779 when Governor Frederick Haldimand founded the Bibliothèque de Québec/Quebec Library to the creation of the Grande Bibliothèque, and outlines government support in the expansion of public libraries throughout the province to the end of the 20th century. The author worked as a librarian for 32 years in the Ville de Montréal library system, 25 as head of the Maisonneuve Library.

Maritimes News



By Tanja Harrison

Spring has sprung and the Maritimes' newest seed library, located within the **Bathurst Public**

Library, is growing its borrowed-seed collection and its patron base. Founded by South Tetagouche farmer Anna Slater of SteadySpade Farm, the new seed library also offers support and guidance to gardeners. The library carries approximately 100 packages of seeds and is now accepting donations. Most seeds are from plants that have been harvested through generations in the Bathurst

region and are well adapted to the local northern N.B. growing conditions.

Need a hammer for your garden projects? Head over to the **Nova Scotia Community College's IT Campus (NCC IT) Library** and check out their new tool-library pilot program. Staff and students in need of everything from a pipe wrench to a hacksaw can now sign them out for use with class projects or home renovations. This collaboration between the trades-and-technology program faculty and the NSCC IT Campus Library is particularly helpful in making these expensive tools more accessible to students.

Three historic Nova Scotia French and Gaelic news publications have been digitally preserved thanks to the collaborative efforts of the **Nova Scotia Archives, Libraries Nova Scotia**, and **St. Francis-Xavier University**, which digitized editions of *Le Courrier de la Nouvelle-Écosse* (1937–2002); all editions of *Am Bràighe* (1991–2003) and all existing editions of *An Cuairtear Òg Gaelach* (1851–1852). The newly available publications online are part of an ongoing initiative by the provincial government and Libraries Nova Scotia to protect the province's publishing print-media heritage for coming generations.

Partnering with Brunswick News Inc. (BNI), the **University of New Brunswick Libraries' Centre for Digital Scholarship** is engaged in a multi-year project to digitize more than a century of BNI's primary news publications. More than 1.5 million pages of newsprint, covering more than three decades, have been digitized to date.

The latest Dal Reads title, *The Hermit of Africville*, highly engaged faculty and students alike, and talks are now in progress to next choose an Indigenous author. Welcome signs in French, Mi'kmaq, and English are in place throughout the Dal library system and a Truth and Reconciliation Centre hub will soon open in the Killam Learning

Commons in conjunction with the TR Committee at the University of Manitoba. The Canadian Federation of Library Association/Fédération canadienne des associations de bibliothèques report prepared by the Truth and Reconciliation Committee provides important information and additional resources for all libraries to consider at <http://cfla-fcab.ca/en/programs/truth-and-reconciliation/>

Thanks to Therapeutic Paws of Canada, which has been providing the opportunity for elementary schoolchildren in Prince Edward Island to read to service dogs, kids will benefit from an expanded Paws To Read program through the **P.E.I. Public Library Service**. "What I see is actually magical," said Youth Services Librarian Roseanne Gauthier, as reported by the CBC. "The kids respond so strongly to the dogs." The success of this program at the **Confederation Centre Public Library** will soon continue, expanding to **Stratford, Cornwall, and Morell** branches.

Librarians at the University of Prince Edward Island have worked with the PEI Museum and Heritage Foundation on a provincial postcard project, and are engaging members of the community to help transcribe the cards. The project's media attention recently connected the library with another collector, who has offered to add digital versions of more than 3,000 provincial postcards to the project.

Summer's around the corner with the Atlantic Provinces Library Association Conference (APLA) in P.E.I. — is there anything finer? Make plans to travel to the red isle where this year's conference-planning committee will welcome and challenge you to the APLA conference entitled Include. Imagine. Inspire. Mark your calendars for May 23 through 26, 2017, and follow the forthcoming details at <https://apla2017.wordpress.com/>

Newfoundland & Labrador News



By Dick Ellis

The biggest news still is the plan to close (or not to close) the libraries. The report from EY (previously Ernst & Young) on the provincial libraries has not surfaced at the time of writing. The lack of a report has not meant that the **Newfoundland and Labrador Public Library (NLPL)** has remained quiescent. This summer NLPL will host the National Launch for the TD Summer Reading Club 2017. "Get Your Summer Read On" Day will happen in and around the **A. C. Hunter Children's Library** on Saturday, June 17. Plans are underway for a fun-filled day of games, activities, entertainment, food, and prizes, with funding provided by TD Bank and Library and Archives Canada, and for extending the event throughout the provincial network of smaller libraries.

The second biggest news from Newfoundland and Labrador this year is the imposition, effective January 1, 2017, of a 10 percent provincial sales tax on books, bringing the HST to 15 percent in total. The implementation of the tax, announced in last year's "interim" budget (a very long interim, as the promised fall budget did not materialize), caught post-secondary education students purchasing their texts for winter semester. Reports published by *The Telegram* and CBC gave examples of textbook sales in excess of \$600. The arts community and publishers' groups, as well as library organizations, raised concerns anew, all hands having had a go at the issue last spring when it was announced. Newfoundland and Labrador is the first province to impose such a tax, although it should be noted that the federal government has taxed books at five percent for some time. It should also be noted that the legislation exempts universities, colleges, and libraries from the tax.

News from Canadian Library/Information Studies Schools



Compiled by Judy Dunn

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

By Guy Robertson

In December 2016 the University of British Columbia (UBC) asked for comments on its proposal to create a School of Media and Information through the merger of SLAIS, the Graduate School of Journalism, and the Bachelor of Media Studies Program. Through interdisciplinary co-operation and the exchange of ideas, faculty members at the new school will respond to the challenges of the digital economy, while inspiring leadership among graduates. Logistically, the new school will combine three small programs into a larger unit that will merit departmental status at UBC and streamline administrative functions. In January 2017 SLAIS was pleased to announce that the American Library Association Committee on Accreditation has granted full accreditation status to the MLIS program. The committee lifted SLAIS's conditional accreditation, much to the relief of faculty members and students, past and present. The next comprehensive review will take place in the fall of 2023. **Devon Greyson**, UBC, was awarded the ALISE/Eugene Garfield Doctoral Dissertation Competition.

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

By Toni Samek

SLIS is a lively academic home to the largest number of graduate students (including both on-campus and online Indigenous students) of any program of the 18 faculties at the University of Alberta. Approximately two thirds of SLIS students study purely online, and approximately 70 percent of the online students reside outside Alberta. SLIS attracts students from every province

and territory and beyond, which has added diversity to our faculty's student body. We look forward to sending off our largest graduating class to date at the June 2017 convocation, when 53 students will join our alumni in the global information professions. Our most recent employment survey (of 2015 graduates) evidenced the highest percentage of graduates employed (91 percent) compared to previous years. SLIS is engaged in a tenure-track Assistant Professor search, with a start date of July 1, 2017. SLIS is booming with energy and channeling it in alignment with our new institutional strategic plan, *For the Public Good*.

Western University, Faculty of Information and Media Studies

By Becky Blue

Librarianship education at Western is celebrating its 50th anniversary this academic year (2016–2017). We are also celebrating the 20th anniversary of the formation of the Faculty of Information and Media Studies (FIMS). FIMS was created by joining the original schools of LIS and Journalism with the Faculty of Communication and Open Learning. A 50th-anniversary reception was held for alumni during the Ontario Library Association Super Conference (OLASC) in February. A large crowd turned out to reconnect with classmates, colleagues, staff, and faculty. While at the OLASC, **Dean Thomas Carmichael** accepted a plaque celebrating 50 years of excellence in LIS education, and the FIMS Graduate Library received the Les Fowlie Intellectual Freedom Award for its implementation of a Tor browser and relay. In December, the LIS program moved with FIMS into its new facility, and everyone is looking forward to continued success in the future.

University of Toronto, Faculty of Information (iSchool)

By Kathleen O'Brien

The iSchool's first Dean, **Brian Land**, passed away in November. Land is remembered for launching the Master of Library Science (MLS) degree in 1970 — the first professional degree in librarianship in Canada. (See the article by Jean Weihs in this issue, page 11.) Our "Guerrilla Archiving:

Saving Environmental Data from Trump” hackathon made international news when U of T faculty, including **Professor Patrick Keilty**, librarians, members of the public, and students, worked with the Internet Archive’s End of Term project to help preserve at-risk U.S.-government websites prior to the installation of the Trump administration. **Professor Lynne Howarth** (MLS 1978, PhD 1990) won the prestigious 2017 Association for Library and Information Science Education (ALISE)/Connie Van Fleet Award for Research Excellence in Public Library Services to Adults. **Professor Jenna Hartel** won the 2016 Library Journal/ALISE Excellence in Teaching Award. **Associate Professor Sarah Sharma** was named Director of the McLuhan Centre in Culture and Technology at the iSchool.

University of Ottawa, School of Information Studies

By Mary Cavanagh

This season at uOttawa’s School of Information Studies, second-year students have been working hard on their I-Portfolios, which they will present at the end of term as capstone projects. These portfolios combine written reflections on their MIS program with their own individualized, professional career-development plans. We expect to showcase these portfolios online later in April — stay tuned! Congratulations to MIS student **Lisa Shaver-Szabo** who is this year’s recipient of the Barbara Clubb Scholarship in Information Studies. Shaver-Szabo is currently working part-time as a reference assistant at St. Paul University

Library and will graduate in April. On Saturday, April 1st, **Dr. Heather Morrison’s** ISI 6300 students hosted an all-day workshop on open access, co-sponsored by ÉSIS, AÉSISSA, *Sustaining the Knowledge Commons*, and the Digital Humanities program.

McGill University, School of Information Studies

By Peter F. McNally

The School of Information Studies was re-accredited in January by the American Library Association’s Committee on Accreditation, following a site visit in September 2016. **Professor Karyn Moffatt**, Assistant Professor, has been awarded a Tier 2 – Canada Research Chair in Inclusive Social Computing. **Benjamin Fung, Associate Professor**, received the Service Award from the IEEE 2016 International Conference on Data Science and Advanced Analytics (DSAA’2016) for which he served as a Local Arrangements Committee Chair.

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

By Isabelle Bourgey

The beginning of 2017 was marked by very sad news for everybody at EBSI: our dear colleague **Professor Pierrette Bergeron** passed away in January after a long battle with cancer. (See Milestones, below.) Her passing away is a great loss to the information science community. Starting September 2017, EBSI will be offering a new one-year graduate degree in Digital Publishing: the Diplôme d’études supérieures spécialisées en édition numérique.

This new multidisciplinary program is offered in collaboration with two other departments at Université de Montréal: French Language Literatures (département des littératures de langue française) and World Languages and Literatures (département de littératures et de langues du monde).

Dalhousie University, School of Information Management (SIM)

By Sandra Toze

SIM offers congratulations to **Dr. Mike Smit** and **Dr. Bertrum MacDonald**, who are part of the new Dalhousie-led Ocean Frontier Institute. Dr. Smit was the recipient of the Faculty of Management Rising Research Star of the Year award, and Dr. MacDonald, currently on sabbatical, was appointed Visiting Researcher by the International Ocean Institute-Canada. **Professor Jennifer Grek Martin** was awarded a 2016 Management Teaching Excellence Award. Alumni **Monique Woroniak** (MLIS 2008) returned to Dalhousie to deliver the 2017 Dalhousie-Horrocks National Leadership Lecture, Beyond Colonialism? Libraries for a Canada We Don’t Yet Know, to a full house at the Halifax Central Library. **Domenic Rosati** was selected as the fourth recipient of the Dalhousie-Horrocks National Leadership Fund. SIM welcomed **Ken Field**, Trent University Durham Librarian, as a Researcher in Residence. MLIS students hosted their annual Information Without Borders conference in February, focusing on Digital Governance. SIM worked with the Province of Nova Scotia to host an Open Data Competition on Open Data Day (March 4 and 5). ■

Milestones

By Merlyn Beeckmans and Wendy Newman

Obituaries

Pierrette Bergeron died on January 3, 2017, at age 57, in Granby, Que. She held a PhD from the School of Information Studies, Syracuse University, and had been on faculty at the Université de Montréal since 1995.

Jae Blue (née Easto) died on

December 1, 2016, at age 69, in Toronto. She was educated at Ryerson University, Ontario College of Teachers, and York University. She became a teacher-librarian at elementary schools in East York.

Phyllis Brown (née MacLean) died on October 29, 2016, at age 93, in Cornwall, Ont. She held an MLS from McGill. Her love for the English

language led her to tutoring students.

Raoul Bury died on December 27, 2016, at age 93, in Vancouver. Librarians, archivists, museum curators, and records managers will remember him as a supplier of library furniture and equipment through Bury Media and Supplies, a Vancouver company that provided “miles of shelving and acres of acid-free storage containers.”

Many customers didn't realize that Bury, a British Commando in World War II, had served with distinction in North Africa, Italy, France, Yugoslavia, and Holland.

Brian Campbell died on December 27, 2016, at age 72. He received many awards, including the Canadian Library Association's (CLA) Advancement of Intellectual Freedom in Canada Award, the CLA Outstanding Service to Librarianship Award, and the British Columbia Library Association Helen Gordon Stewart Award. He retired in 2006 as the Vancouver Public Library's Director of Systems and Special Projects.

Laurenda Daniels died on January 4, 2017, at age 93, in Vancouver. She had a BLS and an MLS from the University of British Columbia (UBC) and a Certificate of Archival Administration from Carleton University, and became the first Archivist at the UBC Library's Special Collections. She was a published author, most recently of *Royal Blood*, a memoir that celebrated her Manitoba roots.

Calvin C. (Kelly) Gotlieb (CM, FRSC) died on October 16, 2016, at age 95, in Toronto. He founded and led the Department of Computer Science at the University of Toronto and was cross-appointed with the Faculty of Information Studies. He built the first computer in Canada, founded the Canadian Information Processing Society (CIPS), wrote the first book on the social impact of computers, and received the Order of Canada in recognition for his lifetime of achievement.

Sally Grande died on April 25, 2016, at age 64, in Oshawa, Ont. She held an MLS from Drexel University, Pa. She moved to Toronto, where she served terms as president of the Canadian Association for Information Science and of the Indexing and Abstracting Society of Canada. She taught at the University of Toronto, and also at Ryerson University, where she co-founded the information studies curriculum.

F. Madeline Grant died on January 27, 2017, at age 78, in Toronto. With a BA and BLS from the University of Toronto, and an MA from the University of Waterloo, she worked as a librarian in several government and university libraries, and was a longtime member of the Academy for Lifelong Learning in Toronto.

A. Rolph Huband died on November 20, 2016, at age 87, in Oakville, Ont. Formerly a lawyer with, and then Vice-President and Secretary, of the Hudson's Bay Company, he was instrumental in bringing the company's archives and artifacts from England to Canada. Huband co-ordinated the formal donation to Manitoba in 1994, and the creation of the HBC History Foundation, to provide sustainable financial support for Canada's National History Society and the collections held by the museum and archives (these are regarded as the national archives of much of Canada from 1670 to 1870). Founding chair and emeritus publisher of *The Beaver* magazine, Huband received the Order of Canada in 2003.

Rhonda Johnson died on December 12, 2016, at age 49, in Vancouver. A recent graduate of the University of British Columbia's School of Library, Archival and Information Science, she enjoyed working in public libraries, was a popular facilitator of seniors' programs, and was adept at involving patrons in library activities.

Reginald Brian Land, died on November 26, 2016, at age 89, in Georgetown, Ont. (See the article by Jean Weihs in this issue, page 11.)

Anne Marie Lavelle died on September 19, 2016, at age 66. She had worked as a librarian at Brampton Library.

Denise Lim died on August 2, 2016, at age 68. Denise worked at the National Library of Canada (now Library and Archives Canada) from 1971 until her retirement. An expert cataloguer, she also worked as Assistant Editor of *Canadiana* until a reorganization in the 1980s. Shortly after that, she

began working at the Office of Library Standards as a key expert in the editing of the revised edition of AACR2.

Jenny Mendelsohn died on January 9, 2017, in Toronto. At the University of Toronto Library, she worked in the Chief Librarian's area, in Robarts Reference, Earth Sciences, and University of Toronto Scarborough.

Joan R. Morgan died on December 19, 2016, at age 90, in Renfrew, Ont. She worked at the post office and with Bell Telephone in Frobisher Bay (now Iqaluit, Nunavut), where she was also the librarian at the Centennial Library.

Richard Bradley Moses died on February 6, 2017, at age 83, in Victoria. A graduate of Rutgers University (MLS), he worked at the Enoch Pratt Free Library in Baltimore, Md., and Roger Williams College in Bristol, R.I. From 1971 to 1986 he was Chief Librarian, at the Oakville Public Library. In the mid-1970s, he and Gordon Norman founded the first Canadian radio reading service for the blind and print-handicapped in the basement of the Woodside Branch of the Oakville Public Library.

William Howard Overend died on March 2, 2017, at age 98, in Mission, B.C. A graduate of the University of Toronto School of Library Science (1951), he worked in libraries in Abbotsford, B.C., London, Ont., Cranbrook, B.C., and Dawson Creek, Yuk., retiring as Territorial Librarian in Whitehorse. *ELAN* reviewed his book *Book Guy: A Librarian in the Peace* in No. 31/2002.

Judith Helen A. Paisley (née Austen) died on February 5, 2017, at age 80. She held an MLS and worked as a librarian at public libraries in Etobicoke, Ont., and Toronto for 30 years.

Pat Rogal died on October 16, 2016, at age 81, in Toronto. She spent her library career at the Metro Toronto Reference Library, where she was the picture librarian, and developed a collection of artifacts that was useful to many, especially artists.

Doris Annabelle Standing died on November 25, 2016, at age 84, in Toronto. A graduate of the Faculty of Information, University of Toronto, she was a librarian at the Ministry of Health.

Evelyne Tellier died on October 1, 2016, at age 93, in Montebello, Que. She had worked as a music cataloguer at the National Library of Canada.

Gail N. Tesch died on November 19, 2016, at age 80. A graduate of the universities of Manitoba and Toronto, she was a reference librarian at Simon Fraser University Library from 1967 to 1995.

Audrey S. Tobias died on December 1, 2016, in Toronto. She was a recipient of the Agnes McPhail Award for her contributions to the community as a peace activist. She was a librarian and a founder of the Toronto Public Library Workers Union.

Carol Tymczynska died on November 7, 2015, at age 54, in Oshawa, Ont. An avid reader, she had recently celebrated 25 years at the Toronto Public Library.

Marilynne Margaret Weadick died on October 1, 2016, at age 94, in Hamilton, Ont. With a BLS, she was a librarian at the Hamilton Public Library for many years.

Ruth Werbin died on October 1, 2016, at age 94, in Ottawa. She joined the Women's Royal Canadian Naval Service (WRCNS) in 1942, and served in Esquimalt, B.C., Halifax, and St. John's, Nfld., until 1946. She moved to Ottawa in the 1960s where she worked at the National Library of Canada.

Phyllis Mary Wright died on November 6, 2016, at age 73, in St. Catharines, Ont. She received her diploma from Niagara College in library records management and, while working at Brock University's library, completed a BA in history, an MA in library science from the University of University at Buffalo, and, finally, an MEd from Brock University, where she retired as Head, Collection Management.

Marie Zielinska died on September 10, 2016, at age 95, in Ottawa. (See the article by Ralph W. Manning in this issue, page 7.)

Retirements

Greg Buss retired in January of 2017 after 33 years at Richmond Public Library and 26 years as Chief Librarian. He helped the library to achieve international recognition in many areas, including customer service, innovative building design, multilingual services, merchandising, and information technology.

Edel Toner-Togala retired as Chief Librarian, Burnaby Public Library, in September of 2016. She was also a significant contributor to the library community, serving as chair of the B.C. Libraries Cooperative in its early years, chair of the Canadian Urban Libraries Council, and secretary-treasurer of the Association of BC Public Library Directors.

Gail Hogan, Library Director of the Law Society of Newfoundland and Labrador, retired in January of 2017, after 26 years of service.

Margaret Houghton, Archivist at Hamilton Public Library in Ontario, retired in June 2016, after 30 years of service. A published local historian, she shared her deep knowledge of Hamilton's history in television, radio, and newspaper interviews, and was inducted into the Hamilton Gallery of Distinction.

Charlotte Meissner, CEO of the Oakville Public Library, retired in August 2016, after 30 years of service.

Wanda Proulx, the CEO and Head Librarian at Lanark Highlands Public Library, retired on December 31, 2016, after 30 years of service.

Awards

Jeff Barber, Library Director/CEO of the Regina Public Library, received

the 2017 Ken Haycock Award for Promoting Librarianship, which recognizes exceptional success in enhancing the public recognition and appreciation of librarianship. The award was presented by the Ontario Library Association (OLA) and the Canadian Urban Libraries Council at the 2017 OLA Super Conference.

Brampton Library has won the Public Library Association's Upstart Library Innovation Award for 2017, for its Welcoming Newcomers for Settlement Success initiative.

Joanne Beltramini received the 2016 Frances Morrison Award from the Saskatchewan Library Association recognizing her distinguished career of service to school libraries, not only in her school divisions but provincially and nationally.

Heide Blackmore received the Distinguished Alumni Award from the University of Alberta's Library and Information Studies Alumni Association in September of 2016. She earned a BA in 1976 and her MLS from the university in 1985. She had a distinguished career at Edmonton Public Library and Strathcona County Library, retiring in 2015.

Linda C. Cook received the University of Alberta's Distinguished Alumni Award in September of 2016. She retired in July of 2015 as CEO of the Edmonton Public Library. She served as president of both the Canadian Library Association and the Library Association of Alberta, vice-chair of the Canadian Urban Public Libraries Council, chair of The Alberta Library, and member of the Canadian Public Lending Right Commission. Among many other honours, she holds both the Queen's Golden Jubilee Medal and Diamond Jubilee Medal.

Louise Reimer received the Honourary Alumni Award from the University of Alberta's Library and Information Studies Alumni Association in September of 2016. She received her MA in Library Science from the University of Western Ontario and

worked for five years at the Toronto Public Library (TPL) before joining the Edmonton Public Library (EPL) in 1987. She served as head of the University of Alberta Humanities and Social Sciences Library in 2007, returning to EPL in 2008. She returned to TPL in 2017. She has guest lectured and taught frequently as a sessional instructor in both the on-campus and online streams of the MLIS program offered by the University of Alberta's School of Library and Information Studies. She was also a regular collaborator in the creation of the biannual PAGES conferences.

Among the many awards presented at the Ontario Library Association Super Conference in February of 2017: Larry Moore Distinguished Service Award to **Anne Bailey**, Toronto Public Library; Ontario College and University Library Association's Lifetime Achievement Award to **Anne Dondertman**, University of Toronto; and Ontario Public Library Association's Lifetime Achievement Award to **Rudi Denham**, St. Thomas Public Library.

Appointments

Jeannie Bail was appointed in December of 2016 as the new Director of Learning and Research

Services at the University of New Brunswick (Fredericton).

Beth Davies was appointed Chief Librarian, Burnaby Public Library, as of October 24, 2016. She was formerly with Vancouver Public Library (VPL) for 11 years, most recently as a Neighbourhood Services Manager, managing five of VPL's branches and leading the planning and development of the library's newest branch.

Moe Hosseini-Ara, formerly Director, Service Excellence at Markham Public Library, and most recently City of Markham Director of Culture, was appointed Director, Branch Operations and Customer Experience, Toronto Public Library, effective June 2, 2016.

Melissa Just was appointed Dean, University of Saskatchewan Library, on February 1, 2017. She previously served as Associate Vice-President for Information Services and Director of New Brunswick Libraries at Rutgers University in New Brunswick, N.J., and held a variety of leadership roles in academic health-sciences libraries in California.

Pam Ryan, formerly Director, Collections and Technology, Edmonton Public Library, and before that, Head, Science and Technology Library,

University of Alberta, was appointed Director, Service Development and Innovation, at Toronto Public Library, effective May 30, 2016.

Susan Walters, formerly Deputy Chief Librarian, Richmond Public Library, was appointed Chief Librarian in January 2017. She has been with the Richmond Public Library since 2004. She holds a joint MA in Archival Studies and Library and Information Studies, and she achieved a Certificate in Public Library Leadership in 2016, from the University of Toronto.

The Board of the Canadian Federation of Library Associations appointed the following officers in February 2017 — Chair: **Peter Bailey** (Library Association of Alberta), Vice Chair: **Paul Takala** (Canadian Urban Libraries Council), Secretary: **Alix-Rae Stefanko** (Saskatchewan Library Association and Manitoba Library Association), and Treasurer: **Shelagh Paterson** (Ontario Library Association). ■

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ELAN Indexing

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To access the index, go to:
[http://www.exlibris.ca/doku.
php?id=elan:newsletter_list](http://www.exlibris.ca/doku.php?id=elan:newsletter_list).

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ELAN

www.exlibris.ca

Ex Libris Association Newsletter

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An Edwardian Interlude: A Tour of the Royal Canadian Military Institute Library

By Tom Eadie

On May 15, 2017, a cadre of Ex Libris members was given a tour of the Royal Canadian Military Institute Library by Librarian Penny Lipman.

The Royal Canadian Military Institute (RCMI) was founded in 1890, and the cornerstone of the original building was laid in 1907. That building, so long a part of the streetscape of University Avenue in Toronto, was sold in 2010. Four years later the RCMI was rehoused in the first six floors of a new condominium building on the site. The institute's granite facade was preserved for the new construction in its original location, 426 University Avenue.

Inside, the RCMI Library maintains the Edwardian style set by the facade, with dark wooden bookshelves, library ladders to reach elevated parts of the collection, and realia such as swords and dioramas featuring Victorian toy soldiers. Current library technology is unobtrusive. A self-described "special institution that focuses on the provision of educational and charitable activities," it has the appearance of a well-appointed private club, with formal and informal dining areas (interesting menu and a damned fine wine list), museum, and gymnasium. Something of the character of the institute is captured by the fact that women were excluded from membership until 1972, prior to which time there was a ladies' entrance, to be used when women were invited to dine.

The RCMI Library is the largest private military library in Canada. Largely based on gifts, the collection provides interesting resources for military historians, though it is primarily a members' reading collection. It also consists primarily of works in



RCMI Librarian Penny Lipman (standing) conducted the tour.



Early weaponry is displayed overhead.

English. (Well, Wolfe won, dammit.) The collection size is somewhat indeterminate (through much of its history the library has been managed by volunteers from the membership, and record-keeping has sometimes been idiosyncratic), but a figure of 30,000 volumes has been mentioned. The collection has outgrown its quarters, and weeding and storage are issues.

The library, its collection, and the challenges facing the current librarian engaged the Ex Libris group. And the library space itself is compellingly attractive to old-school book persons. It is obvious why the space is pressed into service as a site for dinners and weddings.

The tour was followed by a lively lunch at The Merchant (a "traveller's tavern" at 181 University Avenue, featuring craft beers, Canadian wine, and an eclectic menu). Thanks to Vivienne James for organizing this tour. ■

President's Report

By Elizabeth Ridler



I am pleased to report that the Canadian Federation of Library Associations/ Fédération canadienne des associations de bibliothèques (CFLA-FCAB) — of which Ex Libris is a member — sent a letter of protest to the Government of Saskatchewan with regard to the severe financial and service cutbacks planned for Saskatchewan public libraries in the 2017 provincial budget. Saskatchewan citizens protested so vigorously against these cuts that the provincial government returned the library funding to its previous level. (See the article by Michael Shires in this issue, page 13). This spring the Government of Ontario also moved to defund a Toronto Public Library reference service that served the entire province, on the grounds of lack of use. This funding cut was reversed within 24 hours once the public was informed by librarians and other researchers that the rationale for the reduction was based on outdated figures and that usage of the reference service actually was increasing!

Be sure to set aside November 6 for the Ex Libris 2017 Annual Conference and AGM. (See program information in the Upcoming Events box, below.)

The Ex Libris board welcomed Tom Eadie and Wendy Newman as elected new board members; Tom Eadie has

accepted the vice-president's position, to be confirmed with the election of officers at the 2017 AGM. Thanks to Chair of the Website Committee Lorne Bruce who, in co-operation with Bob Henderson, oversees the Ex Libris listserv and website. Congratulations to our Archivist, Nancy Williamson, for 112 biographies of notable Canadian librarians, published in the Ex Libris database and including the biography of the late Brian Land. (See the article by Nancy Williamson at top right.) Vivienne James arranged a most interesting tour of the Royal Canadian Military Institute Library on May 15. (See the cover article by Tom Eadie in this issue.) Bob Henderson reports that membership is stable and may increase slightly this year.

Thank you to Rick Ficek, Chairman of the W. Kaye Lamb Committee, who has advertised across Canada for nominations for the 2018 Award for service to seniors; the CFLA-FCAB has helped publicize the award. (See the article by Rick Ficek in this issue, on page 3.)

Lorne Bruce and Peter McNally honour the 150th anniversary of Confederation with articles throughout this issue.

I wish to thank all Ex Libris members and board members for their support and participation in the Ex Libris Association during my second year as President. ■

Ex Libris Biography Project

By Nancy Williamson

As of August 1, 2017, the biography database comprises 112 names. Recent additions include Katharine Greenfield, Brian Land, Fred Landon, James Talman, and Maureen Woods. In the works is Kent Haworth.

We have begun to receive biographies from living retired librarians, which are very helpful for later use. Please keep them coming! Contact Nancy Williamson. ■

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 Ex Libris 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.

Upcoming Events

November 6, 2017 — Ex Libris Association 2017 Annual Conference and AGM

The conference will be held at Northern District Branch, Toronto Public Library, Orchard View Boulevard and Yonge Street.

Join us to catch up with friends and enjoy the presentations:

Ann Cox, Manager, Metadata And Regions, Libraries and Archives, English Service, CBC, will speak on Libraries of the Future and Past — CBC Archives.

Loryl MacDonald, Interim Chief Librarian, Thomas Fisher Rare Book Library, University of Toronto, will speak on Libraries of the Past and Future — Rare Book Libraries.

Arlene Chan, retired Librarian Manager, Toronto Public Library, will speak on Chinese Canadians, the New Reference Library, and Chinese Canadian Archives.

Ex Libris Fall 2017 Toronto Library Tour

ELA members are asked to watch their email for information on the fall library tour.

W. Kaye Lamb Award for Service to Seniors

By Rick Ficek

This biennial award is a major activity of the Ex Libris Association (ELA) and is co-sponsored by the Canadian Federation of Library Associations/ Fédération canadienne des associations de bibliothèques (CFLA-FCAB). It is given, when merited, in honour of William Kaye Lamb, the first National Librarian of Canada, Dominion Archivist, and eminent historian (1904–1999). Any Canadian public, academic, or special library is eligible.

The award recognizes a library that has developed an ongoing service, program, or procedure of benefit to seniors and/or a design and organization of buildings or facilities that improve access and encourage use by seniors. We urge you to nominate an outstanding library or ask the library to apply.

Time is short — the deadline for the 2018 award is November 30, 2017!

The winning library receives an award of \$500, a mounted framed certificate, and “bragging rights” via Canada-wide publicity in the Spring 2018 issue of *ELAN*. An ELA committee reviews the submissions and makes a recommendation to the executives of the Ex Libris Board. ■

To apply, please provide:

- library name
- statement of the service or facility of benefit to the senior population served (and, if available, photographs, promotional or advertising materials used, articles, or published news items that show ongoing success)
- architectural drawings, details of the equipment used, and an outline of the effect on staffing and budget, if appropriate
- contact person's name, telephone and fax numbers, and email address

Mail applications to:

Selection Committee: W. Kaye Lamb Award (Ex Libris Association)
c/o OLA
2 Toronto Street
3rd Floor
Toronto ON M5C 2B6



**Celebrating 150 Years
of Canadian Libraries:
National Library
of Canada (NLC)/
Bibliothèque
Nationale du Canada**

In 1883 Sir John A. Macdonald said “Canada really ought to have a national library,” but attempts to have the Library of Parliament fill this role proved unsuccessful. Establishment in 1950 of the Canadian Bibliographic Centre, and recommendations by the 1951 Massey Commission, preceded the 1952 parliamentary legislation. From its start in 1953, the NLC's administration was highly integrated with what was later named the National Archives.

The NLC embarked upon projects of national importance: creating the Canadian Union Catalogue; publishing a current national bibliography, *Canadiana* (1951–); exercising its legal depository privileges for every title published or printed in Canada; and transferring 300,000 volumes from the Library of Parliament. In 1967 the NLC moved into a new building, shared with the National Archives.

Through the 1990s, the NLC expanded its role: assisting libraries to adopt electronic formats, developing the CAN/MARC cataloguing format, and transferring *Canadiana* and the Union Catalogue to the AMICUS database. The NLC also provided titles for handicapped and multilingual audiences, created a Rare Book Division, and made retrospective collections available in co-operation with the Canadian Institute for Historical Microreproductions.

In 2004 the NLC and the National Archives merged as Library and Archives Canada (LAC)/ Bibliothèque et Archives Canada.

NLC Heads:

William Kaye Lamb 1953–1968
Guy Sylvestre 1968–1983
Marianne Scott 1984–1999
Roch Carrier 1999–2004
Ian Wilson 2004–2009
Daniel Caron 2009–2013
Guy Berthiaume 2014–

News We Are Watching

The American Library Association (ALA) Task Force on the Context of Future Accreditation (TFCFA) was charged with investigating directions in the library-and-information-studies field and preparing a white paper to support the ALA Committee on Accreditation's development of the next set of standards.

The TFCFA gathered significant data

and documentation and presented a report to the ALA Executive Board in April, but stopped short of preparing a final statement. Since several other groups within the ALA have also been gathering information, the board struck a working group to gather this documentation together, then prepare the conceptual statement.

We will follow this story and report on the progress. — *Judy Dunn*

— *Peter F. McNally*

Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor,

Your Spring 2017 newsletter stirs up a lot of responses from this 98-year-old.

Tom Eadie's story about Redpath Sugar led me to guess that some Redpath must have been sugar daddy to the Redpath Library at McGill. Sure enough, it was Peter, eldest son of John, who helped his father establish the refinery and went on to build his own fortune and philanthropies.

Peter McNally's piece on page 3, about the various Carnegie benefits to Canadian libraries, gets me to thinking again about the letter I received from the Carnegie Commonwealth Fund, offering me a study tour of foreign libraries. Apparently my friend Edgar Robinson of the Vancouver Public Library (having got his start as I did at the Calgary Public) had rebuked one of his Carnegie friends for sponsoring travel by young Australians who kept passing through Canada on their way around the world, but no Canadians. When asked for a Canadian name, he had nominated me. When asked for a proposal, I outlined a three-month tour in Europe, thinking that I would have many other chances to visit North American libraries, but the Carnegie people said they would not want to send me overseas without my being able to say what was happening on this side of the great water. So I outlined a three-month itinerary from New England, going clockwise to San Francisco and back through the middle. As a result, I came to know and be known by most of the leading librarians in Europe and the United States, could visualize their situations when reading library literature, and could call them if I had news or questions or suggestions. It was an advantage that boosted my whole career.

Judy Ginsler's bit on page 6 reminds me of a library-school friend who took me with him on Sunday afternoon for tea with Dora Mavor Moore. She told us about the time when she and some New Play Society friends had sat in that room and decided that the time had

really come for a Shakespeare Festival in Stratford, Ont. She had picked up her phone and called Alec Guinness to enlist his help. And, in 1953, I was at Tyrone Guthrie's inaugural production, of *Richard III* starring Guinness, in the tent. At a very tense moment in the play, the tension was raised further by a sudden thunderstorm with loud claps and a gale that whipped the tent and made it whoosh up and down.

Sandra Black's article on page 9 reminds me of the time I was lecturing in the first master's program at the Toronto Library School (at about \$400 per term as I recall). One day John Wilkinson (student) was presenting his paper on some budget exercise in which the final figure was far larger than anybody could expect or believe. I had to tell him that he had misplaced the decimal point. And one very hot afternoon in that room on the third floor, east wing of the Education Building, I asked the ladies to permit us men to remove our jackets. We all did so except Father Bernie Black, who remarked that his was a habit.

Suzette Giles, in her story about Alexander Calhoun and the Calgary Public Library (page 10), speaks of Louise Riley; I knew her well, and married Patricia Gibson who was her assistant in the Children's Room. Louise and Patricia were both graduates of the library school at Madison, Wis., which was much closer to Alberta than either of the Canadian schools. And about Georgina Thomson, whose desk in Reference I sometimes took when I was there in 1945 to 1946, just after my time in the RCAF. I had heard about Alex Calhoun being an alpinist and, frail as he appeared to be in the year of his retirement, he had led some staff members on an alpine walk and had piggybacked the ladies over a stream. The evening I first met Patricia, she had just returned from that walk. It was Calhoun who hired me in my first library job and, as a friend of the family, he invited me to have lunch with him next day at the Round Table. When the

time came I went early, not being sure whether he had said Buffalo Cafe or Beaver Cafe. I was still in my officer's uniform, with brass buttons but no stripes. I just went into the first café and asked the hostess whether this was the place for the Round Table luncheon. She nodded that it was and, after hesitating for a moment, she asked, "Are you the exterminator?" I thought that story was too good to keep, but when I told Mr. Calhoun about it later, he was not amused. He retired at the end of June 1945. I began work in July, so I must have been the last person he hired.

And this brings me to page 11 — Jean Weihs on Brian Land. Dear Brian. He came to me from the Toronto Public Library because I would allow him to arrange a timetable that would fit the time for the course he was taking. In 1963 he was one of my two Assistant Librarians, and I offered him a promotion to Associate. He accepted, but then, before the promotion took effect, he was invited to take a one-year appointment as executive assistant to the federal Minister of Finance. I gave him a year's leave but, when Bertha Bassam retired as Director of the Library School, I recommended him as her successor. So he never became my Associate Librarian. We continued as close friends, and took turns at the shovel when ground was broken for the Robarts Library complex and the Bissell Building, the splendid new home for what we used to call the Library School.

Yours truly,
Robert H. Blackburn

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Would you like us to extend our programming? A donation or bequest to Ex Libris helps us broaden and increase our activities. All donations are tax deductible.

Technology Unmasked: Makerspaces

By Stan Orlov



Remember watching *MacGyver* and thinking how cool it would be if you could make all those contraptions whenever you

wanted? Well, now you can, and so can your kids, and so can anyone who walks into a library that has a makerspace setup. Many people love DIY, and it's only logical that libraries, in their desire to be the social-gathering places of choice, seized the opportunity to offer the community a new way of making, collaborating, learning, and sharing.

After the original makerspaces were launched in Germany in the 1990s (so groups of programmers could hack computers and make them do things they weren't designed for), the movement soon expanded to the physical world, too. The Massachusetts Institute of Technology created the first fabrication lab (or "fab lab") to explore how an underserved community can be powered by technology at the grassroots level. The first public library to offer a makerspace was the Fayetteville Free Library, N.Y., in 2006.

A library makerspace allows patrons from all ages and backgrounds

to experiment with 3-D printers, sewing machines, robotics, coding, various tools, etc. While experts in various areas are often available, the community atmosphere encourages co-operation and lifelong learning between patrons, with the potential to develop transferable skills that could be applied outside the library, and it's not limited to computer programming or sewing. From Saint John to Sudbury to Edmonton, public library makerspaces teach you all of the above and things like cooking and yoga, too.

School libraries are not trailing behind. Instead of feeding science to students, they equip students to *do* science (or art), choose their own projects and see them through from conception to completion. Ryerson and McMaster universities, and the University of Ottawa are just some of the higher education libraries embracing this promising concept.

Stop by your local library and see if you can pick up new skills that would make MacGyver jealous. ■

Stanislaw Orlov is Systems Librarian at Mount St. Vincent University in Halifax. Please send your questions and comments to stan.orlov@msvu.ca.



Celebrating 150 Years of Canadian Libraries: The Digital Revolution and the Library

The digital age began in the 1950s with the development of the transistor and computers. Today, the term "digital library" is taken for granted and Marshall McLuhan's "global village" is a streetscape on Google. How have Canadian libraries adapted? Has the concept of the library as a bricks-and-mortar place run its course?

Just as libraries easily surmounted informational challenges posed by radio in the 1930s and television in the 1950s, so, too, 21st-century libraries continue to be physical places where users interact with an array of resources — as well as friends, visitors, and staff. In the 1980s, the term "electronic library" (EL) appeared, signifying a combination of digital resources, such as CDs and DVDs, with older print and analogue formats. With the growth of the Internet and communication devices in the 1990s, "digital library" (DL) became a universal term. If we understand a DL to be a collection of resources — in many formats managed and made accessible by personnel through the use of computers, tablets, phones, etc. — then geographic location is less important, because the DL is normally part of larger network. Some DLs are repositories of digital information stored as data files, "virtual libraries" in their own right. Nonetheless, the concept of a library as a designated "place" remains fundamental in both physical and virtual contexts.

Libraries continue to adapt and coexist with new technologies. Library networking allows users in homes, offices, parks, and trains to easily access information. Advocates for "Library 2.0" seek to improve user participation and feedback in the development of library services, especially through the use of social media such as Facebook and Instagram. Libraries remain sources of information and social places, in a shared physical and virtual environment.

— Lorne Bruce

Notice to Members

Help us keep our email listserv current. If you and/or someone you know are/ is not receiving our emails, please send your new email address to Bob Henderson at bob.superrover@gmail.com.

When You Move

When you move, please remember to send your new address to
Ex Libris Association,
Faculty of Information,
University of Toronto,
140 St. George St.,
Toronto, ON M5S 3G6.

Credit Overdue

By John Warrener

This past January 2017, my wife Liz and I once again represented the Ex Libris Association (ELA) at the trade show (EXPO) for the Ontario Library Association's annual Super Conference in Toronto. A new feature, designed to bring together delegates and vendors/exhibitors, was billed as The EXPO Trivia Hunt. We were each asked to provide two questions, with answers, that provided some details about our organization. The first question that came to my mind was "Who created the image for the Ex Libris Association logo?" and the answer is, of course, "Thoreau MacDonald." And then I realized we had a problem.

When Liz and I first started representing Ex Libris at library conferences, we were told that the image had been created by illustrator and graphic designer Thoreau MacDonald, son of J. E. H. MacDonald of the Group of Seven. We always delighted in using this "fact" as a selling point for ELA t-shirts, bags, etc., in part, because Thoreau was a friend of my father Lowrie Warrener, who was also an artist. Indeed, I grew up seeing annual Christmas cards from "TM" to my parents, with images of the natural world not unlike the one on ELA's logo. But, when you visit the Ex Libris website (www.exlibris.ca) and look at the sidebar at the left-hand side of the main page, you find the following statement: "The Ex Libris logo designed by Leslie Smart and Associates uses a woodcut created for L. Bruce Pierce, a former editor of Ryerson Press, who has permitted its use for our logo." No mention of Thoreau MacDonald. Had we been wrong all these years?

I Googled "L. Bruce Pierce" and found a catalogue for a "Thornhill Exhibition 1971" authored by him and entitled *Thoreau MacDonald: illustrator – designer – observer of nature*. I hoped that this publication might contain information about the woodcut. No other books on Thoreau MacDonald that I had looked at had anything like it. Liz and I took a trip to the Toronto Reference Library to look at its copy.



EX LIBRIS

And there, on the last page, was a bookplate with the text "L. Bruce Pierce Collection/No." below the image of two geese flying past a windswept pine. That very same image appears on the Ex Libris logo. I was wearing my Ex Libris scarf and compared the two. This was definitely Pierce's personal bookplate, created for him by Thoreau MacDonald.

On ELA's home page, L. Bruce Pierce is described as "a former editor of Ryerson Press." In my own library I have a 1980 Penumbra Press collection of Thoreau MacDonald's writings, *Notebooks*, that contains a chapter entitled Letters to Lorne Pierce. The following footnote appears on the first page: "LORNE PIERCE, editor of the Ryerson Press from 1920 to 1960, was greatly responsible for the development of arts and letters in Canada during the time that Thoreau knew him. He edited *The Makers of Canadian Literature* (13 vols.) and the Ryerson Poetry Chap-Books. He wrote monographs about authors such as Bliss Carman and Marjorie Pickthall, and in 1940 and 1942 wrote 'J. E. H. MacDonald: a Postscript' and 'Thoreau MacDonald' respectively." Were L. Bruce Pierce

and Lorne Pierce the same person?

To learn more, I looked at the only biography of Pierce that I could find, *Both Hands: A Life of Lorne Pierce of Ryerson Press* by Sandra Campbell. Here I made my big discovery. In 1923 Pierce had a son, Bruce. Author Campbell describes him as "a highly successful independent printer." Further checks revealed that his company, Norflex Limited, published the booklet in which I found the Thoreau MacDonald woodcut that appears as part of our logo. Later, in conversation with the librarian of the McMichael Canadian Art Collection in Kleinburg, Ont., I also learned that on his death in 2010 Bruce Pierce left his entire collection of works by Thoreau MacDonald to the gallery.

Now we can confidently say that the image on our Ex Libris logo was created by Thoreau MacDonald, son of J. E. H. MacDonald of the Group of Seven. And, we should acknowledge that L. Bruce Pierce, son of noted Ryerson Press editor Lorne Pierce, has allowed us to use it. ■

For much of my research I used the Internet, especially Google and the Toronto Public Library catalogue. I also used the following books:

Campbell, Sandra. *Both Hands: A Life of Lorne Pierce of Ryerson Press*. McGill-Queen's University Press, 2013

MacDonald, Thoreau. *Notebooks*. Penumbra Press, 1980

Pierce, L. Bruce. *Thoreau MacDonald: illustrator – designer – observer of nature*. Vol. 1, Norflex Limited, (1971) 1973

Thoreau MacDonald: A Catalogue of Design and Illustration. Margaret E. Edison, ed., University of Toronto Press, 1973

Why I Became a Library Technician

By Doug Willford

This article begins in Beckett's Bridge — and I can picture Ex Libris members questioning what and where is Beckett's Bridge, and what does it have to do with me becoming a library technician.

Beckett's Bridge is a hamlet. No, on second thought, it is just a fork in the road where two major highways meet in the beautiful Niagara Region near the canal city of Welland, Ont. The area was named after the Beckett family, early settlers who lived by the bridge that crossed the Welland River.

My parents owned a service station/confectionary store, and it was here that I would serve and chat with the customers, acquiring excellent customer skills (one of the major traits of anyone working in the public-service sector in a library). I also had a mini hobby farm, where I raised chickens, pigeons, rabbits, and ducks. If one of my pets became ill, I would head to the Welland Public Library and, with the assistance of the librarian, research the symptoms and treatment methods. It never ceased to amaze me, to see the librarian research and find the information that I had requested. She taught me how to research using the card catalogue and, back then, the periodical indexes. I always found it rewarding to find the elusive answers to my questions.

With my love of animals and working with them, I focused my career path in high school on becoming a veterinarian, but this idea soon evaporated because of my weakness in the sciences, which are a must to become a veterinarian. I remembered how much I enjoyed researching information during my trips to the public library and, with this in mind, I joined the Library Club. Along with other students, I assisted the high school librarian with tasks including shelving books, filing vertical files, preparing new books for shelving, and helping the librarian at lunch, when the library was very busy. Often I would go in after school to help the librarian clean up and do any other tasks she required, before I had

to run to catch the bus home. I truly enjoyed those times spent working in the library, and it gave me a sense of accomplishment to know I was not only helping the librarian but also assisting my fellow students to find information.

Back in 1967 Premier Bill Davis developed Ontario's community colleges, and Welland was fortunate enough to be granted a mandate for the Niagara College campus. One of the early offerings was a two-year library technician program, which caught my attention, and I enrolled in 1970. Under the leadership of a wonderful program co-ordinator, Bob Bowman, the two years simply flew by. The program covered both the public and technical courses, but it was the public service that I enjoyed, so I decided to focus on this area of library work. I was also selected to be the student representative on the program consultative committee, which gave me a good perspective on the day-to-day operation of library committees.

Back then there was a mandatory field placement requiring students to work in a public, special, or academic library. I enjoyed the academic setting the most and, as graduation approached, I concentrated on sending my resumé to community colleges, which were growing and expanding at a tremendous rate. One day I received a phone call from Humber College, inviting me for an interview. They hired me to begin July 4th, 1972.

During my first year, I was fortunate to be placed in charge of a small branch library located in Long Branch, Ont., and given carte blanche to develop programs for ESL students, and do reference, class-orientation tours, and, of course, the usual mundane jobs including filing and shelving. It was a dream come true, and I loved it. The skills I had developed working in my parents' store — meeting and greeting people — were very beneficial to someone working in this one-person library.

I was very lucky to be granted a leave of absence from Humber that allowed me to work on a Canadian Forces Base in Baden, West Germany, from 1978 to 1980.

Continued on page 8



Celebrating 150 Years of Canadian Libraries: The Canadian Library Association (CLA), 1946–2016

The CLA had a long gestation — going back to 1900 — but World War II inspired a sense of nationwide library purpose that finally led to its establishment. The CLA was a non-profit voluntary association with an elected executive council representing various interests; for its first quarter-century it was a bilingual organization. After a reorganization in the early 1970s, the association was organized into divisions for trustees, public, university and college, special, and school libraries. Seventy years after its foundation in Hamilton, Ont., the CLA held its last conference and trade show in Ottawa.

Providing leadership, the CLA successfully lobbied for a National Library of Canada. It also published the *Canadian Periodical Index*, oversaw the microfilming of hundreds of old Canadian newspapers, issued publications on matters of concern to the library profession, developed standards for services, liaised with international library organizations, and created awards for outstanding literature for children and young adults.

The CLA's summer conferences focused on themes essential to libraries and librarianship. When numerous library associations formed after 1970, the CLA developed committees, groups, and official statements, to accommodate a diversity of interests, array of issues, and linkages to an expanding range of library-related organizations. As the millennium approached, the CLA experienced declining membership (including vital institutional members), difficulty attracting new professionals, and financial problems. Although it sought to revitalize its activities after 2000, successive reorganizational efforts proved unsuccessful and the CLA dissolved in 2016. It is easy to conclude that "an era had passed," but the need for a national organization remains. The CLA's successor, the Canadian Federation of Library Associations/Fédération canadienne des associations de bibliothèques continues the quest to provide a unified national voice for Canadian libraries.

— Lorne Bruce

Words cannot explain how fortunate I was to have received this posting, and the growth I experienced from both a cultural and professional point of view. Also, it gave me the opportunity to gain more experience

working in a high school environment vs. a college environment.

In June of 2003 I retired after 31 years of employment with Humber (which included the two years in Germany), and returned to the Niagara Region.

I now live in Welland, close to my humble beginnings at Beckett's Bridge, where those rudimentary research and good people skills were acquired and the seed of my interest in becoming a library technician was planted. ■

GONE BUT NOT FORGOTTEN: DEFUNCT LIBRARY ASSOCIATIONS

The Canadian Library Council, Inc., 1941–1946

By Lorne Bruce

Tenth in a Series *Series editor: Lorne Bruce.* This is the tenth and last article in this series begun in 2011. It features Canada's first national library organization, the Canadian Library Council (CLC), the immediate progenitor of the Canadian Library Association. Over the past several issues, various defunct library groups have been featured — some regional, some professional, and some focusing on library groups or issues. Of all the groups, perhaps the CLC is the least known and appreciated. The council executive was composed mostly of ex officio officers along with a few elected members whose hard work and dedication led to successful co-ordinated library activities on a national scale for the first time in Canadian history.

At the American Library Association's (ALA) 1934 conference held in Montreal, a Canadian Library Council (CLC) was formed, with an organizing committee representing various Canadian regions under the leadership of John Ridington, University of British Columbia. But, lacking sufficient funds, it accomplished little. The idea of promoting library activities on a national basis was well intentioned but remained unfulfilled. With the onset of World War II, it seemed it would be many years before a national library body could be formed.

But, in fact, the war years spawned many co-operative efforts on a national scale, many from necessity. Libraries were part of this development — the country could not do without public, college, special, and school libraries. In January of 1941, a small group of influential librarians — notably Charles Sanderson (Toronto) and Margaret Gill (National Research Council) who would lead the CLC during World War II — met in Ottawa to discuss the need for a national organization. These two librarians, together with Nora Bateson (Nova Scotia), Alexander Calhoun (Calgary), Helene Grenier (Montreal), Gerhart Lomer (McGill University), and Edgar Robinson (Vancouver) formed a small executive who activated projects with the ultimate goal of

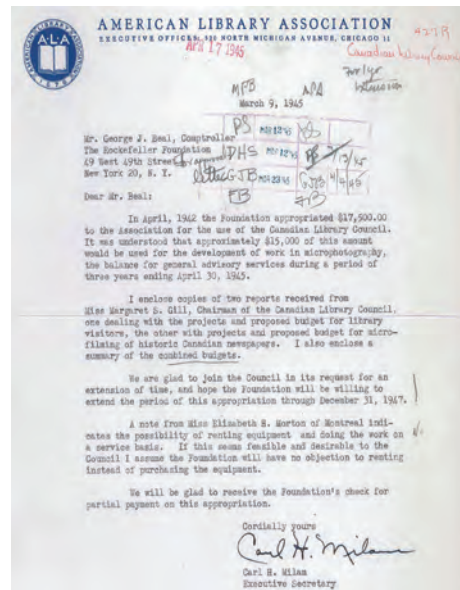


Photo courtesy of The Rockefeller Archive Center

forming a Canadian Library Association with members from coast to coast.

The CLC's officers were ambitious, effective, and ultimately successful. They circulated a draft constitution to existing library associations that secured regional approvals and enthusiastic support by late 1942. At the same time, the CLC sought financial assistance from the Rockefeller Foundation (RF) and Carnegie Corporation of New York (CC) to achieve its goals. The two American philanthropic organizations responded helpfully: in April of 1942,

the RF authorized \$17,500 to be used by the CLC over three years to microfilm 19th-century Canadian newspapers; later, in November of 1942, the CC agreed to provide \$20,000 to the CLC for general library development in Canada, for five years after the CLC became a legal entity. Rockefeller funds were appropriated to the ALA to distribute to the CLC, the ALA acting as a "middleman," while the CLC applied for legal incorporation under Canadian federal company law, which it finally achieved in December of 1943. Now the CLC was better able to promote its general goals: to provide guidance and leadership in all matters pertaining to library service and librarianship in Canada.

For three war years, at a time of restricted travel and national rationing of resources, the CLC's officers devised various plans to advance library work. The council expanded its membership with energetic librarians such as Elizabeth Dafoe (University of Manitoba), and planned to publish a library bulletin, which began to appear on a regular basis in October of 1944. Other publications were influential in promoting regional library service and projects, such as a national library in Ottawa, to a broader audience. Nora Bateson contributed "Libraries for Today and Tomorrow" to the journal,

Food for Thought, early in 1943, and she followed up with the booklet, *Rural Canada Needs Libraries*, in the next year. The council forwarded a lengthy brief, "Library Service for Canada," to the federal government's Special Committee on Reconstruction and Re-establishment in 1944. Most importantly, after its incorporation, the council was able to use Carnegie funds to establish a central office at the National Research Council in May of 1944 and hire Elizabeth Homer Morton as Executive Secretary. The vital ingredients for progress — synergy, planning, financing, and organization — were in place for postwar library expansion.

The CLC was particularly busy in 1945 following the end of World War II. It presented another brief, "The People's Need for Book Service" to the Ontario Royal Commission on Education. *Canada Needs Libraries*, a compilation of CLC work and other library associations' briefs outlining postwar library planning, was published. The council also assisted with the production of the National Film Board's *Library on Wheels*, released in September of 1945, a popular film that depicted the work of the Fraser Valley Public Library bookmobile. Using the CC annual grants, CLC officers were able to communicate, travel, and meet with librarians across the country.

By the end of 1945, the national goal of forming a true membership

association began to be realized. The CLC, in partnership with regional library associations, organized and publicized a national conference for June of 1946. The theme for the meeting was taken from *Libraries in the Life of the Canadian Nation*, which outlined the value of public library services. With the formation in Hamilton, Ont., of the new national association, the Canadian Library Association (CLA), the CLC's board passed on its responsibilities and assets to the CLA. The CLC's office staff and holdings could continue to serve as a clearing house for library information and publications, and liaison with the federal government; the long-delayed newspaper microfilming project could commence; and support for library training and promotion of a national library would continue. The CLC's life was over after 1946, but it had contributed immensely to the development of Canadian libraries and librarianship in its short lifespan.

For details about the stratagems leading to the CLA's foundation, see Basil Stuart-Stubbs, "1934–46: The Long Last Lap [formation of CLA]," *Felicitier* 50, No. 3 (2004): 112–15. For a review of the significant (and mostly neglected) publication, *Libraries in the Life of the Canadian Nation* and online references to access the text of two other CLC publications, go to <https://libraries-today.blogspot.ca/2016/12/review-libraries-in-life-of-canadian.html>. ■



Celebrating 150 Years of Canadian Libraries: Bibliothèque nationale du Québec

This library's roots stretch back to 1844 when the Sulpician Fathers of Montreal opened L'Oeuvre des bons livres, which functioned in opposition to the secularism of l'Institut canadien de Montréal's library (1844–1880). In 1915 the order opened the Sulpician Library on St. Denis Street. In addition to serving the general public, it functioned as the de facto library for the then-adjacent Université de Montréal.

Due to serious financial problems, in 1931 the Sulpicians closed their library, which the Quebec government acquired in 1941, then reopened as the provincial library. Emblematic of Quebec's Quiet Revolution, in 1967 the library was renamed Bibliothèque nationale du Québec (BNQ). It acquired legal deposit rights for works printed and published in Quebec, and began developing the best current and retrospective bibliographical control system of any Canadian province. Over time, the library extended its depository rights to non-print materials, and provided users with digital access to its collections.

In 2002 Montreal's central library merged with BNQ to create La Grande Bibliothèque du Québec (GBQ), which opened its impressive new building in 2004. GBQ's mandate was to acquire, preserve, and promote a "national" Quebec collection, and provide a circulating collection for the general public.

In 2006 BNQ and the Archives nationales du Québec merged to form Bibliothèque and Archives nationale du Québec (BAnQ). The same year BAnQ acquired the collection of l'Institut canadien de Montréal, thereby concluding its 19th-century feud with the Sulpician Fathers.

La Grande Bibliothèque has emerged as one of Montreal's major cultural institutions, whose exhibitions and activities attract a wide range of people. It serves as a flagship for the 21st-century flourishing of public libraries in Quebec.

— Peter F. McNally

Summary of groups included in the "Gone But Not Forgotten" series, with *ELAN* issue:

- Association of British Columbia Librarians, No. 50/Fall 2011
- Canadian Art Libraries Section, No. 59/Spring 2016
- Canadian Library Technicians Association, No. 52/Fall 2012
- Institute of Professional Librarians of Ontario, No. 51/Spring 2012
- Interprovincial Association of the Library Lovers of Sheep, No. 56/Fall 2014
- Maritime Library Association and Maritime Library Institute, No. 57/Spring 2015
- Northwestern Ontario Library Action Group, No. 54/Fall 2013
- Ontario Learning Resources Association, No. 58/Fall 2015
- Ontario Regional Group of Cataloguers, No. 55/Spring 2014

Library Treasures of Britain: The Lincoln Cathedral Library

By Guy Robertson



Librarians in need of a workout could do worse than to march up Steep Hill, in the English city of Lincoln. Near the top sits the

entrance to what was once the tallest building in Britain, the Cathedral Church of the Blessed Virgin Mary of Lincoln, known to locals as “the big church up the way” and to everyone else as Lincoln Cathedral. A Gothic pile whose construction began in 1088, it did not attain its current form until the 16th century.

Ask British schoolchildren why it’s famous, and they might mention the Lincoln Imp, a mischievous-looking stone carving on a column above the Angel Choir. Older students might tell you that Hugh, Bishop of Lincoln, was a signatory of the Magna Carta, and that the cathedral held a copy for centuries (one of four surviving copies, it is now displayed in neighbouring Lincoln Castle).

But ask librarians why they huff and puff their way up Steep Hill and they will tell you that — aside from the magnificent rose windows, the imp, and the enormous vaults — they want to see the library that Sir Christopher Wren designed in the 1670s. Many librarians consider it the most aesthetically pleasing small library in the Western World, and aver that its only competition is the Wren Library at Trinity College, Cambridge.

“The Wren Library in Lincoln Cathedral is certainly the most comfortable library space,” says a college librarian in Vancouver. “Wren used natural light in practical but subtle ways. You get the idea that ... you could study, or write, or read the newspaper, or even meditate in the public area ... Modern library designers should visit it ... They work hard to develop a layout that accomplishes this sort of thing, and often they fail where Wren succeeded.”

But the original library predates Wren. In the 1420s a chained library served scholars who travelled from all



Lincoln Wren Library

Photo courtesy of Lincoln Cathedral

parts of Europe to examine manuscripts. Before that, a book chest (or perhaps a closet) had contained a small but nonetheless important collection.

Above the cathedral’s cloisters, the current library comprises the Medieval Library and the Wren Library. Aside from a collection of about 10,000 books printed before 1801, it holds 260 medieval manuscripts on such subjects as theology and religious devotion, canon law, literature, and music. Scholars are eager to examine the manuscript of Chaucer’s *Canterbury Tales* and the 15th-century Thornton Manuscript containing the earliest written account of the death of King Arthur. There is a 10th-century manuscript of the Venerable Bede’s *Homilies* that contains the painstaking work of 10 different scribes. A printed item of particular interest for North American First Nations is the *Algonquian Bible* (1663), or *Mamusse Wunneetupanatamwe Up-Biblum God*; the Bible first printed in the United States, it is Puritan missionary John Eliot’s translation of the Geneva Bible into the Massachusetts language.

The library’s manuscripts and early

printed books are listed in R. M. Thomson’s *Catalogue of the Manuscripts of Lincoln Cathedral Chapter Library* (D. S. Brewer, 1989) and Clive Hurst’s *Catalogue of the Wren Library of Lincoln Cathedral* (Cambridge, 1982; reprinted 2005). A modern reference collection includes histories of the cathedral and the Lincoln Diocese, church art and architecture, biography, bibliography, and periodicals concerning history and architecture.

Anyone who wishes to read the manuscripts and rare books must provide a letter of introduction from a reputable academic institution, indicating the bearer’s field of study and the purpose of his or her research. No letter is necessary for the modern reference collection.

As a reward for the arduous march up Steep Hill, librarians can enjoy a visit to Brown’s Pie Shop on the way down, although its menu will negate earlier attempts to get into shape. ■

Note: The city of Lincoln is a two-and-a-half-hour train ride from London’s Victoria Station. For more information, visit <https://lincolncathedral.com>.

Libraries Named after Librarians

By Suzette Giles

This is the 13th in a series of articles about outstanding librarians and the libraries named after them.

Simona Maaskant Library, The King's University, Edmonton



Simona Maaskant

In the late 1970s, Simona Maaskant moved to Edmonton, where her sister was teaching. She found a job working in the Edmonton Public Library and that experience — as it did for many librarians — led to the pursuit of a professional qualification, which Maaskant followed with a career at The King's College library.

The King's College was established in 1979, with the mission "to provide university education that inspires and equips learners to bring renewal and reconciliation to every walk of life as followers of Jesus Christ, the Servant-King." It is an independent degree-

granting institution whose founding denomination was the Christian Reformed Church. Renamed The King's University College in 1993, it became The King's University in 2015.

Maaskant's family had emigrated from the Netherlands in 1951, and Maaskant was born on March 21, 1953, in Sarnia, Ont. Like many Dutch immigrants, the family had close ties to the Christian Reformed Church community, which supported a number of schools that provided a Christian-based education.

After attending the London District Christian Secondary School, Maaskant studied at Trinity Christian College, Palos Heights, Ill. She graduated with a degree in history and philosophy in 1975, and returned to Ontario, before relocating to Edmonton. Her work at Edmonton Public Library fostered a lasting interest in children's literature as well as librarianship. She enrolled in the University of Alberta, School of Library Science, receiving a Master of Library Science in 1981.

After graduation, Maaskant filled in for The King's College Librarian, officially starting her career there on

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Celebrating 150 Years of Canadian Libraries: Library Architecture

One of our oldest libraries, the Library of Parliament in Ottawa, is an iconic Gothic revival-style reminder of permanence, majesty, and the practical wisdom of fireproofing, while the many neoclassical Carnegie libraries (1900–1925), and the brutalist-style buildings of the 1960s and 1970s, reflect changing ideas, fashions, technologies, materials, and public perceptions of libraries.

Local communities used Carnegie Corporation of New York grants to erect 125 libraries across Canada. Their monumental steps, classical columns, and pedimented entrances evoke a vision of symmetry, grace, and Greco-Roman Western values. Essentially, there were two neoclassical library types: (1) a columned step entrance with a triangular pedimented gable; and (2) a columned arch entrance divided into one or more bays supporting the roofline. Although they usually consisted of a series of smaller rooms separated by load-bearing walls that prevented easy expansion or alteration, more than a century after their construction many renovated Carnegie libraries continue as libraries or have been converted to other uses.

A second familiar library style is most prominent on university campuses and in larger cities. Poured concrete structures of the brutalist style employed rugged exterior structural elements such as steel beams and exposed grey concrete slabs that offered unadorned (or bleak?) rectilinear lines. Inside, these multi-storey buildings featured modular open-plan interiors that permitted flexible arrangements and an ever-changing range of services. The Robarts Library at the University of Toronto ("Fort Book") typifies this style. Despite the debateable aesthetics, brutalist libraries are remarkably functional and convey a sense of 20th-century styling. Like their smaller Carnegie predecessors, brutalist libraries leave a lasting impression about the library's signature importance as a place of knowledge and information.

— Lorne Bruce



A welcoming work area and stacks in the library

All photos courtesy of The King's University

September 1, 1983. The university had only been in existence for four years and the library was in the early stages of development. The library, however, had been able to obtain duplicates from Mount Royal College in Calgary, and to buy the 25,000-volume collection of St. Patrick's College (a Catholic institution) in Ottawa. These, together with selections from a generous donor's personal collection, provided a core collection.

Over the next fifteen years, Maaskant developed the library, within the context of the faith-based orientation of the university, into a vital resource that supported the spiritual needs of students and faculty, as well as its academic programs and research interests.

With a small budget and staff, Maaskant had responsibility for all aspects of the library: administration and organization, collection development, instruction, and faculty liaison. Together with a member of the faculty, she developed the children's literature collection, and taught a critical children's literature class. Maaskant ensured that the library kept up with the continuous technological changes impacting library collections and services. This included joining networks, such as the 17-library NEOS Consortium of central and northern Alberta, which includes access to the collections of the University of Alberta.

In 1993 The King's University College moved to its first permanent campus, a building that had been a hotel with a spectacular entrance. Maaskant, as a member of the senior administrative team, participated in the design and planning of the new building including the library, which is a beautiful, functional, and much-admired space.

While on vacation in 1996, she developed a persistent cough. This was eventually diagnosed as lung cancer and she died on April, 26, 1998. Her leadership style, joyful personality, and dedication to the community had made her a valued and much-loved member of the college.

On September 16, 1998, the library at The King's University College was named in her memory. The library dedication includes the following: "Simona was one of God's special



The spectacular entrance to the university

gifts to King's. She embodied many of the College's highest values: love, generosity, commitment, and deep faith." A scholarship and bursary were also established in her name. ■

Thanks are due to the family, colleagues, and friends of Simona Maaskant, who responded to emails and phone calls. Also thanks to Alvin Schrader for suggesting this library.

Books of Interest to Members

ELAN welcomes news about books by ELA members. Send a brief description or an advertising brochure to jean.weihs@gmail.com.

Book Reviews

Edited by
Susan Ibbetson



D'obscurantisme et de lumières: La bibliothèque publique au Québec des origines au 21^e siècle

By François Séguin

Éditions Hurtubise, 2016.

ISBN: 978-2897238803. \$49.95

Reviewed by Peter F. McNally



François Séguin covers publicly accessible libraries in Quebec — from New France, which contained none, to present-day Quebec — focusing on how subscription, circulating, artisanal,

mechanics', and parish libraries eventually culminated in public and municipal libraries. He also outlines why this development was relatively slower in French-speaking Quebec than in anglophone Quebec and other parts of Canada. Excluded from the study are academic and school libraries, as well as specialized libraries associated with professions and public institutions such as hospitals.

In 12 densely footnoted chapters, Séguin synthesizes a large body of French- and English-language primary and secondary material. Disputes and political battles between advocates for public libraries and reading and the conservative elites opposed to them are well-delineated, and the ambivalent role of the clergy is thoroughly documented. The final chapter outlines how, in the late 20th century, Quebec finally acquired a respectable public library system. This well-indexed book is also illustrated.

Séguin fills an important gap in our understanding of Canadian public library development. His volume joins the small body of other provincial studies: Lorne Bruce's *Free*

Books for All: The Public Library Movement in Ontario, 1850–1930 (1994) and *Places to Grow: Public Libraries and Communities in Ontario, 1930–2000* (2010), Don Kerr's *A Book in Every Hand: Public Libraries in Saskatchewan* (2005), *British Columbia Libraries: Historical Profiles* (1986), and *The Library Book: A History of Service to British Columbia* (2011).

The author holds master's degrees in librarianship and political science, and enjoyed a 32-year career in Montreal's public library. Anyone interested in Canadian — and specifically Quebec — library history needs to read this.

The Card Catalog: Books, Cards, and Literary Treasures

**By The Library of Congress
Chronicle Books, 2017.**

ISBN: 9781452145402. \$34.63

Reviewed by Jean Weihs



This is a glorious book to be enjoyed by all who have worked in libraries — particularly, but not limited to, those who were librarians during the era of catalogue

cards. I suspect few realize the true enormity of the task undertaken by Library of Congress (LC) cataloguers before the age of automation. There is something of interest on every scrap of paper in this book — its internal pages as well as the half dust jacket and the endpapers, and, when the book is opened, there is a book pocket holding a circulation card sitting on plans of catalogue cases, drawers, etc., which is continued on the endpapers at the back of the book. The text is delivered in five generously illustrated chapters and each chapter is followed by several pages of catalogue cards from the LC's shelf list.

Chapter 1 starts with a tablet dated about 2000 BCE, found near the Sumerian city of Nippur, which is the first thing that might be identified as a library catalogue. This is followed by a description of the Library of Alexandria's Great Catalogue created by Callimachus (probably the first serious cataloguer); the catalogues of

the Far and Middle East, medieval libraries; the arrival of movable type; and the French Cataloguing Code of 1791. The remaining chapters tell about the decisions involved in the standardization of the catalogue card and the creation of the Library of Congress Classification as well as the list of Library of Congress Subject Headings, the founding of its catalogue-card distribution service, and the development of MARC.

If you worked in a library position far removed from cataloguing, this book might sound boring, but you may be intrigued by pictures of the French playing cards used to catalogue books in the 18th century ("deuces and aces were reserved for the longest titles, as those cards had the most space on which to write") or pictures from the LC's collection of dime novels, which first appeared in 1860. You might also be interested in the pictures of old and rare books, and the many illustrations that accompany the text. ■

Crisis for Saskatchewan Public Libraries

By Michael Shires, President,
Saskatchewan Library Association

In *ELAN* No. 60/Fall 2016, Dick Ellis described the crisis in Newfoundland and Labrador Public Libraries. Saskatchewan faced a similar challenge when its government tabled the budget for fiscal year 2017–2018. The Ministry of Education announced that 100 percent of its operating-grant funding (\$1.3 million) to the Regina and Saskatoon library systems would be eliminated. Additionally, seven of eight regional library systems would have a 58 percent reduction in operating funding (funding for the Paskisimon Nuyeh?ah Library System in northern Saskatchewan remained unchanged). After an immediate groundswell of grassroots-led emergency advocacy, the government reversed its decision one month later. This is how it happened:

The Saskatchewan Library

Association (SLA) raised public awareness through a media release citing the resources and services that libraries provide to everyone in the province, and suggesting that the government meet with key stakeholders, such as public library directors, to discuss the cuts. The SLA also offered resources such as a letter-writing tool kit, a list of articles in the media, other organizations' letters of support, and letters to the government and other stakeholders. The SLA needed members of the public to state their support.

The provincial government defended its decision with sound bites — there were too many Saskatchewan libraries compared to Manitoba and Alberta, libraries should reconsider being brick-and-mortar buildings, the number of library cards was steadily dropping — which were picked up by the media. This prompted the SLA and some libraries to publish fact sheets in order to clarify statistics, showcase innovative programs, and explain the unique characteristics of the province's library system.

The government may have believed the cuts would go virtually unnoticed, but these four activities likely pressured it to reverse the cuts:

- To save money, the regional libraries agreed to shut down the province-wide library catalogue, ending interlibrary loans. People were ready to throw the book at the government!
- One resident from a small town in northern Saskatchewan created a Facebook group called Save Saskatchewan Libraries. Postings peaked at 7,428 during the height of the crisis, with people still posting months later. The group encouraged citizens to participate in a silent reading protest called Drop Everything and Read. On April 7th, 5,835 people supported their local libraries by reading their favourite books for 15 minutes at their MLAs' offices in 85 communities across the province, and the media coverage was widespread.

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- Two petitions were created. One, through the Facebook group, allowed anyone — regardless of age, citizenship, or residency — to submit an online or hard-copy petition for presentation in the legislature by the official opposition. The second, VOTE Library Petition, was drafted in accordance with *The Referendum and Plebiscite Act* of Saskatchewan, which requires 15 percent of registered voters (about 125,000) to sign and bring a petition to the legislature. Concerned citizens in Regina promoted the VOTE petition and had collected more than 16,000 signatures when the cuts decision was reversed.
- A campaign encouraged everyone to contact the premier, Minister of Education, and local MLAs. Politicians were inundated with personal stories about why libraries matter.

On April 24th the government made an unprecedented announcement that all funding would be reinstated to current levels for one year. It also announced plans to review *The Public Libraries Act, 1996* and consider co-locating some school and public libraries to reduce inefficiencies. These government actions will bring new issues, but good-faith discussions can be helpful if there is open consultation with key stakeholders such as public library directors, rural and urban municipality associations, and school boards.

In the words of Ken Haycock, successful advocacy needs to be planned, deliberate, and sustained. Stay tuned! ■

Michael Shires is Collection Development and Liaison Librarian at the University of Regina.

British Columbia



News

By Guy Robertson

This summer, high temperatures across the province broke records, and hundreds of wildfires

raged across the Interior. Residents of townsites in Okanagan and the Thompson-Nicola Regional District were warned that evacuations might be necessary. Local librarians and archivists wondered if their facilities were at risk.

“There’s not much the libraries can do if there’s an evacuation order,” said Ben, a retired public librarian in Kelowna, B.C. “You close the windows and lock the doors, and hope that the flames don’t reach your building. You leave the book drop open because — believe it or not — people will actually return the items they’ve borrowed before they evacuate the area.”

Some libraries had taken steps to store data and other valuable items off-site.

“Our backup catalogue is stored safely at a secure site in Toronto,” said Liz, a special librarian in Kamloops, B.C. “We decided to transfer our backups across the country after the big fires near Kelowna in 2003. We used to store data in the trunk of our office manager’s car. I think that, as global warming increases the fire risk in our region, more and more libraries will send their backup data further away.”

Artworks and hard copies of rare books and manuscripts were more difficult to protect. Several librarians decided to budget for the digitization of unique items such as photograph collections and early maps of their communities. Others investigated their insurance coverage and worried about looting. Aside from these concerns, library employees were unsure how they would deal with damage to — or even the loss of — their own homes.

“We could end up sleeping in a school gym hundreds of miles away,” said a librarian in Prince George, B.C. “If we’re forced to evacuate, I’m not sure how long it would take to reopen local libraries. If our buildings have been smoke-damaged, we could be closed for a week, maybe longer. There are a lot of unknowns during fire season.”

What became obvious to B.C. librarians was “the new normal”:

summer heat waves that lead to large, quickly spreading wildfires. And it was not only rural librarians who were concerned. A Vancouver college librarian suggested that a fire in Stanley Park — a large wooded area near the city centre — could lead to chaos across the downtown area. Sadly, similar circumstances could arise annually from now on.

Prairies News



By Alvin M. Schrader

The **Saskatchewan Library Association** launched an inaugural month-long reading initiative on the theme of tolerance and

understanding, with the provincial government declaring One Book, One Province Saskatchewan for March 2017. A series of events, activities, and speakers exploring Indigenous culture and identity were offered across the province to raise awareness of the residential school system and the ongoing Truth and Reconciliation process. *The Education of Augie Merasty: A Residential School Memoir*, written by Joseph Auguste Merasty in collaboration with Saskatchewan author David Carpenter, was selected. Merasty’s 2015 memoir is about the Cree trapper’s childhood experiences in a northern residential school. He died on February 27, 2017, at the age of 87.

The **Edmonton Public Library** resisted pressure to cancel Joseph Boyden’s appearance in late April as part of its Forward Thinking Speaker Series, in spite of the bitter controversy about his Indigenous heritage and charges of cultural appropriation. Boyden was also a keynote speaker at the 2017 Alberta Library Conference. Both events were well-attended. The City of Edmonton had already cancelled his appearance at the mid-February Winter Cities Shake-Up, concerned that his presence might distract from the focus of the event.

The **Edmonton Public Library (EPL)** appointed Wilson Bearhead as Elder in Residence. He will host

programs, lead smudgings and prayers at events, support staff, and meet with library patrons — to help others find answers and reconnect with aboriginal culture. While libraries were not specifically identified in the Calls to Action of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada report, the EPL hopes the one-year pilot program will provide important information from an aboriginal perspective. A member of the Wabamun Lake Indian Band, Bearhead has served as Grand Chief of the Confederacy of Treaty Six First Nations and Alberta Regional Chief for the Assembly of First Nations.

After 20 years at the Book and Record Depository (BARD) and two years of planning, the remote storage facility of the **University of Alberta Libraries** will be relocated to an expanded Research Collections and Resource Facility (RCRF) on the university's south campus. The RCRF is a purpose-built, high-density facility for the proper preservation, security, and storage of both library and archives material, with a capacity of 5.8 million volumes (almost twice that at BARD). The RCRF will also improve access to the university community and members of the public.

In April 2016 the **Calgary Public Library's** downtown branch installed Engine 23 on its main floor. The decommissioned 20-tonne fire truck was donated by the Calgary Fire Department as a signature piece of the library's early-literacy work. With added story nooks, benches, interactive buttons, and child-size helmets and jackets, it was unveiled three months later to popular acclaim. Firefighters read stories three times a week, teaching children about life-saving fire safety.

Ontario News



By Vivienne James

Toronto Public Library (TPL) and **Passages Canada** will present a new exhibit that explores diverse experiences of migration, arrival, and

finding a place of belonging — from early settlement to the present day. Posters, photographs, written accounts, and other materials from the **TPL Baldwin Collection of Canadiana** and **Chinese Canadian Archive**, as well as personal mementos from storytellers with **Passages Canada**, will be on display, November 2017 to January 2018. As part of Toronto's Poverty Reduction Strategy, TPL opened six more branches on Sundays year-round. TPL's **Youth Hubs** attract teens who make new friends and try being a DJ, using digital cameras, and drumming, and get help with homework and projects.

A jury of librarians from the First Nation public libraries in Ontario read over 50 books in the young adult/adult category for the 2017/2018 First Nation Communities Read and selected *Bearskin Diary* by Carol Daniels, who also received the Aboriginal Literature Award sponsored by the Periodical Marketers of Canada. The Guelph Reads 2017 winners were *The Underwater Welder*, a graphic novel by Jeff Lemire, and *The Hidden Keys* by André Alexis. Melanie Florence's *Missing Nimâmâ*, illustrated by François Thisdale, won the 2017 Forest of Reading Golden Oak Award.

Ontario Public Library Digital Services received special funding of \$3 million from the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport for 2017–2018, to support improvements to digital services and resources including WiFi hot-spot lending programs, computers, e-readers, and more. Rural, remote, and First Nation libraries will be among the beneficiaries.

Library branches in Brampton, Ont.; Ottawa; and Toronto recently hosted Overdrive's Digital Bookmobile. Travelling coast to coast, this updated exhibit provides an interactive experience for readers of all ages to explore various devices and learn how to borrow e-books and audio books.

The annual Telling Tales Festival, co-hosted by the **Hamilton Public Library** in September,

celebrates literacy and learning with children's stories, music, and art.

County of Brant Public Library now provides free MagnusCards (a new app that helps people with special cognitive needs build life skills), which show how to sign up for a library card, and find and return books.

The University of Toronto has announced that **Robarts Common** — a major expansion of the Robarts Library has begun — “thanks to a transformational gift from Drs. Russell and Katherine Morrison.” It will add 1,200 new work and study spaces.

The **University of Waterloo** and **York University** have received a \$610,625 grant from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation to support *Archives Unleashed*, a project to develop web archive search and data-analysis tools to enable scholars and librarians to access, share, and investigate recent history since the early days of the World Wide Web.

Quebec News



By Pierre Guilmette and Peter F. McNally



L'Association des bibliothécaires du Québec/Quebec Library Association (ABQLA) held its 85th Annual Conference, May 4, at the Gelber Conference Centre, Montreal, with the theme “New libraries, new opportunities.”

The opening keynote presentation by Bill Ptacek was *Learn. Change. Grow: Calgary's 21st-Century Community Library*. The newly elected president of ABQLA is Julian Taylor, Liaison for **School Libraries, Anglophone Sector, Ministère de l'Éducation et de l'Enseignement supérieur, Québec**. Eileen Beany Peterson, Head, **Neuro-Patient Resource Centre, Montreal Neurological Institute and Hospital**, is the recipient of the 2017 Anne Galler Award for Outstanding

Library Service in Quebec.

During this period, library membership increased from 33 to 35.5 percent of the population. These encouraging data may be diminished by falling attendance; a June 5, 2017, article in *Le Journal de Québec* shows that 11 out of 25 libraries saw a moderate reduction since 2013, due to factors such as renovations in some branches. Renovations to the **Bibliothèque Saint-Jean-Baptiste**, for example, delayed the opening (the library's name has also changed to **Bibliothèque Claire-Martin** in honour of the Québécois writer who died in 2014).

Quebec City is proposing a complete renovation of the **Bibliothèque Gabrielle-Roy**, the downtown branch and multimedia cultural centre opened in 1983. With an estimated cost of \$40 million, the renovation has received financial support from the province. The building phase will last at least two years, during which there will be no access, but library services and resources are expected to be provided at an alternate site nearby.

Bibliothèque et Archives nationales du Québec (BANQ) announced budget cuts of \$855,600, mainly affecting its operational budget. Forty permanent and occasional positions will be lost, and the cuts will affect five percent of the 738 staff members. This administrative decision also involves reductions in digitization. The June announcement provoked strong reactions in Quebec newspapers.

Does Quebec miss librarians? According to BANQ statistics and the **Canadian Urban Libraries Council/Conseil des Bibliothèques Urbaines du Canada**, Montreal had one librarian for every 10,000 residents in 2015, whereas Vancouver had 2.1 (the highest ratio in Canada). Quebec City had .3, while Toronto had 1.6. Training of Quebec librarians is concentrated in Montreal. New librarians seeking employment now find it more difficult to find a position, which seems to reflect the budget cuts of recent years.

Maritimes News



By Tanja Harrison

Maritimes universities continue to embrace Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada Calls to Action. **Cape Breton University**

Library hosted Mi'kmaq artist Alan Syliboy and his Thundermaker exhibit, as well as an art show and gala reception for students from Eskasoni First Nation this summer. **Mount Saint Vincent University** hosted the Walking With Our Sisters commemoration earlier this year, and the Blanket Exercise offered to the campus community is ongoing. **Mount Allison University** has named 2017–2018 the Year of Indigenous Knowing, with numerous activities underway. The **University of Prince Edward Island's Robertson Library** has created a space in their lobby dedicated to exhibits and resources, including artifacts and memories related to the Shubenacadie Indian Residential School created by Aboriginal Survivors for Healing. **Dalhousie University** is planning a **National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation Hub** in the **Killam Library Learning Commons**. This Legacy Room, will be part of the Gord Downie and Chanie Wenjack initiative, with an expected launch in October.

The **University of New Brunswick (UNB) Libraries** partnered in UNB's first Queer Research Day. Various sessions were held at the **Harriet Irving Library**, with an exhibit of the **University of Victoria's Transgender Archives**. The library also held a celebration of New Brunswick's Heritage Week, showcasing how **UNB's Archives & Special Collections** acquired a collection of romantic letters from Sir Charles G. D. Roberts to Evelyn Smith. **Nova Scotia College of Art & Design University (NSCAD)** in Halifax spent the summer rehousing, describing, and digitizing items from the **Women's File**, a rich resource collection developed since the 1980s to support NSCAD's Feminist Collective.

The 63 **New Brunswick Public Libraries** celebrated Provincial French

Pride Week and Canada's 150th birthday by lending free summer admission passes (until September 30th) to the **Village Historique Acadien**, a living-history museum that recreates Acadian life from 1770 to 1949.

During July, the **PEI Public Library Service** and the **PEI Museum and Heritage Foundation** partnered to offer free passes for library cardholders to enjoy a one-week family admission to the seven provincial museums.

Five Nova Scotian children's performers toured the province this summer, with 71 shows in public libraries. The Children's Performer Tour is part of the engagement activities of the summer reading program and aims to promote cultural resources for all Nova Scotians. Performers include a singer/songwriter of children's songs, a West African dancer, a circus performer, a Gaelic and Acadian multi-instrumentalist, and a Mi'Kmaq storyteller.

On June 1st, the **PEI Public Library** eliminated overdue fines for all children's materials. Doug Currie, the province's Minister of Education, Early Learning, and Culture said: "Overdue fines should not be a barrier to the incredible opportunities that libraries offer children who are learning to read and developing a love of reading." This amazing initiative will hopefully inspire other Maritimes library systems.

In case you missed them, P.E.I.'s One Book One Island selection this year is *Ru* by Kim Thúy, and the One Book Nova Scotia title is *If This is Freedom* by Gloria Ann Wesley. Happy autumn reading!

Newfoundland & Labrador News



By Dick Ellis

EY (formerly known as Ernst & Young) released its review of the Newfoundland

and Labrador Public Library (NLPL) System on May 5, 2017. The extensive 126-page review confirmed both chronic underfunding and the deficit in services created by that underfunding. The recommendations include greater municipal participation in funding library services, the appointment of a professional librarian as chief provincial librarian, an increase in professional staffing, and new and expanded service standards. The existing standards date from 1980, but were effectively abandoned under financial pressures in the mid-1990s (there is a lesson there somewhere). The report highlights governance problems, and recommends that the present regional boards assume more authority — they now have none — and that a careful review be made of branches that appear to be underperforming, to determine the causes.

This will be an important document although it leaves unanswered questions. The obvious need to establish a chief provincial librarian position at the outset of any of the processes implied by the report is not explicit. While the board has the power to appoint a chief provincial librarian, unless the governing act is amended that position will be like any other and subservient to the director of libraries, a position mentioned in the act. While the increased participation of municipalities in funding the NLPL (beginning with the larger cities) is welcome, the question of provincial responsibility for supporting the creation of new branches — to the extent that funding formulas or conventions imply — is not addressed.

It does appear that the Minister of Education and Early Childhood Development is content to see the budget cut reversed permanently. Additional funding? Not so much.

In the wake of the report's release, and seizing on Halifax as an example, there has been increased public interest in a new central library for downtown St. John's.

News from Canadian Library/Information Studies Schools



Compiled by Judy Dunn

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

By Guy Robertson

In June SLAIS announced that Adjunct Professor **Dean Giustini**, a reference librarian at UBC's Biomedical Branch, had won the Margaret Ridley Charlton Award for Outstanding Achievement. Sponsored by the Canadian Health Libraries Association, the award acknowledges the winner's professional contributions to Canadian health sciences librarianship. Another summer prize winner was **Dr. Victoria Lemieux**; her "Trusting records: is Blockchain technology the answer?" was selected by the editors of *Records Management Journal* as the Outstanding Paper in the 2017 Emerald Literati Network Awards for Excellence. Dr. Lemieux's research identifies Blockchain's various advantages and limitations. In July SLAIS announced two tenure-track appointments: **Julia Bullard** will become an assistant professor. Her interests and research areas include information organization and ethics, social computing, and computer-supported co-operative work. In his position as an instructor, **Dr. Richard Arias-Hernandez** concentrates on information-system design and visual analytics.

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

By Toni Samek

In June the American Library Association (ALA) announced **Lorisia MacLeod**, SLIS student and University of Alberta (U of A) Libraries Indigenous student intern, as one of 60 Spectrum Scholars selected from MLIS candidates across North America. Lorisia broke ground as the first ALA second-generation Spectrum Scholar! Also in June at the ALA

conference in Chicago, **Ernest Ingles**, SLIS Director (2010–2013), received the 2017 Ken Haycock Award for Promoting Librarianship, and former SLIS colleague **Dr. Hope A. Olson** (1990–2003) accepted the Margaret Mann Citation. The citation includes a \$2,000 scholarship donated in the recipient's honour by OCLC (a global library co-operative) to the library school of the winner's choice; Olson chose U of A. SLIS welcomed **Dr. Danielle Allard** to the faculty as an assistant professor (tenure track) on July 1, 2017. It's coming up roses at SLIS! In April 2017 SLIS Chair **Toni Samek** received the Library Association of Alberta President's Award, recognizing her province-wide impact.

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

By Becky Blue

As the LIS program moves into its 50th year, in its new home in the brand new FIMS and Nursing building, we continue to celebrate our achievements and encourage our students to get involved in student, research, and extra-curricular activities. Two of our students — **Madeline Donnelly** (MLIS) and **Claire Burrows** (LIS PhD) — have been awarded 2017 Canadian Association of Research Libraries Graduate Student Grants. Also, numerous LIS faculty members and students were participants in the first-ever interdisciplinary graduate research day for FIMS, Music, and Law students held on March 3, 2017. Finally, as part of Western University's Canada 150 celebrations, the FIMS Graduate Library partnered with Western Libraries and the London Public Library for their One Book One London initiative, featuring Emma Hooper's *Etta* and *Otto* and *Russell and James*.

University of Toronto, Faculty of Information (iSchool)

By Glenn Cumming

At the Spring Reunion on June 1st, the Master of Information Student Council Outstanding Instructor Award was presented to Professor **Olivier St-Cyr** and the Alumni Association

(FIAA) presented the Outstanding Student Contribution Award to **Elizabeth Carroll**. On June 14th, 208 MI students, 53 MMSt students, and 7 PhD students graduated from iSchool. Four User Experience Design (UXD) iSchool students were awarded first place at the 2017 User Experience Professional Association (UXPA) International Conference student design competition recently held in Toronto: congratulations to **Olivia Doggett, Jaisie Sin, Serina Shi, and Allen Li**. The 2017 Susan A. Brown Administrative Staff Achievement Award was presented to co-winners **Christine Chan and Anna Pralat**. **Dr. Colin Furness** will join the faculty as an assistant professor in July.

University of Ottawa, School of Information Studies

By Mary Cavanagh

The School of Information Studies had several new appointments as of July 1, 2017. Incoming School Director (acting) is **Hélène Carrier**. On leave from her appointment as Associate University Librarian at uOttawa, she will take on administrative and teaching roles. ÉSIS is welcoming its first Public Servant In Residence, **Dr. Amy Tector**, for a one-year position. Professor Tector, currently a senior metadata archivist at Library and Archives Canada, has been an adjunct at ÉSIS. Finally, **Dr. Stefanie Haustein** has been appointed as an assistant professor in a tenure-track position. Dr. Haustein recently completed a four-year postdoctoral position as a member

of **Dr. Vincent Larivière's** research team at the Université de Montréal.

McGill University, School of Information Studies

By Peter F. McNally

Professor **Catherine Guastavino** was interviewed on Radio Canada's program, *Les années lumière*, on her research project, Sounds in the City/La ville sonore. Professors **Jamshid Beheshti** and **Joan Bartlett** received a 2016 SSHRC Insight Development Grant on "Towards a Model of Metaliteracy for Academic and Everyday-Life Information Seeking and Use." Professor Jamshid Beheshti, who joined the faculty in 1984, is retiring in December of 2017. His appointments at the university include Director of the School of Information Studies (1998–2004) and Acting Dean of the Faculty of Education (2004–2006).

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

By Isabelle Bourgey

This summer, EBSI welcomed two new regular faculty members, **Marie D. Martel** and **Guillaume Boutard**. Professor Martel's research addresses issues relating to public libraries (social capital of public libraries, service design, and the digital divide). Professor Boutard's research focuses on the preservation of digital artifacts and knowledge management. On June 1st **Clément Arsenault** was promoted to full professor, and **Nadine Desrochers** was also awarded tenure and promoted

to associate professor. In July, EBSI was host of the fourth Francophone Summer School in Library and Information Science. On a sad note, retired Professor **Richard K. Gardner** died on June 9, 2017, in Cleveland, Ohio. A founding member of *Choice* magazine, he was also director of EBSI (1970–1972 and 1983–1987).

Dalhousie University, School of Information Management (SIM)

By Sandra Toze

In a busy and productive spring, SIM hosted a successful Research Day when 11 MLIS and PhD students presented their work, and the MIM capstone poster event showcased the work of 13 MIM students. SIM partnered with the Rowe School of Business and the Government of Nova Scotia to host our first (annual) Open Data competition on March 14th and 15th. During the past year, SIM has been working on a clear articulation of "What is Information Management" (see SIM website). Three SIM faculty have been recognized with University-Wide Teaching Awards for their outstanding commitment to teaching and learning at Dalhousie University: **Jennifer Grek Martin** (MLIS '11) received the Contract and Limited-term Faculty Award for Excellence in Teaching, **Dr. Mike Smit** received the Early Career Faculty Award of Excellence for Teaching, and **Dr. Vivian Howard** (MLIS '95) received the Alumni Association Award of Excellence for Teaching. ■

Milestones

By Wendy Newman

Obituaries

William "Bill" Bale died on July 24, 2017, at age 94, in Red Deer, Alta. Bill's career began in the Taunton (U.K.) Public Library in 1939. He came to Canada in 1959, working first in the Lethbridge Public Library, then setting up the Medicine Hat College Library. **Roderick Edward Banks** died on January 17, 2017, at age 82, in Edmonton. He worked for the

University of Alberta Libraries for many years and served in a volunteer executive capacity with various library associations.

George Duck died on February 22, 2017, at age 65, in Ottawa. He was a longtime cataloguer at the National Library of Canada/Library and Archives Canada.

Lawrence Joseph "Lou" Duggan died on June 25, 2017, at age 50. Lou was very active locally, regionally, and nationally, serving as Atlantic Provinces

Library Association (APLA) President, The Partnership Communications Chair and Secretary, and Dalhousie School of Information Management Associated Alumni Association President. Lou was awarded the Dalhousie School of Information Management Associated Alumni Outstanding Alumni Award and the APLA Merit Award. Lou worked as a librarian at Nova Scotia universities, including Dalhousie and Cape Breton, and was appointed University Librarian at Saint Francis

Xavier University in 2016.

John Edgar Dutton died in June 2017, at age 92, in Victoria. A library science graduate of the University of Toronto, he was Chief Librarian of the public libraries of Lethbridge, Alta.; North York, Ont.; Winnipeg; and finally Calgary, from which he retired in 1991. The John Dutton Theatre at Calgary Public Library was named for him. He was given the Canadian Library Association's Outstanding Service to Librarianship Award in 1987.

Rita Edwards died on February 5, 2017, at age 88, in Toronto. She was a former director of libraries at George Brown College and a member of Ex Libris.

Charmaine Elizabeth Jenkins (née Costello) died on April 4, 2017, at age 58, in Kincardine, Ont. She worked as a librarian in the Kincardine and Tiverton branches of the Bruce County Public Library.

Eleanor London died on May 25, 2017, at age 79, in Montreal. She was the founding librarian of the Côte Saint-Luc Public Library, and the community named its new library building Eleanor London Côte Saint-Luc Public Library in her honour.

Ann Werder MacGregor-Strum died on January 8, 2017, at age 66, in Halifax. A graduate of Dalhousie University (MLS), she worked in the Halifax North End branch library and in a school library in Montreal.

Patricia Mary McCaffrey died on April 3, 2017, at age 58, in Waterloo, Ont. She was a librarian with the Waterloo Public Library for 12 years.

Douglas McInnes died on June 25, 2017, at age 84. A 1963 graduate of the University of British Columbia's (UBC) School of Librarianship in 1963, he became the first Head Librarian of UBC's Woodward Library, served as University Librarian from 1982 to 1989, and retired in his former position as the head of the Woodward Library in 1991.

Judy Mills died on June 2, 2017, at age 74, in Mississauga, Ont. She worked for the federal government and the University of Toronto Libraries, where she worked as Aerospace Librarian for many years, following service in the chemistry, engineering and Gerstein libraries, retiring in 2003.

May E. Moore died on May 14,

2017, at age 73, in Toronto. May held a specialist certification in school librarianship from the University of Toronto, a master's degree in library science from the University of Western Ontario, and a doctorate in library science from the University of Leeds. She was an English teacher and librarian in both the North York and York Region Boards of Education. After retiring, May taught English and set up school libraries in the United Arab Emirates, Oman, Qatar, Nepal, and other countries.

Harvey Smith died on March 12, 2017, at age 80, in Winnipeg. He taught in Winnipeg, where he served as School Librarian in Winnipeg School Division No. 1. He served on Winnipeg City Council and as a member of the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba.

Dana Margaret Tenny died on May 3, 2017. Born in 1941, she was a reference librarian and bibliographer at the Osborne Collection of Early Children's Books, Toronto Public Library, retiring in 1995.

Victoria Westaway died on July 3, 2017, at age 51. She worked as the Law Librarian for the Elgin Law Association.

Margaret A. Wheeler died on January 8, 2017, at age 91, in Sackville, N.B. She worked as a public librarian in Pictou County, N.S., then at Mount Allison University, retiring in 1987.

Retirements

Kit Clarke, Supervisor, Information and Technical Services, retired from the Nova Scotia College of Art & Design University.

Helen Katz retired as Manager, Issues and Research, Communications Services Branch of the Ontario Ministry of Finance, at the end of November 2016.

She had worked there for 26 years and was responsible for the Current Issues Unit and the Finance Library.

Yukiko Tosa, Head of the Britannia Branch, Vancouver Public Library (VPL), retired in June 2017, after 39 years with the VPL.

Jane Watkins retired as Chief Librarian, North Vancouver City Library, in January 2017.

Awards

Heather Berringer, Chief Librarian, University of British Columbia Okanagan Campus, is the 2017 recipient of the Outstanding Alumni Award of Dalhousie University's School of Information Management.

Dr. Guy Berthiaume, Librarian and Archivist of Canada, was honoured May 17, 2017, by the Canadian Association of Research Libraries with the Award for Distinguished Service to Research Librarianship.

Maureen Curry, Grande Prairie Public Library Director, received the Pat Jobb Service Award on April 21, 2017, from The Alberta Library, a consortium that facilitates co-operative activities among Alberta's libraries.

Yvonne Earle, the longtime Legislative Librarian for Nunavut, was awarded the 2017 University of Toronto Information Alumni Association Outstanding Alumni Award. Yvonne, who retired in 2015, was recognized for her dedication to improving library services and accessibility for people in Canada's North, including those whose first language is Inuktitut.

Betty Jeffrey became the first librarian at the University of Prince Edward Island (UPEI) to be awarded Librarian Emerita status, presented at UPEI's spring 2017 convocation.

Lisa Petrachenko of the University of Victoria Libraries was recognized by the Council of Prairie and Pacific University Libraries, with its 2017 Outstanding Contribution Award.

Jocelyne Thompson, Associate Director of Libraries, Collection Services, University of New Brunswick, was given the APLA Merit Award at the May 2017 Atlantic Provinces Library Association conference.

Jane Watkins, former North Vancouver City Chief Librarian, was presented with the 2016 Award of Excellence from the Association of British Columbia Public Library Directors.

Appointments

Ann Barrett was appointed as Associate University Librarian

Scholarly Communications, and Head, W. K. Kellogg Health Sciences Library, Dalhousie University.

Donna Bourne-Tyson, University Librarian at Dalhousie University, was appointed President of the Canadian Association of Research Libraries for a two-year term.

Prof. Nathalie Cooke, Department of English, McGill University, was appointed in September 2016 as Associate Dean, Rare and Special Collections, Osler, Art and Archives.

Dr. Richard Virr stepped down as Head of Rare Books and was

succeeded by **Christopher Lyons**, who moved from the Osler Library.

Matthew Corbett has been appointed CEO St. Marys Public Library in Ontario.

Debbie Costelo has been appointed as Manager, Libraries & Learning Commons, for the Nova Scotia Community College system.

Catherine Davidson, formerly Associate University Librarian at York University, has been appointed University Librarian, University of Ontario Institute of Technology, effective June 2017.

Dr. Kathleen De Long was appointed Interim Vice-Provost (Learning Services) and Chief Librarian, University of Alberta, effective August 1, 2017, replacing Gerald Beasley, who has been named as the Carl A. Kroch University Librarian at Cornell University.

David Harvie, formerly CEO of the Kawartha Lakes Public Library, was appointed CEO of the Georgina Public Library, effective July 2017.

Deborah Koep was appointed Chief Librarian, North Vancouver City Library, in January 2017. Deborah previously served as Deputy Director, West Vancouver Memorial Library.

Jules Koostachin was appointed Vancouver Public Library's 2017 Aboriginal Storyteller in Residence.

Katherine McColgan has been appointed Executive Director of the Canadian Federation of Library Associations/Fédération canadienne des associations de bibliothèques, effective August 8, 2017. She previously served as Interim Executive Director of the Canadian Association of Research Libraries/Association des bibliothèques de recherche du Canada (CARL/

ABRC), and will continue to support CARL/ABRC one day a week.

Victoria Owen, Chief Librarian, University of Toronto Scarborough, has been elected to a second term on the 2017–2019 Board of the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions.

Susan Parker, current Deputy University Librarian at the University of California, Los Angeles, has been appointed University of British Columbia's University Librarian, effective September 1, 2017, for a five-year term.

Carol Shepstone, former University Librarian at Mount Royal University, has been appointed Chief Librarian at Ryerson University, effective September 11, 2017. She succeeds Madeleine Lefebvre, who is transitioning out of the role after two terms, in accordance with Ryerson University policy, and who will return to the library's librarian ranks after her post-administrative leave.

Sarah Stevenson was appointed Associate University Librarian, Research Services and Head, Killam Memorial Library, at Dalhousie University. ■

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Ex Libris Association Newsletter

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ELA 2017 Annual Conference Report

By Barbara Kaye

Rick Ficek opened the 2017 Annual Conference on November 6 with a presentation on the House Un-American Activities Committee (HUAC), freedom of speech, and the Cold War hysteria of the McCarthyism years in the United States. During this infamous period — lasting from the mid-1930s until the mid-1950s, 19 Hollywood screenwriters suspected of Communist ties or sympathies were subpoenaed, 10 later served up to a year in jail. Many screenwriters and Hollywood personalities were blacklisted and many more “graylisted” (not officially blacklisted, but nevertheless avoided by movie producers). There was a growth industry in “fixers,” who worked to bring blacklisted and graylisted screenwriters back to respectability, and many writers had to hide behind pseudonyms or ghostwriters to work.

Our other morning speaker was Loryl MacDonald, Interim Director of the Thomas Fisher Rare Book Library at the University of Toronto. She spoke about the library's three major divisions: Rare and Special Collections, Media Commons, and the University of Toronto Archives. The strengths of the Rare and Special Collections include Margaret Atwood's papers, as well as the Blue Bunny Comics by “Peggy,” which she made as a child; the McLuhan Archives; Hebraica and Judaica; materials relating to medical history and science (including a sizable collection on the discovery of insulin); Thomas Hardy; Shakespeare folios; the art and history of the book; and more. The Media Commons, established in 2003, collects a wide range of media: film, TV, video, audio, photographic, digital, and print-media formats. Highlights include *The Kids of Degrassi Street*, *Wayne and*



ELA members enjoy a presentation.

Shuster, and *This Hour has Seven Days*, and commercials from the 1960s, 70s, and 80s. The University of Toronto Archives represents the documentary heritage of the university, comprising 11,000 metres of archival material. Represented Canadians include Harold Innis, Northrop Frye (including a rejection letter for a scholarship he'd applied for!), and Ursula Franklin. Also housed here are 1880s-forward issues of *The Varsity* (the undergraduate newspaper) and all university transcripts. MacDonald said that the Fisher will continue to acquire materials and make them accessible, while dealing with the pervasive challenges of preservation methods, obsolete formats, and social media.

After lunch Shelagh Paterson provided an update on Ontario Library Association (OLA) activities and advocacy, and the priorities of the Canadian Federation of Library Associations/Fédération canadienne des associations de bibliothèques (CFLA/FCAB), of which the Ex Libris Association (ELA) is a member. The CFLA/FCAB has established a Cataloguing and Metadata Standards Committee, as well as an Indigenous Matters Committee to work on the implementation of its Truth and Reconciliation report. Reform

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Retired Toronto librarian, and historian and author Arlene Chan

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of Canada's *Copyright Act* is another CFLA/FCAB priority. The CFLA/FCAB also serves on the American Library Association (ALA) accreditation team. Western University's program will be up for reaccreditation in 2017/18, followed by Dalhousie University's in 2018/19.

Robin Kester spoke about the memorial fund that honours Brian Land, a trailblazer and the director, then dean, of the Faculty of Library Science at the University of Toronto (1964–1978). Donations are used primarily to help with expenses for Master of Information students travelling to UNESCO in France for unpaid internships.

The main afternoon speaker was Arlene Chan. A retired Toronto Public Library librarian, Chinatown historian, and author of seven books about the history and culture of the Chinese in Canada, she spoke about the Chinese Canadian Archive Project at the Metropolitan Toronto Reference Library. The archives opened on November

29, 2016, and include thousands of artifacts — old photographs, documents such as immigration certificates, and family memorabilia — that illustrate the history of Chinese immigration and day-to-day life in Canada.

Chan spoke about the *Chinese Immigration Act* of 1885, which required payment of a head tax in order to enter Canada. Set at \$50 in 1885, it rose to \$100 in 1900, and \$500 in 1903 (an amount then equivalent to the price of two houses in Toronto). After two years in Canada, the immigrant would have to pay the tax again, in order to stay. The ratio of men to women was about 30 to 1; many men had wives and children back in China, but few could afford to bring them here. The *Chinese Exclusion Act* followed in 1923, banning further immigration from China until its repeal in 1947, largely due to the important contributions made by Chinese Canadians during World War II.

Twenty-eight people attended the 2017 AGM, including 24 ELA members and four guests. ■

Ex Libris Biography Project

By Nancy Williamson

There are 118 biographical entries up on the Ex Libris website, and we expect to have at least 120 entries by September. We are receiving bios from some living librarians for use in the future. Please keep them coming.

For details on how to contribute, please contact me at nancy.williamson@utoronto.ca. ■

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 Ex Libris 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.

Update: The Brian Land Award at the University of Toronto's Faculty of Information

The fundraising campaign launched in 2016 to honour the memory of Brian Land contributes to an endowment established by Wendy Rebanks and the The W. Garfield Weston Foundation. This fund sends iSchool students to work in co-op placements at UNESCO in Paris. Three such awards have been granted (two in records management, one in knowledge sharing) since 2016. To contribute in honour of Brian Land and keep the UNESCO partnership going, go to <https://donate.utoronto.ca/give/show/13> and select UNESCO Internships.

—Wendy Newman

President's Report

By Elizabeth Ridler



Congratulations to Jean Weihs, secretary of Ex Libris, for her appointment as a Member of the Order of Canada. (See the article by

Wendy Newman in this issue, page 20.)

Thanks are extended to Rick Ficek for his organization of the Ex Libris Association (ELA) 2017 Annual Conference and AGM program and to Bob Henderson for the local arrangements. Congratulations to Tom Eadie for his confirmation as ELA vice president. Stay tuned for news about the 2018 conference and AGM, planned for November 19 at the North York Central Library.

And another thank you to Rick Ficek for all of his work on administration of the William Kaye Lamb Award for Service to Seniors; I enjoyed working on the award committee. (See the article by Rick Ficek in this issue, below.)

Elizabeth and John Warrener once again graciously organized and presided over the Ontario Library Association 2018 Super Conference ELA exhibit table, which was visited by library-technician and library-degree students, as well as ELA members and potential members.

Vivienne James has tirelessly

organized a spring tour of Penguin Random House. (See "Upcoming Event" in this issue, at right.) Lorne Bruce continues to oversee the ELA website and listserv with efficiency. Thanks to them both. Chair of the Biographical Committee, Nancy Williamson has completed 118 biographies, with more to come. (See "Ex Libris Biography Project" in this issue, page 2.) For the second year, ELA is a member of the Canadian Federation of Library Associations/Fédération canadienne des associations de bibliothèques (CFLA-FCAB). (See the article by Shelagh Paterson in this issue, page 4.)

I look forward to the participation and support of ELA members and board members in 2018.

Lastly, as president of ELA, I express the grave concern of the ELA board about the cross-Canada trend of professional librarians in libraries being replaced by library technicians or non-library staff for positions that are, or should be, designated as "librarian." These staff members appear at both the professional-librarian and the highest library-management levels. We are tracking this trend and will respond with letters, as needed. ■

Upcoming Event: Toronto Tour

The Ex Libris Association Spring 2018 museum/library tour will take place on Wednesday, May 23, 2018, at Penguin Random House Canada, 320 Front Street West, followed by lunch (optional) at a nearby restaurant.

Please watch our listserv for further details as they become available.

Hold This Date!

November 19, 2018
Ex Libris Association
2018 Annual Conference and AGM

North York Central Library

W. Kaye Lamb Award for Service to Seniors 2017: Hamilton Public Library

By Rick Ficek

Ex Libris received many excellent submissions by libraries and information centres across Canada, but the most outstanding submission was from the Hamilton Public Library (HPL). Aside from the usual programs for seniors, the HPL collaborates and partners with many community agencies, including the Alzheimer Society of Hamilton Halton, McMaster University, and the Hamilton Council on Aging. Specifically, HPL offers innovative services such as the HCoA Older Adult Peer Connector Program, the establishment

of Older Adults clubs in two underserved and marginalized areas, and the provision of a community resource worker and disabilities services at the HPL Central Library. There are even plans to make HPL branches dementia friendly. An outstanding contribution by HPL!

The submission from Mount Sinai Hospital, our first from a nonpublic-library institution, was also outstanding. The hospital's commitment to evidence-based research and services for its senior clientele is a model for all institutions.

The biennial award is sponsored by the Ex Libris Association and the Canadian Federation of Library Associations/Fédération canadienne des associations de bibliothèques. It is awarded to a library offering innovative and excellent service to seniors. The winners are recognized at their regional library associations' general meetings and each receives an award of \$500.

This award is given in honour of William Kaye Lamb, the first National Librarian of Canada, Dominion Archivist, and eminent historian (1904–1999). ■

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

By Shelagh Paterson

Spring 2018 marks the two-year anniversary of CFLA-FCAB. In support of libraries nationally and internationally, the federation has:

- responded to the Government of Canada's Consultation on Options for Reform to the Copyright Board of Canada in September 2017 (This is the first phase of Canada's review of the *Copyright Act*. CFLA-FCAB will continue to monitor the process and respond in the best interests of libraries and users of information.),
- established the Intellectual Freedom Committee (We are grateful for the stewardship of Ex Libris Association [ELA] member Alvin Schrader, in ensuring that the Challenges Survey was transitioned from the Canadian

Library Association to CFLA-FCAB.),

- established the Cataloguing and Metadata Standards Committee to advise the board and to ensure representation on the Canadian Committee on Cataloguing (CCC) and the Canadian Committee on Metadata Exchange (CCM), and
- established the Indigenous Matters Committee to work with Indigenous peoples (First Nations, Métis, and Inuit) to address issues related to libraries, archives, and cultural-memory institutions; to promote initiatives in all types of libraries by advancing and implementing meaningful reconciliation as addressed by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada Calls to Action, and to implement the

recommendations of the CFLA-FCAB Truth and Reconciliation Report and Recommendations.

CFLA-FCAB welcomed our new executive director, Katherine McColgan, August 2017.

We hope to see the Canadian library community at the CFLA-FCAB National Forum, held in conjunction with the Saskatchewan Libraries Conference, from May 1 to 4, 2018.

The ELA is a member of the CFLA-FCAB, and you are invited to sign up for member alerts or 'like' our Facebook page to get updates.

Shelagh Paterson was treasurer of the CFLA-FCAB from 2016 to 2017. ■

Technology Unmasked: Fake News!

By Stan Orlov



Everybody has heard about "fake news," a type of yellow journalism or propaganda that deliberately spreads misinformation or hoaxes. History offers countless examples of fake news from the Egyptian Empire to the Middle Ages to the 2000s, so the phenomenon is not new. Since 2016, though, that term (along with the term "post-truth") has come to the forefront, especially during the coverage of the latest election in the United States and the Brexit referendum.

The factors behind the current prominence of fake news include their usefulness in generating advertising revenues and increased political polarization. Most importantly, these factors also include recent technological advancements such as the ease of website creation (to host a piece of fake news that

lures online users) and automated bot accounts (to post and disseminate hoaxes in social media). In today's advertisement landscape, as much money is spent on online ads as on TV commercials. Since most people never click on anything that looks like an ad for a product or service, websites are increasingly using "native advertising," which comes in the form of "suggested content" on news sites or "in-feed social ads" that are built into Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, etc. The goal is to interest you enough to click on something, be it a juicy news title or a link shared by your friend on social media. To make this easier, search engines, social media, and news sites log your browsing behaviour so they can offer you content customized to you. This "filter bubble" leads to "cyberbalkanization," by which we get divided into subgroups of like-minded people and isolated from anything that differs from what we like. So, when we click on a link shared with a news item that is "too good to be true" and end up

dissatisfied by the story, it still creates monetary gain for those who concocted it.

How can we identify fake news? The International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions published a summary of recommendations, corroborated by experts in the cognitive science of information processing. The eight points are: 1) consider the source, 2) read beyond the whole story, 3) check the authors, 4) assess the supporting source, 5) check the date of publication, 6) ask if it is a joke, 7) review your own biases, and 8) ask experts.

Here are links that offer more information to help you spot fake news: <https://www.torontopubliclibrary.ca/spotfakenews/> <https://www.ifla.org/publications/node/11174>

Stanislav Orlov is Systems Librarian at Mount Saint Vincent University in Halifax. Please send your questions and comments to stan.orlov@msvu.ca. ■

Why I Became a Librarian

By Vivienne McGuire James

As a child I was always a reader. As long as I had a book I was happy. I liked being with my friends, but, as we got older and they went to the movies (I was not generally allowed to go) and I listened to them talk about the movie the next day at school, I was not really upset. I had my book to read.

On the island of Grenada where I was born and grew up, the town I lived in had only one public library and, as children, we were only allowed to borrow one book at a time. So, in the summer, I would return one book in the morning, borrow another, go home and read it, and, in the afternoon, return it and borrow another one.

The librarian was a lovely lady. Her name was Mrs. Morgan. I will never forget her bright, welcoming smile which meant a lot to a small, shy child walking up the steps and entering the children's department filled with all those books. She made me feel so welcome and comfortable. I do believe that it was because of the very positive feeling I had there that the library became a special place.

I remember that I read all of the Enid Blyton books as they appeared in the library (Blyton was a popular British children's author who wrote adventure stories). As soon as a new title appeared in the library, I was there to grab it. I also read all the Biggles books (wartime air force adventures — tense and exciting battles in the sky — meant for boys). I read *Anne of Green Gables*, and the rest of the books as they appeared, as well as many other contemporary titles.

As a high school student studying

for school-leaving external exams, the qualifying exams (from Cambridge) for university, I used the public library frequently. I just loved being there among shelves and shelves of books — fiction, nonfiction, and reference — not to mention magazines. I spent hours in the library after school. The librarians in the adult department were just as welcoming and helpful as Mrs. Morgan.

When I went to university, the library there became an important focus of my life. It was as though I had walked through the wardrobe and found myself in a wonderful, awesome land full of forests of books, trees of knowledge with apples waiting to be picked!

Essentially, then, libraries were a source of delight to me. When I returned home from university, I got a teaching job at a grammar school for boys, and was put in charge of the school library. Even though I loved libraries, I knew nothing about how to organize one. What I did know was that libraries were of utmost importance to the development of students. It became my passion to find a way to qualify as a librarian, to better serve the students and the school.

It was not my plan to give up teaching, which I loved, but to become a librarian I had to leave my home country. My teacher's salary wasn't enough that I could save to go get my Masters in Library Science. I came to Canada and began working in a library as a branch assistant, which enabled me to learn about library operations from the ground up. While waiting to go back to school, I took a couple of courses in library techniques, taught by the same Mrs. Muriel Morgan,

the program head at what was then called Ryerson Polytechnic Institute in Toronto. After about two years, I went to library school in the United States, then returned to work in Canada as a professional librarian in public libraries.

I worked as a young peoples' librarian, serving young people, giving book talks, and holding other programs for classes from local schools. I also worked as an adult librarian, as a branch head, and had a three-year stint back at The University of the West Indies as a university librarian in special collections. I enjoyed all of my different roles, but, sadly, I never returned to the grammar school that was the catalyst for my becoming a librarian. All was not lost, however. Upon my retirement, I was given the project to establish a new library at that very school, so I closed the circle!

Why did I become a librarian? Books were my passion. I loved losing myself in them. I loved sharing all of the knowledge and exciting information contained inside, as well as the suspense and the awesome revelation of the universality of human nature that fiction provides.

For all of this, we only need to travel to our neighbourhood library. Luckily for me, my local childhood library was run by a great librarian — no buns, no glasses, but with a lovely, winning, welcoming smile for me. With so much available online, there is no need even to leave your home now, but I would not have missed my role model for all the world. My inspiration — Mrs. Morgan — won librarianship for me! ■

Welcome to New ELA Members

We're proud to welcome the following new ELA members:

Ken Baldwin, London, ON
Arlene Chan, Toronto, ON
Marilyn Crawford, Elora, ON
Anne Donnellan, Oshawa, ON
Glenn Gordon, Whitby, ON
Russ MacKinnon, Richmond Hill, ON

Carole Moore, Toronto, ON
Jane Philipps, Kingston, ON
Fiona Smith, Toronto, ON
Michelle Tremblay, Port Perry, ON
Cabot Yu, Ottawa, ON

Donate to Ex Libris

Would you like us to extend our programming? A donation or bequest to Ex Libris helps us broaden and increase our activities. All donations are tax deductible.

How the Robarts Library Complex Came to Be

By R. H. Blackburn

On October 12, 2017, Larry Alford, Chief Librarian of the University of Toronto, hosted a reception at the Fisher Library to celebrate the 125th anniversary of the University of Toronto Library's buildings, and the beginning of construction of an addition to the Robarts complex. There were four speakers, allowed about six minutes each: the Provost, myself, Carole Moore, and Larry. Our first building was opened in October 1892, two years after the earlier collection was destroyed in the Great Fire in University College on Valentine's Day in 1890. In 1892 the librarian was Hugh Langton, whom I met when I joined the staff 70 years ago. This is the text of my talk.

People must wonder how the University of Toronto, 44 years ago, came to have the largest academic library building in the world. I think it was just the outcome of real needs, and the ideas of many caring people about what should be done.

Some good ideas of my two predecessors were waiting to be used. Hugh Langton, the librarian of our first library building in 1892, had some wings added to it in 1910. Above his new book stack, Langton put in 10 private studies, each with its own window, table, chair, bookshelf, and key. He had argued that science departments had private laboratories in which the equipment of a student doing research could be left undisturbed from day to day, and he wanted the library to have similar places for those doing research in literary subjects, for which the material is books. I used the same argument in asking for 1,000 private study carrels in the Robarts Library. That surprising number was justified by the size and growth rate of our School of Graduate Studies, and by the row of big new science buildings just south of our site. Our design architect remarked that carrels had to be along outside walls, that a triangle has a greater perimeter than any other shape, and if we would accept a triangular building he could give us a thousand carrels, each with a window. So our building is a triangle.



Photo credit: Gordon Belray/University of Toronto Libraries

Actually I met Hugh Langton when I joined the staff 70 years ago. At age 86, he was still climbing stairs up to his office in the tower, working on his last book.

In 1924 Langton's successor, Stewart Wallace, declared that the library needed more space immediately. Some plans were drawn in 1930, but were set aside to await the end of the Great Depression, and the end of World War II. By then Wallace had decided that the library should no longer try to serve both instruction and research with "one set of machinery." He wrote that a new research library should be built on a separate site, and the old building be used as an undergraduate library or science library. Instead of that, President Sidney Smith allowed us to build the Sigmund Samuel wing on a budget of \$2 million. It opened in November 1954, just weeks after Wallace retired.

Two years before Wallace retired, he assigned me to work with the president's office on all library matters. Claude Bissell had just become our vice-president, and he was most helpful. In 1958 he became president, and sparks began to fly. He asked me to write the detailed requirements for a 25-year expansion of our existing building, and he appointed an architect. Thus, 57 years ago, we set

out on the 12-year rocky trail toward our research library that Bissell later referred to as the symbol of a commitment from which the university could never retreat.

In 1962 the first set of plans had little merit except to demonstrate that the old site was not nearly big enough. The price was estimated at \$4 million, and was turned down as too high.

That same year Ernest Sirluck arrived to become dean of Graduate Studies. He had just left the library-plans committee at Chicago, where plans were being made for the next 50 years, and soon our target was raised from 25 to 50 years. By now our board was becoming interested, and reserved this whole block at Harbord and St. George streets for a research library in the humanities and social sciences. At this stage, Bissell added to our project the School of Library Science, the largest library school on the continent, and so its director Brian Land and I, and our senior assistants, wrote a new program of requirements that came to 77 pages.

In March 1964 there were plans drawn for a building on the new site. But the architect dropped dead just before he was to present them. The new estimate was \$10 million, again too high.

Bissell had me lead a committee of

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six on a week's tour of new American research libraries of my choice. When we got home, he asked which building the committee thought best, and who was the architect. I told him that the two best had been designed by the same architect from a firm in New York. The following weekend, he showed two members of that firm around our campus, and gave them a copy of our requirements. So it was a New York architect, already working on designs for a space station, who became designer of the Robarts Library. In March 1966 his design and a large model were accepted by us and our board of governors.

The estimate had grown to \$41.7 million, and was accepted by Premier John Robarts who, like his grandfather, had served as a student assistant in the University of Toronto Library. It seemed a miracle that, if \$4 million was too high in 1962, \$41.7 could be approved in 1966. Was it because the space age had opened, and we all knew that the sky was no longer the limit? Was it an outcome of the publication of six official surveys between 1947 and 1966, federal and provincial, all pointing out the serious inadequacy of our libraries? Or was it because William Davis, the Ontario Minister of University Affairs, had launched a massive buildup of support for graduate study, and had shocked Ontario in 1963 by announcing

that 10 new universities would be opened within two years? I had contracted with his office to create startup libraries for five of the new institutions, 35,000 volumes each, to be selected, bought, catalogued, and shelf-ready in time. We had completed that project before his deadline, and well below budget.

Working drawings for our research library proceeded slowly in Toronto, overseen by our superintendent and the New York designer. But then, after 18 months, when Premier Robarts had begun to think of this as an Ontario Research Library, he asked whether we could add three storeys to the plan, to accommodate scholars from outside this university. Prices were rising every day, and we could not take any time for major revisions of design, but we were glad to add one upper storey of stack space, and, at street level, we inserted two storeys of study space and other public areas, even though it meant making do with long, awkward front steps up to the front doors. And so our building rose from 13 to 16 storeys.

Working drawings were completed in March 1968. We called for tenders, and the lowest bid was \$7 million above our budget. As quickly as possible, we whittled the plans down to the bone and somewhat deeper. The auditorium was cut out, other things were cut, finishes

were cheapened, and anything that could be done later was postponed.

Construction began in November 1968, and went on for nearly five years. In December 1972, we moved into the rare-book wing which was designed partly to attract gifts, and has done so at a rate that has already repaid our \$40 million many times over. The big move into the central structure took place over a weekend in July 1973, as work began on refurbishing the old building for undergraduates and science, as Stewart Wallace had foreseen.

In 1979 when I began planning my retirement, my three associate librarians and I were all close to the same age. When we all retired there would be a serious loss of institutional memory unless my successor came from within our own staff. We four agreed that the most promising young person on staff was Carole Moore, and we gave her a new assignment to broaden her experience.

My first successor came from away and stayed only two years, so I was delighted when Carole was appointed next. She did a wonderful job, in some ways that I could not even have imagined. Incidentally, she demonstrated that the Robarts Library complex had not been an extravagance; during the 50-year period for which it was planned, she planned and carried out significant new construction. ■

News We Are Watching

By Wendy Newman

The University of Toronto iSchool proposes to add an undergraduate program to its existing array of graduate degrees. The Bachelor of Information program, to which students will apply during year two of their undergraduate degree, will focus on "the interactions between social worlds and information technologies." According to the proposal, graduates

are expected to work in three areas: creation of information products and systems, information policy and research, and information management and cultural stewardship. The program will include a practicum, a combination of lecture and studio-based courses, and the integration of technological and critical perspectives. Areas of further study for students who wish

to continue after the BI might include libraries and archives, law, business, urban planning, or public policy. The projected start date is September 2019.

The complete degree proposal is included at <https://ischool.utoronto.ca/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/Faculty-Council-Package-November-30-2017-UPDATED-Nov-29.pdf> ■

Canadian College and University Libraries in the Depression and Postwar Era, 1930 to 1960

By Lorne Bruce

This is a short introduction to two lengthy articles ("The Carnegie Corporation Advisory Group on Canadian College Libraries, 1930–35" and "Postwar Canadian Academic Libraries, 1945–60") on this topic by the author and available in full at the links given within this article.

The general history of college and university libraries in Canada is, for the most part, an undeveloped subject. Only a few studies have synthesized the entire history of Canadian academic libraries, and normally two core themes are emphasized: library growth and progressive advances in librarianship. But these two perspectives can be applied not just to libraries but to many other institutions. There are some valuable informative accounts of Canadian libraries in higher education. Because each of these libraries is positioned within its parent institution, librarians have understandably chronicled library support for the needs and plans of a particular university or college. Individual libraries, in institutions such as the University of Toronto and the University of Alberta, are notable in this regard: Robert Blackburn's *Evolution of the heart: a history of the University of Toronto Library up to 1981* and Merrill Distad's *The University of Alberta Library: The First Hundred Years, 1908–2008*. Of course, there are many other shorter contributions as articles, pamphlets, and theses, but most studies concentrate on more recent decades after the 1960s, when "growth" and "progress" were central features.

But the development of academic libraries on a national basis, as well as the career of the "college librarian" or the "university librarian," began decades before the 1960s. The 1930s and the postwar period (1945–1960) are particularly important. The contribution of the Carnegie Corporation of New York (CCNY) to the development of Canadian university and college libraries during the Great Depression was one instance of a change in philosophy of service. From 1932 to 1935, 34 institutions of higher education shared in library grants

totalling \$214,800 in a national (Canada and Newfoundland) project conducted by an advisory group established by the CCNY. The method of investigation, inspection, complying with conditions, and distribution of grants typically followed the policies and procedures established by an earlier American advisory group also funded by the CCNY.

George H. Locke of the Toronto Public Library, headed the Canadian group, which awarded Carnegie financial aid for the improvement of undergraduate print collections. American philanthropy on a national scale, much like the earlier grants for Carnegie public library buildings, created a unique period for Canadian academic libraries. In particular, attempts by Canadian administrators to adapt library collections, organization, and staffing to local circumstances, to improve interwar undergraduate library services, is quite interesting. The entire article on this remarkable project, "The Carnegie Corporation Advisory Group on Canadian College Libraries, 1930–35" is available openly at the *Historical Studies in Education/Revue d'histoire de l'éducation* website (http://historicalstudiesineducation.ca/index.php/edu_hse-rhe/article/view/4499).

After World War II, the expansion of Canadian post-secondary education was notable for several modernizing trends: the infusion of federal funds for academic research, the frequent erection of campus buildings, increased enrolments, the establishment of new universities, the independence of previously affiliated small colleges, and the creation of comprehensive research efforts and graduate programs. In this changing environment, the pre-eminence of the humanities and undergraduate teaching gave way to scientific and technological research, business and professional orientations, and graduate studies. Librarians responded to these challenges in similar ways. There are many contemporary accounts in relation to library architecture, the acquisition and organization of collections, administrative library structures and staffing, services

for faculty and students, and efforts by librarians to realize professional standing to become "professional librarians." The architectural redefinition of libraries, the impetus to establish research collections, the maturation of academic librarianship as we know it today (but as yet undeveloped in the 1950s), and the increasing complexity of library operations were prominent features in the postwar period. The gradual evolution of academic libraries toward more uniform organizational purposes and structures on a national basis following World War II can be considered a period of "midcentury modernization" that preceded the more memorable and better-documented decades of the 1960s and later. Of course, the names of many librarians, such as Bassam, Beckman, Blackburn, Dafoe, and Gundy (to name a few), will be familiar to Ex Libris Association members.

More complete information is freely available in the article, "Postwar Canadian Academic Libraries, 1945–60," at the *Canadian Journal of Academic Librarianship* website: <http://www.cjal.ca/index.php/capal/article/view/28488> ■

Notice to Members

- Help us keep our email listserv current. If you and/or someone you know is/are not receiving our emails, send your new email address to Bob Henderson at bob.superrover@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.

Role of Libraries and Librarians in the Ontario Government

By Helen Katz

Thinking about the role of libraries and librarians in the Ontario government makes me realize that what libraries and librarians do has not really changed. What has changed is *how* we do what we do. Librarians are supportive by nature. We are supportive of our clients, of our organization's mission, goals and objectives, and of other librarians. Libraries are important to their organizations, but the collaborative work of the libraries in the Ontario government is a prominent factor for the continued success of libraries.

The issues faced by libraries in the Ontario government have recurred regularly. Reviews of libraries and services in the Ontario government — in 1969, 1972, and 1988 — have looked at consolidating libraries and services. Each review consistently found little evidence of duplication, but identified the opportunity for co-operation. In response to the first review, the Ontario Government Librarians Council was formally constituted by an order-in-council in September 1970. Membership on the council was considered a duty assignment for the librarian. Council had to invite each member (one per library) and the Deputy Minister needed to approve membership. Later, the name was changed to the Ontario Government Libraries Council (OGLC).

Various reviews recommended that the OGLC have a co-ordinator with responsibility for co-ordinating services, and off-site storage of older journals and monographs.

In response to ongoing studies, the members of the council produced several editions of a directory of Ontario government libraries, and four editions of a union list of serials in Ontario government libraries. In 1986 there were 280 staff in Ontario government libraries and 64 member libraries on the OGLC. These were the glory years of libraries in the Ontario government. In contrast, today there are 22 member libraries, most operating with three or fewer staff members.

In the 1989 review, the OGLC was seen to develop programs and communicate with members well,

but there were 33 recommendations about library services, including:

- Each ministry should designate one library as the main library.
- Government-wide contracts should be negotiated for volume discounts.
- Needs analysis for automated library systems should be done.
- Library expertise should be used in organizing, retrieving, and managing information in ministries.
- Libraries should be aware of all ministry publications or should maintain a central registry.

The most contentious recommendation was for a central office to co-ordinate library services. There was a hefty price tag for the office, which would be paid by ministries. The OGLC put forward a cost-effective recommendation to co-ordinate library services, and it was accepted. The OGLC worked on a union list of serials, an updated listing of libraries and services, and discounted prices for resources purchased by many libraries.

The 1990s brought Ontario its worst recession in many years, leaving the government constantly strapped for cash. During the Common Sense Revolution, the provincial government studied how administrative functions could be combined in a shared-services model. For libraries, one group recommended (among other things):

- access to resources at the desktop,
- reference partnerships,
- partnership with the Legislative Library,
- a deposit program for government documents, and
- the use of information brokers.

When the government demanded a reduction in the administrative budgets of ministries, some senior ministry administrators saw the budget for libraries as a pool of money that could be cut to provide the needed reduction. From 1996 to 2004, several large ministry libraries were closed or arrangements were made with some Ontario universities to provide services to ministries, including Community and Social Services, Labour, Agriculture, Consumer and Commercial

Relations, Correctional Services, and Transportation. Libraries operated under the radar, some changing their names to eliminate the "library" word. The OGLC held no meetings of librarians.

In 2004 there was a meeting to revitalize the Ontario Public Service (OPS) Librarians' Network. This led to a restoration of the council, with a less-formal organization. While it no longer operates under the mandate of an order-in-council, the OGLC continues to provide the benefits of resource sharing, continuing education, and advocacy for libraries and government information. Among its successes are:

- government-wide access to electronic databases (with the cost shared among libraries and ministries without libraries),
- recommendations for the retention and accessibility of government publications,
- digitization of older Ontario government publications, and
- acknowledgement of the role of librarians in information management and freedom of information.

Libraries still fulfill the original supportive mandate. We just do it with fewer staff and fewer resources.

Helen Katz is the former manager, Communications Services Branch, Ontario Ministry of Finance. ■

When You Move

When you move, please remember to send your new address to Ex Libris Association, Faculty of Information, University of Toronto, 140 St. George St., Toronto, ON M5S 3G6.

Library Treasures of Britain: London's National Gallery Library Research Centre

By Guy Robertson



In Trafalgar Square, crowds surge around The National Gallery Research Centre. People loiter, avoid the pigeons, and take in the constant entertainment provided by buskers,

clowns, magicians, and protesters. Inside the gallery, thousands of tourists and art lovers wander through the large interconnected rooms hung with paintings by Old Masters such as da Vinci, Michelangelo, and Rembrandt. Enclosed on one side of the building, the research centre offers a tranquil spot for scholars to peruse a large collection of volumes concerning Western European paintings from the 13th to the early 20th centuries, and to examine historical documents relating to the gallery's operations.

Established in 1870, the library constitutes an essential part of the research centre. The neighbouring archive, which stores records from 1824 to the present, forms the other part. The research centre attracts users from all over the world, from authors tracing the history of a particular painting, artist's workshop, or style to visiting curators, conservation specialists, art dealers, collectors, and gallery managers. Biographers conduct research into the lives of painters and their subjects. And staff members consult the holdings for information to support their efforts in managing one of the world's greatest collections of paintings.

The library collection includes approximately 100,000 volumes. On the shelves are monographs, catalogues raisonnés, exhibition catalogues, and pamphlets. Catalogues of painting sales, from leading auction houses and commercial dealers, are also available. The earliest items came from the library of Sir Charles Lock Eastlake, the gallery's first director. These appeared in print before 1850, and many are scarce.

"London is one of the best cities for art research," says Don, an American who teaches at a local university. He came to the U.K. as a student in 1990 and met a Canadian woman — like him, a graduate student in art history — in one of the cavernous rooms. They married shortly thereafter. "Both of us conduct research into art-related topics, so we have a lot of respect for the research centre and its resources."

Don notes that the library is particularly well-managed, and in many ways superior to the libraries in other European galleries. He also mentions that, despite their larger budgets, many American gallery libraries do not have the depth of this library's collection. "American galleries have a lot of impressive technology, but they don't necessarily have copies of Eastlake's books, and of course they don't contain the gallery's archive, which is a treasure trove. In the end, if you want to do various kinds of art research, you have to come to London. You might end up staying, and that's not so bad."

Each researcher has a different focus. Don and his wife are interested in Sir Kenneth Clark's activities as the gallery's director during World War II; they have also consulted the library's volumes on specific Italian and Dutch paintings. They are frequent users of the Catalogue of the Eastlake Library in the National Gallery and the archive's catalogue, both online.

Librarian Jonathan Franklin asks visiting academics and graduate students to contact the research centre (research.centre@ng-london.org.uk) to make an appointment for access to the collections. The centre is not usually open to undergraduates unless they can present a recognized academic referee's letter stating the bearer's need to use the resources. Research centre staff members will assist users in locating material relevant to their inquiries, and, if necessary, recommend sources in other institutions



Interior photo credit: © The National Gallery, London

such as the National Art Library in the Victoria and Albert Museum.

Although many researchers may not admit it, the paintings can cause serious distractions. Don has arrived at the gallery intent on examining Kenneth Clark's letters in the archive, and found himself gazing at da Vinci's *The Virgin of the Rocks*. He has been "bowled over by Bronzino's *Allegory*" while he should have been investigating library volumes on Mannerism.

"Leonardo has distracted huge numbers of people," says Don, "but that can lead to good things. I met my wife-to-be in front of *The Virgin of the Rocks*, and there we discovered a mutual interest in Italian painting. For a time, we put our research on hold. But not for long."

The National Gallery Research Centre is located at The National Gallery, Trafalgar Square, London WC2N 5DN. For more information, visit nationalgallery.org.uk/paintings/research/research-centre ■

Libraries Named after Librarians

By Suzette Giles

This is the 14th in a series of articles about outstanding librarians and the libraries named after them.

London Public Library, W. O. Carson Branch



William Oliver Carson
Photo credit: Ivey Family
London Room, London
Public Library, London, Ont.

In January 1893, the voters of London, Ont., considered for a third time, a free-library bylaw. The favourable outcome was decisively acted upon, with a Free Library Board quickly established. By June 1894, a site for the future library had been

acquired. In April 1895, the first librarian, Robert James Blackwell, was appointed. On November 26, 1896, the London Public Library building was opened by the provincial Minister of Education, with the library inheriting the book collection of the London Mechanics' Institute.

After the untimely death of Blackwell in 1906, and a stint of just a few months by the second appointee, William Oliver Carson became London's third librarian in December of 1906.

The son of Flora McDonald and W. J. Carson, a principal and later inspector of public schools, Carson was born in London on March 8, 1874. He received his education locally, graduated from the London Collegiate Institute, then briefly set up a photography business in the town. By 1905 he had been elected an alderman.

Although Carson seems to have lacked formal library training or experience, his personal, cultural, and business roots in the community would have given him insight into the needs of an expanding city and may have been a factor in his appointment as librarian. He proved to be a progressive and innovative administrator, and one who implemented plans that the first librarian, Blackwell, had not had the opportunity to pursue. Changes made in the following few years

showed an understanding of how a public library could benefit and effectively serve the community and an ability to get the support to fulfill these plans.

Blackwell had recommended that the book collection be opened to users. This was implemented in 1908 and, by 1909, circulation exceeded 100,000 items per year. (That same year, the board considered establishing the first branch in East London, which was opened in 1915.) By 1910 the reference area was reorganized, users had direct access to the collection, and a modern reference service was initiated. When a successful request to add a dictionary catalogue was made to the board, steps were taken to make the entire collection more accessible.

The Children's Room was another



Photo credit: London Public Library

innovation that Blackwell had proposed and, in 1913, it opened in a section of the ground floor. A children's librarian was appointed in 1915, and a story hour was introduced in December that year.

Recognizing that the library assistants would benefit from more formal training, Carson designed and presented courses to the staff. His awareness of the importance of staff training continued and was a forerunner of formal post-secondary courses in Ontario, later in the century.

Carson was also active on a wider stage, serving as president of the Ontario Library Association (1914–1915). At the annual meetings, he presented papers on such topics as "Reference work in the library" (1909), "The status

and training of the public librarian" (1912), and "The Canadian public library as a social force" (1915).

In April of 1916, Carson left the London Public Library. On the recommendation of the chief librarians of Ontario, he had been appointed the inspector of public libraries, for the Ontario Department of Education.

In his 13 years on the job, Carson had significant impact on the development and funding of public libraries in Ontario. By June 1916, he had edited and published the first issue of the *Ontario Library Review and Book-Selection Guide*, which remained in publication until 1982. He introduced free, short training sessions for staff and, in his 1916 report, suggested the need for an academic-year program, eventually established in 1928. A greatly revised *Public Libraries Act* of 1920 introduced an innovative per capita-rate clause of a minimum of 50 cents — at the municipal level — later copied by other North American jurisdictions. Carson remained active in the Ontario Library Association as well as the American Library Association, serving as the Canadian representative on its Commission on the Library and Adult Education (1926–1928).

William Oliver Carson died in Toronto on April 27, 1929, and was buried in Mount Pleasant Cemetery in London, Ont. In 1961 the London Public Library renamed its eastern branch, relocated in 1926 to Quebec Street, the W. O. Carson Branch Library.

These sources were consulted and can provide further details:

Bruce, Lorne D., "Carson, William Oliver." In: *Dictionary of Canadian Biography*, vol. 15 (1921–1930)

ELAN, Special Issue 2004, page 8
http://www.exlibris.ca/doku.php?id=history:biographies:carson_w

Spicer, Elizabeth, "Biographical sketches" ELAN No. 6/ Fall 1989, page 10 ■



Book Reviews

Edited by Susan Ibbetson

Bibliothèques québécoises remarquables
Sous la direction de Claude Corbo
avec la collaboration de Sophie
Montreuil et d'Isabelle Crevier
Montréal, Bibliothèques et Archives
nationales du Québec, et Del Busso,
2017. ISBN: 978-2-924719251. \$34.16

Reviewed by Peter F. McNally

Combining popular and academic history will always raise the danger of succeeding at neither.

Canadian library histories have largely avoided this by following two separate streams — serious academic studies on the one hand, and popular studies on the other. The study of individual libraries is often left to local authors, who are writing popular history.

This brings us to *Bibliothèques québécoises remarquables*, with its 28 commissioned French-language essays on separate libraries or collections. Detailed instructions specified that, after outlining the history and origins of each institution, the authors should focus on its “remarkable” qualities — collections, services, and cultural impact. Attracting general readers, and inspiring them to visit libraries, was the goal.

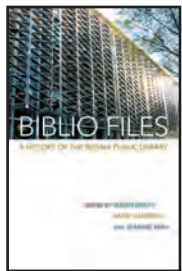
The book has three sections: “Bibliothèques fondatrices” (seven historically important libraries no longer in existence or absorbed into other

libraries), “Bibliothèques québécoises remarquables” (20 significant public, academic, and specialized libraries), and “Annexe” (a digital collection of French-language publications in the humanities and social sciences). Indicative of the anglophone community’s importance to Quebec’s library development, approximately one-third of the libraries are English. Four essays are translations into French.

Whether or not this volume attracts a popular audience, it will certainly attract a scholarly readership. The authors are either noted historians or experts on their topics. Claude Corbo was formerly head of Université du Québec à Montréal; his co-editors are equally distinguished. The essays are not footnoted, but include further readings. While the volume is profusely illustrated, there is no index. ■

Biblio Files: A History of the Regina Public Library
By Susan Birley, Anne Campbell, and Jeannie Mah
University of Regina Press, 2017.
ISBN: 978-0889774827. \$35.96

Reviewed by Julia Schneider



No public library exists in isolation; each is connected to the traditions of an honoured institution and the community it serves. To celebrate its 1908 founding — and

spearheaded by Friends of the Regina Public Library founding member Susan Birley — this history provides a lively account of the Regina Public Library’s indebtedness to those traditions and to the people whose influence helped make it a leader among Canada’s libraries.

To think Regina is an unlikely place for an outstanding library is to ignore the individuals who helped shape the city and its library. Birley, Campbell, and Mah set the record straight by telling the whole

story. Their history is made entertaining — as well as informative and authentic — through contemporaneous accounts, archival photos, and lively reminiscences.

In this history, we also see Canadian library history in the making: the Carnegie influence, the dedicated first administrators (such as J. R. C. Honeyman, Marjorie Dunlop, and Ron Yeo), the development of library automation systems under Alan Ball in the 1970s, library systems and interlibrary loans, as well as the rise of working women and unions. We see how Regina’s politics and finances affected development. We also see how this became the first public library in Canada to boast a writer-in-residence (Eli Mandel in 1978), pioneer ESL classes, host Indigenous storytelling circles, implement the country’s first fully automated library system, and develop a single, province-wide one-card system.

Biblio Files is not just a book for bibliophiles. It’s also a book for history buffs, for students of public advocacy, and for anyone who wants to relive library evolution from the early 20th century to today. ■

Books by Members

Peter Hajnal’s book, *The G20: Evolution, Interrelationships, Documentation*, (Routledge, 2014), has been published in an updated Chinese edition by China Development Press, Beijing. It is a new edition of the book reviewed by Jean Weihs (*ELAN* No. 56/Fall 2014). Information on the earlier edition is at routledge.com/The-G20-Evolution-Interrelationships-Documentation/Hajnal/p/book/9781138257467

— Susan Ibbetson

Books of Interest to Members

ELAN welcomes news about books by ELA members. Send a brief description or an advertising brochure to jean.weihs@gmail.com.

British Columbia News

By Guy Robertson



Last fall, the **Vancouver Public Library (VPL)** opened a **Library and Archives Canada (LAC)** service desk at the downtown **Central Library**.

Orientation for users is available, as well as appointments with LAC reference specialists. A digital kiosk provides access to the LAC website and other resources.

In January, **VPL** announced the installation of 21 Reading Lights plaques near local schools, parks, playgrounds, and library branches. Each plaque highlights stories and fictional characters that originate in B.C. This joint project of VPL and the Children's Writers and Illustrators of B.C. Society has produced 61 colourful plaques. Mounted on lamp standards, these include one dedicated to Claire Eamer's *Underneath the Sidewalk*, illustrated by Thomas Gibault, and VPL's popular picture book *The Reading Tree*, illustrated by Dianna Bonder.

In January, the **University of British Columbia (UBC) Library's Rare Books & Special Collections** division acquired a copy of the earliest item printed in Vancouver. The first edition of *The Vancouver Weekly Herald and North Pacific News* was published on January 15, 1886. According to recent research, only one copy survives. It will become a valuable part of the **Chung Collection** (<http://chung.library.ubc.ca>).

The **Greater Victoria Public Library (GVPL)** received \$15,000 from the federal and provincial governments for the enhancement of its French-language collection. GVPL matched the grant with an equal amount, much to the delight of local Francophones. GVPL conducted a survey to identify the materials they preferred, and the response was clear: more books and CDs from Quebec; popular, award-winning fiction translated into French, and more French-language children's titles. More than 1,000 new items have been acquired so far. GVPL introduced them officially at a Storytime event on February 3, 2018.

Founded in 1965, the Vancouver-

based Alcuin Society promotes the book arts across Canada. In February, the society's board announced spring events including a lecture by Cillian O'Hogan, a UBC Classics professor, on "Illustration of Books in the Ancient Graeco-Roman World," and an evening with renowned Toronto graphic artist Frank Viva, who will also serve as a judge in the society's annual book design competition, The Alcuin Awards for Excellence in Book Design in Canada.

In February, **Simon Fraser University's library system** celebrated Black History Month by inviting campus users to explore the **Black Thought & Culture Collection**, which includes primary sources such as speeches, essays, interviews, and miscellaneous items written by people in the Black Canadian community from the country's early days to 1975.

In March, the **University of Victoria's McPherson Library** hosted "Graphic Women: Beyond Stereotypes." Presenters — including professors from UVic's French, English, Philosophy, and Greek and Roman Studies departments — discussed how women are represented in graphic novels as Amazons, femmes fatales, and heroines. UVic librarians trust that other Ideafest events will generate interest across campus.

Prairies News

By Alvin M. Schrader



Calgary Public Library Central Library made *Architectural Digest's* 2018 list of the 12 most-anticipated buildings. At a cost of \$245 million, the 240,000

square-foot design references a Prairie town, with an entrance arched like a chinook cloud formation. Its interiors are a nod to the neighbouring foothills, and four wood-slatted levels undulate around a grand atrium serving as a covered public square. The building wraps over an existing light rail transit corridor that connects to the city's financial district. It will open in November.

In 2016, **Edmonton Public Library** commissioned an economic-impact study, which demonstrated that every dollar

invested in the library generates \$3.11 of value, the equivalent of \$212 per resident. Beyond that, a total of \$2.6 million in library services are used by Edmontonians every week — demonstrating one of the best investments governments can make to ensure communities thrive and the economy prospers.

Edmonton Public Library resisted bitter public pressure to cancel George Takei's appearance on November 29, 2017, as part of its Forward Thinking Speaker Series. The protest was triggered by a media account of an unsubstantiated allegation of an unwanted sexual encounter 30 years before, which Takei vehemently denied. More than 1,300 people attended the event without incident. This echoed public condemnation of Joseph Boyden's appearance earlier in 2017 (*ELAN* No. 62/Fall 2017, "Prairies News," page 14).

The Canadian Federation of Library Associations/Fédération canadienne des associations de bibliothèques (CFLA-FCAB) Indigenous Matters Committee, in collaboration with **Edmonton Public Library**, **Northern Lights Library System**, and **Toronto Public Library**, has developed a tool kit to help public libraries promote and program for the Indigenous Canada Massive Open Online Course (MOOC). This free MOOC created by the Faculty of Native Studies, University of Alberta, explores Indigenous histories and contemporary issues in Canada from an Indigenous perspective, highlighting national and local Indigenous-settler relations. It's designed for anyone interested in acquiring a basic familiarity with Indigenous history and issues. Libraries across Canada are encouraged to engage with the Indigenous Canada MOOC through public programming and staff training. As of December 2017, more than 16,000 people had signed up. Information is available in both English and French, and the tool kit can be accessed through the Indigenous Matters Hub on the CFLA-FCAB website.

The **Saskatchewan Library Association (SLA)** held its second annual month-long reading initiative, One Book, One Province, in March 2018. The selected title was *Out of Old Saskatchewan Kitchens*, by Amy Jo Ehman, which introduces the province's rich food and cultural history and a few

new recipes. This year's honorary patron is Lieutenant Governor of Saskatchewan, Vaughn Solomon Schofield. One Book, One Province aims to increase literacy and create a reading culture by providing opportunities for residents to become more socially engaged through a shared story. The program encourages Saskatchewan's social, economic, and cultural development, while supporting libraries and collaboration.

The SLA has an advocacy video on YouTube, which evolved out of the 2017 Save Saskatchewan Libraries campaign (ELAN No. 62/Fall 2017, "Crisis for Saskatchewan Public Libraries," page 13). The video features an October 2017 interview with SLA President Michael Shires and Executive Director Judy Nicholson, along with special content from **Weyburn Public Library**, **Moose Jaw Public Library**, and **Watrous Branch Library**. See <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vLkBVVRGdEko&feature=youtu.be> (The SLA also has a Facebook page, Save Saskatchewan Libraries.)

University of Regina's Dr. John Archer Library celebrated its 50th anniversary in the fall of 2017.

The **University of Manitoba's (U of M) Joint Master's Program (JMP)** in archival studies and history was placed under review in the fall of 2017, with the impending retirement of Dr. Tom Nesmith at the end of December 2017, one of only two faculty who will not be replaced. Critics charge that the university's proposal will diminish the quality of the distinct research-based professional archival education that Nesmith, Dr. Greg Bak, and the late Dr. Terry Cook offered since the program's inaugural class in 1991. The proposal includes a termination of the thesis requirement and a discontinuation of academic credit for the archival internship course. In November 2017, officials agreed to seek input from key stakeholders such as current and former students and the archival community that directly benefits from the program. Graduates of the program have an excellent reputation worldwide, due in no small part to the internationally renowned and high-profile academic work of the former and current archival studies professors. There will be a loss of academic publishing and this well-earned stature in the

archival world for U of M's program when the academic staff is halved.

Ontario News

By Vivienne James



Hamilton Public Library highlights its city's history with *Love Your City, Share Your Stories*. Visit <http://www.hamiltonstories.ca/> for fascinating nuggets,

including stories about immigration and Tim Hortons Store Number One.

"One of these mornings you're gonna rise up singing." So did Alexandra Kane during the Black History Month Closing Gala at the **London Public Library**, when she performed a selection of songs from musicals and movies, including *Porgy and Bess* and *The Color Purple*, from 1935 to 1974.

Mills Library, McMaster University, hosted Canadian Jewish Experience: A Tribute to Canada 150. From iconic musician and poet, Leonard Cohen, to Bora Laskin, the first Jewish Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Canada, Jewish Canadians, and their achievements and contributions since Confederation, are highlighted in this travelling exhibition.

Ottawa Public Library's Food Literacy Project, à la carte, won the Minister's Award for Innovation in the Large Library Category at the Ontario Public Library Service Awards at the 2018 Ontario Library Association Super Conference in Toronto. The project positions public libraries as key community resources and partners for accessible food-related information and programming that can lead to health, economic, and social benefits.

The TVOKids Book Tour, supported by TD Bank, returned to the **Ottawa Public Library's Nepean Centrepont** branch in March. Hosts from TVOKids made reading and listening fun and interactive with two different storybooks: the TD-selected book, Andrea Lynn Beck's *Good Morning, Canada* and a second book chosen by the TVOKids Book Club.

Sue Graham-Nutter is the new chair of the **Toronto Public Library** Board and Strahan McCarten was elected as the new vice-chair.

The **Toronto Reference Library** will host *Pathways: Following Traces of Indigenous Routes across Ontario* — an exhibit featuring land and water routes, the works of contemporary Indigenous artists, and historical materials from collections of the **Toronto Public Library** and **Library and Archives Canada** — in the main-level TD Gallery, from August 18 to October 28, 2018. These routes across what is now called Ontario reveal layers of Indigenous knowledge, resistance, and presence, from time immemorial to the future.

Fake news is everywhere. What is real and what is fake? Can news sources be trusted? To counter the spread of fake news, a panel of journalists and academics held a discussion in **Scott Library, York University**, on February 13, 2018, to discuss how news is gathered and disseminated, and the implications of sharing inaccurate information.

Quebec News

By Pierre Guilmette and Peter F. McNally



In March, Concordia University President Alan Shepard and Quebec Minister for Higher Education Hélène David officially reopened **Concordia University's**



R. Howard Webster Library. The library space has increased by 27 percent, and its seating capacity has more than doubled to 3,136, with 11 types of

study spaces. It is the main library on the downtown Montreal (Sir George Williams) campus, and is located in the J. W. McConnell Building.

The Colgate Room of **McGill's McLennan Library Rare Books and Special Collections** has been renovated to serve as a meeting/lecture room with seating for about 60. Hosting lectures on a wide range of scholarly topics is part of the department's updated goal of a stronger academic profile. The department's History of the Book is housed in the room's glass-fronted bookcases.

School libraries miss librarians. Although there are more school librarians today than 10 years ago, their number fell during the last three years. In 2014, there were 128 librarians in the 72 school commissions of Quebec. By 2016, this number had dropped to 117. Last year, 15 school commissions did not have a librarian. The 2018 action plan presented by the Minister of Education planned for 200 librarians by 2017. Is it possible to meet this objective? If so, it will take many years.

The public library is the most-frequented cultural institution in Quebec. According to the 160-member Association des bibliothèques publiques du Québec, public libraries had 27 million visits in 2015. Largely dependent on varying levels of municipal financial support, public libraries throughout the system are uneven in quality. The **Paul-Mercier Municipal Library** in Blainville is a model of how municipal governments can encourage the growth of libraries. It was established in 2015 with a construction budget of \$12 million and given an annual acquisition budget of \$245,000 (revised upward each year).

At the time of writing, union members of the Quebec City library system are preparing for a potential strike in March 2018. A strike vote was agreed to by 90 percent of the members after two fruitless years of contract negotiations. Precarious employment is a major concern, as the positions of retiring full-time staff have been replaced with many part-time jobs. Members are asking for the creation of 50 full-time positions.

Maritimes News

By Tanja Harrison



Fitness and wellness initiatives are popping up at several Nova Scotia university libraries. A Study Happy initiative at the **Vaughan Memorial Library, Acadia**

University, has seen the trial of three exercise bikes thanks to a grant obtained by a student in the Kinesiology program. Cape Breton University has purchased two bike desks and two treadmills, to encourage moving while studying. At

Dalhousie, Better You Crew is piloting a project to explore wellness from a departmental staff perspective, beginning with **Dalhousie University libraries**.

The **Montague Rotary Library branch of the P.E.I. Public Library Service** held its first free escape-room event for Jane Austen enthusiasts. Attendees tested their knowledge and strung together clues from her popular novels, to free themselves from a locked room. Also new in P.E.I. libraries, and following a nationwide trend in lending non-traditional items, the collection now offers snowshoes! Twenty-eight pairs are available at select branches. In other unique borrowing, the first Canadian partnership between the Lung Association of Nova Scotia and the **Nova Scotia Provincial Library** now provides 50 radon detectors, available for six-week periods. Radon is a radioactive, odourless gas found at dangerous levels in some areas of the province, and is responsible for 16 percent of all lung cancers.

The Salzinnes Antiphonal, a rare and exquisite choral book named after the Belgian abbey where it was created, has returned to the **Saint Mary's University Archives** after a successful Art Gallery of Nova Scotia exhibit and ten-year conservation-and-restoration project at the Canadian Conservation Institute in Ottawa. Masterfully written and brightly illustrated by nuns more than 450 years ago, it was only discovered in the archives in 1998 by retired art curator Judy Dietz, who spent years researching its origin and provenance.

Librarians and students at the University of New Brunswick have created a digital mapping project in which historical resources at the **Harriet Irving Library** meet geographic information systems (GIS) technology. The interactive map illuminates the lives and journeys of early Loyalists who settled in the province's York County after the American Revolution, and will soon contain settlers in other counties. Biographies include that of Moses Simpson, a Black Loyalist, who escaped slavery and joined the British Army as a freeman.

More library-related exercise is coming to Fredericton in the spring. Last December, the **Fredericton Public Library** revealed the "biblio bike," a mobile library pulled by a bicycle. Given good weather, the new service will

operate from late April to early October, taking library items, programming equipment, and promotional material to residential locations and area events. This travelling library is said to be the first of its kind in Atlantic Canada.

The Atlantic Provinces Library Association annual conference will be held from June 6 to 9, 2018, along the scenic St. John River in historic Fredericton. Consider this your annual reminder to visit and catch up with colleagues, past and present, this summer. Find the details at <https://apla2018.lib.unb.ca/>

Newfoundland & Labrador News

By Dick Ellis



What can I say in February that will still be of interest in April? I could say that, after a couple of years of Strum und Drang, the public library system has taken real steps forward and

published a strategic plan. I could, but the plan is not due out until well past the deadline for this issue and, besides, when it does come out, I will post a link to it to the group. I may, at that time, attempt to put it in context. Fair warning: I am a fan of Henry Mintzberg.

Other news that will be old by the time this hits the stands is that all the government appointments to the board will have expired, giving the Lieutenant Governor in Council the chance to add a fair dollop of new blood.

Given the generally miserable state of the provincial budget, I could also tell you that Memorial is facing some stringencies, and the library is no exception. As one long-serving administrator (not in the library) said to me recently, "Remember the 90s? Well, they're back." However, the library's attempt to strategic-plan its way out of the mess will not be out before my deadline. And, besides, I am a fan of Henry Mintzberg.

There is one event that will be firmly in the future when you read this: The Atlantic Provinces Library Association conference will be held in Newfoundland in June of 2019. More information will

be forthcoming in our next issue. Do plan on dropping in. Bring money.

And there is another. The provincial government has promised a new library building for the town of Conception Bay South, a string of oceanfront communities about half an hour from St. John's. The opening is planned for Fall 2019. I anticipate more announcements as the project gets off the ground. It is a bit dicey to announce an announcement, but if they put it on the website, it must be true, yes? Stay tuned for future episodes.

News from Canadian Library/Information Studies Schools



Compiled by
Judy Dunn with
assistance from
Wendy Newman and
Frances Davidson-
Arnott

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

By Guy Robertson

In January, Routledge published *Digital Technology and Sustainability: Engaging the Paradox*, co-edited by SLAIS Assistant Professor **Lisa Nathan** and **Mike Hazas** of Lancaster University. This collection of papers covers topics in sustainable human computer interaction, which involves the study of technologies such as the Internet of Things and smart homes. Students **Dothlyn MacFarlane** and **Kayla Hilstob** completed an extensive project with UBC's Financial Operations department (FO) and Records Management Office (RMO). Working with the RMO, MacFarlane analyzed the FO's shared drives and developed recommendations to improve management accountability and workflow, and to mitigate risks. The FO hired Hilstob to implement the recommendations, which led to changes in departmental workflow. Hilstob concluded the project by designing and delivering staff training. The staff response was positive.

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

By Toni Samek

In November 2017, SLIS conducted its annual employment survey of MLIS graduates, targeting those who convoked in fall 2015 or spring 2016, which included the first cohort of online graduates. From a response rate of 58 percent (30 out of 52 graduates), a key finding is that 97 percent of respondents have been employed at some time since graduation in the LIS sector (the highest rate in the last five-year comparison period) and a greater proportion of full-time permanent positions (66 percent). SLIS received the highest number of MLIS applications, to date, by the February 1, 2018, deadline. The school is in the midst of another assistant-professor tenure-track search (July 1, 2018 start date). **Kirk MacLeod** — 2014 MLIS graduate, a member of the James Smith Cree Nation in Saskatchewan, and current president of the Library and Information Studies Alumni Association — was named to the University of Alberta Board of Governors.

Western University, Faculty of Information and Media Studies

By Becky Blue

Guy Berthiaume, Librarian and Archivist of Canada, moderated Double Trouble: The Problem with Fake News. The March 13 panel was organized by Libraries and Archives Canada, and included FIMS faculty member **Alison Hearn**, and current FIMS Asper Fellow **Kathy English**. Also of note, LIS PhD candidate **Nicole Dalmer's** research into the information-seeking habits of caregivers of those with dementia was included in an interdisciplinary look at dementia research at Western. Dalmer's work, "Against the Dying Light," was featured in a chapter, "The Future." **Janet Adekannbi**, Western Fellow and Visiting Scholar at the Africa Institute and FIMS, was profiled in a *Western News* article on September 21. The dementia project and the Adekannbi profile are searchable online.

University of Toronto, Faculty of Information (iSchool)

By Ann Brocklehurst

Late last year, **Dean Wendy Duff** and **Chief Librarian Larry Alford**

signed a collaborative agreement with Library and Archives Canada, which will include internships, co-op programs, workshops, training programs, and exhibits. The deal will promote Canada's documentary heritage, and also support university progress, research methods and technological developments. Sadly, the end of 2017 was marked by the death of **Frances Halpenny**, one of the faculty's most distinguished deans. She will be honoured at the Faculty of Information's spring tea. (See Milestones in this issue, page 18.) Alumna **Jean Weihs** was appointed a member of the Order of Canada. (See the article by Wendy Newman in this issue, page 20.) **Associate Professor Jenna Hartel** has won an ASIS&T Lecture Series Award, which will take her to Guangdong and China's Sun Yat-sen University, later this year. Along with delivering her lecture, The Red Thread of Information, she will lead a workshop and oversee a research project on visual conceptions of information.

University of Ottawa, School of Information Studies (SIS)

By Hélène Carrier

The MIS co-op option is more popular than ever. Ten students were accepted into this competitive program, which includes two four-month full-time work placements. The employers for the May to December 2017 co-op included eight federal government departments, Systemscope, and the University of Ottawa Library. SIS is launching a six-course graduate diploma in Information Management, for professionals who wish to assume greater administrative responsibilities or fill any gaps in their knowledge that may have arisen as a result of developments in the field. Courses include Knowledge Organization, Archives and Document Management, Concept Analysis and Representation, Data Curation, Metadata and Taxonomies, Digital Assets Management, Digital Preservation, Information Representation and Retrieval Technologies, Government Information Policy and Practice, and Management Foundations for Information Professionals. **Professor Lynne Bowker** received the 2018 ALISE Research Grant Award for her project, *Against the Clock: Developing and Testing a Framework for Speed Training*

in Library and Information Science.

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

By Isabelle Bourgey

EBSI is proud to join the iSchool Movement, a consortium of information schools dedicated to advancing the information field, while sharing a fundamental interest in the relationships between information, people, and technology. **Professor Vincent Larivière** was nominated to The College of New Scholars, Artists and Scientists of the Royal Society of Canada. **François Cartier**, longtime sessional lecturer in archival science at EBSI, was awarded a prize for excellence in teaching by the University of Montreal. After more than 20 years without any major renovations, the computer lab received a complete makeover during the summer of 2017. Inaugurated in the fall semester, the lab is now divided into three independent sections that can be used for teaching, individual

student work, or formal lab sessions.

McGill University, School of Information Studies

By Peter F. McNally

Professor Benjamin Fung has been appointed associate editor of Elsevier's *Sustainable Cities and Society* for a three-year term, beginning December 2017. This international journal focuses on fundamental and applied research aimed at designing, understanding, and promoting environmentally sustainable and socially resilient cities. **Professor Elaine Ménard** was awarded the Fourth Annual Best Paper in Knowledge Organization for "A Second Life for TIARA: From Bilingual to Multilingual!" *Knowledge Organization* 43 No. 1:22–34 (2016). PhD student **Svetlana Kochkina** is the coauthor.

Dalhousie University, School of Information Management (SIM)

By Sandra Toze

SIM celebrates the 200th anniversary of Dalhousie. Associated Alumni (SIMAA)

held their welcome reception and Outstanding Alumni Award presentation on September 27, honouring winner **Heather Berringer** (MLIS 2003). On September 28th, SIM, Dalhousie Libraries, and Library and Archives Canada co-hosted a one-day symposium "Right to Know: Balancing Access & Privacy." Three MLIS students presented their research, and SIM's **Dr. Mike Smit** gave a talk, Leveraging Artificial Intelligence. **Rebecca Shaw** (MLIS 2018) is the 2017 recipient of the Dalhousie-Horrocks National Leadership Fund, and attended the Dalhousie-Horrocks National Leadership Lecture in February, at which Librarian and Archivist of Canada, **Dr. Guy Berthiaume**, delivered the lecture. Our student-led conference, Information Without Borders, was held February 13, and focused on information in mass media. **Dr. Louise Spiteri** received the Association for Library & Information Science Education (ALISE) Service Award. ■

Milestones



Compiled by
Wendy Newman

Obituaries

Clare Lawton Beghtol died on March 3, 2018, at age 76, in Toronto. Before being appointed to the Faculty of Information Studies, University of Toronto, she worked in current affairs for CBC and was Director of Research for Ketchum Canada. An authority on classification, Clare was honoured by a special issue of *Knowledge Organization* in 2009.

Albert Bowron died on January 27, 2018, at age 98, in Toronto. A graduate of the University of Toronto Library School in 1949, he worked in Vancouver, London (U.K.), Southwestern Ontario, and at Toronto Public Library, before being appointed Scarborough Public Library's Chief Librarian in 1964. He

became Canada's first full-time library consultant in 1969, produced reports on libraries and wrote for *Quill and Quire*. A champion of innovation and intellectual freedom, Albert served as President of the Ontario Library Association (1966–67) and served on boards such as the Writers' Development Trust, the Stephen Leacock Award for Humour, and the Ontario Educational Communications Authority. He was given a 60th Anniversary Award for Outstanding Contribution to Library and Information Science by the University of Toronto, in 1980, and its Alumni Jubilee Award in 1986. A longtime member of the Ex Libris Association, Albert served as president (1993–94) and contributed to *ELAN*. **Robert (Bob) E. Brundin** died on December 6, 2017, at age 87, in Edmonton. He began his career as Library Director at San Jose City College. He later joined the faculty of the School of Library and Information at the University of Alberta, retiring in 1995 as Professor Emeritus. **Céline Robitaille Cartier** died on

October 16, 2017, at age 87, in Montreal. The Director of the Laval University Library (1978–1988), she was the author of "Le plan directeur pluriannuel: un instrument efficace pour la gestion des bibliothèques" (Montréal, ASTED, 1986), and active in associations such as ASTED and the Corporation of Professional Librarians of Quebec. **Bette Carmichael Smith** died on December 13, 2017, in Toronto. She was the first private law firm librarian in Toronto, at Osler, Hoskin & Harcourt. **Diane Chiasson** died on February 17, 2018, at age 73, in Ottawa. She was a librarian at the Canada Institute for Scientific and Technical Information. **Rienzi Winston Gerald Crusz** died on September 8, 2017, in Kitchener, Ont. A published poet, he worked at the University of Toronto, then at the University of Waterloo as a reference and collections development librarian until 1993. **Jean Dodd (née Robson)** died on August 22, 2017, at age 92, in Toronto. After earning her BA from Queen's

University and a short teaching career in Ontario, she lived in Nigeria, British Guyana, and Jamaica before returning to Canada. A 1968 graduate of the University of Toronto Library School, she taught in the Seneca College Library Technician program, retiring in 1986.

Howard Greaves died on January 23, 2018, at age 76, in Vancouver. He worked for Penguin Books Canada. Howard contributed time and effort to the Vancouver Public Library's Friends of the Library, and to the Alcuin Society, which he chaired. He is remembered by many Western Canadian librarians as a strong supporter of libraries and their collections.

Louise Grondines died on January 23, 2018, at age 65, in Victoriaville, Que. She had worked at the National Library of Canada.

Indra Magdalena Gubins (née Bencons) died on December 12, 2017, at age 90, in Toronto. A Latvian writer, poet, and art critic, she wrote 27 novels. She was a librarian at the Art Gallery of Toronto and the History of Art department of the University of Toronto.

Francess Georgina Halpenny died on December 25, 2017, at age 98, in Toronto. Her distinguished career at the University of Toronto (U of T) included editing, teaching, administration, and writing. From 1972 to 1979, she served as Dean of U of T's Faculty of Library Science. General editor of the *Dictionary of Canadian Biography* (1969–1988), she was also associate director of the University of Toronto Press (1979–1984). Among many awards and honours, she received an Officer and later Companion of the Order of Canada, and was a recipient of the Molson Prize for distinguished contributions to Canada's cultural and intellectual heritage, a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada, and had honorary degrees from 11 Canadian universities.

Irene Hamerton died on September 5, 2017, at age 84, in Brandon, Man. She worked in several libraries in England, then moved to Winnipeg. She worked as a librarian in the Manitoba Department of Natural Resources.

Linda Gail Hensch died on January 18, 2018, at age 68, in Milton, Ont. She was a teacher-librarian.

Sandra Horrocks died on December 29, 2017, at age 82, in Halifax. A library

science graduate of the University of Pittsburgh, she worked in the Dalhousie University library system and taught in the School of Information Management.

Virginia Edna Keith (née Gibb) died on March 6, 2018, at age 87, in Peterborough, Ont. She was a reference librarian at Burlington Public Library.

Winnifred Marcella Jacobs (née Wrightman) died on September 1, 2017, at age 63, in Brantford, Ont. She worked at the Grand Erie District School Board and the Woodland Cultural Centre.

Anne Kubjas (née Tammemägi) died on November 27, 2017, at age 65. She worked for the Toronto Public Library.

John Robert Lang died on December 27, 2017, in Toronto. He was a school librarian in the 1960s and 1970s in Scarborough, Ont.

Ruthmary Lawless (née Brackenbury) died on November 20, 2017, at age 87, in Victoria. After a long career in the Public Service of Canada, she retired from the National Library of Canada in 1994.

Margaret McCuaig Mackin died on November 15, 2017, at age 91, in Bozeman, MT. A 1950 BLS graduate of the University of Toronto, she worked at the Toronto Public Library and at Montana State University.

Cheryl Joanne MacLennan died on December 31, 2017, at age 58, in Ottawa. A 1985 MLIS graduate of Dalhousie University, she worked in several government and private company library positions before becoming an information consultant.

William Felix Edmund (Bill) Morley died on December 19, 2017, at age 97, in Kingston, Ont. Following service in the RAF during World War II, he attended the University of Toronto (1952–53), graduating with a BLS, along with fellow students Brian Land and Jean Weihs. Bill worked in Montreal and at Brown University before becoming bibliographer, then curator, of Special Collections at the Douglas Library, Queen's University. He contributed to historical societies and the Bibliographical Society of Canada (serving as president from 1972 to 1973) after his retirement. He received the Marie Tremaine Medal for services to bibliography and the Queen Elizabeth II Silver Jubilee Medal in 1977. Bill was a longtime member of the Ex Libris Association and a contributor to *ELAN*.

Frederick Kevin Mowat died on September 5, 2017, at age 64, in Winnipeg. He worked in the Winnipeg School Division and became Divisional Library Consultant. In May 2016, Kevin was honoured by the Manitoba School Library Association with a Distinguished Service Award.

Anne Nyland (née Latimer) died on February 27, 2018, at age 99, in Edmonton. She worked in public libraries in Nova Scotia, then in Cornwall, Ont., where she oversaw the expansion of the existing library, in 1967, and the addition of two branches.

Franklin L. (Frank) Pigot died on January 2, 2018, at age 85, in Charlottetown. He was an Island scholar and University of Prince Edward Island's first Collection Librarian and University Archivist. He continued working with the university's archives and collections after retirement.

Rebecca Joyce (Becky) Rogers died on October 29, 2017, at age 62, in Peterborough, Ont. She worked in Stratford Public Library before becoming Chief Librarian of the Peterborough Public Library. Becky was later appointed Arts, Culture, and Heritage Manager for the City of Peterborough. She was a leader in creating the HOMEtown Community Network, bringing Internet access to Huron, Oxford, Middlesex, Elgin, and Perth counties in Ontario, in the 1990s.

Loraine Margaret Spencer-Garry died on January 8, 2018, at age 80, in Victoria. She taught in the library science programs at Dalhousie University, University of Toronto, and York University. She was also President of Spencer Garry Consultants, and co-edited *Canadian Libraries in Their Changing Environment* (1977).

Elaine Thompson died on January 16, 2018, at age 97, in Kingston, Ont. She worked as a librarian at the Canadian Armed Forces Base in Barriefield, Ont.

Divakara (Dik) Kerala Varma died on October 14, 2017, at age 84, in Toronto. He was Business Librarian at York University.

Alice Jean Gwyn Waddington (née Gay) died on November 7, 2017, at age 89, in Huntsville, Ont. A 1951 library science graduate of McGill University, she worked at the CNR Research Laboratory and Library in Montreal.

Shirley Elizabeth Wright died on August 28, 2017, at age 89. She worked

in the public library in Seattle, WA, and the New Westminster Public Library in B.C., where she became Deputy Chief Librarian. In 1969, she moved to the new School of Library and Information Studies at the University of Alberta, and taught courses in public librarianship and children's services.

Retirements

Maureen Barry, CEO, Burlington Public Library, will retire in mid-2018.

Marie DeYoung, University Librarian at Saint Mary's University (SMU), retired on February 28, 2018. Prior to SMU, Marie was the Director of Library Services and Online Learning at the Nova Scotia Community College and the Information Management Administrator for the Nova Scotia Department of Justice. Marie held numerous leadership positions including that of chair of Novanet and the Council of Atlantic University Libraries, president of the Canadian Library Association, representative on the OCLC Global Council, and on OCLC's Canada Advisory Council. Marie also received Dalhousie's School of Information Management Outstanding Alumni Award. **Leslie Fitch**, CEO of Milton Public Library, will retire on June 30, 2018.

Kathryn Goodhue, CEO of Brantford Public Library, will retire on May 31, 2018.

Tom Nesmith retired as Senior Scholar in the Joint Archival Studies and History Program, University of Manitoba, on December 31, 2017, after 27 years.

Judy Nicholson retired on December 8, 2017, after four years as executive director of the Saskatchewan Library Association.

Claude Roberto recently retired from the Provincial Archives of Alberta after 28 years.

Christina Wilson, CEO of Red Deer Public Library, retired on December 16, 2017.

Awards

Holly Arnason, a 2009 graduate of the Master of Library and Information Studies program at the University of Alberta, received the 2017 Library and Information Studies Alumni Association (LISAA) Rising Star Award. Holly is

associate manager of the Edmonton Public Library Makerspace.

Jeff Barber, Director, Regina Public Library, received the 2017 University of Alberta LISAA Distinguished Alumni Award.

Guy Berthiaume, Librarian and Archivist of Canada, was awarded the 2018 Ontario Library Association President's Award for Exceptional Achievement.

Catherine Biss, CEO, Markham Public Library, was awarded the 2018 W. J. Robertson Medallion by the Ontario Library Boards' Association for outstanding leadership in the advancement of public library service in Ontario.

Vickery Bowles, City Librarian, Toronto Public Library, was awarded the 2018 Les Fowlie Intellectual Freedom Award.

Susanna Hubbard Krimmer received the 2018 Ontario Public Library Association's Lifetime Achievement Award.

Richard Reid, Durham District School Board, is the 2018 recipient of the Ontario Library Association's Larry Moore Distinguished Service Award.

Brent Rowe, University Librarian at Laurentian University, and former Executive Director, Canadian Association of Research Libraries (CARL), received the 2017 CARL Award of Merit.

Dr. Ali Shiri, professor of Library and Information Studies at the University of Alberta, was awarded the 2017 LISAA Honourary Alumni Award.

Sandra Singh, Chief Librarian, Vancouver Public Library, received the 2018 Ken Haycock Award for Promoting Librarianship.

Gladys Watson, Centennial College Libraries, is the 2018 winner of the Ontario College and University Library Association (OCULA) Lifetime Achievement Award.

Appointments

Tiffany Bartlett has been appointed the new CEO of the Colchester – East Hants County Public Library System in Nova Scotia.

Prof. Luciana Duranti, of the University of British Columbia's iSchool and President of the Association of Canadian Archivists, has been named Co-Chair of the Steering

Committee on Canada's Archives.

Michele Feser was appointed Library Director of the Fort Saskatchewan Public Library in Alberta, on May 1, 2017. She has worked in public libraries in Regina, Calgary, Moose Jaw and Weyburn, Sask., and most recently in Alberta's Strathcona County.

Douglas Hildebrand has been appointed Director and Publisher of the University of Alberta Press. Since 2000, he has held various roles at the University of Toronto Press, most recently as an acquiring editor for social sciences.

Jeff Moon, of Queen's University, was appointed Director of Portage, a national research data management initiative of the Canadian Association of Research Libraries, effective September 2017.

David Ross has been appointed on a term position as Head of the Library at the University of New Brunswick's Saint John campus.

Shelly Ross was appointed CEO of the Red Deer Public Library as of January 2018.

Sandra Singh, Chief Librarian, Vancouver Public Library, has been appointed General Manager of Arts, Culture, and Community Services for the City of Vancouver, effective April 2018.

Lynn Somers has been appointed as Provincial Librarian, Nova Scotia Department of Communities, Culture and Heritage. Ms. Somers has been acting in the role for the past two years.

Alix-Rae Stefanko has assumed the chairship of the Canadian Federation of Library Associations for 2017/2018. She is President of the Manitoba Library Association and Youth Services Librarian at the Winnipeg Public Library.

Dorothea Warren joined the Saskatchewan Library Association as Executive Director on November 7, 2017.

Paul Whitney, formerly Chief Librarian of Vancouver Public Library, was appointed by the Minister of Canadian Heritage to the Canadian Cultural Property Export Review Board.

Mark Williams was appointed CEO of the Milton Public Library, effective June 30, 2018. ■

Librarians and the Order of Canada

By Wendy Newman

The Ex Libris Association (ELA) was proud to see the Governor General's December 29, 2017, announcement of the appointment of our longtime secretary, Jean Weihs, as a Member of the Order of Canada. The award recognizes Jean's extraordinary contributions to library science — including authorship of 19 books and more than 150 articles, chapters, and reviews — and her groundbreaking work on nonbook cataloguing. Jean has also served in 45 positions on national and international committees, and taught and mentored librarians and library technicians in Canada and the United States. Her service to library associations such as ours has been invaluable.

The "cornerstone of the Canadian Honours System," the Order of Canada recognizes "outstanding achievement, dedication to the community and service to the nation." Jean Weihs joins an elite group of librarians and archivists



Jean Weihs. Photo credit: Tom Sandler Photography

who have been appointed to the Order. Librarians honoured in the past include John Archer (McGill, Queen's, and Regina universities), Rita Cox (Toronto Public Library), Anne Crocker (University of New Brunswick), Sheila

Egoff* (University of British Columbia), Anne Hart (Memorial University), Jessie Mifflin (Newfoundland Public Library Service), Elizabeth Homer Morton (Canadian Library Association), Erik Spicer* (Library of Parliament), Basil Stuart-Stubbs* (University of British Columbia), Norman Horrocks* (Dalhousie University), and Eileen Travis (Saint John Public Library). Many who have led the National Library of Canada or Library and Archives Canada — including William Kaye Lamb, Guy Sylvestre,* Marianne Scott,* Roch Carrier, and Ian Wilson — have also been appointed to the Order.

*ELA members

ELA members can find an online treasure trove of information about librarians and archivists who have been appointed to the Order of Canada. A work in progress, it is a section of a wiki for health librarians, led by University of British Columbia Medical Librarian (and one of Library Journal's 2009 Movers & Shakers) Dean Giustini. Find it at http://hlwiki.slais.ubc.ca/index.php/Archivists_%26_Librarians_-_Officers_of_the_Order_of_Canada ■

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ELAN

www.exlibris.ca

Ex Libris Association Newsletter

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Penguin Random House Canada Tour

By Arn Bailey

Organized by Vivienne James, a tour of the Toronto head office of Penguin Random House Canada was enjoyed by 21 Ex Libris members and two guests on May 23. The company occupies three floors at 320 Front Street West. Our hosts were Tracey Turriff (now retired, but then senior vice president, director of corporate communications and vice president, director of marketing) and Lahring Tribe, director of school, library and academic sales.

Seemingly hundreds of employees have individual desks in an open-concept arrangement, usually four or five in each defined area. They are grouped into departments or teams — such as executive, editorial, publication, publicity, marketing, sales — and operations such as copyright and finance. Edging the work area are glassed-in rooms for small meetings and private phone calls. These spaces are named after authors, including Alice Munro, Mordecai Richler, Paul Quarrington, Jane Jacobs, and Pierre Berton.

We gathered in a large 12th-floor meeting room where we sat together to ask questions. Hearing about changes in publishing in general, and in this company specifically — and learning about the emergence of virtual and recorded books — was interesting. We also saw a compact



From left: Tour organizer Vivienne James presented Tracey Turriff and Lahring Tribe with complimentary Ex Libris gear, to smiles all around.

studio, equipped for sound and film, and designed to record authors' interviews and readings of their works by actors. Coffee is supplied in a pantry, and a dining room doubles for large meetings.

Facts of interest: The company does not accept unsolicited manuscripts, but deals solely through agents for the authors. Approximately 450 books make up the annual Canadian output (digital books comprise 15 percent), while hundreds more are developed through distribution rights for foreign companies. Each book could be in the publishing process for at least a year.

We were each treated to a free book from among the current publications! The tour ended at a moveable-shelf Penguin bookstore in the main lobby.

Afterwards, some of the group enjoyed lunch in an Irish pub conveniently located on the building's ground floor. ■



President's Report

By Elizabeth Ridler



Congratulations on the appointment of Jean Weihs, Secretary of Ex Libris, as a Member of the Order of Canada for her national and

international contributions to library science. The University of Toronto Faculty of Information and Ex Libris Association will hold a joint reception in Jean's honour at the Ex Libris Annual Conference and AGM on November 19, 2018, at the North York Central Library in Toronto. Thanks are extended to board member Wendy Newman for helping to plan this event. (See the event announcement in this issue, below.)

Thanks are also extended to Past President Rick Ficek for his organization of the upcoming annual conference and AGM, and to Treasurer Bob Henderson for the local arrangements. At the conference, Hamilton Public Library will be presented with the W. Kaye Lamb Award for Service to Seniors. Thank you Rick for your work on this.

Vivienne James arranged a very informative spring tour of Penguin Random House Canada on May 23. (See the cover story in this issue.) Lorne Bruce

continues to oversee the Ex Libris website and listserv efficiently. Thanks to them both. Chair of the Biography Project, Nancy Williamson, has 120 completed biographies, with more to come. (See the announcement in this issue, page 3.)

The Canadian Federation of Library Associations/Fédération canadienne des associations de bibliothèques (CFLA-FCAB) has mounted the Ex Libris logo on its website to acknowledge our two-year membership in CFLA-FCAB, which gives Ex Libris excellent publicity. Expect updates from Shelagh Paterson.

This year, the Newsletter Committee worked with the Ontario Library Association's Meagan Anderi to update and refresh *ELAN* with colour photographs and sharper layouts. Board members congratulate them for the successful new-look *ELAN* No. 63, Spring 2018. Ex Libris members look forward to future issues in this format.

It is with regret that I announce the resignation of Agatha Barc as a board member and acknowledge her successful updating of the master index of *ELAN* to 2016. Congratulations to Agatha for this indexing achievement and her successful career as an academic librarian and bibliographer of Canadiana (visit

her blog at www.agathabarc.com/).

Ex Libris membership renewals and numbers are stable thanks to the Ex Libris Treasurer Bob Henderson. Thanks and keep up the good work, Bob!

As the president of Ex Libris, I express the grave concern of Ex Libris board members about the trend across Canadian universities to debate the worth of university librarians as directors of university libraries. Brandon University currently employs an acting university librarian, but — last spring — was debating eliminating this position to subordinate its libraries under a chief information officer charged with all information services. The board is tracking this trend, and appropriate letters will be sent as needed.

The board is also concerned about the plan to digitize CBC Archives and to eliminate some of its archival originals. CBC Co-ordinator, Digitization and Video Preservation, Russ McMillen, will explain the CBC plan for digitization and address the concerns of our membership at the upcoming November Ex Libris Annual Conference and AGM. ■

Upcoming Event:

HOLD THIS DATE!

November 19, 2018

Ex Libris Association 2018 Annual Conference and AGM

This will be held at TPL North York Central Library, 5120 Yonge Street, Toronto. *Please note that this is a different location from the past several years.*

Highlights of the day will include:

- The Services and Future of the CBC Digital Archives will be presented by Russ McMillen, Co-ordinator, Digitization and Video Preservation, CBC Archives.
- A Summing Up: An Illustrious Career and Institution (The City of Toronto Archives) will be presented by former City of Toronto Archivist, R. Scott James.
- The W. Kaye Lamb Award will be presented to the Hamilton Public Library.
- Jean Weihs, Order of Canada recipient, will speak on her career in teaching and cataloguing. Following her talk, Jean will be honoured at a reception held by the University of Toronto, Faculty of Information (iSchool).

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

By Shelagh Paterson, reporting on behalf of the CFLA-FCAB Board of Directors

The CFLA-FCAB has been busy this year, managing national multi-sector issues to advance library values and influence public policy. Here are a few highlights (further details are available at cfla-fcab.ca).

- We are participating in the ongoing review of the *Copyright Act* of Canada by appearing at the cross-country consultations and defending the gains of the library and user sectors, such as fair dealing. We have also released a new statement on Indigenous Knowledge in Canada's *Copyright Act*.
- We have written the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission to push back against the FairPlay Canada application to unilaterally block websites that infringe copyright.
- Our first National Forum was held in Regina (alongside the Saskatchewan Libraries Conference 2018), focusing on artificial intelligence and intellectual freedom: key policy concerns for Canadian libraries. A forum paper summarizing the panel presentations and table discussions, and outlining action steps on these issues for the CFLA-FCAB community, was released at the end of July. A call for interest has gone out to member associations to find a regional partner for the next forum.
- We have partnered with the Canadian Commission for UNESCO, the National Film Board, and others, to bring the Let's Talk About Reconciliation program of film screenings and dialogue to public libraries.
- We are participating in the federal government's Working Group on Alternate Format Materials for Canadians with Print Disabilities, which will soon release its long-term strategy for published-material accessibility.
- The CFLA-FCAB Intellectual Freedom Committee has conducted its annual Challenges Survey and will release it shortly.

Shelagh Paterson was Treasurer of the CFLA-FCAB from 2016 to 2017. ■

Ex Libris Biography Project

By Nancy Williamson

The biography file currently contains 120 entries. A recent addition is Francess Halpenny. Among the names being worked on are Clare Beghtol and Al Bowron. Several people have submitted their own biographies. Thank you — and keep them coming!

For details on how to contribute, please contact me at:

nancy.williamson@utoronto.ca ■

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 Ex Libris 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.

W. Kaye Lamb Award for Service to Seniors

By Rick Ficek

This is your opportunity to submit applications for the next W. Kaye Lamb Award. This biennial award is a major activity of the Ex Libris Association (ELA) and is co-sponsored by the Canadian Federation of Library Associations/Fédération canadienne des associations de bibliothèques (CFLA-FCAB). It is given in honour of William Kaye Lamb, the first National Librarian of Canada, Dominion Archivist, and eminent historian (1904–1999).

This prestigious award, along with a \$500 cash prize, can be won by that Canadian library or archive (both public libraries and other libraries) which best serves its senior population. Information, including past winners and application criteria for libraries, can be found on the Ex Libris website. ■

Service to Seniors Makes the News

A recent article in TheRecord.com brought attention to an initiative at Waterloo Public Library (WPL). According to WPL's website, the library now has a small collection designed specifically for readers who are experiencing memory loss, dementia, or Alzheimer's disease. "The books have simple cues to help the reader track the narrative, including more space between paragraphs, fewer words on a page, a photograph or other cue for memory."

For more information on this collection, see: www.therecord.com/news-story/8745510-when-memory-begins-to-fail/

The World Wide Web and its Impact

By James A. Forrester

This is not a book review, although I recently reread *Weaving the Web: The Original Design and Ultimate Destiny of The World Wide Web*, written by its inventor. And, yes, there was an inventor of this ubiquitous medium. Tim Berners-Lee was working at the CERN particle physics lab on the Franco-Swiss border, when he launched the first web server there in 1991 (visit info.cern.ch/ and follow the link, which still works today). It was originally envisioned as a method for physicists working internationally to share research and communicate with each other between conferences.

Nobody, including Sir Tim (knighted by Queen Elizabeth II in 2004), could envision how quickly the concept would be adopted by communities well beyond the scientific realm. The World Wide Web reshaped our lives and accelerated the information revolution. It's hard to imagine life without websites, e-commerce, e-mail, web research, wikis, blogs, music and video sharing, 24/7 news, social media apps, and — now — presidential tweets.

During the 1980s, I worked for a number of institutions, including the National Library of Canada and the library at the RMC, which were early members of ARPANET, the platform rebranded as the Internet. The California Educational Computer Consortium organized an early conference about the Internet at UC Davis in April 1991, and I was privileged (while working at Bata Library) to participate through a presentation about NetNorth, the Canadian network.

In the early 1990s, libraries were grappling with connecting catalogues, searching a limited number of databases via slow phone connections, and designing text-based menus. If you were logged into a corporate or university network, you could access rudimentary forms of e-mail. The general public was

blissfully unaware of what was coming.

When I arrived at the Ontario College of Art (now OCAD University) in July 1991, the library was at the forefront of technology, and our new classic Dynix system went live with a modem-based library catalogue out of the box. It's hard to imagine, but there was no IT department then — no Internet link at all — and the library had to register the domain name “oca.on.ca” to reserve it for future use.

Each year in December, the

Wide Web barely existed. Mike Ridley, from Waterloo, brought an early Apple PowerBook laptop to the meeting, and the Carleton IT department was unable to hook it to a video display. So the first time we saw the World Wide Web was on an eight-inch screen passed around the room. Ridley said there were approximately 65 web servers in existence at that moment (currently there are more than 172 million physical and virtual servers). That exponential growth — via public acceptance of this new medium of communication — is unprecedented in human history.

In April 1996, the University of Toronto organized a three-day colloquium — The Internet: Beyond the Year 2000 — held in Convocation Hall, with smaller breakout sessions with the speakers. Tim Berners-Lee attended and, after his presentation of plans for the future development of the World Wide Web, we met with him in a classroom. Sitting at a table interacting with one of the great innovators of our time was the highlight of the event for me. It was like talking to Albert Einstein about his groundbreaking theories. The fact that Berners-Lee and Einstein both worked on theoretical physics in Switzerland only occurred to me recently.

Sir Berners-Lee is currently cross-appointed to MIT and the University of Oxford (his alma mater). In April 2017 he

was awarded the A. M. Turing Award, recognized as the “Nobel Prize for computing.” The award comes with a \$1 million prize from Google, which has an obvious vested interest in recognizing this particular development. ■



administrators of the Ontario Council of University Libraries would meet at a different university. The University of Waterloo hosted in 1992, and, due to its position as the “farm team” for Microsoft, we gained insight into what was coming over the horizon for the Internet. The following year, Carleton University’s MacOdrum Library was our host and, at that time, the World

Technology Unmasked: Open Source

By Stan Orlov



In 2018 the Open Source Initiative celebrates its 20th anniversary, which is a good reason to have a closer look. To avoid confusion with “open access” (which we covered in *ELAN* No. 54/Fall 2013), we should keep in mind that “open source” refers to software whose source code is released under the licence granting anyone the rights to study, change, and distribute it. In the early days of computing, software developers used to share it to learn from each other. In 1998 Netscape Communications released the source code of its Netscape Communicator browser, creating a foundation for such popular products as Firefox and

Thunderbird. The fact that the code is open to anyone promotes collaborative efforts, ensures transparency, and saves consumers billions of dollars each year.

Not surprisingly, libraries around the world use open-source software extensively. Created in 1999, Koha is the oldest Integrated Library System (ILS), allowing management, cataloguing, discovery, and circulation of resources. The other widely popular ILS — Evergreen — is also widely popular around the world, including Canada.

When ProQuest acquired the Ex Libris Group (the software company not our association) with its Alma, and OCLC launched WorldShare Management Services, EBSCO invested in an open-source alternative FOLIO — “the Future Of Libraries Is Open” — library services. Besides ILS, discovery-layer

and search-engine solutions, such as VuFind or BlackLight, allow users to sift through catalogue records, institutional repositories, and other information sources. Widely popular software, such as Zotero, manages bibliographic data and related research-management materials. These examples give us a good idea of what open-source software can do for the library world.

You can learn more at:

en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Open-source_software
koha-community.org/
www.folio.org/

Stanislav Orlov is Systems Librarian at Mount Saint Vincent University in Halifax. Please send your questions and comments to stan.orlov@msvu.ca |

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Upcoming Events

Ex Libris Fall 2018 Toronto Library Tour September 17, 2018

Vivienne James is arranging a tour of the Ontario Historical Society Reference Library on September 17, 2018. Check our listserv for further details available upon final confirmation.

Notice to Members

Help us keep our email listserv current. If you and/or someone you know is/are not receiving our emails, send your new email address to Bob Henderson at bob.superrover@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.

Welcome to New ELA Members

We're proud to welcome the following new ELA members:

Kathleen DeLong, Edmonton
 Rudi Denham, London, ON
 Russell Hanley, Oshawa, ON

Why I became a Librarian

By Rudi Denham

Many people choose a new career or change direction to look to the future for greater challenges or bigger rewards. My reason to make a career change was to escape from the past.

Growing up the fourth and youngest daughter of immigrant parents, neither of whom had had an opportunity for post-secondary education, I knew I was privileged to be able to choose a profession. An early career choice was medicine, but my first frog dissection in a high school science lab put a quick end to that idea! I realized it was important to have an “appropriate” profession for a young woman, so I choose education, as had many members of my mother’s family.

After graduating from McGill University with my teaching diploma in English for the middle grades, I was thrilled to get a position in a private French school, teaching English as a second language to grades one through nine, though ESL was not part of my training. It was a tough school, where my “creative” approach produced what my colleagues considered “noisy and undisciplined” classes. I had to change classrooms every hour, and create lessons for Grade 1 English, then, when the bell rang, adjust my mindset to create activities for Grade 9 art. I remember this as a stressful time.

Although the school was perpetually short of resources, I found a collection of English-language books in a storage closet. Rather than spending my spare periods in the staff room, I organized the storage closet — books on one side, and paper, cleaning products, and stationery on the other. I found a new home for the “unsuitable” volumes, then stuck labels — such as REF, HIST, or FIC (similar to what I’d seen in the local public library) — onto the remainder. I glued a pocket into each and provided cards, for a simple circulation system.

By the end of my second year, I acknowledged that teaching was not a good fit for me, and I wanted out. But what next? I decided that perhaps I should find out how to organize a book collection properly, and that being a librarian would



be an appropriate career. The following year I continued to teach, as well as taking on part-time employment in a retail outlet to help finance a master’s degree.

With the support of my family, I moved to London, Ont. — the first of *many* moves — and enrolled at the University of Western Ontario in the Master of Library Science program. As I worked my way through different courses at Western, I learned that — for the collection in the school closet — I had been responsible for selection, acquisitions, cataloguing, processing, and circulation. I also learned that being able to organize a collection was only a small part of the profession of librarianship.

Like many others who earn a library degree, I really had no idea of the opportunities and options it would offer. In my first position, as a consultant for about 100 school and public branches of a regional library in Central Alberta, I had to use *all* of my new skills. In one week I would help weed a collection, set up shelving in a new branch, attend a town council meeting, answer reference questions, and provide a fun program for 30 children in the summer reading club — all at different libraries 30 to 50 kilometres apart. As time went on, I also needed

skills they’d never taught me in library school — building maintenance, contract negotiation, marketing, construction project management, and navigation through the nuances of local politics.

After responsibilities in various public, regional, and county libraries, my career took a detour when I was headhunted for a position as national representative for a non-profit organization, Ulverscroft Large Print (Canada), to visit some of the almost 3,000 public libraries across the country, to discuss their large-print needs. I discovered that I love to visit libraries, meet new people, learn from others, and share what I know. As I drove from one village to another, over hill and down dale, between cornfields, and through cattle ranches, I’d think, “I can’t believe I actually get paid for this!”

After 36 years, and nine jobs in three provinces, I retired. My travels taught me that libraries are good places to spend quiet time, to discover new worlds, and to meet new people — either in reality or in the virtual worlds in the many pages in library collections. I also learned that librarianship offered me opportunities for personal growth, opportunities to travel, and opportunities to see the world in new ways. Every day held a new challenge — and it was never, ever boring! ■

When You Move

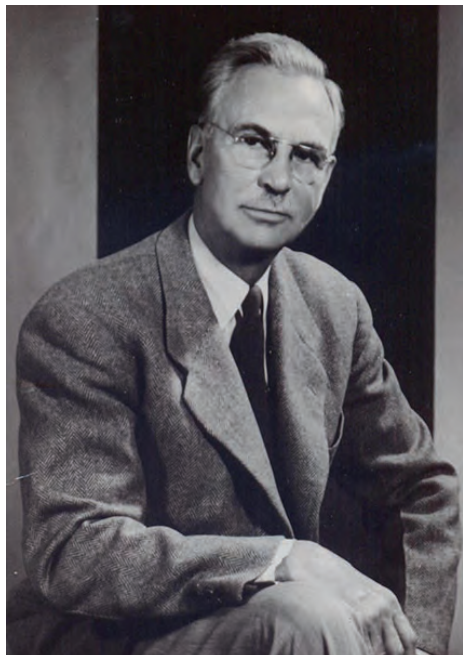
When you move, please remember to send your new address to Ex Libris Association, Faculty of Information, University of Toronto, 140 St. George St., Toronto, ON M5S 3G6.

Libraries named after Librarians

By Suzette Giles

This is the 15th in a series of articles about outstanding librarians and the libraries named after them.

London Public Library, Crouch Branch



Richard Edwin Crouch
Photo credit: Ivey Family London Room, London Public Library, London, Ont.

On February 1, 2003, London Public Library opened a new branch (shown right), named the Crouch Branch, in honour of Richard Edwin Crouch. This new building replaced the original Richard E. Crouch Branch that had opened in April 1958.

Richard Edwin Crouch was born on April 14, 1894, in London, Ont., to William Edwin and Sarah Elizabeth (née Hodgins) Crouch. He grew up in London and studied political economy at what was then known as The Western University of London Ontario, but his studies were interrupted by the First World War. Crouch served in France, as a corporal in the No. 10 Stationary Hospital, Canadian Army Medical Corps, from 1916 to 1919. Before returning to Canada, he attended the London School of Economics. Upon graduating from Western in

1920, Crouch won a scholarship to study at universities in Dijon and Paris from 1921 to 1922. On August 3, 1921, he married his first wife, Hazel Gertrude Tanner, who was Children's Librarian at London Public Library.

Returning to London, Ont., in 1922, Crouch lectured in economics and sociology in the Extension program at Western, and he was involved with the Young Men's Christian Association and the local Workers' Educational Association. These experiences would be reflected in his long career and his belief in the importance of adult education and opportunities for lifelong learning, not just through books, but through a range of cultural resources.

In 1923 Crouch became London Public Library's fifth Chief Librarian, following in the footsteps of fellow Londoners, W. O. Carson from 1906 to 1916 (*ELAN* No. 63/Spring 2018; see article by Suzette Giles, page 11) and Fred Landon from 1916 to 1923 (*ELAN* No. 58/Fall 2015; see article by Suzette Giles, page 7).

During his tenure Fred Landon had campaigned for a replacement for the main London Public Library building that dated from 1895 and was overcrowded and in poor condition. Crouch took up the challenge and, with the backing of

the library board, envisioned not just a library, but a broader cultural centre with support for music, film, and art.

By 1926 a potential site had been selected and the project costed at \$240,000 over 20 years, but the necessary by-law to fund the project was rejected by voters in 1927 and 1930. Fortunately, in 1934, a local biscuit heiress left her estate and a significant bequest to the city, and plans could move forward. In 1940 the London Public Library Elsie Perrin Williams Memorial Art Gallery and Museum (named after the heiress) opened. It comprised the Central Library, an auditorium, an art gallery, a museum, and an outdoor reading garden. Crouch was appointed Chief Librarian and Director, Public Library and Art Museum. The building was impressive, both in its design and services, and was the venue for the 1941 Ontario Library Association (OLA) conference.

Crouch was an active member of the OLA, serving as president for the 1931 to 1932 term. At the 1931 OLA conference, there was discussion about smaller libraries within a county co-operating in purchasing and circulating materials, and also in working with the larger municipal library of the county. Crouch

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Photo credit: Cornerstone Architecture

Continued from page 7

was one of a number of chief librarians in Southwestern Ontario who worked to implement such co-operation within their local county, and, by the end of 1934, the Middlesex County Library association had been formed with 15 members.

The Ontario Library Review published a number of articles by Crouch. For a book about adult education, he also wrote a chapter about the role of libraries, published in the *American Library Association Bulletin*.

Crouch's dedication to supporting adult education was also reflected in his activities beyond the library sphere. In 1945 he was a founding member of the London Council for Adult Education that promoted adult education in London and Middlesex. The council provides leadership in adult-education issues via collaboration, advocacy, and education, and is still active today.

Crouch's distinguished career in the service of the community of London was recognized by the awarding of an honorary degree (LLD) from the University of Western Ontario in 1955, and in the naming of a branch library in his honour in 1958. After 38 years as Chief Librarian, Crouch retired in 1961, and died the following year. That same year the London Public Library and Art Museum published a biographical sketch by Charles Dean Kent entitled "A Man Ahead of his Time."

Thanks to Lorne Bruce for suggesting this library and also for his wonderfully detailed publications: Free books for all: The public library movement in Ontario, 1850–1930. Toronto: Dundurn Press, 1994, and Places to grow: Public libraries and communities in Ontario, 1930–2000. Guelph, Ont., L. Bruce, 2010, which were very useful for this article.

See also: Biographies of Librarians and Information Professionals of Canada. "Richard Edwin Crouch." Ex Libris Association (www.exlibris.ca/doku.php?id=history:biographies:crouch_re). ■

Library Treasures of Britain: London's Guildhall Library

By Guy Robertson



Plunging his sword into his opponent's chest, the gladiator heard the roar of approval from the audience. He knew that he would live to fight again in that very amphitheatre. Seventeen centuries later, an art gallery occupies the site; the ruins of the amphitheatre serve as an archeological exhibit in the gallery's basement. On nearby sites stand buildings known collectively as Guildhall, from which the City of London is administered. In one of those buildings you will find Guildhall Library, which bills itself as "The Library of London History." Appropriately on its shelves, you will find volumes that contain descriptions of Roman London's entertainment scene, which included afternoons at the amphitheatre. The gladiators of the aforementioned combat have vanished into the obscurity that envelopes most of ancient London's residents, but you can still visit their workplace, and investigate their gory trade in Guildhall Library.

"The library contains the most extensive collection of printed and

manuscript resources in the world on London from the 15th to the 21st centuries," says Sandy, a graduate student from Calgary who is writing her doctoral dissertation on British drama. The patrons include scholars and students, as well as journalists, urban planners, architects, economists, and people who find a particular subject too fascinating to resist, and who devote much of their time to researching it.

An example is Janet, a Londoner and retired business archivist, who concentrates on the history of the city's food. "I find most of what I need on these shelves," she says. "Recently I started looking into baking during the Elizabethan period. What kind of bread did Shakespeare and Marlowe eat? And what about pie crust? I've discovered a lot of information in Guildhall and, undoubtedly, I'll find more."

Topics of popular searches include Jack the Ripper and other notorious criminals, lost rivers such as the Fleet, prisons such as Newgate and the Clink, theatres and music halls, local artists and writers, shipping, local commerce, cathedrals and parish churches, the

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Photo credit: Guildhall Library, City of London



Photo credit: City of London



Photo credit: Guildhall Library, City of London



Photo credit: Frances Davidson-Arnott



Photo credit: Guildhall Library, City of London

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Photo credit: Frances Davidson-Arnott

history of local transportation systems (including the Tube and its various lines), and London's cemeteries (including Highgate and Kensal Green).

"London is one big burial ground," says Evan, a student from Toronto who is writing his graduating essay on different styles of gravestones and mausoleums in 19th-century cemeteries. "I spend half my time with a camera in the big cemeteries, and the other half in Guildhall Library, which contains the most useful reference works for my purposes. I can access plans and maps, and biographical information about the people who developed the cemeteries. I also use research materials on London's parks, which are huge. Some of this material is unavailable anywhere else."

One broad topic that attracts patrons to the collections is London's wildlife, which involves more variety than one would find in other cities. "There's a big local interest in ornithology," says a librarian from Winnipeg who works at the University of London. "I'm a birdwatcher, and I'm amazed at the variety of species that I see in this part of the country. Guildhall Library offers a lot of good data on birds, and the historical material on bird life is great. Here I find books on songbirds, crows, ducks, and the hybrids you see floating in the Serpentine. There's also information on pigeons, which are more numerous

but less popular than other birds."

Even less popular are London's rats. Like shipping ports all over the world, London has a large rat population. The library provides researchers with information concerning the ways in which rats have influenced the city's history. "And that brings us to the plague," says Elaine, a disease-control researcher who works for the National Health Service. "[The library] contains a wealth of information, not only on the Black Death and other medieval outbreaks, but also reoccurrences during later times. For example, the plague shut down the theatres during Shakespeare's career. It's good to know that this library has material on this sort of thing." Chatting about plague morbidity, Elaine sounds cheerful. Another satisfied patron!

Regarding London's wildlife, the librarians recommend Hannah Velten's *Beastly London: A History of Animals in the City* (2016), which gives readers a comprehensive overview of the topic. "That book doesn't describe the activities of the animals who fill the streets after football matches," says a Guildhall reference librarian. "I suppose that sort of behaviour has been common since Roman times." Quite so. And the amphitheatre survives nearby. For additional information, such as hours and directions, visit www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/guildhalllibrary |

I Remember: Bill Bale

By Rudi Denham

I really appreciate being able to keep up with passages in the library community through *ELAN*'s Milestones. I'm sure there's not enough space to provide many details on each of the library luminaries whose lights have been extinguished, but I felt that the obituary of William R. (Bill) Bale (*ELAN* No. 62/Fall 2017; see Milestones, page 18) could use some personal expansion.

The entry mentioned that Bill started his career in England, worked at Lethbridge Public Library and then at the Medicine Hat College Library after he arrived in Canada in 1959. Not mentioned was his early and distinguished military career — as a navigator in the Royal Air Force — and the more than 20 years he spent as Chief Librarian at Parkland Regional Library (PRL) in Alberta, where he was my first boss. Bill may not have been the reason why I became a librarian (see my article in this issue, page 6), but he certainly had an abiding influence on my career.

We first spoke over the phone. When I was a recent graduate of Western University's Library Science program in 1980, jobs were hard to find, so I was thrilled to have two interviews in Alberta — one at the PRL in Lacombe, and one at a school library in Fort MacLeod. Trying to arrange the logistics, I asked Bill how to get from Lacombe to the other interview. There was a long silence. "Dogsled," was his eventual reply — and my first inkling of Bill's personality.

In lieu of a dogsled, I decided to rent a car, but I didn't need either, as the PRL board offered me the job on the spot (Bill was home with pneumonia, so I didn't meet him at the interview).

At the time, the PRL provided services to almost 100 local libraries that served a total population of 60,000 spread across thousands of square kilometres of Central Alberta's grasslands. I forget exactly how many branches — public and school libraries — there were. The number was a moving target, as new counties were added or school libraries dropped.

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At PRL, Bill told me, I would have an opportunity to do a bit of everything. He said, “Rudi, when you’re ready to move on to another job, you’ll be able to do anything!” He was right. Well over six feet, Bill was a big guy with a big personality and a good dose of

dry British wit. A longtime Rotarian, Bill was equally passionate about Canadian hockey and British soccer.

I did move on, but we kept in touch until weeks before his death last summer. His passing, so close to my retirement, closed a chapter in my life.

Editor’s note: If you would like to submit a memoir of a colleague, mentor, teacher, or other significant library personality from the past, please send it in for consideration. (See back page for details.) Items should be less than 500 words and of interest to many of our members. Happy writing! ■

New Brunswick Bibliography Symposium: Revealing and Preserving our Published Heritage

By Peter F. McNally

The University of New Brunswick (UNB) Library has embarked upon an ambitious project: collecting a definitive collection of publications relating to the province, and providing effective bibliographical access to the titles. To kick off the project, UNB held a one-day symposium on March 22, 2018, attracting 90 people. Ten speakers outlined the issues involved in initiating such a large-scale bibliographical exercise and seeing it through to completion.

English-language titles will be the initial focus of the project, as L’Université de Moncton has already completed a major project listing French-language materials: Marguerite Maillet’s *Bibliographie des publications de l’Acadie des provinces maritimes: livres et brochures, 1609–1995* (Éditions d’Acadie, 1997). UNB hopes to provide equal prominence to both English- and French-language publications, as well as publications in other languages, which are relevant to the province. First Nation material will be a prime focus.

In addition to attracting support from library and archival communities, the project is attracting interest from the general community. Local historians, along with book and literary historians, have indicated their willingness to participate and assist. With augmented collections and strengthened bibliographical control, new ways of studying New Brunswick’s social, cultural, and literary heritage may be forthcoming. ■

Notes from the Front Lines: Providing Assistance to Genealogists and Family Historians

By Doug Robinson

When researchers in genealogy or family history visit a library or archives, they normally begin by meeting with a librarian or archivist who conducts a reference interview, in order to direct them to appropriate sources there or elsewhere. Researchers in genealogy, unless they do the work as a business, are normally interested in their own families and can provide helpful details about their family members.

I do, however, remember a reference interview with a client who had only sketchy knowledge about his family. He didn’t know much about where they came from, when they came to Canada, where they settled, or any of the names of

his ancestors, which made it difficult to direct him to appropriate sources. I asked if he had spoken with family members concerning his family history. He said he had asked his father for information, and his father had told him to mind his own business. This brusque retort had not dampened his enthusiasm. It had, perhaps, made him even more dedicated to finding out about his family. (I wondered if the father wanted to cover up something, and wanted to let sleeping dogs lie.)

I had never seen that researcher before, and never did see him again, but I still wonder if he found the information he needed, from an aunt, uncle, or cousin. Relatives can provide details not easily found in a document search. Someone

in the family may have already prepared a family history or kept family records such as birth and marriage certificates, family trees, newspaper clippings, and photos. A relative may know about family members who moved to other provinces. Family records and memories may contain some errors, but they are useful and valuable resources for family researchers.

The more preparation and investigation a researcher does before visiting a library or archives, the more fruitful the reference interview will be, and the more likely the librarian or archivist will be able to direct the researcher to suitable records and publications. ■



Book Reviews

Edited by Susan Ibbetson

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Word by Word: the Secret Life of Dictionaries

By Kory Stamper
Pantheon, 2017.

ISBN: 978-1101870945. \$23.27

Reviewed by Jean Weihs

My first task on my first day employed as a newly graduated librarian was to look up a word for the chief librarian's wife, in the big multi-volume *Oxford English Dictionary*, and I have had a love affair with dictionaries ever since.

Kory Stamper is a lexicographer at Merriam-Webster, who writes about the challenges of defining words and, in some instances, determining whether a word should be — or should not be — included in the dictionary. She spends much time researching new words, their spelling, and proper pronunciation. Her study of words already in the dictionary involves coping with changing or additional meanings. A whole chapter is devoted to the many outraged messages the publisher received when the definition for “marriage” was changed to include

definitions for other types of marriage in addition to the traditional meaning of the word. Some words — such as “it’s,” “irregardless,” “bitch,” and “posh” — are discussed at some length; for other words — such as “nuclear” — the book’s emphasis is on the correct pronunciation.

Don’t be discouraged by the first chapter, “Hrafnkell,” which I found a bit boring. It almost made me decide not to read further. Luckily, I changed my mind. The rest of the book is entertaining and informative. This is a very intelligent book about the science and art of making dictionaries. For the most part, Stamper writes as though she is talking to the reader, and any lexicographic jargon is clearly explained. I highly recommend it for anyone interested in words and their use. ■



The Illustrated Dust Jacket 1920-1970

By Martin Salisbury
Thames & Hudson, 2017.

ISBN: 978-0500519134. \$38.61

Reviewed by Karen Wierucki

My library discarded dust jackets, so I was surprised to learn just how important these artifacts were in marketing books and providing artists with opportunities for recognition — before photography and trade paperbacks gained prominence in the publishing world.

The author, a professor of illustration and director of the Centre for Children’s Book Studies at Anglia Ruskin University, provides an excellent introduction to the history of the dust jacket, starting from its literal use as a plain “dust wrapper” discarded by the reader, to collectible artworks with designs reflecting the changing visual styles and motifs of the 1920-1950 period, including Bloomsbury, Art Deco, modernism, postwar neo-romanticism, and the kitchen-sink school. Salisbury selected

more than 50 artists and illustrators — primarily from the United States and U.K. — such as Edward Gorey, John Nash, Ronald Searle, and N. C. Wyeth, and provides short essays containing biographical details and interesting career highlights. A selection of jacket designs in full colour, with brief commentaries, highlights each artist’s style.

Besides providing avid readers with a trip down memory lane, this book will be of interest to collectors, adds useful content for courses on graphic arts and the history of the book, and would be a welcome reference title in larger public libraries.

The only disappointment for me was that the dust-jacket design chosen to wrap this book doesn’t reflect the quality and range of art contained within the pages. ■

British Columbia News

By Guy Robertson



As in previous years, wildfires broke out across the province, and a number of B.C. townsites and their libraries were at risk from the spreading fires. It was the higher-than-average temperatures, however, that concerned most public and academic libraries. Many patrons — especially seniors and the physically challenged — spent more time sitting and cooling off in seating areas than browsing in the stacks or conducting online research. “We’re increasingly on the alert for people with heatstroke,” said a librarian in the Okanagan. “We’ve encouraged everybody, including staff members, to drink lots of water and to rest in the shade. Our libraries have become major cooling centres. Heat waves are the new normal in B.C., and we need to get the public used to the idea. Libraries can play an important role in informing people about risks during hot spells.” (And here she handed the *ELAN* columnist a cup of cold water.)

While cooling off, patrons of the **Okanagan Regional Library (ORL)** can now enjoy their favourite Beethoven, Brahms, and Mozart. The Naxos Music Library (NML) has become a valuable and popular part of the ORL’s collection. NML is the world’s largest online library of classical music, offering streaming access to 90,000 CDs containing 1.275 million tracks. More than 800 new CDs are added each month. Now the hills surrounding Lake Okanagan resound with Wagner. Or perhaps not.

In the Lower Mainland, **Surrey Libraries** and a local newspaper sponsored the Surrey Libraries Teen Summer 2018 Photo and Caption Contest. City residents between 13 and 18 years old emailed their original photos taken around Surrey, along with captions of 12 words or less. At *ELAN*’s press time, interesting entries were arriving daily. Winners were to be announced before Labour Day. Prizes

included \$50 gift cards and local fame.

At the **Vancouver Public Library**, artist and ethnobotanist T’uy’t’anat-Cease Wyss was named the 2018 Indigenous storyteller in residence. Wyss’s diverse heritage includes Skwxwu7mesh, Sto:lo, Irish-Métis, Hawaiian, and Swiss roots. She combines storytelling with teaching to provide listeners with different cultural perspectives. Wyss attracted local attention through her “plant walks” — tours of vegetation — in Stanley Park, and recently published *Journey to Kaho’olawe* with fellow artist Hans Winkler. This book concerns the Hawaiian Island of Kaho’olawe, and documents the history of the Kanaka people in B.C. since the late 1700s. Currently Wyss is also participating in the development of Constellation of Remediation, a City of Vancouver public-art collaborative project involving the reclamation of former gas-station sites through the use of Indigenous agricultural practices.

Prairies News

By Alvin M. Schrader



Ashley Booth, librarian with **Saskatoon Public Library (SPL)**, organized a one-day Art+Feminism edit-a-thon in March 2018 at the **Frances Morrison Central Library**, to ensure women have an equal voice in digital space and to get more entries about Saskatchewan female artists on Wikipedia. Only 15 percent of all Wikipedia entries are edited by women, and female artists are underrepresented.

The **University of Saskatchewan Centre for Evidence Based Library & Information Practice** is hosting an extensive list of active, peer-reviewed LIS journals to help librarian and archivist researchers identify journals to which they can submit manuscripts. Open-access titles are identified with the open-access symbol. Canadian titles are identified with a maple leaf (library.usask.ca/ceblip/research/peer-reviewed-lis-journals.php).

SPL recently introduced loanable technology. Patrons can borrow several types of educational and interactive technology as part of the library’s focus on introducing more STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math) offerings. These educational forms of technology are designed to help people develop skills in problem solving, coding, sequencing, and creativity. Code-a-Pillars are most suitable for toddlers and young children, Osmo projects are intended for kids aged six to 12, and Makey Makey projects range from easy to advanced and suitable for all ages. Kits can be checked out for three weeks at a time. These items were purchased using funds from the John Cotton Dana Library Public Relations Award. **SPL** received this award of \$10,000 (US) in 2017.

The American Library Association award was given to **SPL** in recognition of its “Better Than Ever” promotional campaign.

The GELA (Greater Edmonton Library Association) Prison Project was awarded the 2018 Punch Jackson Award of Excellence in Library Service at the Alberta Library Conference in April 2018, for excellence in empowering women and bonding families. Founded by volunteers in 2007, the project provides library resources and programs in Edmonton-area correctional facilities, primarily at the Edmonton Institution for Women and the Edmonton Institution. This has included collection-building, inmate book clubs, a storybook project, and a book-borrowing project that allows inmates to access materials from **Edmonton Public Library**.

University of Calgary Libraries and Cultural Resources received a \$2 million (\$1.5 million US) Andrew W. Mellon Foundation grant in the fall of 2017 for a three-year media-migration-and-digitization project. Focusing on the EMI Music Canada Archive, the project is entitled *Renewing Access to Culturally Significant Audiovisual Recordings*. EMI Music Canada was the record label that represented many of the top artists of the second half of the 20th century, recording or distributing

work by a range of Canadian artists and major international acts. Capitol Records Canada, under EMI Music Canada, was the first label to release The Beatles and Pink Floyd in North America.

The EMI Music Canada Archive consists of 5,500 boxes, and documents the history of EMI Music Canada and associated music labels from 1949 to 2012. Included are more than 40,000 audio and video recordings in more than 40 different formats. The goal is to reformat the materials and develop a best-practices model for audiovisual conversion, digitization, and preservation.

University of Calgary Libraries and Cultural Resources received a \$1 million (\$750,000 US) Andrew W. Mellon Foundation grant in the fall of 2018 to support an enhanced role in faculty research in 15 disciplines. This will be achieved through the development of a platform for supporting multidisciplinary research, strengthening campus-wide partnerships, and fundamentally repositioning the role of the library. The project will offer leading-edge technologies, collaboration spaces, and new designs in research services. There is broad recognition reflected in international research priorities that the social and environmental challenges of this century require true multidisciplinary research, requiring effective teams supported by robust services, expertise, and technologies. A preliminary study identified six principal components of a multidisciplinary research platform: analytics and visualization, data curation and sharing, digitization, metadata services, expertise and training, and collaborative spaces. Effective support for this research will depend on a campus-wide constellation of expertise and technologies, the hub for which will be **Lab NEXT, Taylor Family Digital Library**. Tom Hickerson, Vice-Provost and University Librarian, is the principal investigator for this project.

Calgary Public Library (CPL) has renamed its Alexander Calhoun Library the **Giuffre Family Library** after local couple Mary and Joe Giuffre donated \$1.5 million to refresh the aging site.

Canadian Alexander Calhoun was appointed Calgary's first librarian in 1911, a role he held until retiring in 1945. He was described as a "revolutionary" librarian, and his work helped shape the civil society of the city, including advocacy of open spaces. He brought in a variety of books, including textbooks and technical manuals, started free adult-education programs in humanities and social sciences, opened the library to children, and hired and trained children's librarians. During the Great Depression, the library served as a community hub, and provided Calgarians with a path to better their opportunities through education. Calhoun pushed for free educational opportunities, in part, due to his socialist views, which were deemed suspicious at the time — so much so that EPL pulled socialist and communist tracts from its shelves, a move that he publicly opposed in a newspaper article. As a result he became suspect, and the federal government kept a dossier on him. Calhoun branched out into other social activities, including helping with the Co-operative Commonwealth Federation, a precursor of the New Democratic Party. In 1954 a new library was named after him. (See the article by Suzette Giles, page 10, *ELAN* No. 61/ Spring 2017.) CPL has not decided how it will continue to honour its first librarian.

Brandon University announced on March 15, 2018, that it will combine the positions of chief librarian, director of information technology services, and director of institutional data and analysis into a new role of chief information officer, in response to a 0.9 percent (\$339,000) decrease in the provincial 2018–2019 operating grant, which comprises more than 75 percent of university revenues. Three associate vice-presidents, along with several senior administrative positions, will be eliminated, downgraded, or combined to meet a 15 percent reduction target mandated by the provincial government. The Manitoba Library Association wrote to the interim president in April 2018 urging reconsideration of the decision to eliminate the position of chief librarian (gallery.mailchimp.com/9e490299410de84bb7bd39b23/files/3a170710-18e7-4a86-

bc6c-56390a8a5b15/Letter_re_Brandon_University_Librarian_Position_2018.pdf).

Ontario News

By Vivienne James



The new home of **McMaster University's Bertrand Russell Archives**, slated to be 'a hub of intellectual activity,' has officially opened its doors. This facility was

retrofitted in recognition of the 50th anniversary of McMaster's acquisition of these archives, the university's largest and most heavily used research collection.

Robarts Library, University of Toronto, has partnered with the University's Family Care Office to open a family study space, Canada's first such facility for current students, staff, faculty members, visiting scholars, and students with children 12 years and younger. This space enables parents to engage in their academic and research pursuits while caring for their children.

Ottawa Public Library's new Central Library is being planned in partnership with **Library and Archives Canada**. Their goal is to establish a facility of 'national significance.' Five architects, most Canadian, have been shortlisted.

Alice's Adventures in Wonderland comes to the **TD Gallery, Toronto Reference Library**, with the exhibit, *Alice Opens the Door*, November 17, 2018 to January 17, 2019, in a lively exhibit of early editions, artwork, toys, games, and memorabilia from the library's **Osborne Collection of Early Children's Books**.

In June, First Nation Communities READ 2018–2019 announced the selected titles in the children's and young-adult/adult categories. Chosen by a jury of Indigenous librarians from across Ontario, these titles represent the best of Indigenous literature. The selections are *The Water Walker* by Joanne Robertson (children's), published by Second Story, and *Seven Fallen Feathers* by Tanya

Talaga (young adult/adult), published by House of Anansi. Their authors were presented with the Periodical Marketers of Canada PMC Indigenous Literature Award as part of National Indigenous History Month celebrations.

Guelph Public Library offers its annual First Nations reading program to encourage family literacy, intergenerational storytelling, and intergenerational information sharing.

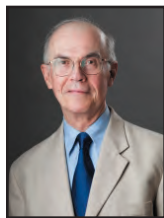
Bold transformation, new technologies, and a commitment to eliminate barriers are just some of the judging criteria of the 2018 OLA Library Architectural and Design Transformation Award. At the Annual Institute on the Library as Place event in July, the award recipients were **Conestoga College Library, Ryerson University Library, and Innisfill ideaLAB & Library, Lakeshore Branch**. Honourable mention: **Wellington County Library, Palmerston Branch**.

Quebec News

By Pierre Guilmette and Peter F. McNally



L'Association des bibliothécaires du Québec/Quebec Library Association (ABQLA) held its 86th Annual Conference, May 4, at the Loyola Campus of Concordia University, Montreal, with the theme All Inclusive: Leading, Inspiring, Empowering. The opening keynote presentation was by Cynthia Orozco



on Diversity and Inclusion in Action: Leadership at Any Level. The newly elected president of ABQLA is Katherine Hanz, Liaison Librarian, Co-ordinator, **McLennan Library, McGill University**. Recipient of the 2018 Anne Galler Award for Outstanding Library Service is Joan Fraser Burton, the sole library technician for the New Frontiers School Board (NFSB), which supports library service in NFSB schools across the Chateauguay Valley and the rest of Quebec.

Montreal's **Grand Bibliothèque** has reported problems with bedbugs infiltrating its upholstered furniture. Fumigators have been contracted to clear up the infestation.

Bibliothèque et Archives nationales du Québec (BAnQ) was without a director-general since the departure of Christiane Barbe in April 2017, after only serving from August 2014 to April 2017. The Government of Quebec has imposed a number of budgetary restraints in the cultural world, several of which have directly affected BAnQ. As a result, the search for a new director proved difficult, with several potential candidates refusing the post, and one candidate proposed by the administration of BAnQ rejected by the Minister of Culture. The provincial government therefore directly named a successor for Barbe, which led to the resignation of the president of the administrative council of BAnQ. Jean-Louis Roy was finally appointed to the position in May 2018. He has held various positions — including director of *Le Devoir* and delegate-general of Quebec in Paris — and is the author of 10 books. The choice of Roy seems to have received general consensus, but he is 77 years old. Will he be able to meet the demands of the job for several years? Is it impossible to find a librarian who can ensure the future of the BAnQ?

Maritimes News

By Tanja Harrison



The Healing Books project is an important mental-health initiative giving patrons of the **New Brunswick Public Library Service** access to more self-help books than ever before. Partners include the Horizon Health Network, with financial support from MindCare NB and the New Brunswick Public Libraries Foundation. The bibliotherapy program was inspired by a Horizon client who found hope by reading self-help books while under treatment for PTSD. All 63 branches will share the more than 1,300 books

on mental-health topics for all ages. A butterfly icon inside the books and in the online catalogue will identify the items.

The **R. P. Bell Library, Mount Allison University** in Sackville, N.B. announced the formation of a Libraries 2025 Vision Committee to advise the university on “the vision, scope, design, construction, and schedule for a major project to revitalize our libraries and archives.”

Ever innovative, the **Robertson Library, University of Prince Edward Island**, now offers Pressbooks. This open-source book-content management system supports faculty in the creation of print and online materials, helping to lower education costs for students.

If you're familiar with past columns, you might be wondering what unique lending program will the **Prince Edward Island Public Library Service** think of next? How do fitness kits for toddlers (e.g., a foam Frisbee) and for adults (e.g., skipping rope, resistance band, and yoga mat) sound? It also lends ukuleles! Musician Joel Plaskett has jumped on the bandwagon in Nova Scotia to help the **Halifax Public Libraries** launch the Sun Life Financial Musical Instrument Lending Library program, allowing patrons to borrow instruments such as drums, guitars, and banjos.

The **Esther Clark Wright Archives, Acadia University**, has launched the Adopt-A-Soldier program to the public. Adoptions are complete for more than 100 men and women affiliated with Acadia who participated in the First World War. The program continues until all 600-plus adoptees have been adopted by people willing to discover more about the soldiers and to find ways to celebrate their lives.

Dalhousie's 200th anniversary prompted the **Dalhousie Libraries University Archives** to create a digital exhibit called The Lives of Dalhousie University, a comprehensive two-volume history of the university (digitalexhibits.library.dal.ca/). On the site, you can also check out the new Kipling Scrapbooks digital exhibit, which includes material from Dal's renowned special collection.

The **Lunenburg Library** held its grand opening in the historic Lunenburg Academy. Constructed in the 1890s, the building is considered one of the oldest in the area. A modern library has emerged, complete with reminders of the former school throughout. Another renovation, at the busy **Keshen Goodman Public Library** in Halifax, will include an outdoor space extension with greenery, a kids' play area, and hammocks.

Libraries, Archives & Museums Nova Scotia (formerly Libraries Nova Scotia), has a new mission, logo, and website. Will art galleries join forces? Stay tuned for GLAMorous partnership news (explore at lamns.ca).

Newfoundland & Labrador News

By Dick Ellis



In my last report I noted that the Public Libraries Board was in receipt of the consultants' report on the system, and that a strategic plan was in the offing. And so it remains. It does

not appear that either the Ministry or the board will address the findings in a consolidated manner. In part, this is due to the fact that the minister of the day has been kicked out of cabinet and caucus for bullying other members of the party. The new minister, to his credit, has delivered the "dollop of new blood" mentioned in my last report. Of the six board members appointed by the Lieutenant Governor in Council, the three who have served the longest were not reappointed this round, including the individual who had chaired the board since the mid-1980s.

Once burned, twice shy, as the saying goes, so it is unlikely that the new minister will tackle the report, which makes a number of recommendations that only the government can implement, as well as some that are within the purview of the board. It is disappointing, although not surprising, that neither body wants to issue a report that will inevitably serve to highlight those

recommendations not implemented.

That said, the system has acquired a number of energetic librarians whose impact can be seen on the website. The system has partnered with the Center for Equitable Library Access to provide services to the print-challenged. Ground has not been broken on the new branch library in the town of the former board chair, and its construction is unlikely to begin before 2019, according to well-placed sources.

The strategic plan for **Memorial University Libraries 2018–2023** is complete (www.library.mun.ca/aboutus/aboutourlibraries/stratplan). It is a short document and aspirational rather than directive. In my reading, it is firmly grounded in the realities of the system.

News from Canadian Library/Information Studies Schools

Compiled by Judy Dunn



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

By Guy Robertson

In March, QS World University Rankings announced that it had judged UBC iSchool as the best in Canada for graduate education in library and information management, and fourth best in the world. To determine LIS rankings, QS compared the achievements of the schools at 50 universities in 17 countries, including five in Canada. In August, the iSchool welcomed its new professor, **Dr. Erik Kwakkel**. Formerly a professor in the Book and Digital Media Studies program and holder of the Scaliger Chair at Leiden University, Dr. Kwakkel has taught and conducted research at the University of Victoria and Corpus Christi College, Oxford. He became familiar with UBC through his two years as a lecturer from 2003 to 2005, and is happy to return. This year he will teach the History of the Book. His *Books Before Print* will be available in the near future.

News We Are Watching: ALA Accreditation

In 2015, the American Library Association (ALA) struck two task forces: Accreditation Process and Communication, and Context of Future Accreditation. Their reports were filed with the ALA Executive Committee in August 2016 and March 2017, respectively, and the recommendations were referred to either the ALA Committee on Accreditation or the ALA Committee on Education. Of particular interest to Canadian LIS programs is the proposal to revise the standards to take into account the higher educational context in Canada and the recognition that it is, in many ways, different than that in the U.S. Other notable recommendations are to align standards with the expectations of new and changing contexts, such as the embedding of LIS programs in iSchools, and to consider the accreditation of all programs, rather than just library programs, within iSchools. A request has been made to make these reports available on the ALA website.

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

By Toni Samek

SLIS has announced the appointment of **Assistant Professor Brenda Reyes Ayala**, effective July 1, 2018. She joins SLIS after completing her PhD in the Department of Information Science, University of North Texas. She also holds a master's degree in Human Computer Interaction from the Georgia Institute of Technology. Her scholarly interests include information retrieval, web preservation, and multilingual information access. In the summer of 2018, SLIS moved from Rutherford South to the Education Centre North, and will launch its 50th-anniversary celebration this fall, in tandem with marking the fifth anniversary of its online MLIS teaching-and-learning stream. Former colleague (1990–2003) **Dr. Hope Olson**, holder of

American Library Association's (ALA) Margaret Mann Citation, is the featured anniversary speaker. This fall Indigenous SLIS alumnae **Kayla Lar-Son** (MLIS 2018) and **Tanya Ball** (MLIS 2017) will co-teach a pioneering three-credit course entitled Indigenous Contexts for Library and Information Studies in Canada.

Western University, Faculty of Information and Media Studies

By Becky Blue

The MLIS program in the Faculty of Information and Media Studies (FIMS) was formally notified by the ALA in June of its re-accreditation. The program received "Continued" accreditation status, with no "Notices of Concern." FIMS would like to acknowledge the faculty, staff, and industry professionals (serving on the Consultation Committee) who put in the enormous amount of work required to successfully complete the review process. FIMS is now entering a period of transition, with **Professor Tom Carmichael** completing his 11-year tenure as dean in July 2018, and returning to his faculty position in Arts & Humanities. We wish Professor Carmichael all the best in his next adventure. The FIMS community looks forward to welcoming **Professor Lisa Henderson**, of the University of Massachusetts Amherst, as the new dean in January 2019.

University of Toronto (U of T), Faculty of Information (iSchool)

By Ann Brocklehurst

The iSchool has been given the green light from U of T for its proposed Bachelor of Information degree, and is awaiting final approval from Ontario's Ministry of Advanced Education and Skills Development. The first 25 students will begin their studies in the fall of 2019. The faculty has hired two new professors. **Olivier St-Cyr**, who has taught on contract since 2016, has joined permanently as an assistant professor, Teaching Stream. His research interests are human computer–interaction education, user-interface/user-experience design, and human factors for safety-critical systems. **Jia Xue** is a new joint appointment with both the Information and Factor-

Inwentash Social Work faculties. An assistant professor specializing in big data and social justice, her current research focuses on sexual abuse, child abuse, and gender-based violence in international and cross-cultural contexts.

University of Ottawa (uOttawa), School of Information Studies (ÉSIS)

By Hélène Carrier

ÉSIS had a special spring convocation in 2018. **Librarian and Archivist of Canada, Dr. Guy Berthiaume**, received an honorary doctorate and spoke eloquently of freedom of expression in his address to the graduates. We said *au revoir* to **University Librarian and Cross-Appointed Professor, Leslie Weir**, after 17 years at the helm of the University of Ottawa Library. With exceptional leadership and vision, Ms. Weir was the force behind the creation of Information Studies at uOttawa and a new graduate school, in 2009, and she will continue to play a key role at ÉSIS. The school's faculty received funding from the uOttawa's Teaching and Learning Support Services for the design of blended courses, in which some in-class time is substituted by equally meaningful online activities, providing more flexibility and options for students.

McGill University, School of Information Studies

By Peter F. McNally

Professor Elaine Ménard and **Dr. Alexandre Fortier** received The Best Overall Paper award for the highest ranked submission at the 46th Annual Conference of the Canadian Association for Information Science (CAIS) for their paper entitled "Quelles données satisfieraient les utilisateurs de sites web de musées?"

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

By Isabelle Bourgey and Martin Bélanger

EBSI is proud to announce that the Canada Research Chair on the Transformations of Scholarly Communication (CRCTSC) has been renewed for a five-year term — congratulations to **Professor Vincent Larivière** and his research team! On June

1, 2018, **Professor Dominic Forest** was promoted to Full Professor. **Professor Clément Arsenault** was appointed Executive Associate Dean and Faculty Secretary for the Faculty of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies, effective July 1, 2018. The nomination process for the new EBSI Director is underway, and the results will be announced this fall. **Professor Yves Marcoux**, who specialized in markup languages, structured documents, intertextual semantics, and communication design, has recently retired from teaching after a productive 27-year career. He will maintain research activities at ÉBSI as Associate Professor.

Dalhousie University, School of Information Management (SIM)

By Sandra Toze

SIM is excited to share our new Mission and Strategic Priorities, now updated on our website. Research highlights during the past year include **Dr. Vivian Howard's** role as part of a team of Faculty of Management (FoM) researchers with **MLIS student Tyler Lightfoot** as a research assistant. The team conducted a national survey of perceptions of social license in various sectors. **Dr. Louise Spiteri** is finishing the editing of her second book, while **Dr. Bertrum MacDonald's** Environmental Information: Use and Influence team is publishing and presenting broadly. **Dr. Mike Smit** received additional grant money to support his data-management research, and **Dr. Sandra Toze** is working with **Drs. Roy and Sharaput**, of the School of Public Administration, on a needs analysis for digital capacity with the federal government. This spring SIM hosted a successful Research Day where 12 students (MLIS, MIM, IDPhD) presented their work, and the MIM capstone-poster event showcased the work of 14 MIM students. ■

Milestones

Compiled by Wendy Newman



Obituaries

Alice Ann Bacon died on July 30, 2018, in Vancouver. She worked at public libraries in Vancouver, Bellingham WA, and Burnaby, B.C., then was the Lower Mainland co-ordinator for the B.C. Library Services Branch. Alice was instrumental in establishing the province-wide taped-books service and, in 1975, the Greater Vancouver Library Federation. For her contributions Alice was presented with the Helen Gordon Stewart Award and made an honorary life member of the B.C. Library Association. A scholarship was established in her name at UBC's School of Library, Archival and Information Studies, where Alice was an adjunct professor in the 1990s.

Patricia Vivian Fysh died on March 27, 2018, at age 92, in Guelph, Ont. She worked in the reference department of the Robarts Library at the University of Toronto.

Alto Bernice Hall died on February 28, 2018, at age 102, in Brantford, Ont. She was a teacher and librarian at Brantford Collegiate Institute.

Robert William Hepburn died on June 18, 2018, at age 58, in Oakville, Ont. He was a teacher-librarian at Abbey Park High School.

Virginia Edna Keith died on March 6, 2018, at age 87, in Peterborough, Ont. She was a reference librarian at Burlington Public Library.

Billy (Bill) Burns Manson died on April 1, 2018, at age 62, in Toronto. He worked in libraries in Alberta, Ontario, and Massachusetts, and was the retired CEO of Caledon Public Library in Ontario.

Stanley Melvin Olson died on May 24, 2018, in Abbotsford, B.C. He was a librarian at Trinity Western University.

Velma Dorothy Parker died on April 27, 2018, at age 76, in Ottawa. She was a cataloguer in the Map Library,

University of Ottawa, and later at the National Map Collection at what is now known as Library and Archives Canada. She was highly active in the development of standards, codes, and cataloguing methods for cartographic materials, working on both national and international standards committees, and participating in the development of Chapter 3 of the *Anglo-American Cataloging Rules* (AACR2).

Helen Perry Bryan Smith died on June 22, 2018, at age 85, in Toronto. She had a long career at Toronto Public Library Boys and Girls House.

Phyllis Esther Sandler Platnick died on August 28, 2018, at age 86, in Toronto. She worked at McMaster University Library and the college bibliocentre at what was then Ryerson Polytechnical Institute, before moving to the Glendon Campus of York University as a reference librarian at the Leslie Frost Library, where she eventually became the head librarian. Phyllis later completed studies at York University and what was then the National Archives of Canada, and became an archivist at York University. She was the author of two reference books.

Deborah Emily Scharbach Whiteman died on April 1, 2018, in Peterborough, Ont. From 2013 to 2017 she was Head, Department of Rare Books and Special Collections at the Thomas Fisher Rare Book Library, University of Toronto. She had previously worked with rare books at UCLA and Santa Clara University Library.

Retirements

Michael Ridley, Librarian and former CIO and Chief Librarian, University of Guelph, and currently a doctoral student at Western University, will retire in September 2018. He has held leadership positions at the University of Waterloo and McMaster University. A prolific writer and speaker, he has held many leadership roles in the library community, such as president of the Ontario Library

Association, treasurer of the Canadian Library Association, chair of the Ontario Council of University Libraries, and president of the Canadian Association for Information Science.

Awards

Larry P. Alford, University of Toronto, was given the 2018 Hugh C. Atkinson Memorial Award at the American Library Association's June Annual Conference, for significant contributions in the area of library automation or management and notable improvements in library services or research.

Tim Atkinson (retired: Vancouver Island University) was awarded the British Columbia Library Association Eureka Award in May 2018.

Anne Carr-Wiggin received the 2018 Library Association of Alberta President's Award for her major impact across the province. She has been NEOS Manager and Indigenous Initiatives Co-ordinator with the University of Alberta Libraries since 2009.

Judy Craig, who retired recently from Regina Public Library, is the recipient of the 2018 Council of Federation Award for her work in literacy with partners in education and community.

Fredericton Public Library is the 2018 winner of the Atlantic Provinces Library Association Advocacy Award, for its Biblio Bike project. This initiative visits communities, events, and festivals, signing up new members and delivering services to users who might not typically visit the library.

Hamilton Public Library is the 2018 recipient of the Ex Libris Association's W. Kaye Lamb Award for Service to Seniors for 2016–2017. Honourable Mention: **Mount Sinai Hospital**.

Dayna Hart, Teacher-Librarian at Constable Neil Bruce Middle School in West Kelowna, B.C., was named one of *Library Journal's* Movers & Shakers for 2018.

Colleen Murphy was awarded the 2018 Frances Morrison Award for outstanding service to libraries and an Honorary Life Membership in the Saskatchewan Library Association (SLA). She has held leadership positions in most areas of library practice and administration, served as the president of SLA, and worked on the transition to the Canadian Federation of Library Associations.

Conestoga College Library, Innisfil ideaLAB & Library, and Ryerson University Library were the three recipients of the Ontario Library Association's 2018 Library Architectural and Design Transformation Award. Honourable Mention: **Wellington County Library.**

Susan Pierce (Vancouver Island Regional Library) received the British Columbia Library Association Building Better Communities Award in May 2018.

Addendum:

Thanks to Maria Calderisi, former music librarian at the National Library, for adding a name to the list of librarians awarded the Order of Canada. **Helmut Kallmann**, head of the music division at what was then called the National Library of Canada, was appointed Member in 1986.

Appointments

Jennifer Adams, former University Librarian at the University of King's College in Halifax, has been appointed Acquisitions and Collections Assessment Librarian at Kwantlen Polytechnic University, Surrey, B.C., campus.

Alison Ambi was appointed to a three-year term as Division Head, Collection Strategies, Memorial University Libraries.

Dale Askey was appointed Vice-Provost (Learning Services) and Chief Librarian at the University of Alberta, effective August 2018. Among his former positions was Associate University Librarian for Library and Learning Technologies at McMaster University.

Lita Barrie was appointed CEO, Burlington Public Library, in June 2018. She was formerly Director, Collections and Youth Services at Hamilton Public Library and CEO, Grimsby Public Library.

Meagan Bowler was appointed Dean of Mount Royal University (MRU) Library, effective July 2018. She has served in several leadership roles at MRU, including Associate University Librarian for Collections and Digital Services and Interim University Librarian.

Christina de Castell was appointed Chief Librarian, Vancouver Public Library (VPL), in June 2018. She had served in senior positions at VPL, most recently as Acting Chief Librarian, and has been particularly active in copyright and digital-technology issues. Christina has been involved with the Canadian Federation of Library Associations, the British Columbia Library Association, and the Western Canada chapter of the Special Libraries Association.

Joan Cavanagh was appointed Interim University Librarian, University of Ottawa, in July 2018. Former University Librarian Leslie Weir has completed her term, which began in January 2003. Leslie has served as president of the Canadian Association of Research Libraries, chair of the Ontario Council of University Libraries, and president of the Ontario Library Association, among other leadership roles.

Ken Feser was appointed Chief Librarian, Medicine Hat Public Library, effective April 2018. He was formerly with the Government of Alberta, Public Library Services Branch, and Regina Public Library.

Janet Hathaway has been appointed the Interim University Librarian and Archivist, University of King's College, effective April 1, 2018.

Tim Janewski was appointed CEO of The Alberta Library (TAL) in March 2018. He has served TAL in various leadership roles for several years and was formerly Director of Library Services at The King's University in Edmonton.

Lauren Jessop was appointed CEO, Barrie Public Library (BPL), in May 2018. She had been BPL's Director of Customer Experience since 2016 and Acting CEO since March 2018.

Lori Kelly has been appointed Director, Mississauga Public Library, as of August 10, 2018. She had been Acting Director since April. Lori joined the city staff in 1997, and has been the City of Mississauga's Human Resources Manager, Manager of Strategic Community Initiatives, and a Senior Manager, Talent Management.

Terri Milton has accepted a position as Campus Librarian with the Nova Scotia Community College, Kingstec Campus, Kentville.

Mary-Jo Romaniuk was appointed Vice-Provost (Libraries and Cultural Resources) at the University of Calgary, effective September 2018. She served as University Librarian, University of Manitoba, from 2014 to 2018, and worked in several roles, including Acting Chief Librarian, at the University of Alberta. She succeeds Tom Hickerson, who has completed his term as Vice-Provost (Libraries and Cultural Resources). Hickerson, who was appointed to the position in 2006, will remain at the university on administrative leave until June 2020.

Suzanne van den Hoogen was appointed University Librarian at the Patrick Power Library, Saint Mary's University, effective August 2018. She was formerly Public Services Librarian at St. Francis Xavier University.

Deidre Walsh is the new Manager of Finance and Administration for the Queen Elizabeth II Library, Memorial University of Newfoundland (MUN). Before this, Deidre held a similar position with MUN's Centre for Innovation in Teaching and Learning. ■

Canadian Cities' Red-Hot Library Development Continues

By Barbara Clubb

This is the second in a series of combination ELAN newsletter/Ex Libris Association website feature articles highlighting exciting and inspiring new and renovated branch-library spaces — which began in ELAN No. 61/Spring 2017. (See article by Barbara Clubb, page 6.)

Canada's urban libraries are continuing their aggressive development of branch facilities as innovative, interactive, and integrated community hubs. Shown here, from above, are Greater Victoria Public Library's (GVPL) James Bay branch, *sx'ən'x'əŋ təŋəx'w* (Pronounced s-hweng hw-ung tongue-oo-hw, this is the Lekwungen name for James Bay.) and Winnipeg Public Library's Windsor Park branch.

See the full article with information and photos on these and other branches at www.exlibris.ca/doku.php?id=occasional_papers:red_hot_library_development and learn more about Halifax Public Library's Dartmouth North and Musquodoboit branches; Montreal Public Libraries Network Benny branch; Kingston Frontenac



Photo credits: Greater Victoria Public Library (above); Winnipeg Public Library, City of Winnipeg

Public Library's Rideau Heights branch; Markham Public Library's Aaniin branch; TPL's Albion, Amesbury Park, and Eglinton Square branches; Vaughan Public Libraries' Pleasant Ridge branch; Regina Public Library's Albert branch; Lethbridge Public Library's Main branch; and GVPL's *sx'ən'x'əŋ təŋəx'w* branch. This occasional paper features small but mighty spaces.

Many of these new or renovated branches are part of larger community facilities, and share resources and spaces.

Word-cloud phrases about these buildings would include: accessible, a place to go, community consultation, community responsive, early literacy, flexibility and adaptability, hub, LEED, makerspaces, natural light, part of larger complex, radical transparency, respect for and acknowledgment of Indigenous culture, striking design and artwork, and warm and welcoming. And a smaller but striking set of keywords and phrases would include: aquariums, community health and food security, community kitchens, less stack space but no diminution of collections, neighbourhood regeneration, outdoor reading and play, reading stairs, and sewing machines.

Technology underpins the increasingly responsive and efficient service, including after-hours branch access, creative studios, digital-media labs, hotspot loans, self-check and automated returns (some with receipt), sophisticated makerspaces, wireless access (often 24/7), and more. ■

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ELAN

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Ex Libris Association Newsletter

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History Amid the Highrises: John McKenzie House Tour

By Tom Eadie

On September 17, 2018, a group of Ex Libris members toured John McKenzie House in North York, home of the Ontario Historical Society (OHS) and its OHS Reference Library.

Located at 34 Parkview Avenue in Willowdale, only a few hundred feet from the highrises lining Yonge Street, John McKenzie House is identified in the society's brochure as "a combination of Edwardian, Arts and Crafts, and Queen Anne Revival" — very fitting for an organization centred on the preservation of Ontario's history. And indeed the OHS has had something to do with the building's continued existence. Built in 1913, by 1988 it had fallen into the hands of developers and was slated for demolition so that the land on which it



John McKenzie House Photo credit: Lynda Moon

stands could be redeveloped as part of the Mel Lastman–North York edifice complex. The combined efforts of the OHS, local citizens, and allied heritage groups, coupled with a fortuitous real estate crash, allowed the society to acquire the house. After five years of renovation the OHS took up residence in a piece of Ontario's history that it had managed to preserve and restore.

The OHS traces its history back to 1888 and the establishment of the Pioneer and Historical Association of Ontario, which within a year was renamed and incorporated by the Government of Ontario as the Ontario Historical Society. Beginning in 1899, it published *Papers and Records*, which became *Ontario History*. Initially dedicated to preserving documents and sources, *Ontario History* evolved into a peer-reviewed scholarly journal publishing research on Ontario's heritage (it's now offered in digital as well as print versions). Issues from 2013 to 2017 are open access from Érudit, while more-recent issues require subscriber login. The society also publishes the Ontario Heritage Directory & Map, listing heritage-related sites and organizations, and annually bestowing honours and awards to individuals and institutions



John McKenzie House Stable Photo credit: Sally Press

Continued on page 2

...continued from page 1



Vivienne James (left) thanks Sarah McCabe.
Photo credit: Sally Press

preserving and promoting Ontario's heritage. As part of its mission, the OHS provides educational resources such as webinars on diverse subjects ranging from treaty rights to digitization. And it has used its unique power to incorporate other non-profit historical associations to support 350 local historical societies across the province.

Of special interest to Ex Libris members, and the focus of our tour, is the society's library. The collection of approximately 5,000 items has been built from donations, many from the collections of notable scholars. It includes a wide range of books, journals, and ephemera related to Ontario's history, including First Nations history, Black

history, and architectural heritage.

Particular thanks are owed to Sarah McCabe, who manages the library, conducted the tour, and responded to our questions.

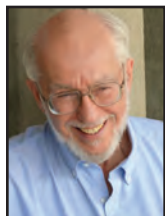
After the tour, some of us enjoyed a very pleasant lunch at the nearby Symposium Cafe.

George Santayana famously observed that "those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it." Perhaps one could say that those who can remember the past should be encouraged to preserve those memories — or support organizations such as the OHS that have dedicated themselves to the task.

<https://ontariohistoricalsociety.ca> |

President's Report

By Tom Eadie



Since this is my first *ELAN* President's Report, I will speak to the current status of Ex Libris, and some objectives we might pursue

over the next two years.

To begin: Ex Libris is a national association of personal members, which — with the demise of the Canadian Library Association — gives us a strong position when speaking on library, archival, and like matters. This position would be enhanced if we had more members outside central Canada. With this in mind, I seized the opportunity to speak to the Partnership meeting of representatives from the provincial and regional library associations of Canada in January, and indicated our interest in working more closely with them to develop joint memberships and to be open to the possibility of joint activities. I will be following up with the various representatives. This issue of *ELAN* includes our new column, "News from the North" (see the article by Julie Ourom, page 16) — a demonstration of our commitment to extend our reach.

Also, to enhance recruitment, I proposed, and the board approved at its January meeting, a gift-membership option: A current member can make

a \$10 tax-deductible donation and, in return, be able to invite someone to join ELA for a one-year free trial membership. The new member will have an opportunity to check us out and, we hope, decide to become a regular member.

We are all aware that the nature of librarianship and libraries, and indeed the entire information universe, has been evolving rapidly. The history of these changes is critical to understanding where we are, and how we got here. To this end, we want to recruit to our membership interested colleagues from outside the traditional 'library and archives' area who have also been involved in this evolution ... publishers and editors, systems-development professionals, and others who are interested in the preservation and dissemination of information.

I would like to draw attention, again, to the signal honour paid to our friend and colleague Jean Weihs. As you know, Jean was named to the Order of Canada. At our November conference, the University of Toronto Faculty of Information hosted a reception in recognition of Jean and her invaluable service to the profession and to Canadian librarianship.

I look forward to seeing more of you at our next Ex Libris Annual Conference and AGM in November and, for those in the Toronto area, at our next library tour (see "Upcoming Events" at right).

I am planning to update the membership on ELA activities via the listserv over the coming months. Please get in touch with me if you have questions, suggestions, or comments.
teadie@trentu.ca |

Upcoming Events

Ex Libris Spring Library Tour
May 29, 2019

Toronto's Arts & Letters Club
Archives, 14 Elm Street, Toronto

HOLD THIS DATE!

**2019 Ex Libris Association
Annual Conference and AGM**

Monday, November 4, 2019
Northern District Branch,
Toronto Public Library, 2nd Floor
40 Orchard View Boulevard, Toronto

The theme of the conference is "Wither, whither the future of print and the growth and future of non-print media."

Canadian Federation of Library Associations/Fédération canadienne des associations de bibliothèques (CFLA-FCAB) — the National Voice of Canada's Library Associations

By Shelagh Paterson, reporting on behalf of the CFLA-FCAB Board of Directors

The CFLA-FCAB board and special committees report on the following activities:

- signing of the RDA Toolkit Agreement with the American Library Association and Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals,
- continued government-relations support from Impact Public Affairs, which will develop a plan leading up to the 2019 federal election,
- approval of new statements on the Canada–United States–Mexico Agreement copyright extension, eContent in libraries, and use of library space (room rentals, for example),
- submission of a joint brief with the

Canadian Association of Research Libraries to Canadian Heritage on creator remuneration,

- administration of a survey on Voilà, Canada's national union catalogue (an analysis is currently underway and a report is coming soon),
- developing a draft of the first strategic plan, with member input, and
- the CFLA-FCAB National Forum, which will be held in partnership with the Manitoba Library Association at their 2020 conference in Winnipeg. (Dates will be announced shortly and all are welcome!)

At the AGM on January 30, 2019, the new board was elected with Alix-

Rae Stefanko continuing as Chair, Todd Kyle (Ontario Library Association) as Vice-Chair, Norene Erickson (Library Association of Alberta) as Secretary (the Treasurer appointment TBD). CFLA-FCAB is also happy to report that the board now has a Northern representative representing Yukon, Northwest Territories, and Nunavut library associations. In addition, revisions to the bylaws were approved to clarify the number of members and their nominations to the board.

Shelagh Paterson was treasurer of the CFLA-FCAB from 2016 to 2017. ■

W. Kaye Lamb Award for Service to Seniors 2020

By Rick Ficek

This is your opportunity to submit applications for the next W. Kaye Lamb Award. This biennial award is a major activity of the Ex Libris Association (ELA) and is co-sponsored by the Canadian Federation of Library Associations/Fédération canadienne des associations de bibliothèques (CFLA-FCAB). It is given in honour of William Kaye Lamb, the first National Librarian of Canada, Dominion Archivist and eminent historian (1904–1999).

This prestigious award, along with a \$500 cash prize, can be won by that Canadian library or archive which best serves its senior population. All types

of libraries — public, school, academic, and special libraries — are encouraged to apply. (Several non-governmental libraries have applied and been seriously considered for this award.)

Members — Please seek suitable candidates and encourage them to apply. There's still time to submit proposals!

Apply at: www.exlibris.ca/doku.php?id=award:application_for_wk_lamb_award

Apply by: September 30, 2019

For more information, contact Rick Ficek ficekrichard44@gmail.com ■

Welcome to New ELA Members

We're proud to welcome the following new ELA members:

Abiola Ajayi, Markham, ON
 Diana Calder, Cottam, ON
 Martin Chandler, St. Catharines, ON
 Nancy Cole, Toronto
 Janna Colton, Belleville, ON
 Virginia DiLauro, Caledon East, ON
 Mark Harvey, Markham, ON
 Erin Hoar, Edmonton
 Kim Huntley, Palgrave, ON
 Paul Laverdure, Sudbury, ON
 Celine Marcoux Hamade, Pickering, ON
 Pam McKenzie, London, ON
 Farid Miah, Toronto
 Michael Moir, Toronto
 Matt Scholtz, Tillsonburg, ON
 Brittany Pampalone, Wasaga Beach, ON
 Patricia Symon, Warton, ON

Correction

Suzette Giles should have been credited as the author of "Libraries Named After Librarians" on the cover of the Fall 2018 issue of ELAN (No. 64), "Inside This Issue." We regret this error.

Hamilton Public Library Lamb Award 2018 (2017)

In last spring's issue of *ELAN* (No. 63), we told you about the applicants for the 2017 W. Kaye Lamb Award for Service to Seniors — and about the winner, Hamilton Public Library (HPL). We were pleased that a team of staff members from the winning library made a presentation about their great work for seniors at the November 2018 Ex Libris Annual Conference and AGM. We heard from CEO Paul Takala, Manager (Ancaster and Lynden branches) Leslie Muirhead, Adam Van Sickle of Disability Information Services Programming, Director of

Public Services—Branches Dawna Wark, and Elizabeth Blackall, Manager, Information Hamilton Red Book Project.

HPL has a longstanding tradition of promoting library and information services to older adults. The City of Hamilton and the library are committed to being an Age-Friendly City (with characteristics defined by the World Health Organization). By choosing a multi-faceted approach, HPL has the flexibility to maintain long-standing services as well as to partner and collaborate on new initiatives, all under the umbrella of seniors' services. HPL

strives to offer ongoing and exceptional programs and services to the rapidly increasing number of older adults in its community. HPL also partners and collaborates with other community organizations — such as McMaster University, the Hamilton Council on Aging, and the Alzheimer Society — to promote seniors' services. HPL's free programs support social inclusion, lifelong learning, information literacy, digital literacy, and healthy aging — all in safe, accessible spaces.

Learn more at www.hpl.ca |



A team from Hamilton Public Library, winner of the W. Kaye Lamb Award, at the Ex Libris AGM
Photo credit: Hamilton Public Library



Presented by the Alzheimer Society, this Sit To Be Fit program gets seniors moving while they make new friends.
Photo credit: Hamilton Public Library



The library hosts regular meet-ups, so knitters, book club members, and gamers can share their interests and stimulate their minds. Photo credit: Hamilton Public Library

When You Move

When you move, please remember to send your new address to Ex Libris Association, Faculty of Information, University of Toronto, 140 St. George St., Toronto, ON M5S 3G6.

Ex Libris Biography Project

By Nancy Williamson

The biography database remains at 125 entries. I have no replies on Callie Israel's biography. I am working on the biographies of several people who are still alive.

For more information on the work of this committee, go to http://www.exlibris.ca/doku.php?id=history:biographies:biography_mainpage

For details on how to contribute, please contact me at:
nancy.williamson@utoronto.ca |

A Lively Event: The Annual Conference

By Doug Wilford

This year's conference had a packed program with several well-crafted presentations and inspiring talks. It really was a highlight of the Ex Libris Association year, and our two guest speakers were enlightening and informative.

The first speaker, Michael Moir, is University Archivist and Head Clara Thomas Archives and Special Collections, York University. His topic was *Affect of Generational Change on the Development of Archives*. After walking us through the earlier years of growth, development, and type of user, Michael addressed the present status of patron-driven demands — in particular from the tech-savvy generation-Y and generation-Z users. As a result, new directions in archival storage and accessibility involve movement toward digitization, and web-based and even social-media archival storage and retrieval. (See the article by Michael Moir in this issue, below.)

Our second speaker, R. Scott James, former City of Toronto Archivist, gave a lively presentation about the city's archives, entitled *An Illustrious Career and Institution*. He took us through his beginnings as the first assistant to the original City of Toronto Archivist, Bob Woadden, and spoke about the ups and downs in the development of the archives. After 17 years in the City

of Toronto Archives, Scott spent 12 years as the managing director of the Toronto Historical Board (now called Heritage Toronto, a charitable arm's-length agency), where he met Queen Elizabeth. After retirement Scott joined Toronto's Arts & Letters Club and became its volunteer archivist in 1997.

Both of these archivists spoke passionately and humorously about the love of their jobs and, in particular, their love of archives.

A staff team from Hamilton Public Library (HPL), the winner of the W. Kaye Lamb Award, told us about their service to seniors. Their interesting presentation made it clear why HPL won the award. (See "*Hamilton Public Library Lamb Award 2018 (2017)*" in this issue, page 4.)

Shelagh Paterson, Executive Director of the Ontario Library Association, brought us up to date on the activities of the Canadian Federation of Library Associations/ Fédération canadienne des associations de bibliothèques. (See the article by Shelagh Paterson in this issue, page 3.)

Jean Weihs, Member of the Order of Canada, gave a very inspiring and amusing story of her career — Jean was a real ground-breaker. Her talk was followed by a reception held by the University of Toronto's Faculty of Information (iSchool) to honour its special alumna! ■



Michael Moir Photo credit: Josh Henderson



R. Scott James Photo credit: Josh Henderson



From left: Wendy Newman, Nancy Williamson, Kelly Lyons, Jean Weihs, Lynne Howarth, Elizabeth Ridler
Photo credit: Josh Henderson

Generational Change and York University Libraries' Research Collections

By Michael Moir, University Archivist and Head Clara Thomas Archives and Special Collections York University Libraries

Archives usually project a sense of permanence and stability, yet they are increasingly buffeted by changes in their donor and user communities, as well as the technologies used to record and distribute information. These transformations have significant impact on the work of the Clara Thomas Archives and Special Collections of York University Libraries. While the mission of supporting research and teaching has

remained constant during a half-century of operations, approaches to collection development have evolved since the program began in the late 1960s.

Perhaps most notable has been the external pressure brought to bear by the Four Horsemen of the Baby Boom: retirement, residential downsizing, financial planning to protect redeemed savings plans from the Canada Revenue Agency, and failing health. As families

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Would you like us to extend our programming? A donation or bequest to Ex Libris helps us broaden and increase our activities. All donations are tax deductible.

seek to share the legacy of contributions made by this generation, they often turn to academic libraries to accept large book collections and archives that blur the line between personal and professional activities. The same could be said for organizations formed during

Continued on page 6

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the mid-20th century that contemplate the state of their records as they mature and approach significant anniversaries. Such deliberations led to the donation of archives by the Mariposa Folk Foundation in 2007. Closer to home, the retirement of York's initial cohort of faculty expanded the scope of holdings to include social and natural sciences. The donation of research data brought issues of access to documents involving human participants who were not asked if interviews or questionnaires could be given to a publicly accessible repository, where they will be used for reasons totally unrelated to their original purpose.

These demographic forces reshaped

collection development. Acquisitions have shifted from the archivists' focus on Canadian women, writers, the arts, social and urban reform, and the multicultural imagination, to include the research interests of new faculty such as communications, sexuality, and environmental studies. Greater emphasis is also placed on patron-driven acquisitions that fill gaps in the sources available to support research. Graduate students with York's History Department identify privately held records that offer new perspectives for diasporic studies involving the Portuguese, Greek, and Coptic communities, with a similar approach developed with the Italian



The True Davidson Reading Room on the third floor of Scott Library, York University Libraries (Note the Saarinen pedestal chairs, which have become collectors' items.) Photo credit: Michael Moir

Canadian Archives Project. Appraisal decisions are entrusted to historians, who can build cultural and linguistic bridges unavailable to the archivists. York University Libraries, on the other hand, provides the infrastructure necessary to ensure that these sources can be shared with an international community on an enduring basis.

Many of these developments have digital components that seek to free content from the surly bonds of paper, and to meet the growing expectation that if content is not on the Internet it does not exist. Despite these changes, it is reassuring to note the growing number of visits by undergraduate courses to our classroom and the thrill among students when handling original documents instead of Web-based digital surrogates, even if modern cursive writing has become almost as much of a mystery as Latin in a Book of Hours from the 15th century. ■



High-density shelving in the vault of the Clara Thomas Archives and Special Collections Photo Credit: Courtesy of York University Libraries

Canadian Research Knowledge Network (CRKN) Offers Free Access to Online Canadiana Collections

As of January 1, 2019, all Canadiana content included in Early Canadiana Online, Héritage, and Canadiana Online is available at no charge to users. This provides free access to a huge amount of Canadian documentary heritage to researchers throughout the world. According to the CKRN, these collections represent 60 million pages.

"The Early Canadiana Online and Canadiana Online collections are comprised of Canadian monographs, periodicals, government publications, newspapers, and annuals and amount to over 19 million pages. The Héritage collection, developed in partnership with Library and Archives Canada (LAC) and CRKN, includes 900 collections of 41 million pages of archival materials. The Héritage collection includes scans of microfilm taken from some of LAC's most sought-after archival collections."

— Ralph Manning

Technology Unmasked: Social Media

By Stan Orlov



Today it is hard to meet someone who doesn't spend some time online. Researchers at Ryerson University's Ted Rogers School of Management found

that 94 percent of adult Canadian Internet users have at least one social-media account, with Facebook being the most popular (84 percent), followed by YouTube (59 percent), LinkedIn (46 percent), Twitter (42 percent), Pinterest (38 percent), Instagram (37 percent), and Snapchat (22 percent). Eighteen- to 34-year-olds are mostly similar in their habits to the 35-plus group, but far outweigh their older counterparts on Instagram and Snapchat. It's no wonder that 96 percent of public libraries — and more than 90 percent of academic, school, and government libraries — use social media to reach patrons. After evaluating the outreach potential and the effort involved in keeping

marketing and communication channels current, libraries have concentrated their efforts as follows: Facebook (99 percent), Twitter (51 percent), Instagram (48 percent), Pinterest (39 percent), YouTube (35 percent), LinkedIn (15 percent), and Snapchat (10 percent).

Keeping communication channels open and buzzing is hard work. Forty percent of libraries have a communication strategy, but only 17 percent say it's current, largely because 71 percent of the libraries don't have the necessary staff resources. Still, in addition to using trusted-and-true print materials and library websites, eight out of 10 libraries post photos, videos, or library information on social media.

Here are a few creative ways libraries engage patrons: infographics on Pinterest, how-to videos on YouTube, links to recommended blogs on Twitter, Bookface and Book Bento photos on Instagram, and organized Snapchat takeovers (letting an outside influencer create a library story that will disappear in 24 hours, but might draw many new followers in that ephemeral "day").

Social media are rapidly evolving, but one thing is constant — libraries will find ways to use them to reach their patrons.

For more information, go to:

- <https://socialmedialab.ca/2018/02/25/state-of-social-media-in-canada/>
- https://www.oclc.org/content/dam/research/publications/2018/216084_2018_Public_Library_Marketing_Report.pdf
- <https://www.pewinternet.org/2018/05/31/teens-social-media-technology-2018/>
- <http://forums.techsoup.org/cs/community/b/tsblog/archive/2017/10/12/how-libraries-use-social-media.aspx>

Stanislav Orlov is Systems Librarian at Mount Saint Vincent University in Halifax. Please send your questions and comments to stan.orlov@msvu.ca. I

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.superrover@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.

Why I Became a Librarian

By Sally Press

I grew up in Salisbury, Rhodesia (now Harare, Zimbabwe), where I remember working as a volunteer in my elementary-school library. In high school I took a vocational guidance test, and, because I was good at languages and enjoyed writing, they advised me to train as either a teacher, journalist, or librarian. I was too shy to be a journalist, did not want to be a teacher, and librarianship was a respected profession, so I applied to universities and was accepted at the University of Cape Town (UCT) in South Africa (a three-day train journey from home). I studied for a BA in English and French, and completed my studies with a post-graduate Library Science Diploma. In library school I had taken the children's librarianship option, but, when it was time to find a job, I accepted a position in the cataloguing department at the University of Rhodesia (Zimbabwe). I was

later transferred to the map library where I was "embedded" within the Geography Department and worked with lecturers and students there until I left for the U.K.

After a year in England, where I could not work as a librarian because I was not chartered, I returned to Cape Town to work in the cataloguing department at UCT. I was responsible for cataloguing, among other subjects, political science books. This was a very sensitive area in South Africa at that time, and I had access to material that most people never saw. It was also while working at UCT that I met my future husband, who had come in to visit a mutual friend — we were introduced at the card catalogue where I was checking authorities! (At that time we still wrote out the catalogue cards by hand, the typists then typed them, and we filed them in the wooden card

Continued on page 8

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catalogues.) Working as a cataloguer in an academic setting gave me valuable insight into the relationship between information retrieval and the way material is catalogued and classified.

When I was offered a job at the first nuclear power station to be built in South Africa, I accepted it. I spent seven years at Koeberg Nuclear Power Station, developing a library specializing in resources such as International Atomic Energy Agency safety guides, and learning about health, physics, containment buildings, nuclear reactors, and Harrisburg and Chernobyl, among other things.

In 1988 when my husband and I moved to Toronto with our baby daughter, I was lucky enough to get a job at the Ontario Ministry of Energy, probably because of my experience at the nuclear power station. My time there was a succession of maternity-leave contracts, but I met some really great librarians and became familiar with the Ontario Government's library network. After we had our second baby, I took a part-time job at the Canadian Plastics Institute, where I learned about extrusion, blow moulding, injection moulding, and various types of plastics, so that I could help clients in their searches for materials and processes for their products. I also had the opportunity to work with people from the Canada

Institute for Scientific and Technical Information as well as the National Research Council, and did a survey of the information needs of the plastics industry in Canada, which involved interviewing key people in different companies throughout the country.

From there I moved to the Leisure Information Network, where I worked as Information Specialist for the Active Living affiliate of the Canadian Health Network (CHN). This involved health-related organizations throughout Canada working together to offer information on a government-funded website. Working groups included website design. We provided links to articles from member organizations and wrote feature articles and FAQs on health issues of current interest, while also promoting the CHN website at conferences and trade shows throughout Canada. Unfortunately this closed down when the federal government funding was withdrawn.

Following this, I worked on contract at Seneca College for a few months and was then offered a dream job as Information Specialist at an engineering company, where I spent the next few years setting up a library with specialized areas such as landscape architecture, environment, and transportation engineering. I later worked for an Australian geotechnical engineering company.

Other projects I was involved in included updating a cataloguing manual (with a former CHN colleague), and working at the Canada-Ontario Export Forum, which gave me an introduction to the field of exports and to some of the trade agreements in operation. Working with Maggie Weaver, I gave workshops to people interested in exporting from Canada, as well as running the organization consisting of various government and other export-related groups.

So, I became a librarian because I liked research and reading and writing, and this led me into all sorts of interesting areas. It gave me the opportunity to learn about topics I would never have known about, meet a wide and fascinating range of people in academic, technical, and government organizations, and to travel throughout Canada and the U.S. In 1986 I wrote an article about the paperless library, "The future of libraries and librarians," for *Mousaion* (published by the University of South Africa). It is reassuring, given what has come about since then, to see that the strength of the library community — and the ability of librarians to adapt — has allowed us to meet and rise above new challenges. It will be interesting to see what comes next. ■

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 Ex Libris 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.

Books of Interest to Members

ELAN welcomes news about books by ELA members.

Send a brief description or an advertising brochure to jean.weihhs@gmail.com.

Libraries Named after Librarians

By Suzette Giles

This is the 16th in a series of articles about outstanding librarians and the libraries named after them.

London Public Library, Beacock Branch



E. Stanley Beacock
Photo credit: Ivey Family
London Room, London
Public Library

Stanley Beacock will be a familiar name to some members of the Ex Libris Association — Beacock founded the association, served as the first president, and edited the newsletter for

eight years. However members may not be aware that he worked at the London Public Library and Art Museum (LPL&AM) until 1980, on three different occasions.

Ernest Stanley Beacock was born on January 21, 1921, to Lambert and Eva Beacock, in Flos Township, Simcoe County, Ont. Mainly educated locally, he continued to Queen's University in Kingston, Ont., obtaining a degree in 1942. After serving in Italy during World War II, Beacock became a clerk in the circulation department of LPL&AM in 1946.

In 1947, after attending the University of Toronto Library School, Beacock became Chief Librarian of the Lambton County Library, setting up a county hub in Wyoming, Ont., and organizing services throughout the area.

Impressed with the community support for libraries in Ohio, in 1949 he became Chief Librarian of the Kenton Public Library in Kenton, Ohio. He remained in Ohio for 12 years, moving to the larger Troy Public Library in 1953.

In 1961 Beacock was invited to return to LPL&AM as Assistant Director. Municipal boundaries had recently changed and suburban areas were now under the auspices of LPL&AM. Beacock was known for his willingness to meet and listen to staff, and he personally met with each new staff

member. While a new branch was opened in 1963, there were frustrations around funding and responsibilities.

An opportunity for a change occurred in 1966, and Beacock became Director of the newly instituted Midwestern Regional Library Co-operative. The creation of a central processing centre was a priority.

In 1974, however, the Director of LPL&AM resigned and Beacock was selected to replace him. In Beacock's absence, the population of London had increased; there were 10 branches and an expanded central library. A strike



Photo credit: Courtesy of London Public Library

by the professional public librarians — the first such occurrence in Canada — and high staff turnover indicated a workplace with considerable challenges. In a controversial move, the position of Assistant Director was replaced by Manager, Personnel Services, and a non-librarian, with experience in the business sphere, was hired.

Beacock was a strong supporter of staff development as throughout his career he had continued his own studies including a part-time Master of Library Science at the University of Toronto, completed in 1969.

When a report was required to justify a new branch library, rather than hire an outside consultant, Beacock seconded the head of the London Urban Resource Centre. The resulting report was well received, with the city council

providing funding to rebuild the W. O. Carson Branch (see "Libraries Named After Librarians" by Suzette Giles in *ELAN* No. 63/Spring 2018, on page 11) in 1977. Funding restraints led to the opening of two more branches in school portables. In 1980 the art gallery moved to a new location, allowing for a renovation of the central library, and the Northland Branch was rebuilt in 1982.

With increasing operational costs, automation had to be considered. In 1979 the library purchased a Geac 8000 system for circulation and, after a pilot project, there was an extension to all branches, a first for Canadian public libraries.

Beacock retired in 1984. At the reception he was presented with several volumes of articles, photographs, and letters of appreciation that celebrated his career at LPL&AM. In 1985 the Northland branch was renamed in his honour.

Beacock died in London on March 2, 2004. Together with his wife, he left a lasting legacy in the form of bursaries for S.L.I.S. students.

Thanks to Rick Ficek for suggesting this library.

A major source was a guided research paper by Laura Reilly, entitled "Stan, our man, E. Stanley Beacock, half a century of library service to the people," Faculty of Information and Media Studies (FIMS), University of Western Ontario, 2002. Supplied by the FIMS Graduate Library.

Thanks to London Public Library, which supplied articles and the photos.

Articles in ELA newsletters by and about Stanley Beacock — including "How I Became a Librarian," ELAN No. 26/Fall 1999, on page 5 — can be found using the ELAN index. ■

Library Treasures of Britain: The Paddington Library, London

By Guy Robertson



Much is made of the British Library and the Bodleian, and the libraries of Cambridge University have earned the respect of library historians and other

commentators worldwide. But Trevor does not care. He sits in a public area of the Paddington Library in London's Porchester Centre and reads any material he can find on the Battle of Britain.

"I have no shame," he says with a toothless grin. "I love this library and all the stuff about the RAF. It's hardly posh here, and pretty small compared with the big libraries that university people use, but I swear that the Paddington Library gives a geezer like me everything what's needed and no questions asked and no aggro. That's what a library's for, innit?"

Originally called Porchester Hall and constructed between 1923 and 1925, the building was enlarged by 1929 to include the library and Turkish baths. Now dubbed Porchester Centre, it serves as a community resource for the busy Bayswater neighbourhood. Locals drop in for exercise classes, hot yoga sessions, concerts by popular musicians such as Van Morrison and Kylie Minogue, and family swimming hours in a public pool whose vapours permeate every space apart from the library, which smells of the liberally applied cleaning fluid used in countless British public buildings. But what strikes the first-time visitor to the library is its silence. No matter how many patrons occupy the chairs near the stacks, one rarely hears even a whisper. No clicking keyboards, howling infants, or loquacious teenagers disturb the peace. If one listens hard, one might hear Trevor turning a page.

The library interior appears to be of recent refurbishment, but slightly shabby in the way many urban buildings become after heavy use. There are two levels. The ground floor contains a collection of DVDs, substantial crime and fiction collections, and the washrooms. The lower ground floor offers a respectable



Entrance Photo credit: Guy Robertson

collection of non-fiction, including a section on the social sciences. The history shelves hold numerous titles concerning both world wars.

"Most of the old veterans have died off," says a circulation clerk, "but their children and grandchildren visit the library to find information on what their families went through during the wars. There's quite a few books on the Blitz and the evacuation of London's children to places way from the bombing."

Speaking of children, one wonders where they are. The library seems to be for adults only.

"The children's materials are in the Paddington Children's Library at 150 Queensway, a two-minute walk from us," says the clerk. "It's not as busy as we are, but then it's not open as often." Perhaps the children's library would attract more young patrons if it installed near its entrance a sculpture that currently sits in the lobby of Porchester Centre: a version of *The Reading Girl*, carved by the Milanese artist Pietro Magni in 1861. A realistic portrayal of a working-class girl in a humble setting, this statue could inspire children to follow her example. Doubtless she would receive a nickname: perhaps "Hermione" in honour of the popular character in the Harry Potter books. But what is she reading? Patrons are bound to ask.

In fact the book she holds contains patriotic verse by the popular Italian poet and playwright Giovanni Battista Niccolini (1782–1861).

"For the current purposes of our library and its patrons, the kind of literature she's reading is not important," says the clerk.



Main floor Photo credit: Guy Robertson

"She's holding a book, not a mobile phone. She's reading something other than a text message. I think she could set a good example for our local kids, who can't stop staring at screens. Really, there's a place for her at both of the library's locations, since she could inspire adults as well."

One senses that the library and its location have always been works in progress, and that *The Reading Girl* will find a new home — or homes — in the near future.

<https://www.westminster.gov.uk/library-opening-hours-and-contact-details#paddington-library>

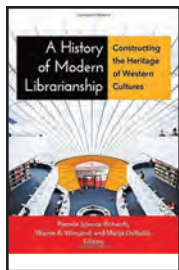


The Reading Girl Photo credit: Guy Robertson



Book Reviews

Edited by Susan Ibbetson



A History of Modern Librarianship: Constructing the Heritage of Western Cultures

Pamela Spence Richards, Wayne A. Wiegand, and Marija Dalbello, eds.
Libraries Unlimited, 2015.
ISBN: 978-1610690997. \$98.17

Reviewed by Rudi Denham

A *History of Modern Librarianship* is a collection of in-depth and scholarly essays by numerous contributors, who provide greater insight into how libraries impacted the cultural

heritage and identities of Western traditions in Africa, Australia, Canada, Europe, New Zealand, and the U.S.

Intended for students and educators in library science, as well as interdisciplinary and international historians and practitioners, each essay includes an extensive bibliography for further research.

Wiegand's essay on the U.S. and Canada provides a fascinating history of Canadian librarianship, including identifying the first travelling library along the coast of British Columbia, where books were distributed free of charge by the Canadian Pacific Railroad. It documents the Canadian shift from following British and European precedents to a closer partnership with the U.S. Though public libraries were committed to supporting the

principles of neutrality and intellectual freedom, they had to operate within their political environments and limit selections and services to those demanded by their funders and users.

Although my interest and focus was on public libraries, a detailed table of contents provides the ability to focus on areas of interest geographically, by type of library, or by historical trend.

The primary editor, Pamela Spence Richards, died some years before the manuscript was complete. Wiegand and Dalbello reimagined the project, contacted some of the original contributors, and commissioned new ones to assist in the creation of the current edition, with proceeds donated to a scholarship in her name. ■



You Could Look It Up: The Reference Shelf from Ancient Babylon to Wikipedia

By Jack Lynch
Bloomsbury, 2016.
ISBN: 978-0802777522. \$35.83

Reviewed by Peter F. McNally

After a career spent primarily as a library educator — teaching reference service and bibliography — reading this book brought back happy memories of being a reference librarian, but also invited uncertainty about the future of reference service and sources.

Jack Lynch, professor of English, Rutgers University, and author of books

on Dr. Johnson and lexicography, has written in his introduction: “both a history and a love letter to the great dictionaries, encyclopedias, and atlases. It is also ... something of a eulogy: we may be approaching the end of the era of the reference book.”

Fifty titles are discussed, each being “interesting ... first of their kind ... the biggest ... most learned ... most controversial ... most influential ... most eccentric or quixotic.” They are analyzed in pairs, “two more or less contemporary works on related subjects ... set ... in their historical context.”

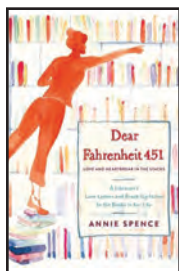
Organized chronologically, the first entry is the “Code of Hammurabi” (1754 BC) and the last is Schott’s *Original Miscellany* (2002 AD). Some entries are obvious — Diderot’s *Encyclopédie* (1751–1771) and *Encyclopaedia Britannica* (1768–1771) — others less so — *Harris’s List of Covent Garden Ladies* (1761), a guide to London

prostitutes. Insightful analysis is provided throughout. Along with analysis, titles receive bibliographical descriptions, including size provided in different ways, such as weight! An epilogue discusses Wikipedia with acknowledgement of its value and strengths, but also indicates its failings — presentism, monopoly, and authority. Short chapters, placed between longer chapters studying the titles, provide general insights on reference publishing and service. An unsettling revelation was that a third edition of *The Cambridge Bibliography of English Literature* is now considered financially unviable, electronically or in print.

Lynch writes with humour and insight. The book is illustrated, footnoted, and indexed; it also contains a glossary of terms. It complements *Cuneiform to Computer: A History of Reference Sources* (1998) by B. Katz. Recommended for all reference librarians, past and present. ■

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Dear Fahrenheit 451: Love and Heartbreak in the Stacks: A Librarian's Love Letters and Breakup Notes to the Books in Her Life

By Annie Spence
Flatiron Books, 2017.
ISBN: 978-1250106490. \$17.70

Reviewed by Julia Schneider

Dear Dear,
I didn't expect to like you. "Love Letters and Breakup Notes" to the books in your life? Really?

But you won me over. To paraphrase your fourth-grade book review, the one about *Anastasia Krupnik*: "You're smart and funny and I like your lists." You make

me smile. I'm really glad you're a librarian; I can't imagine you as anything else.

In fact you are both smart and hilarious. You entertain me. Sometimes I can't decide whether you're more interested in recommending books or providing reasons not to read them (as with Judy Blume's *Forever*, which you convinced me I was too mature to "get into"), and that is fine. You've even made me enjoy books, like *Color Me Beautiful*, more in retrospect, because your insights are so personal. Do you think I should put you on my shelf next to Nancy Pearl's action figure and book reviews, or would you feel more comfortable with Erma Bombeck and her short perceptive essays about all kinds of things? I'd appreciate your comments, though I can't say I see you as a classification expert.

In my view, your funniest line came in the midst of your failed attempt to get rid of *Scenes for Student Actors*: "I hate weeding the thespians." Your

most puzzling review: that of *The Giving Tree*. Your most moving: the one of *The Fledgling*, which convinced me I had to read the book, and I did. Thank you. Now I understand why you called your son Walden; by the way, my gecko's name is Georgie.

You have left me with lists of books to go to, and others to avoid, and that is great. In the meantime, if I'm ever out of books to read, I can always reread yours. One question, though, that bothers me: why all the expletives? Your writing doesn't need them and, frankly, every time I saw one I thought of how my sixth-grade students would react. Maybe I've adopted their prudish attitudes? But we don't want to turn off anyone from reading, do we?

Anyway, Annie, thank you for your book. I think of us as friends.

Sincerely,
Julia ■

Books by Members



Front-Line Librarianship: Life on the Job for Today's Librarians

By Guy Robertson
Chandos, 2018.
Paperback ISBN: 978-0081027295;
eBook ISBN: 978-0081027783



The G20: Evolution, Interrelationships, Documentation 2nd Edition

By Peter I. Hajnal
Routledge, 2019.
Hardback ISBN: 978-1138577503;
eBook ISBN: 978-1351266802

Humour in the Library

By Matt Scholtz

The week started with a crisis at the library. It all began when a staff member said, "Matt, we have a problem." (In the same tone as "Houston, we have a problem.")

A fellow in town had won a boat on Roll Up the Rim at Tim Hortons. He had come in with the legal form that he needed to claim his prize and wanted a copy. Staff put it through the automatic feeder, but failed to notice that he had stapled the winning tab to the form. The form came out. The tab did not. We looked in all the usual places, but these places are meant to retrieve large sheets of paper, not little Tim Hortons tabs! There's a fair bit of heat in there, we worried. Did that winning tab get fried?

When I called the copier people to explain the problem, their initial reaction was to laugh uproariously — which was no help to me in my stressed-out state. They promised to send a technician shortly, but I found it difficult to wait. So I took a flashlight and really poked into the bowels of that copier, and there was that darn little red-and-yellow tab. I have never been so glad to see a Tim Hortons cup — or at least part of one! Fortunately, I had a pair of long-reach tweezers. Gingerly, but with a trembling hand, I probed the copier rollers, latched on to the tab, and pulled it out to the cheers of staff.

I guess that will be the closest I ever get to a winning Roll Up the Rim. And people think nothing exciting ever happens in a library?

Twenty-Five Years in Yukon Public Libraries

By Julie Ourom

Whitehorse is big enough, but not too big. It's easy to get to know people here, and the wilderness on my doorstep is a year-round delight. I moved here in 1990, looking for a new challenge in a place where I could make a difference: it was a good choice.

There is fascinating history here — who can resist tales of the region's Klondike gold rush? — but that's not the whole picture. The Indigenous people at the heart of this place, here since time before time, are joined by people like me from "outside."

For me, Yukon's entrenchment of Indigenous rights was a strong attraction. Eleven of the 14 Yukon First Nations are self-governing, with the power to make and enact laws in respect of their lands, resources, governance, and programs. Working in a government setting in a small jurisdiction also appealed to me.

Public libraries are a legislated responsibility of the Yukon government. Most Yukoners live in the capital, Whitehorse, where the central library offers direct service to the territory and supports 14 community libraries. To manage these libraries, we travelled year-round, primarily by road (Old Crow, Yukon's most northerly community, is above the Arctic Circle and only has air or river access). Each government car had its unique challenges, and we certainly had adventures — being locked out one morning with the engine running in -40 degrees in Dawson City, sliding off a remote road one winter (our injuries were minor, but the car was a writeoff), and more than one flat tire. There were sunny days, snowy days, starry



Summer Yukon library visit in Teslin, 2002 Photo credit: Julie Ourom

skies, northern lights, meteor showers, sunrises, and sunsets. I saw black bears and grizzlies, bison, moose, and lynx.

In the fall, the animals moved over the land to their winter homes. In the spring, the sky was full of birds flying north. In the summer we met more traffic, while we could easily drive half a day without seeing another soul in the winter. Sometimes we took a minivan to workshops in far-flung communities. Dogsleds carried us across the famous Lake Laberge to a National Book Festival featuring Arthur Black, while we took a boat to an archival event at Fort Selkirk. Yukon's community libraries provide an important public service to their small populations, and travel kept us in touch. Author readings, film shows, children's activities, and other events drew people inside.

As a middle-sized fish in a small

pond, I also had the opportunity to represent Yukon for many years on national committees, collaborating with many great people to achieve incredible outcomes.

One usually knows when it's time to retire. Before I set a date, I saw the new Whitehorse Public Library through from start to finish. This library shares space with the Kwanlin Dün Cultural Centre, built by the Yukon's largest First Nation, on the Whitehorse waterfront. I will always feel happy when I step through the doors. I became a librarian because I believed that libraries make a difference in people's lives — and nothing in my career diminished this faith.

Five years past retirement, Whitehorse remains my home, although I also spend time in Vancouver to enjoy the best of both worlds. ■

British Columbia News

By Guy Robertson



In 2018, patrons of the **Vancouver Public Library (VPL)** borrowed more than 9.3 million items, and the number of e-books and e-audiobooks

on loan increased substantially. Concerned about the rising costs of electronic items, VPL recently joined the growing number of Canadian libraries that encourage multinational publishers, such as Macmillan and Penguin Random House, to improve (i.e., lower) their pricing. The publishers' reaction so far has been described by one VPL librarian as "tentative," but it is hoped that e-book prices will not increase so much and

so quickly in future. VPL has been very pleased with its Indigenous Storyteller in Residence Program, established in 2008 as a way to connect Indigenous communities with non-Indigenous people. The 2019 Indigenous Storyteller in Residence is Joseph A. Dandurand, a member of the Kwantlen First Nation located on the Fraser River and Director of the Kwantlen Cultural Centre. Well-known for his plays and poetry, Dandurand

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studied theatre and directing at the University of Ottawa. Mawenzi House has just released his newest collection of poems, *SH:LAM (The Doctor)*.

Recently the **University of Victoria Libraries** was delighted to receive from Professor Emeritus Werner Israel a collection of books from his personal library, including a first edition (1973) of *The Large Scale Structure of Space-Time* by Stephen Hawking and G. F. R. Ellis. In processing the book, a library staff member discovered a signed letter dated February 6, 1981, from Hawking to his friend and colleague Israel. During their careers, they shared an interest in black holes and collaborated on titles concerning general relativity and gravitation. In February the **Library Research Commons, Simon Fraser University**, hosted a workshop led by Mahendra Mahey, Manager of the British Library (BL) Labs. In his introductory lecture, Mahey described a number of the BL's digital collections and discussed the challenges he has faced since he arrived at the library six years ago. He emphasized that over the years the collections have grown in size and popularity, and there remain an enormous number of items to convert to digital formats. During the workshop, participants explored various data sets and hunted for interesting patterns in digitized texts. Not to be outdone in the search for digital fun, the **University of British Columbia (UBC) Rare Books and Special Collections** department has joined the **New York Academy of Medicine Library** and other institutions in offering access to a series of digital colouring books, a new tool to attract patrons and inspire curiosity about works such as the Kelmscott Chaucer and a UBC Library publication entitled *Mythical Creatures*, which contains drawings of monsters including a charming unicorn and a selection of dragons. Librarians note that digitizing the Kelmscott Chaucer was difficult owing to the book's tight binding and small gutters. Rather than using the usual bound-book scanner, which might have damaged the binding, the digitization team recorded the contents with a scanner-cum-digital-camera that captured the elaborate details of the layout.

Prairies News

By Alvin M. Schrader



The **Provincial Archives of Saskatchewan** announced on November 22, 2018, that it would centralize operations at one Regina site, by cabinet order;

four locations will be closed including one located on the University of Saskatchewan campus in Saskatoon. Arthur Silver Morton, Head of the Department of History and Librarian at the University of Saskatchewan, was largely responsible for the creation of the archives in 1937, originally called the Historical Public Records Office, with Morton as Keeper of the Public Records. The consolidated Regina office is scheduled to open in August 2019. Provincial Archivist Linda McIntyre said they plan to digitize more records for broader accessibility.

Saskatchewan History, begun in 1948, announced that the winter 2017 magazine issue would be its last, citing declining subscriptions and funding. It was published by the **Provincial Archives of Saskatchewan**, which has digitized all of their 182 back issues (1948–2017). These are available as free PDF downloads.

The **Edmonton Public Library** held a one-day seminar for staff and local colleagues entitled *Intellectual Freedom in the 21st Century*, with panelists James Turk, Toni Samek, and Gail de Vos, moderated by Alvin M. Schrader, on September 11, 2018. A unique event in Canadian public librarianship, the seminar explored issues and concerns involving current social movements affecting how we approach intellectual freedom in libraries and the impact of social media on intellectual freedom. Attendees were challenged to think about how library professionals can ensure they recognize when personal and professional core values are in conflict.

The **Calgary Public Library** opened its new 240,000-square-foot **Central Library** on November 1, 2018, with astronaut Chris Hadfield dedicating the building. The long-anticipated, new \$245-million facility opened last November and was \$10 million under budget, according to Calgary Mayor Naheed Nenshi.

The **Calgary Public Library** plans to open an **Indigenous Languages Resource Centre**, dedicated to preserving Indigenous languages. A first for Calgary, the centre is supported by a \$1-million investment from the Province of Alberta, aligning with the United Nations declaration of 2019 as the Year of Indigenous Languages. The new centre will offer elder guidance, storytelling, and language learning.

The **Winnipeg Public Library** launched the makerspace ideaMILL/MILLidées in July 2018 at its **Millennium Library**. It includes resources such as 3-D printers, sewing machines, a craft lab, high-end computers, digitization, video and photo equipment, and sound booths. A Mobile Maker Labs is also being developed to bring crafts, engineering, robotics, electronics, digital conversion, and stop-motion animation to all 20 branch libraries. **Winnipeg Public Library** is a leader in the Manitoba maker community.

The **University of Manitoba Libraries** has digitized 90 years of the *Winnipeg Tribune* (1890–1980), one of Western Canada's oldest newspapers.

Ontario News

By Vivienne James



The **Jack Rabinovitch Reading Room** is scheduled to open at the **Toronto Reference Library** in the fall of 2019, funded by the Toronto Public Library

Foundation and generous donors. A fitting tribute to Rabinovich's legacy, it will provide a permanent home for his sizeable collection of books, and a beautiful, welcoming, and inspiring space on the fourth floor where everyone can be exposed to Canadian literature. Rabinovich created the Scotiabank Giller Prize in 1994 to honour Doris Giller, his late wife, and to recognize excellence in Canadian fiction. **Toronto Reference Library** welcomes back award-winning Moriyama & Teshima Architects to work on this project with the library and Rabinovich's daughters. Architect Raymond Moriyama was hired to design the library 40 years

ago. Watch for lively and informative programming, residencies, talks, panels, and a variety of special events.

Throughout 2019, the **McMaster University Library**, together with partners in the Faculties of Science and Engineering and the **Health Sciences Library**, will be highlighting archival collections and resources, with special programming celebrating the ways in which it supports research, teaching, and learning related to STEM (science, technology, engineering and math). In March, Science and Storytelling featured undergraduate and graduate students, alumni, staff, faculty, and the Hamilton community sharing personal stories about how science has shaped their lives. The library's special collections contain rare texts by some of the greatest scientific and engineering minds of the past 600 years, including Leonardo da Vinci and Sir Isaac Newton.

The Jamaican-Canadian community recently honoured **McMaster Library** for its commitment to preserving the legacy and archives of one of Jamaica's most important and beloved icons — Louise Bennett-Coverley.

Vaughan Public Libraries (VPL), home to one of the 15 coolest libraries in Canada — according to *Chatelaine* magazine — is this year's recipient of the Ontario Library Association's Joyce Cunningham Award. Also known as the Public Library Board of the Year Award, it is presented to a public library board that has demonstrated a high level of collaboration and innovation to produce outstanding results. **VPL** also celebrates its 25th anniversary this year, and the opening of the new children's area and LEARN IT! Lab at **Bathurst Clark Resource Library**. Congratulations!

Ottawa is inviting its citizens to participate in the design of the new **Ottawa Public Library and Library and Archives Canada** joint facility to be built on Albert Street. Workshops are available for those interested.

Taking shape at the **University of Toronto's Robarts Library** is a major expansion, designed by Diamond Schmitt Architects and being constructed by Harbridge + Cross Limited, thanks to a gift from Drs. Russell and Katherine Morrison.

The five-storey **Robarts Common** will add 1,200 new work/study spaces with natural light to the library, the final step in the revitalization and expansion.

Quebec News

By Pierre Guilmette and Peter F. McNally



Montreal's Inspector General reported that the contractor for the \$20.35-million upgrade of the **Pierrefonds Public Library** engaged in fraudulent practices.



The contractor denies the charges and is fighting a recommendation that it be prohibited from receiving city contracts for five years.

McGill University has announced major building projects: a \$115-million transformation of the **McLennan-Redpath Library Complex**; construction of a \$25-million storage facility; and a \$38-million structural repair of the **Schulich Library of Physical Sciences, Life Sciences, and Engineering**. Restoration was also announced for the **Osler Library of the History of Medicine**, damaged by fire, smoke, and water last summer. On May 1, 2019, McGill libraries will convert entirely to the WorldShare library management system.

A symposium on the history of women librarians in Quebec was held in November 2018 at Montreal's **Grande Bibliothèque**. While we often remember well-known male librarians like Aegedius Fauteux (1876–1941), Léo-Paul Desrosiers (1896–1967) or Georges Cartier (1929–1994), we are less familiar with the role played by women librarians. The symposium evoked the work and influence of some of the women who made careers in the library sector: Éva Circé-Côté (1871–1949), Mary Sollace Saxe (1868–1942), Marie-Claire Daveluy (1880–1968), Hélène Grenier (1900–1992), Céline Robitaille-Cartier (1930–2017), Hélène Charbonneau, Paule Rolland-Thomas, and Louise Guilmette-Labory. This one-day symposium was made possible

thanks to the initiative of Marie D. Martel, professor of librarianship at the Université de Montréal. A more detailed description of this symposium, "Pour une histoire des femmes bibliothécaires au Québec" ("For a History of Women Librarians in Quebec"), can be found in *Le Devoir*, November 23, 2018, on pages A1 and A2.

Richard Dufour, a librarian at Laval University, wrote a history of the **Laval University Library**, *Bibliothèque de l'Université Laval: 165 ans d'histoire, 1852–2017* (Presses de l'Université Laval, 2018). It traces the evolution of the university library from the beginning, and is based on an extensive literature search. The author recalls the modest beginnings of the institution at the Séminaire de Québec, the construction of the building on the Sainte-Foy campus, the recruitment of a large and qualified staff, and the introduction of new technologies in the second half of the 20th century. The library also underwent an administrative evolution during its development. This book has many illustrations. As a librarian at Laval, Dufour had access to the university archives. This book is an important contribution to the history of libraries in Quebec.

Maritimes News

By Tanja Harrison



Mount Allison University's Library and Archives is the newest member of Novanet, the consortium of university and college libraries formerly

across Nova Scotia, but now also including New Brunswick. Library staff members are currently in the midst of a data migration to join the shared online system. Plans to upgrade the entire library system for the collective's members of Nova Scotia's and New Brunswick's post-secondary institutions, from Ex Libris Aleph to Alma, are on track for implementation in 2021.

In 2017 the village of Port Elgin, on the shores of the Northumberland Strait in New Brunswick, lost its public library due to mould in its aging building. Thanks to a government grant and fundraising campaign there are plans to relocate the library in the Port Elgin Regional

School, which also has a health clinic. An old classroom will be redesigned with accessible washrooms and a new, separate entrance will be installed. So far residents and cottagers from Port Elgin and environs have donated \$10,000 to the new **Port Elgin Public Library**. Visit the village's website at villageofportelgin.com for more information.

The University of Prince Edward Island (UPEI) relaunched islandvoices.ca, adding new oral-history interviews from the Benevolent Irish Society, while islandnewspapers.ca has welcomed its first French-language publication, *La Petite Souvenance*, along with the *Prince Edward Island Natural History Society Newsletter*. Grant funding will ensure that the *Examiner* (1847–1900) and *L'Impartial* (1893–1915) are accessible by August 2019. UPEI's upcoming 50th anniversary will see the 50 Years, 50 Voices project share audio and video vignettes highlighting memories of UPEI.

During November, a new perks program called Get Carded ran as a partnership between the **Prince Edward Island Public Library Service** and the Eastern PEI Chamber of Commerce. By showing their library cards, shoppers received a discount or special offer at participating businesses. This enticing concept will carry into the future!

The **Bibliothèque Louis-R.-Comeau, l'Université Sainte-Anne (UStA)**, held its grand reopening in November 2018 after several months of renovations. The Government of Canada and UStA shared costs to modernize the building's design and technology and improve energy efficiency for the first time since 1977. UStA is the only French-language post-secondary institution in Nova Scotia offering university-level courses and French-immersion programs.

Librarians from the **Nova Scotia Health Authority Library Services** and **Dalhousie University Libraries** have partnered to collect and curate trusted resources to help navigate the complexities of the access and use of cannabis now that it's legal in Canada. Visit dal.ca.libguides.com/cannabis for access to the new guide.

Here's a whimsical story from the staff of the **W. W. Lewis Memorial Library** in Louisbourg, N.S., who helped bring

Diana Gabaldon's time-travel romance series *Outlander* to the Louisbourg Playhouse. Celtic history runs deep in the province and the Highlands culture portrayed in the popular TV series based on the books is said to be fairly accurate, according to Cape Breton historians. The playhouse event offered history presentations that included a Macleod of Dunvegan heirloom clan flag (said to have magical powers) and a sword dancer in blue tartan. The evening closed with a fashion show depicting styles from 18th-century Scotland with plenty of scones, oatcakes, and tea for all. Sláinte!

Newfoundland & Labrador News

By Dick Ellis



The last six months in the **Newfoundland and Labrador Public Libraries** world have been interesting if not exactly edge-of-your-seat exciting. The provincial government's response

to its consultants' report on the public library service was to hand the report to the library's board for its information. The board responded by amending its strategic plan to include an additional \$1.7 million in its request for 2019–2020 funding, in order to carry out an initial tranche of the report's recommendations. Such an increase will bring the nominal budget back to the 2013 level and fund minimum opening hours in a number of branches. It will also increase the number of professionally qualified librarians.

At the time of writing, the province is involved in pre-budget consultations, in order to decide how to spin what it has already decided to do. The Newfoundland and Labrador Library Association is ramping up its advocacy efforts, in order to augment the non-existent efforts of the board.

In the periphery, some of the branches are taking matters into their own hands. **St. John's Public Library** has instituted a musical-instrument lending library with support from Alan Doyle, front man for Great Big Sea, and Sun Life Financial. It is also sponsoring

NLREADS, bringing local authors to the attention of the reading public.

While not quite a traditional library, **St. John's Public Library** now has a tool library, established by City Councillor Ian Froude.

In other news, **Memorial University Libraries** has recovered from a crash of its Digital Archives Initiative and all 80 terabytes of content are again available to the public. Note to Physical Plant: next time you schedule a power outage, tell the library so it can take the system off-line and postpone the software upgrade.

News from the North

By Julie Ourom



By way of introduction, here's some context for this new column.

Canada's North — Nunavut, Northwest Territories, and Yukon — comprises 40 percent of Canada's land mass

yet has less than four percent of the population. Indigenous peoples make up 70 percent of the population in Nunavut, 48 percent in the Northwest Territories, and 19 percent in Yukon.

Public libraries are a legislated responsibility across all three, with government providing services — including collections, automated systems, programs, training, and support — to a network of libraries in communities throughout each territory. Local libraries meet a wide range of needs — and are often one of few accessible public spaces in a small community. People use libraries for the same reasons as elsewhere in Canada. Internet access, e-books, and children's programs are all popular.

Canada's newest jurisdiction, Nunavut was created in a split from the Northwest Territories in 1999. The largest region, with 21 percent of Canada's land mass, it has the smallest population. Although there are local roads, there is no highway access from Nunavut to other parts of Canada. Of the almost 40,000 people who live in Nunavut, 20 percent live in the capital, Iqaluit. Rankin Inlet and Arviat are the largest of many smaller

communities. Eleven community libraries are spread across Nunavut's three regions, Kitikmeot, Kivalliq, and Qikiqtani.

Inuktitut Language Month, Uqausirmut Quviasutiqarniq, is celebrated in February.

This year recordings were produced with elders and educators, to help preserve the traditional Inuit method of teaching culture and history to children through Inuktitut songs and chants. Materials in different formats and language resource packages were placed in libraries.

If you have news and information about library matters in Canada's North, please send it to me at crocuscats@gmail.com.

News from Canadian Library/Information Studies Schools

Compiled by Judy Dunn



University of British Columbia Library, Archival and Information Studies

By Guy Robertson

Archival and Information Studies is

pleased to recognize the achievements of alumna **Elizabeth Denham** (Master of Archival Studies, 1984), who has received a CBE (Commander of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire) from Queen Elizabeth, for services in safeguarding information. Formerly British Columbia's Information and Privacy Commissioner, she was appointed the U.K.'s Information Commissioner in 2016. This year's Visiting Dodson Professor is **Brenda Chawner**, a senior lecturer in information management at the Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand. She arrived there to complete her PhD, having earned a BA and an MLS at the University of Alberta. Currently she is interested in continuing education for mid-career professionals. She notes that, unlike other professions, which demand ongoing and post-graduate certification, the information professions do not. Professor Chawner's other research project involves collecting case studies in information policies, which can be used as teaching aids. She will work at the University of British

Columbia until mid-December, 2019.

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

By Toni Samek

In the fall of 2018: Professor Emeritus **Dr. Alvin M. Schrader** was honoured by Canadian Urban Libraries Council/Conseil des Bibliothèques Urbaines du Canada with a motion to recognize his contributions to the profession and the value of intellectual freedom. The American Library Association Emerging Leaders program of 2019 includes **Lorisia MacLeod** (MLIS 2018), with sponsorship from the American Indian Library Association. **Dr. Ali Shiri** and individual interdisciplinary doctoral student **Sharon Farnel** co-presented a paper, Community-Driven Knowledge Organization for Cultural Heritage Digital Libraries, at the Association for Information Science and Technology's Special Interest Group on Classification Research workshop, where they received a best paper award. Chair **Toni Samek** was invited to join the Golden Key International Honour Society in honorary membership in recognition of her academic and career achievements in library and information studies. In February 2019, the province's Ministry of Advanced Education approved the University of Alberta's proposal to change the load of the MLIS (course-based program) to 39 credits, effective July 1, 2019. A twin proposal is in process for the thesis-based MLIS.

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

By Becky Blue

In January 2019, FIMS welcomed **Lisa Henderson** as the fourth Dean of FIMS, following **Thomas Carmichael**, whose term ended in 2018. Dean Henderson comes to FIMS from the University of Massachusetts Amherst, where she was a professor of Communication and faculty affiliate in American Studies. She has roots in Southwestern Ontario so this is a homecoming of sorts for her. One of the things that Henderson says drew her to FIMS was the opportunity for makers and thinkers to collaborate. "In practical terms, people aren't separate. Makers, artists, and producers are asking about knowledge production, how we know

things, how do we figure things out, they are asking theoretical questions; meanwhile, people with PhDs are asking questions about research expression, how do we do it outside of books and articles?" Welcome Dean Henderson.

University of Toronto, Faculty of Information (iSchool)

By Ann Brocklehurst

The Faculty of Information received its biggest gift ever (\$2.45 million) from the Silicon Valley philanthropist, **Reid Hoffman**, to establish a chair to study how the new era of artificial intelligence (AI) will affect human lives. After an open competition, **Professor Brian Cantwell Smith**, former Dean of the faculty, was named to the chair, which will operate for five years through the spring semester of 2024. Beginning in the fall of 2019, the faculty will offer a new Master of Information concentration in Human-Centred Data Science. While University of Toronto's other data-science programs focus on providing computational and statistical education, this one will integrate a human-centred and societal focus. **Professor Heather MacNeil** has been appointed to a five-year term as Associate Dean, Research, succeeding **Professor Leslie Shade**. The search for a new dean to replace **Professor Wendy Duff**, whose term is up this year, is actively underway.

University of Ottawa, School of Information Studies (ÉSIS)

By Hélène Carrier

ÉSIS will mark its 10th anniversary in September 2019, and we are inviting our community to celebrate on October 3rd, 2019. We will also be conducting a special survey on ÉSIS alumni career progression. ÉSIS students can now take advantage of studying abroad for one semester during their MIS program, under an exchange agreement signed between the University of Ottawa and the University of Aberystwyth (Wales, U.K.), Library and Information Studies. **Professor Lynne Bowker** has been appointed Concordia University Library's researcher-in-residence for 2019. Her research project will focus on machine translation literacy in the context of scholarly communication. Dr. Bowker has

also been awarded the Association for Information Science and Technology's 2018 Bob Williams History Fund Research Grant Award for her work, *Revealing One of Information Science and Technology's "Hidden Figures": How Helmut Felber brought information science principles to bear on the development of early term banks.* **Interim School Director Hélène Carrier** has been appointed Vice-President of the OLA Association des bibliothèques de l'Ontario (ABO-Franco).

McGill University, School of Information Studies

By Peter F. McNally

A research team overseen by **Professor Benjamin Fung**, Canada Research Chair, is creating the world's first artificial intelligence-powered search engine for assembly code, to improve cybersecurity worldwide. **Professor Max Evans** has developed The Knowledge Café to bring master's students face to face with knowledge-industry professionals. It is like any casual 'speed-dating' event, identifying untapped learning needs that range from industry-specific insight to professional skills such as emotional and social competencies that are crucial to success. **Professor Elaine Ménard** retired in August 2018.

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

By Isabelle Bourgey and Martin Bélanger

Director, Professor Clément Arsenault, has accepted the position of Executive Associate Dean and Faculty Secretary for the Faculty of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies. **Professor Lyne Da Sylva** was appointed Interim Director from July 1, 2018 until May 31, 2019. The selection process is running its course and the new director will be appointed shortly, to start June 1, 2019.

Data management is increasingly a focus of faculty research interests. Two such projects have received funding from the Canada Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council in 2018/2019. These are *Entities and Identities in the Semantic Web's Linked Open Data: a semiotic study of the impacts on Library and Information Science contexts* (**Professor Lyne Da Sylva**) and *Research Data Management Ecosystem: a study of the document processes, and the roles and responsibilities of institutional stakeholders* (**Professors Lyne Da Sylva and Dominique Maurel**).

Dalhousie University, School of Information Management SIM

By Sandra Toze

SIM has had a busy year, starting with our SIM Associated Alumni Outstanding Alumni and Welcome event. **Dr. Fiona Black** (MLIS 1993) was honoured as this year's award winner. Congratulations to **Laura Little** (MLIS Candidate 2019), who was awarded the 2018 Stephanie Downs Memorial Award, and **Rachel Fry** (MLIS Candidate 2019), who was chosen as the 2018 recipient of the Dalhousie-Horrocks National Leadership Award. The Dalhousie-Horrocks Leadership Lecture and Award presentation was held February 28, 2019, with **Camille Callison**, Learning and Organizational Development Librarian, University of Manitoba giving our lecture, *Furthering Reconciliation by Honouring Indigenous Voices and Embedding Indigenous Protocols into Cultural Memory Institution Praxis*. Our MLIS students hosted the 13th-annual Information Without Borders conference on the theme, *Accessing Information*. SIM is excited to be celebrating our 50th anniversary this year. Please stay tuned to our website for announcements.

Milestones

Compiled by Wendy Newman



Obituaries

Pamela Avis-Pollock died on January 17, 2019, at age 65, in Parry Sound, Ont. She began her career as a librarian at the Ontario Medical Association in Toronto. She later worked for the West Parry Sound School Board as their librarian.

Beryl Marjorie Balcom died on January 7, 2019, at age 89, in Sydney, N.S. She was a children's librarian at the Dartmouth Regional Library during the 1960s and 1970s.

David Banks died on December 5, 2018, at age 89, in Ottawa. He headed derived cataloguing in a 25-year career at the National Library of Canada.

James Billington, retired Librarian

of Congress, died on November 20, 2018, at age 89, in Washington.

Kenneth (Wayne) Bullock died on December 14, 2018, at age 74, in Raymond, Alta. He spent his professional career working for the Calgary Board of Education as a librarian.

Alec Deer died on January 12, 2019, at age 74, in Montreal. He created a classification system for Indigenous Canadian materials, which is used at UBC's X̱wi7x̱wa Library.

Claire Elizabeth Gilbert died on January 26, 2019, at age 43, in Victoria. She was an archivist and librarian at the BC Archives.

Alexandra Hartmann died on October 1, 2018, in Uxbridge, Ont. She was CEO of Uxbridge Public Library. She had worked earlier in Newfoundland and Labrador and in Saskatchewan.

Bertha Geraldine Higgins died on

November 27, 2018, at age 83, in Halifax. She was a librarian with the Government of Nova Scotia for more than 31 years, serving as Provincial Librarian for several years.

Una Joan Magee died on August 6, 2018, at age 90, in Windsor, Ont. She worked as Children's Librarian at Willistead Public Library and later as Head of the Reference Department at the University of Windsor Library.

Lloyd Melanson died on December 24, 2018, at age 74, in Halifax. He worked in the library at the Atlantic School of Theology.

Charles Alfred Osborne died on January 18, 2019, at age 71, in Ottawa.

Charles was a longtime employee of Library and Archives Canada.

Pat Parnell died on October 12, 2018, at age 74, in Saskatoon. She was Librarian Emerita, University of Saskatchewan.

Hans Schulte-Albert died on January 28, 2017, at age 85, in London, Ont. He was a member of the faculty at Western University from 1972 until his retirement in the early 1990s.

Janette Hunter White died on November 27, 2018, at age 97, in Hamilton, Ont. She worked at the Toronto Public Library and the Education Centre Library and was a founding member of the Western University School of Library and Information Science faculty, where she taught and served in the administration until her retirement.

Retirements

Leanne Clendenning, Executive Director, Ontario Library Service – North, retired on January 31, 2019.

Cathy Grant, CEO, Pickering Public Library, retired in December 2018.

Madeleine Lefebvre retired from Ryerson University, where she had served as Chief Librarian from 2007 to 2017, in January 2019. She is now Chief Librarian Emerita.

Shann Leighton, CEO, Grand Valley Public Library, retired in February 2019.

Sonia L'Heureux, the first female Chief Librarian of the Library of Parliament, retired in June 2018.

Gail Nichol, University of Toronto Libraries, retired in June 2018, having served in various capacities, most recently in Collection Development and the Gerstein Science Information Centre.

Jill Nicholson, CEO, Lincoln Public Library, retired in December 2018.

Brian Owen, Associate Dean of Libraries at Simon Fraser University and Managing Director of the Public Knowledge Project retired in December 2018.

Ian Ross, CEO, Whitby Public Library, retired in July 2018.

Lilita Stripnieks, CEO, St. Catharines Public Library, retired in December 2018.

Rita Turtle, CEO, Quinte West Public Library, retired in December 2018.

Rita Vine, Head, Faculty and Student Engagement, University of Toronto Libraries, retired in December 2018.

Awards

Four Canadians were among those named in *Library Journal's* 2019 Movers and Shakers list: **Fangmin Wang**, Head, Library Information Technology Services, Ryerson University (Innovator); **Sabina Iseli-Otto**, Public Services Librarian, National Network for Equitable Library Service (Innovator); **Jenn Carson**, Library Director, L. P. Fisher Public Library, Woodstock, N.B. (Advocate); and **Anton Chupp**, Manager, IT Interfaces, Calgary Public Library (Digital Developer). **Donna Bourne-Tyson**, University Librarian, Dalhousie University, and current President of the Canadian Association of Research Libraries, was awarded the Ken Haycock Award for Promoting Librarianship.

Cathy Grant was given the 2019 W. J. Robertson Medallion: Public Librarian of the Year by the Ontario Library Boards' Association.

Catherine Ross, former Dean of the Faculty of Information and Media Studies, Western University, has been named a Fellow of The Royal Society of Canada for major contributions to her field of study and to Canadian public life.

Leslie Weir, University Librarian, University of Ottawa, was honoured by the Canadian Association of Research Libraries in November 2018 with its Award for Distinguished Service to Research Librarianship.

Yvonne Patch, of the Hamilton Public Library and the Ontario Library Association (OLA) Mentoring Committee, was awarded the OLA Larry Moore Distinguished Service Award.

Tanis Fink, Director, Seneca College Libraries, was given the Ontario College and University Association Lifetime Achievement Award at the 2019 Super Conference.

Susan Downs, CEO, Innisfil IdeaLAB & Library, was given the Ontario Public Library Association Lifetime Achievement Award.

Appointments

P. J. Carefoote was appointed the Department Head of Rare Books and

Special Collections at the Thomas Fisher Rare Book Library, University of Toronto, as of July 2018.

Shelley Hawrychuk was appointed Chief Librarian at the University of Toronto Mississauga Library for a five-year term, beginning March 1, 2018.

Rhonda Jessup was appointed CEO, Whitby Public Library, in December 2018.

Don Nettleton was appointed Chief Librarian, Okanagan Regional Library, effective May 2018, succeeding Stephanie Hall.

Victoria Owen, formerly Chief Librarian at the University of Toronto Scarborough, was appointed Information Policy Scholar-Practitioner at the Faculty of Information.

Erin Scuccimarri was appointed CEO, Innisfil IdeaLAB and Library, in January 2019.

Tanya Sinclair was appointed Chief Engagement Officer, Pickering Public Library, effective January 2019.

Ken Su, formerly CEO of Welland Public Library, was appointed CEO of St. Catharines Public Library, effective January 2019.

Martha Whitehead, University Librarian and Vice Provost, Queen's University, has been appointed Harvard University Librarian, Vice-President for the Harvard Library, and the Roy E. Larsen Librarian for the Faculty of Arts and Sciences, effective June 2019.

Tara Wong has been appointed CEO, Oakville Public Library, as of November 2018.

Ex Libris Association congratulates

Robert Blackburn, retired Chief Librarian, University of Toronto — and distinguished contributor to *ELAN* — on his 100th birthday, February, 3, 2019.

Ex Libris 2019 Board



From left: Tom Eadie (President), Jean Weihs (Recording Secretary), Elizabeth Ridler (Past President), Rick Ficek, Vivienne James, Wendy Newman, Bob Henderson (Treasurer and Membership Secretary)

Board

Tom Eadie, President
Elizabeth Ridler, Past President
Bob Henderson, Treasurer and
Membership Secretary
Jean Weihs, Recording Secretary
Nancy Williamson, Archivist*

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Donna Burton*
Rick Ficek
Vivienne James
Michael Moir*
Wendy Newman
Alvin M. Schrader*
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Ex Libris Association Newsletter

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The Arts and Letters Club Tour

By Susan Morley

On May 29th, two dozen Ex Libris members toured Toronto's Arts and Letters Club at 14 Elm Street. Scott James, ELA member and the club's archivist, greeted our group as we gathered in the great hall, eager to begin our tour and discover the club's fascinating history. Being there evoked fond memories for many of us — in my case, I remembered wine-and-cheese receptions held there by the Canadian Association of Special Libraries and Information Services.

The Arts and Letters Club formed in 1908 to provide a "home" for artists in disciplines that spanned architecture, literature, music, painting, sculpture, and the stage. According to Scott, some exciting times and moves took place before the club settled into its current location. In 1920 it began renting the property from the St. George's Society, undertaking extensive renovations including the baronial hall, which was designed by Henry Sproatt (the architect responsible for University of Toronto's Hart House).

J. E. H. MacDonald,* a member of the Group of Seven and long-serving club board member, created the club's seal and crest. As explained by painter and onetime president C. W. Jefferys, "The Viking ship with sails full spread before the rising sun was to remind members of the open sea and the great adventure." Arthur Lismer, another Group of Seven member, is responsible for the character drawings displayed throughout the club.

After a climb to the third floor, we enjoyed watching artists working from life in the light-filled space at the top of the building. Neither the patient artists nor the model seemed to mind us walking through. Next, we took our turns to



The Arts and Letters Club archives
Photo credit: Joan Winearls

explore the very compact library — tiny but well formed — that is managed by the part-time librarian Bill Denton, who also works at York University. Appropriately, bookcases line the walls, filled exclusively with books by and about members. A portrait of the club founder, Augustus Bridle, hangs over the stately fireplace. Also known as the "bridal suite," the library has been used often as the bride's room at wedding receptions.

After that, we all squeezed into the archives room. The first archivist was J. E. H. MacDonald, who created the first two volumes of scrapbooks of arts and letters, documenting the nearly 500 members, in the 1920s. Scott explained that some scrapbooks and folios are on loan to U of T's Thomas Fisher Rare Book Library. The rarest item is a hand-drawn postcard by J. E. H. MacDonald (see this postcard on the back page of this issue). The second-floor tour continued into the boardroom to view some lovely artwork.

Since its founding, the club has engaged artists to provide artistic presentations on the annual executive list, in what has become a visual history of graphic artists in Canada. The club's newsletter is called the *LAMPSletter*

Continued on page 2

...continued from page 1

(LAMPS is the acronym for literature, arts, music, painting, and stage), to provide a reminder of the disciplines that members of the Arts and Letters Club pursue. The club bills itself as “a meeting place in downtown Toronto for art professionals and arts lovers,” and our tour certainly confirmed this. Thank you Scott for the informative and entertaining morning.

As always, many of the group moved on to a nearby pub for a very pleasant social lunch. *J. E. H. MacDonald was the father of Thoreau MacDonald, the illustrator and graphic artist who designed*

the image on the Ex Libris logo (see “Credit Overdue” by John Warrener, ELAN No. 62/Fall 2017, page 6).

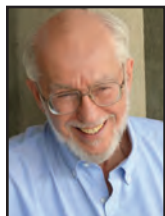
- To see an early issue of the LAMPSletter, go to www.artsandlettersprivate.ca/lampsletters/lampsletters_1919.pdf
- To see photographs and learn more about the building at 14 Elm Street, go to <https://tayloronhistory.com/2013/09/28/torontos-architectural-gems-georges-hall-arts-and-letters-club/> and www.blogto.com/city/2009/05/inside_the_arts_and_letters_club/ |



The Arts & Letters Club library
Photo credit: Donna Burton

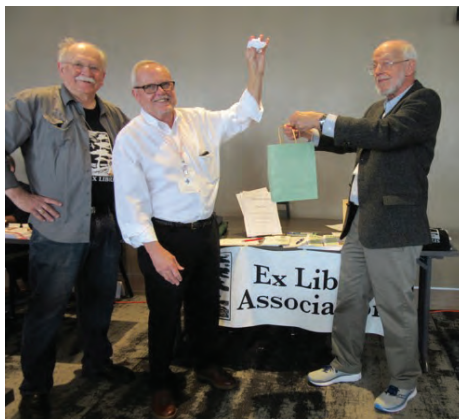
President's Report

By Tom Eadie



I had hoped to begin my report by promising Ex Libris new vision, but have decided to delay cataract surgery until the New Year, because ... 2020.

Levity aside, I have made a start on reaching out to provincial and regional associations to explore joint membership possibilities. I'm influenced by the idea that we lost a lot when the disappearance of the Canadian Library Association conferences reduced the number of in-person contacts with distant colleagues. A hoped-for personal visit to British Columbia, during which I had planned to make personal contact with British Columbia Association members, had to be put off at least until the fall, but my visit to the East Coast coincided with the Atlantic Provinces Library Association (APLA) meeting in St. John's, and I was able to host the Ex Libris table with Dick Ellis and Tanja Harrison, and make preliminary contact with the APLA membership team. I was also able to persuade our colleagues from Carr McLean to take out a membership in Ex Libris, and to donate four gift memberships, which they asked be bestowed in their name. Dick Ellis proposed that we approach members of the Sam Oosterhoff tail-gate demonstration (protesting Ontario



Three Members Having Too Much Fun at APLA 2019 — Ex Libris member Gary Gibson draws the winning entry for the free membership. Dick Ellis looks on while Tom Eadie, Ex Libris President, holds the bag.
Photo credit: Rob Welch, EBSCO

cuts to library funding). Through a Memorial University associate — Meghan McKibbin (whose mother was involved in the Oosterhoff occurrences) — Dick obtained the names of Ann McKibbin, Liz Bayley, Janet Hodgkins, Marguerite Forsythe, and Elaine Anderson. (Those who have counted will note there are five names. I will contribute the additional \$10 to the Carr McLean fund.)

The conference was also notable as the site chosen for the retirement of Gary Gibson, longtime vendor and friend of Canadian libraries (as well as an Ex Libris member).

Regarding membership, Bob Henderson reports 14 new members at this time, four attributable to the gift-membership policy that allows

members to buy a one-time one-year gift membership for \$10. If you want to take advantage of this amazing offer, please contact Bob at bob.superrover@gmail.com.

I would like to thank members for their engagement with some of the advocacy opportunities that have presented themselves. These have manifested themselves on the listserv, mostly in the form of reported letters to the editor or approaches to politicians. As board member Wendy Newman regularly advises, direct letters, visits, or phone calls are far more effective than signatures on petitions, so I encourage all of us to continue to speak out. As a side note, the level of support in the press for libraries has been most impressive. It's good to know we are not alone.

I encourage members to use the listserv — to raise issues, to pass on information, or to ask questions. Attending APLA reminded me just how revitalizing it is to connect with colleagues. In the absence of direct contact, the listserv must ... serve.

I will be reporting on our September 24th board meeting via the listserv, and I look forward to meeting all of the members who are able to attend our AGM on November 4th.

In this issue there are articles about our spring tour in Toronto, a small-town library, archivist activities, and personal reflections. There is something for everyone.

teadie@trentu.ca |

Canadian Federation of Library Associations/Fédération canadienne des associations de bibliothèques (CFLA-FCAB) — the National Voice of Canada's Library Associations

By Shelagh Paterson, reporting on behalf of the CFLA-FCAB Board of Directors, with information provided by Todd Kyle, (CFLA-FCAB) Board of Directors

The next CFLA-FCAB National Forum is set for April 7 to 8, 2020, in Winnipeg, as part of the Manitoba Library Association conference. Topics under consideration include Indigenous matters, and equity, diversity, and inclusion as they relate to intellectual freedom.

Government Relations:

- A campaign strategy including messaging and a microsite for the upcoming federal elections is being prepared. The pillars of CFLA-FCAB's "ask" include library infrastructure funding, Indigenous-knowledge preservation, balanced copyright, and support for accessible formats.
- CFLA-FCAB's advocacy work on the statutory review of the *Copyright Act* has produced results, with the report from the parliamentary committee recommending preservation of fair dealing and protections for Indigenous knowledge.

CFLA-FCAB's first strategic plan:

- Stronger Together: Advancing the Impact of Libraries launched September 1, 2019.

Other projects in progress include:

- Workshops on algorithmic literacy (to learn how artificial intelligence works) for public libraries,
- Participation in the founding of the new National Indigenous Knowledge and Language Alliance-Alliance nationale des connaissances et des langues autochtones (NIKLA-ANKLA), which will become a member of CFLA-FCAB,
- The Intellectual Freedom Challenges Survey through which libraries are encouraged to contribute any challenges to materials year-round, and
- The Indigenous Matters Committee members' survey about their activities and resources for Indigenous programming.

In addition, and of note, the Canadian Association of Research Libraries/ Association des bibliothèques de recherche du Canada (CARL-ABRC) has pledged to significantly increase its contributions as a founding member of CFLA-FCAB, which will allow the organization to expand its capabilities. *Shelagh Paterson was treasurer of the CFLA-FCAB from 2016 to 2017. Ex Libris Association is a member of CFLA-FCAB. ■*

CFLA-FCAB Intellectual Freedom Committee

By Deb Thomas

It is my privilege to represent Ex Libris on this committee. There has only been one meeting since my appointment, but the e-mail exchanges are lively with issues and discussion. Among the significant recent issues are:

- the use of meeting rooms in public libraries (A number of Canadian Urban Libraries Council/Conseil des Bibliothèques Urbaines du Canada libraries are struggling with policy and practice regarding who should be allowed to use these rooms, how local communities affected by views expressed by users of the rooms can bring their concerns to the library, and what values should inform decisions made by libraries.),
- cuts to funding for resource-sharing activities in Ontario public libraries (The committee is discussing the role of CFLA-FCAB's Intellectual Freedom Committee in responding to local or provincial — as opposed to national — issues. Currently CFLA-FCAB is working with the Ontario Library Association on a response to this issue.), and
- withdrawal of materials that include negative representations of particular races, ethnic, or cultural groups (This issue has arisen recently in a number of libraries, specifically around Truth and Reconciliation and representations, particularly in children's materials, of Indigenous characters.).

The committee is working on better-defining its role through a revised terms of reference, in response to intellectual-freedom concerns in libraries across Canada. Among its current deliverables are the Annual Challenges Survey and a tool kit for libraries in progress.

Corrections

Josh Henderson should have been credited as the photographer for "A team from Hamilton Public Library, winner of the W. Kaye Lamb Award, at the Ex Libris AGM," on page 4, and "Ex Libris 2019 Board," on page 20, of the Spring 2019 issue of *ELAN* (No. 65). We regret these errors.

Donate to Ex Libris

Would you like us to extend our programming? A donation or bequest to Ex Libris helps us broaden and increase our activities. All donations are tax deductible.

W. Kaye Lamb Award for Service to Seniors 2020

By Rick Ficek

This is a reminder to submit applications by December 2019 for this award, given for outstanding service to your library's senior population. Sponsored by the Ex Libris Association and the Canadian Federation of Library Associations/Federation canadienne des associations de bibliothèques (CFLA-FCAB), this prestigious award comes along with bragging rights and a \$500 cash prize.

The award is open to any Canadian

library: private, public, governmental, and academic. Past winners have ranged from the very small to some of Canada's largest libraries.

Please seek out suitable candidates and encourage them to apply.

Apply at: www.exlibris.ca/doku.php?id=award:application_for_wk_lamb_award.

For more information, contact Rick Ficek ficekrichard44@gmail.com. ■

Upcoming Events

2019 Ex Libris Association Annual Conference and AGM

Wither! The Future of Print and the Growth of Non-print Media

Monday, November 4, 2019

9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. (coffee from 9 a.m.)

Northern District Branch, Toronto Public Library, Room 200,
40 Orchard View Boulevard, Toronto

Speakers:

Andrea Mills, Digitization Program Manager, Internet Archive Canada
Allison Lennox, Manager, Special Collections, Preservation,
and Digitization Department, Toronto Public Library

Ex Libris Fall Library Tour

Vivienne James is organizing a Toronto tour for this fall.
Please watch for information on the listserv.

Ex Libris Biography Project

By Nancy Williamson

Currently there are 125 biographies on the list. By the end of August, I will have added Clair Begtol. In the annual report, I plan to include a list of people for whom I have partial information and about whom I will be seeking help.

For more information on the work of this committee, go to http://www.exlibris.ca/doku.php?id=history:biographies:biography_mainpage.

For details on how to contribute, please contact me at:
nancy.williamson@utoronto.ca. ■

Technology Unmasked: The Internet Archive and the Wayback Machine

By Stan Orlov



Today I would like to introduce you to the Internet Archive (<https://web.archive.org/>), the digital library of Internet sites and other cultural artifacts

WayBack Machine

in digital form and available to

all. It offers 20-million books and texts from across the world, including 600,000 from more than 50 Canadian libraries, 4.5 million audio recordings, and 4 million videos (including 1.6 million TV-news programs since 2009). There is a wealth of free information available in the archive, but what I love the most is its Wayback Machine. It was, indeed, way back in 1996, when Brewster Kahle, the founder and digital librarian of the Internet Archive realized that, unlike newspaper pages, thousands of web pages appearing every day could close and disappear at some point in time without leaving any trace. He started collecting these web pages in a digital library and, over time, saved more than 375 billion web pages. In the here and now, you can go to Wayback Machine in your browser and enter the URL of a website of interest or type in keywords describing what you are looking for. You will be shown a list of archived websites, together with a date line in which you can select the year, month, and day when a snapshot of this site was made. Whether you want to rediscover a website that is now defunct or are curious to see what your favourite site looked like 20 years ago, you can access a copy in a wonderful trip down memory lane.

Stanislav Orlov is Systems Librarian at Mount Saint Vincent University in Halifax. Please send your questions and comments to stan.orlov@msvu.ca. ■

Why I became a Librarian (by Mistake) and How I Became Chief Librarian

By Bob Blackburn

When I entered the University of Alberta in 1936 I had never seen a library. When I received my MA degree in 1941 my mentor, a professor of English, asked what I planned to do. I said I was planning to enlist in the Air Force but was hesitating to do so without having some sort of professional qualification to come home to, in case I might survive. My mentor had some hope of my becoming a novelist, but said that would not give me a secure living unless I also could find some sort of stable undemanding work that would leave plenty of time and energy for writing, such as the permanent army or library work. I was amazed to hear that McGill had a library school with a one-year degree course. And Canada had another such school in Toronto, closer and cheaper. Brimming with false expectations, I hitchhiked to Toronto, took the one-year course that winter, hitchhiked home again, and joined the RCAF the next day.

After three years as an air navigator and instructor, I took my wife and small son back to her home in Calgary and applied to Alex Calhoun at the public library. He did have a job for me at \$1,900 a year. He was about to retire at the end of the month, so I never had him as boss. His successor, Bill Castell, gave me a year of varied experiences that ended up with me in charge of a new storefront branch library with one student helper.

To improve my prospects I managed to buy a second-hand car and homemade house trailer, with six retreaded tires and no spares, and set out in 1946 with my wife and son to go to Columbia, in New York, for another degree. It was a bad trip with two blowouts and one all-night vigil in line at a tire factory in Chicago. We went by way of London and Toronto, prospecting for public library work, but, being new in Toronto traffic, I missed the public library and called at the university library, instead. Stewart Wallace had given me work as a student at fifty cents an hour to vacuum all his books, and had seen me in uniform in his lectures on Canadian literature at the library

school, and marching in the officers-training company that he commanded.

That fall, living in a converted army hut at a camp for graduate students 25 miles from Columbia, I received a letter from Stewart Wallace. He said that the new chairman of the board at the University of Toronto had decreed that every officer should have an understudy. He was therefore looking for an assistant librarian, and asked whether would I come to Toronto for an interview with my way paid. Not wanting to have an obligation to the university, I said I would do so at Christmastime, when we were driving up to spend the holiday with family in Toronto. When I saw Wallace, he walked me across campus for a 20-minute chat with President Sidney Smith, then asked me to wait out in the hall for five minutes. Walking back to the library, he offered me the job at \$3,200 a year. I asked his age and he said 65, but if I had asked bluntly at what age he intended to retire he would have said 70. I asked for a month to consider, but found nothing else except an offer of \$1,900 at the London Public Library, so agreed to start at the university in September 1947 for what I considered a one-year experiment.

When I arrived in September there was no office for me, just an old retreaded desk in the crowded reference room, with a clear view down the main hall to the front desk. Wallace had run the library for 24 years without an assistant, and hiring one had not been his idea. He took his vacation in August when most professors were away doing research at their cottages or at richer libraries, there were no students on campus except a few summer-schoolers, and he had always just left Miss Hilda Woolriche, head of the order department, in charge when he was away. He was, otherwise, at his desk at least six days a week, except for Wednesday afternoons at the golf course.

My duties were whatever he or I could think of. I saw the overnight loans piling up in great heaps on the desk and floor as they were returned each morning. So I began by designing a "key-sort"

system that used colour-coded sets of numbered punched cards sortable into proper order with what looked like a knitting needle. The system worked well and made it possible for the books to be returned quickly to their shelves to be used again. Then Wallace sent me to a table upstairs to sort hundreds of boxes of the papers of Edward Blake, who had been the second premier of Ontario and then federal Liberal leader against Prime Minister John A. Macdonald (Blake's solemn plodding oratory was no match for the wit of John A.).

In July 1948 Wallace said he wanted me to learn how a book was created, by preparing a hundred-page supplement to his own six-volume *Encyclopedia of Canada*. Without the supplement, his set would become obsolete on April 1, 1949, when Newfoundland was to join Canada. I knew nothing about Newfoundland and had no idea how to begin, so I just made a list of Wallace's own topics and sent it to the librarian at Memorial College in St. John's. She, bless her, gave me a list of some possible authors. The first and most adequate response was from the retired chief justice of Newfoundland, with an article on Newfoundland law. I sent him a cheque for the standard few cents a word. He sent it back. I returned it, saying it was not my money, only the publisher's allowance, and, if he did not want it, to give it to charity. He sent it back again, saying he would keep it only if I would tell him my hat size. That is how I got my first sealskin cap. My book of 104 pages was published in red leather matching the set, on April 1, 1949.

In Wallace's first annual report in 1924 he made a strong case for additional space for the library. There was no money for it until 1949, then he put me in charge of planning a new wing on the old building. Meanwhile he had given me some of the experience I needed for that job, and there was more to come. Every year he allowed me to represent him at two or three large national and international library conferences that he preferred to avoid. He encouraged me to attend the

Continued on page 6

...continued from page 5

official openings of many new libraries across the continent. He gave me leave with full pay to accept a Carnegie grant to visit libraries for three months in the United States and three months in Europe. And, three years before the new wing was finished, he put me in charge of drafting and defending the library's annual budget.

About three months before Wallace's retirement date, President Smith called to

ask whether I was ready to be Wallace's successor. I accepted on condition that my title could be Chief Librarian, so as to leave room for all professional librarians on staff to have their proper titles instead of being lumped in with clerks as mere "assistants." Wallace cleared his office immediately and moved upstairs, giving me a proper desk, telephone, and secretary to begin

hiring the necessary additional staff and making final preparations for the official opening of the new Sigmund Samuel wing that September.

'A telephone was a great thing in those days. There were only two lines into the library — one for the librarian and secretary and one in the hall available to others for emergency use. I

Preserving our Parish History for Today and Tomorrow

By Norman McMullen

Two years prior to my retirement from the interlibrary-loan services at Toronto Public Library, I was offered the opportunity to organize an archival collection at St. Mary's Anglican Church in Richmond Hill, Ont. There is much more to this story than I can possibly share here, but, 16 years after my retirement, I am still chair of the archives committee.

The process of organization was interesting. A few files already existed in the parish office, and many parishioners had collected materials over the years and stashed them in shoeboxes or under beds. I reached out to the Richmond Hill Public Library and the Anglican diocesan archives for guidance. Assistance was generously given, and our little committee began its work. In no position to consider any form of automated record-keeping, we simply devised an indexing and filing system modelled on small archival institutions — "local usage" at its best.

Since those early days, we have received enormous amounts of material related to our heritage — and it is a rich heritage, indeed — starting in the 1870s. We believe we are the only parish in Canada with a small, self-contained family cemetery, and the church has beautiful stained glass windows, plaques, and memorials reflecting the early history of Richmond Hill.

As part of our commitment to outreach, we participate in Doors Open, arrange Heritage Day events for the community, provide Archives Moments for parishioners during coffee hours, and



The Smiling Fish is a detail from one of the larger windows in the historic chapel. Photo credit: David West

happily offer building tours — basic and deluxe. The latter include tea and home baking. We boldly entered the world of publishing with two works — *Gladdening Light: A Walk Around Guide to Our Heritage in Stained Glass* and *St. Mary's Anglican Church, 50th Anniversary of the New Sanctuary, 1964–2014*.

I am immensely fortunate to have served so long as chair of this vibrant committee. We now have a membership of six, who have what St. Paul calls "gifts differing." What opportunities that can offer! The clergy, parish board, and vestry have been very supportive of our efforts with both encouragement and budget funds. The best part is that our committee continues to meet every month in an atmosphere of enthusiasm, good humour, and excellent refreshments. For more information, go to www.saintmarysanglican.ca. I

Welcome to New ELA Members

We're proud to welcome the following new ELA members:

Elaine Anderson, Welland, ON
Liz Bayley, St. Catharines, ON
Anita Cannon, Irishtown, NB
Marie DeYoung, Halifax
Marguerite Forsythe, Port Colborne, ON
Helene Golden, London, ON
Janet Hodgkins, Fenwick, ON
Susanna Hubbard Krimmer, London, ON
Leslie B. Koster, Toronto
Alice May Kuba, Toronto
Lynne Mckechnie, London, ON
Ann McKibbin, Port Colborne, ON
Denyse Rodrigues, Boutiliers Point, NS
Deborah Thomas, New Westminster, BC

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.superrover@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.

Bibliothèque Publique d'Iroquois Falls Public Library: How Small-Town Public Libraries Enhance Life

By Leslie McGrath

Provincial politicians who talk casually of cutting library budgets should visit libraries in northern communities to better understand the services they threaten.

Founded in 1915 as a paper-mill town, Iroquois Falls has undergone cycles of prosperity and growth, lately shrinking because of the mill closure in 2014. Still, the town remains vibrant, its population steady at 4,500. From the early days, the community lobbied for a library, which was founded in 1922 as a town-funded project with a \$400 grant for books. Fifteen weeks later, in the first annual report to the board, auditors reported that of \$526.55 collected in 1922, \$402.22 had been spent to amass about 1,000 books, \$93.08 had been spent on supplies and expenses, and \$21 on the librarian's salary. As the *The Broke Hustler* reported, "The board did excellent service getting together almost a thousand volumes and finished the season with a small balance. They make every dollar count."

The library was first located in the Great War Veterans Association club room. After several moves — and the amalgamation of Calvert Township and Iroquois Falls — it reopened in its current building as the Bibliothèque Publique d'Iroquois Falls Public Library. It is one of the biggest assets of the town, particularly during long, dark winters when heavy snowfalls can last through May. Librarian Diane Gagnon, and Pat Toffolo, a library-board member, speak appreciatively of the warm support the library enjoys from the town, and share some details. Despite tight budgets, demands on infrastructure, and maintenance adjustments, there is consensus that, when possible, library hours will be enhanced.

Reference service is provided in both English and French, together with a full range of books, audiovisual materials, talking books and books for the visually impaired, puzzles, and pastimes. Prehistoric artifacts, gathered from the shores of Lake Abitibi, are presented in displays that contextualize their historical significance. The library also supports



Photo credit: Leslie McGrath

local genealogical and historical resources, including records of the town's founding and rebuilding after spectacular fires, the construction of local training farms and their conversion to prisoner-of-war camps during the Second World War, the growth, mechanization and end of local papermaking, and (before the legalization of marijuana), the largest grow-op bust in provincial history. Without the library, much in the way of clippings, correspondence, town archives, and other ephemera would be dispersed and lost.

The library matters in this small town. The free books and magazines naturally encourage an informed and engaged community, especially when books and materials can be brought in to augment small bilingual collections for book clubs and for voracious readers and housebound residents. Library patron Brenda Giguère describes bringing Community Living clients to the library in mid-winter, to enjoy viewing *National Geographic* videos of exotic places for a welcome change of scene. Parents pick up children's books and send their kids to reading programs such as the TD Summer Reading Club, or read to them in the lounge area. The library also supplements school resources for students. It provides Internet terminals and printers, as well. With so much information and so many government applications

available only online — and when distant family members are increasingly communicating via social media — people without home computers (especially if they need friendly instruction) find this service enormously helpful.

Chances are that the library is one of the favourite places in town for most residents, and it's a big part of what makes Iroquois Falls a thriving community.

Politicians take note: As stated by residents of this town and elsewhere throughout the province, support for small community libraries is evidence of a government that gets its priorities right.

— The *Broke Hustler* was the company newsletter (1917–1929) of *Abitibi Pulp and Paper* (renamed *Abitibi Power and Paper* in 1914). Before automation of the mill, "broke" was the term used for damaged paper that junior papermakers gathered up to be recycled into pulp. Because they had to work quickly, they were called "hustlers."

— For more information, see:

- Shirley-Purdy-Beaton. *The History of Two Libraries: The Iroquois Falls Public Library from 1922 to 1973; Calvert Public Library from 1964 to 2010. Iroquois Falls Public Library, 2010*
- David Helwig. "How to get really, really rich in Iroquois Falls, Ontario" (www.sootoday.com, 2014) ■

Library Treasures of Britain: The Weston Library, University of Oxford

By Guy Robertson



Photo credit: Guy Robertson

Oxford's Weston Library is an attempt to compensate for an unpopular design. In its earlier incarnation as the New Bodleian Library, it was generally considered the city's ugliest building. From 1937 to 1940, Sir Giles Gilbert Scott laboured to develop a practical, multi-functional facility that did not dwarf neighbouring buildings. He built in massive storage areas below ground; eventually these held millions of books, manuscripts, and other items, many of them unique.

"But the final result was visually disappointing," says Geoffrey, a history tutor at one of Oxford's older colleges. "The construction materials include good Bladon stone, and the structure is solid. The university couldn't do without the Weston's storage floors. However, I spend almost no time in the place. The sight of it gives me no joy."

In the early years of this century, the New Bodleian was renovated behind Scott's original façade to provide state-of-the-art storage areas for the Bodleian's vast special collections. Reopened in 2015, the library offers staff and researchers amenities that include three large reading rooms, a lecture theatre and seminar space, and new conservation laboratories.

"The Weston provides much better space and services for patrons," says Olivia, an American graduate student. "The reading rooms are a big improvement, and there's more support for digital research, which so many

Oxford people rely on these days. Once you get past the old façade, there are other good things to see and do. It's not just the tourists who drop in to wander through the exhibition galleries, it's also students and faculty members. Most people like the new cafe, which is not as busy as other local eateries, and, after a meal, people might be curious about what the galleries have to offer. But people are still getting used to the Weston. It might take years for them to accept the place and feel comfortable in it."

David, a local bookseller, notes that people often enter the Weston with anything but scholarly matters in mind. "A big library has toilets. There are lots of visitors to [Oxford] who, while strolling down Broad Street, require what Americans call 'restrooms.' They see the Weston, assume that it has a place to ... rest, and make their way inside. Or they arrive to ask for directions to other places in the city. Or they're simply curious. There's no harm in such intentions, and they might lead to delightful discoveries." He also mentions the Weston's gift shop, where one can buy library-appropriate metal signs that demand "silence please," as well as bags of fudge and Radcliffe Camera key rings. "Even the most austere academic cannot resist that fudge," says David.

Recent exhibits at the Weston have included treasures such as the *Bay Psalm Book*, the first book printed in North America and reputed to be the most expensive to be sold at auction; J. R. R. Tolkien's drawings, manuscripts, and letters; and a working replica of a 17th-century printing press employed in a popular program called "Inky Fingers." With a collection of more than 12 million items, Oxford's libraries can display an endless series of interesting items. As key centenaries of First World War events pass, what could be more fitting than an exhibit including Wilfred Owen's handwritten draft of "Dulce et Decorum Est," one of the more famous war poems? And what could be more appropriate for an exhibition entitled

Sappho to Suffrage: Women Who Dared than an ancient fragment of Sappho's poem declaring that love and beauty are greater than the armies of Homer? No such exhibition would be complete without Mary Shelley's autographed working draft of *Frankenstein*. And, for any conservator needing inspiration, the Weston has displayed a gospel lectionary produced in England during the 11th century and owned by St. Margaret of Scotland. In the distant past, this item fell into a river, but was recovered intact, an incident that underscored St. Margaret's holiness as well as the role of luck in manuscript survival.



A working replica of a 17th-century press
Photo credit: Guy Robertson

With such large and important collections in its storage areas, the Weston is a destination for many local and visiting scholars, and will support scholarly activities for many years. In time, tourists should consider it a worthy destination with more to offer than restrooms. Even Geoffrey might spend more time in the Weston, enjoying the exhibits and getting his fingers inky.

For more information, go to <https://www.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/weston>. ■

Libraries Named after Librarians

By Suzette Giles

An overview of the series

The name attached to a library soon becomes just a location, with little thought given to the person so honoured. This series was an opportunity to highlight the accomplishments of 22 librarians memorialized in this manner. Many not only strove to develop their local library system, but were also active at the provincial and national level, and played a significant role in the development of professional library education.

The naming of branches after librarians occurred mainly in municipal libraries, with only two being in the academic sphere — Bruce Peel Special Collections (University of Alberta, Edmonton) and Simona Maaskant Library (The Kings University, Edmonton). Of the librarians profiled, 10 were men and 12 were women, representing five provinces.

The majority of the public librarians (including all of the men) were heads of multi-branch libraries, however Louise Riley (Calgary Public Library) and Lillian H. Smith (Toronto Public Library) were renowned children's librarians, while Georgina Thomson (Calgary Public Library) was revered for her reference skills. Lillian Benham (Nova Scotia Public Libraries), while a librarian, was acknowledged for her campaign for library services.

A poignant theme underlies the naming of many of these libraries: the individual

died while employed by the library or shortly after retiring. The naming of a branch was an acknowledgement of the loss of a well-respected colleague. Reading about Simona Maaskant and Maria A. Shchuka (Toronto Public Library) one gets a sense of the sorrow felt by colleagues at their deaths. Penny McKee (Edmonton Public Library) passed away shortly after retiring, as did Louise Riley, Marjorie Mews (Newfoundland and Labrador Public Libraries), Mary J. L. Black (Thunder Bay Public Library), J. S. Wood (Saskatoon Public Library), and Michael Donovan (Newfoundland and Labrador Public Libraries).



Marjorie Mews Corner
Photo credit: London Public Library

Sadly, when researching these librarians, there was often little information on the website of the branch or library system. There might be a note that the branch was named after a chief librarian. Toronto Public Library has links to biographies of George

H. Locke and Lillian H. Smith, but these are exceptions. Some have been profiled in the "Biographies" section of ELA's website, while a few have been featured in past issues of *ELAN*. An internet search sometimes pointed to further sources including the online version of the *Dictionary of Canadian Biography/Dictionnaire biographique du Canada* (www.biographi.ca/en/index.php), municipal websites, and Wikipedia. Lorne Bruce's books on the development of public libraries in Ontario were also very useful.

Libraries, however, were always helpful when contacted and could usually provide some information. On occasion, family members and past colleagues were contacted to get a fuller picture of a person's personal and professional life. The libraries were also generous in providing images free of charge.

Framed copies of the *ELAN* articles were presented by Ex Libris representatives to the Evelyn Gregory and Maria A. Shchuka branches in Toronto, the Lillian Benham Library in Lockeport, Nova Scotia, and the Marjorie Mews library, in St John's. The latter now has a "Marjorie Mews Corner" that displays the framed article.

Various members of the Ex Libris Association suggested the libraries and librarians, but the series is by no means definitive, and further suggestions are welcome. ■

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 Ex Libris 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.

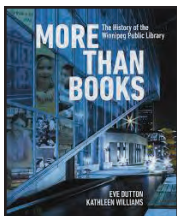
When You Move

When you move, please remember to send your new address to
Ex Libris Association,
Faculty of Information, University of Toronto,
140 St. George St., Toronto, ON
M5S 3G6.



Book Reviews

Edited by Susan Ibbetson



***More Than Books:
the History of
the Winnipeg
Public Library.***

By Eve Dutton and Kathleen Williams; Joan Blakley, ed.
Winnipeg Public Library, 2018.
ISBN: 978-0986968525.
\$12 or as free e-book

Reviewed by Barbara Clubb

My first childhood memory of a library was going by myself to Winnipeg's Cornish branch, followed by tea at Grandma's. This is the very accessible story of the Winnipeg

Public Library from its beginnings to the present day. A welcome addition to the history of public-library service in Canada, it should be widely available and required reading by library staff and board members across the country.

Several things set *More Than Books* apart: first, the very extensive use of photos, images, and maps (more than 160 of them); second, how the authors put the development of the library within the context of the establishment of the province and its capital; third, the way the authors weave the voices of library users throughout the story. We learn how important books were to the traders and early settlers, just as they are to today's newcomers, and everyone in between. There are the familiar themes of politics, endless funding challenges, facilities, chief librarians, floods and hurricanes,

Andrew Carnegie and Bill Gates, and relentless technical innovation.

You might think there's nothing new to this story. Not so. We learn that the library opened the first children's reading room in any Canadian library, set up the first librarian-workers training school in Western Canada, and began offering braille books in 1917.

The book reveals that the public library continues to be a cornerstone where people — regardless of income, race, or religion — are welcome. The only things missing are an index and any reference to the Winnipeg General Strike and the role of staff unionization. *Barb Clubb began her career at the Winnipeg Public Library where she worked for four years as a young library assistant and librarian at the Osborne and St. John's branches. ■*



***The Library Book*
By Susan Orlean
Simon & Schuster,
2018.
ISBN: 978-
1476740188. \$20.52**

Reviewed by Julia Schneider

Susan Orlean's *The Library Book* starts with a question: Did would-be actor Harry Peak set the April 29, 1986, fire that devastated the Central Public Library in Los Angeles? That question is the springboard to a larger quest to unravel the mystery of how — whatever the forces against it — the library as an institution, place, and idea survives as an enduring monument to the human spirit, its memories not to be obliterated by any conflagration.

Orlean's accomplishment is both

monumental in its scope and personal in its details. It brings into play her relationship with her mother, who would have loved to have been a librarian, and early memories of their library trips, along with immersive research and lively observations of dedicated Los Angeles library staff. Her research uncovers the politics that shaped the Central Library, designed by Bertrand Goodhue, and extraordinary characters such as Charles Fletcher Lummis, who displaced City Librarian Mary Jones in 1905, as well as less colourful ones such as Everett Robbins Perry, who outlasted both and helped get the library built.

One chapter details book burnings of the past, including those by the Nazis (*Feuersprache*), the Chinese Cultural Revolution, and the Khmer Rouge in Cambodia. Of such deliberate destruction Orlean writes, "Taking books away from a culture is to take away its shared memory ... [it is] sentencing it

to something worse than death: It is sentencing it to seem as if it never lived."

The Library Book speaks of such library users as George Orwell, Karl Marx, and, ironically enough, Mao Tse Tung. It lacks an index, which is unfortunate: I would have loved to have easy reference, especially to Ray Bradbury and *Fahrenheit 451*.

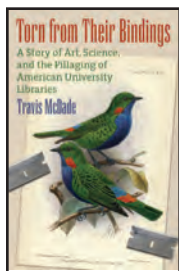
Launched as a mystery and ending with a revelation, *The Library Book* is a highly enjoyable and very timely reminder of how important libraries have been — and remain, now more than ever. ■

Books of Interest to Members

ELAN welcomes news about books by ELA members. Send a brief description or an advertising brochure to jean.weihns@gmail.com.

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Torn From Their Bindings: A Story of Art, Science, and the Pillaging of American University Libraries

By Travis McDade
University Press of Kansas, 2018.
ISBN 978-07006-26366. \$32.85

Reviewed by Jean Weihs

On one University of Illinois campus near midnight, the university steam operator made a routine check of the university's giant cooling towers and stumbled over three books on the steps of the building that housed the towers. He assumed the books were left by a student and phoned the university's police dispatcher, who told him an

officer would be there in five minutes. When the steam operator returned to the steps, the books were gone.

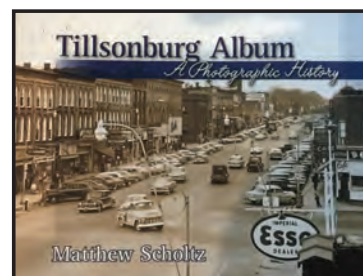
This begins a detailed account of the thefts by Robert Kindred — who is described as “uneducated, morally flexible, and hated the idea of a boss” — and Richard Green, who followed Kindred's orders. With the help of his accomplice, Kindred would cut out and steal illustrations from the books in rare-book collections in several university libraries in the United States — or steal whole books, when there was no time to remove the illustrations. Kindred had no interest in the books themselves, he just “harvested” the illustrations, which he then framed and sold individually to unsuspecting buyers.

Kindred felt there were more universities in the eastern United States with valuable collections to plunder — pictures for him to set in suitable frames and sell. Usually he returned the books to the shelves, so most thefts were not noticed by library

staff. Indeed, the libraries did not seem to know that books were missing from their rare-book collections. The most detailed account relates to thefts from a library at the University of Illinois, and the majority of the pictures in this book relate to this library.

Read the book to discover how Kindred was caught and how the justice system of the United States regards the theft of library materials. ■

Books by Members



Tillsonburg Album: A Photographic History
By Matthew Scholtz
Privately printed, 2014. ISBN:
978-1-77136-277-1. \$30 (from
www.tillsonburgalbum.com).

Archives News

By Michael Moir

As reported by Alvin Schrader (*ELAN* No. 65/Spring 2019, see page 14), the Provincial Archives of Saskatchewan (PAS) closed its Saskatoon office in December 2018 after more than 70 years on the University of Saskatchewan's campus. The move was part of plans to consolidate the services and holdings of five buildings in a new facility with improved environmental controls, security, protection from fire and rodents, and increased capacity. The CBC building in Regina was announced in February 2019 as the new home for PAS, and agreements were negotiated with municipal and university archival programs to keep certain records in Saskatoon, but the closure was met with considerable criticism. Notice of only three weeks left many faculty and students uncertain about the viability of long-term research projects and lamenting the loss of contact with archivists, despite

the prospect of increased digitization.

In marked contrast, planning for a new central library in Ottawa led to a request for expressions of interest from organizations willing to partner in the development of a major cultural centre. Library and Archives Canada (LAC) responded to this invitation and a letter of intent was signed on January 15, 2016, with the City of Ottawa Council and the Ottawa Public Library Board. The joint project will offer not only reference services, a reading room, and a preservation lab, but also a café, Friends shop, and exhibit galleries that will attract more than 1.5 million visitors each year to a site close to LAC's current location. The year-long public-consultation initiative involved workshops, lectures, and online engagement. For further information, visit <https://ottawacentrallibrary.ca/the-project>. ■

I Retain a Small Office

By Dick Ellis

I retain a small office in the Queen Elizabeth II Library at Memorial University. Dr. Who would find it spacious — its footprint being about twice the size of your average phone booth. Originally styled a “Research/Typing Room” when it was designed in the late 1970s, it was furnished with a long-ish desk with a lower typing table and a duplex outlet above the desk in case one had an electric typewriter. There is a hanging bookshelf (two shelves) and enough room, as one enters, for a side chair and a filing cabinet. There is no record of the architect having visited medieval monasteries, but, after spending time in this enclosed space, one is inclined to speculate.

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Nearby there is a wide hall that joins the more social area of the library on this floor to the quieter series of reading rooms. Along this wall, in 64 oversized shelves, sit the *National Union Catalogue Pre-1956 Imprints* (NUC) and the *British Museum General Catalogue of Printed Books* (and supplements). Perhaps I am not the only one who remembers receiving shipments of the NUC with great enthusiasm and waiting a seemingly interminable time for the volumes of the “Bible” to arrive. An acquisitions librarian sharing the technical processing space with cataloguers, I had the pleasure to announce the arrival of each successive shipment.

Generally, the cataloguers rejoiced, but one stoic soul remembered well the instruction of her cataloguing professor not to look at the *Library of Congress Catalog* (and its successors) when doing her assignments and so had to be coaxed, on the job, to take guidance from such

sources. All this, of course, prior to the *Anglo-American Cataloguing Rules*.

As I pass by the volumes, I cannot but reflect on the massive effort that went into supporting libraries in the 20th century. Missing from these shelves is the *Minnesota Union List of Serials*, once a standard reference source for both serials units and interlibrary-loan departments. Indeed, my first job offer was a position that involved proofreading an enormous bedsheet printout of serial records from the University of Washington Library. The definitive record, against which the printout was to be compared, consisted of a group of very large Rolodex files, each sheet being a standard business-letter size. It was the sort of task that made being a counterman at a deli look inspiring. I took a pass. And yet, the effort that went into serials listings, including the Cooperative Union Serials System list in Ontario and the work of individuals such as Ritvars Bregzis, who wrestled with the problems that led to the creation of the Library of

Congress Machine-Readable Cataloguing, are memorialized on our shelves.

The NUC is no longer resident in the Cataloguing and Metadata Division on the floor below. Truth be told, I have never seen anyone consulting it, even though pull-out consultation shelves are provided, as I walk toward the large open space (once derisively called “The Fiesta Deck”) in which a hundred or more students are pursuing their objectives, some of them curriculum related.

Herbert Muller, in *The Uses of the Past*, comments on the initials carved into the bricks used in the building of the Hagia Sophia, mute testimony to the workmen who were paid by the brick and thereby created a record that reminds us that marvelous structures rest on the labour of those who took up mundane tasks with a will and a hope.

I never did meet the person who proofread those printouts. We owe her our thanks. ■

British Columbia News

By Guy Robertson



Winners of the British Columbia Library Association's Building Better Communities Award include the **West Vancouver Memorial Library (WVML)**, which

developed a multi-faceted program entitled Honouring Reconciliation: Hearing the Truth. Through workshops, conference sessions, reading-circle training, and other measures, **WVML** increased its community's knowledge and understanding of Indigenous history and the effects of colonialism on Indigenous peoples in Canada. **Vancouver Island Regional Library (VIRL)**, won for Indigenous Voices, an initiative that involves First Nations Elders-in-Residence programs. **VIRL** staff worked with Elders across Vancouver Island and in Haida Gwaii to facilitate events offering information on reconciliation, residential schools, and creation stories. Attendees also learned about local medicinal

plants, engaged in smudging ceremonies, and participated in drum-making sessions. By the end of 2018, Elders had hosted more than 50 events in 20 **VIRL** communities, with a total of 1,384 attendees. Community leaders regard Indigenous Voices as an outstanding success, and the initiative has continued into 2019 with enthusiastic reviews.

In August, the **University of British Columbia (UBC) Library** announced that British Columbia's *Sessional Papers*, an annual collection of papers from the Legislative Council of British Columbia and the Legislative Assembly, has been made available to anyone with WiFi and a device. *Sessional Papers* comprises committee reports, orders of the day, petitions, land-sale records, budgetary materials, proclamations, voter lists, and the annual reports of provincial-government departments. These items are available through **UBC Library's Open Collections** (open.library.ubc.ca/collections/bcsessional). The project began in 2014 as a collaborative undertaking by five institutions known as the BC Government Publications Digitization Group, which includes the **UBC Library**,

the **Legislative Library of British Columbia**, Simon Fraser University, the University of Victoria, and the University of Northern British Columbia.

The Vancouver Pride Society (VPS) rescinded the **Vancouver Public Library (VPL)**'s invitation to march in the 2019 annual Pride parade. VPS did not condone **VPL**'s hosting of a talk in January by feminist speaker Meghan Murphy, the founder of *Feminist Current*, a radical blog and podcast. Murphy has questioned whether people can change their biological sex. **VPL** noted the concern regarding its room-rental policy and expressed the hope that it would regain the trust of the LGBTQ2 community, but it stood by its decision.

Prairies News

By Alvin M. Schrader



University of Winnipeg Archives officially launched its **Two-Spirit Archives**, on May 27, 2019, following the raising of the Pride and

Two-Spirit flags kicking off the university's Pride Week celebrations.

University of Manitoba Archives and Special Collections has curated a physical exhibit of holdings relating to the 1919 Winnipeg General Strike. Running from April to September 2019, the exhibit includes photographs and documents, and features an original truncheon, armband, and badge used by the special constables during the strike. Events included a talk by co-writer, composer, and producer Danny Schur about his role in making *Stand!*, a film about the strike, and *Strike! The Musical*, based on the book which he co-authored in 2007.

Winnipeg Public Library is exploring how to organize its multilingual collection — other than English, French, and Indigenous languages — for better access and responsiveness to growing population diversity. Current access requires on-site browsing for both fiction and non-fiction.

The Manitoba Association of Library Technicians and the Manitoba Library Trustees Association have merged with the Manitoba Library Association to become the Library Technicians Division and the Trustees Division, respectively.

Saskatoon Public Library is developing a business case, expected to be released this fall, for a new downtown facility. Alternatives under consideration include renovating the current **Frances Morrison Central Library** or building a new library. More public consultation and then a design competition will follow.

The Saskatchewan Library Association's request to join the University of Saskatchewan Senate was approved for a three-year period, effective May 2019.

Regina Public Library (RPL) has launched the **Indigenous Voices: Sharing Our Stories** collection, which features emerging and established Indigenous authors and illustrators across North America, and includes fiction and non-fiction for both adults and young adults. The collection, at several branches and the main library, was developed in response to the Canadian Association of Research Libraries/Association des bibliothèques de recherche du Canada (CARL-ABRC) Truth and Reconciliation Report, as part of RPL's commitment to the reconciliation process.

Wheatland County Council,

headquartered in Strathmore, Alta., voted April 16, 2019, to withhold the 2019 budget allocation for the county's libraries, even though it had already been approved. Councillor Jason Wilson said he disagreed with "subsidizing the user" of the library service even if it was agreed to be regarded an essential service. "I believe in a user-pay system," he said. "Many of our libraries within our municipality's boundaries have zero or very low fees. Individuals should be responsible for paying for the services that they require." As a result of swift and critical public reaction, this decision was rescinded at the council meeting in May.

In July of 2019, the **Edmonton Public Library** encountered a flurry of criticism for its downtown-library renovation project, with critics comparing the **Stanley A. Milner Library** to a tank, a cruise ship, a shipping container, and even a bomb shelter. Structural issues during renovations bumped the cost from the projected budget of \$69 million in 2017 to \$84.5 million in 2019. Closed in December 2016, the library will hold a grand reopening on February 14, 2020.

Ontario News

By Vivienne James



Among those putting on events in celebration of National Indigenous History Month (June) was **University of Toronto Library, Ontario Institute**

for Studies in Education (OISE). Its ground-floor display highlighted Indigenous children's stories and scholarly material, to encourage readers and students to learn more about Indigenous history, perspectives, and culture.

McMaster University Library has a giant floor map — designed to help foster understanding of Indigenous history and perspectives — organized by the library as part of the CARTO Association of Canadian Map Libraries and Archives conference that it hosted.

Ottawa Public Library celebrated National Indigenous History Month at **Library and Archives Canada** with the Indigenous Writers' Gathering

co-sponsored by the Ottawa International Writers' Fest and the Government of Canada. Featured authors included Kateri Akwenzie-Damm, Colleen Cardinal, and Suzanne Methot. This gathering is part of #IndigenousReads, which encourages reconciliation through the sharing of Indigenous literature.

An exciting milestone was reached for the **Library and Archives Canada (LAC)–Ottawa Public Library (OPL)** joint facility when the Jason Bruges Studio, an artists' group from the U.K., was awarded the Artist on Design Team commission for an interactive art installation by the City of Ottawa's Public Art Program. The **LAC–OPL** will deliver a rich customer experience through their public services, exhibitions, and events that showcase Canada's heritage. For more information on the **LAC–OPL** joint facility. (See "Archives News" by Michael Moir, page 11.)

Toronto Public Library's (TPL) current slogan is Activate Something Great in 2019. Through TPL Experience 360, staff, partners, library users, and the public were asked what an exceptional customer experience should look and feel like. Based on the results, **TPL** is developing a new look and concept aimed at exciting transformation. George Brown College and **TPL** announced a new partnership to exchange expertise and develop collaborative programming that will benefit students, library customers, and all Torontonians.

Quebec News

By Pierre Guilmette and Peter F. McNally



L'Association des bibliothécaires du Québec/Quebec Library Association (ABQLA) held its 87th annual conference on May 24, at the Loyola Campus of Concordia University, with the theme Everyday Superheroes/Super-héros de tous le jours. The opening keynote presentation, Best Practices: Startlingly

Efficient, Utterly Disastrous, was given by Margo Gustina, deputy director of the Southern Tier Library System. Newly elected President of ABQLA is Eamon Duffy, **McGill University Library**. Recipient of the 2019 Anne Galler Award is Suzanne Nesbitt, Librarian, Lester B. Pearson School Board.

On May 23 the Montreal suburb of Pierrefonds-Roxboro opened its \$25 million public library, which replaces the old facility, built on the same site in 1983, with an additional 2,300 square metres of space. The bilingual **Pierrefonds-Roxboro Library** has a games room, a 3-D printing suite, toddlers' space, teenagers' games room, animation room, musical instruments, genealogy room, rooftop terrace, downstairs café, and a drive-through book drop-off.

Corporation des bibliothécaires professionnels du Québec/Corporation of Professional Librarians of Quebec (CBPQ) was founded in 1969. Its board has formed a committee to look into the future of the corporation. This committee will comprise representatives of the various documentary environments, and will table its report in February of 2020. The 50th anniversary will be highlighted by an evening event on October 28, 2019, at the annual Conference of Information Professionals.

Book censorship has affected many societies. In Quebec, several libraries have a closed space for the books that appeared in the *Index of Forbidden Books*, also known by its Latin title, *Index librorum prohibitorum*. This section of a library, where the volumes condemned by the Catholic Church were kept, was called "Hell." The historical library of the Séminaire de Québec, for example, had a Hell. Pierrette Lafond tells the story of this symbolic place in a recent illustrated 144-page book, *Promenade en Enfer: Livres à l'index de la bibliothèque historique du Séminaire de Québec*. This Hell is kept in the Canadian Museum of History.

Beginning this year, Quebec City's **Gabrielle-Roy Library** will be closed for two years for major renovations. The library's 125,000 documents are being transferred to the Saint-Roch Recreation Centre. A temporary library is being built to allow readers to visit the library during the work.

The **Quebec Ministry of Finance** library will be moved, in order to renovate the Gérard-D. Lévesque building in Quebec City.

Maritimes News

By Tanja Harrison



Several public libraries in the Maritimes have been doing their part to help alleviate food insecurity. The **Fredericton Public Library** has installed a fridge with snacks available to anyone when the library is open. The **Confederation Centre Public Library** in Charlottetown is now offering fresh fruit, yogurt, cheese, and bagels weekday mornings. Inspired by a current initiative at the **Halifax Public Libraries**, which offers healthy snacks for kids and teens at most branches and food-literacy programs for all ages, P.E.I. Regional Librarian Beth Clinton says it's a chance to help youth, who normally rely on school breakfast programs, throughout the summer. It's open to any community member who could benefit from a nutritious start to the day.

This summer — thanks to a partnership between the **New Brunswick Public Library Service**, the Hopewell Rocks, and the Fundy Trail Parkway — patrons were treated to free seasonal passes to the iconic landmark and popular trail, carrying on the tradition of other free offerings available through the public library system, including passes to Kings Landing, the Beaverbrook Art Gallery, the Village Historique Acadien, and the New Brunswick Museum.

Last spring the Canadian government proposed making free menstrual products available in all federal offices. By the end of 2019 all British Columbian public schools and Ontario's Waterloo Region District School Board will be required to make free products available. In Nova Scotia, the **Mount Saint Vincent University Library** has offered free tampons and pads for more than two years, which has become a campus-wide initiative. Recently **Saint Mary's University Patrick Power Library** began

offering free products, and a decision to follow this trend at the **Halifax Public Libraries** will be another step toward ending period poverty in the city.

The **University of Prince Edward Island's Robertson Library** has developed and delivered two new courses for the university-affiliated Seniors College. Sharing our Research offers highlights of faculty and graduate-student research projects, while the second course is a workshop series designed to introduce seniors to 3-D printing.

Over the summer several areas of the **University of New Brunswick Libraries** were closed for renovations, including the **Harriet Irving Library** (to create more student space) and the **Archives and Special Collections** (to increase the capacity for historical research collections).

The **Dalhousie University Libraries Killam Memorial Library** launched the Chris Hadfield Space Photographs Collection (dalspatial.maps.arcgis.com/apps/MapSeries/index.html?appid=de978631f3fe4bc98095a8d8191f4966). A new data-visualization wall displays more than 13,000 photographs — captured while he was orbiting Earth in 2013 as commander of the International Space Station — and donated by Hadfield for teaching, learning, and research. Staff at the GIS Centre painstakingly selected 200 photos to create an interactive story map accessible online. One of only two institutions worldwide to have the photos, the library is the first to have an image archive for the public.

Newfoundland & Labrador News

By Dick Ellis



The board of the Newfoundland and Labrador Public Library system, having reviewed the consultant's report on its operations and services, put in place a series of well-considered standards aligned with the report. In order to begin to bring the system up to the modest standards (a minimum

of 20 hours of opening a week, for example), the board requested a total amount equal to the system's budget in 2012/2013. This entailed a \$1.7 million increase over 2018/2019. It was not granted. In other news, the provincial government announced a grant of \$1.8 million to refurbish the clubhouse at a baseball diamond in Corner Brook.

And — not to end on a downer — Dick Ellis, Ex Libris President Tom Eadie, and Tanja Harrison had a great time staffing the Ex Libris booth at the Atlantic Provinces Library Association conference 2019 in June. More about this in the President's Report (see the article by Tom Eadie in this issue, page 2), no doubt.

News from the North

By Julie Ourom



The Northwest Territories comprises 1.346 million kilometres (13.5 percent) of Canada's land mass and is bookended by Yukon in the west and Nunavut in the east. At

an average age of 32 years, the population of 44,445 is younger than the Canadian average, and inhabitants of Indigenous descent make up more than 48 percent.

With a slightly warmer climate than Nunavut, the Northwest Territories has boreal forest (taiga) and tundra. It is home to Canada's biggest and deepest lakes and its highest waterfalls, the fabled Northwest Passage, and the forbidding Barren Lands. Many people live off the land, with mining (latterly gold, now diamond), oil, and gas as the major economic opportunities.

Twenty-one community libraries serve a population dispersed in small and remote communities. The largest is Yellowknife, with 21,373 people, followed by Hay River (3,734), Inuvik (3,192), and Fort Smith (2,562). During the summer, libraries offered a variety of programs, such as the TD Summer Reading Club and other innovative initiatives, to attract children and promote reading skills.

In the Northwest Territories, **Hay**

River Public Library's Summer Pardon Program provided patrons with the impetus to read-away fines for missing or overdue items, with \$2 forgiven for each 15-minute reading interval.

In Yukon, **Whitehorse Public Library's** Kitchen Takeover returned by popular demand, with sessions for different age groups. Stories, both classic and new, were the inspiration to create delicious food. Participants learned basic kitchen techniques and produced personal recipe books to take home to demonstrate their skills to family and friends. This free program used the nearby kitchen facilities at the Kwanlin Dün Cultural Centre, which shares space with the library.

If you have news and information about library matters in Canada's North, please send it to me at crocuscats@gmail.com.

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

SLAIS is pleased to announce the appointment of **Susan E. Parker** as an associate faculty member. She holds an MA in American history from Indiana University, an MLS from the City University of New York, and a PhD in organizational psychology. She became University Librarian at the University of British Columbia (UBC) in 2017 after years in administrative positions at UCLA, California State University (Northridge), Harvard Law School Library, and Tufts University. She will be involved in student research and strategic initiatives, and support the ongoing partnership between the iSchool and UBC's libraries. We also welcome **Dr. Tricia Logan**, a Métis scholar who has worked with the National

Centre for Truth and Reconciliation, the Canadian Museum for Human Rights, and the Aboriginal Healing Foundation. She will teach courses on Indigenous issues that arise in libraries, archives, and museums. As well, she has assumed the role of Assistant Director of Research and Engagement at UBC's new Residential School History and Dialogue Centre.

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

By Toni Samek

In January of 2019, SLIS conducted its 29th-annual employment survey of MLIS graduates. Ninety-six percent of respondents from the 2017 class have been employed in the LIS sector. Fifty-eight percent of the secured jobs required American Library Association accreditation. In February, the annual student conference, Forum for Information Professionals, minted the school's new space in the Education Centre and was a resounding success. SLIS doctoral student **Sharon Farnel** received a 2019 University of Alberta Graduate Student Teaching Award. In April, the Library and Information Studies Students' Association adopted its first land acknowledgment. Curriculum review culminated with affirmation of the strength of the MLIS program and only minor renewal recommended to, and endorsed by, the school council in May. The council also approved a refreshed Vision, Mission, and Values Statement inclusive of Indigenous world views and bringing truth and reconciliation to our education. SLIS recently sponsored and participated in the Kule Institute for Advanced Study on AI, Ethics, and Society Conference.

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

By Becky Blue

Professor Grant Campbell has accepted the role of MLIS Program Chair for a two-year period, and will be working with the program committee to maintain our high standard of academic excellence in LIS. **Professor Nadine Wathen**, who teaches in the Health Information Science program, was appointed to a new, Tier 1 Canada Research Chair position in Mobilizing Knowledge on Gender-Based

Violence. FIMS would also like to wish **Professor Kate Johnson** all the best in her retirement as she moves on to new adventures. Finally, congratulations to all of the MLIS and LIS doctoral students who celebrated their convocation by crossing the stage on June 20, 2019.

University of Toronto, Faculty of Information (iSchool)

By Ann Brocklehurst

The Faculty of Information has welcomed a number of new faculty members, while saying goodbye to others. **Chief Administrative Officer Glenn Cumming** retired in July after five years at the faculty during which he oversaw the successful renovations of the Inforum. **Professor Wendy Duff's** term as dean was extended by six months until the end of 2019, while the decanal advisory committee continues its work on the search for a new dean. **Tony Tang** was appointed an associate professor with tenure at the Faculty of Information, effective July 1, 2019. Among other things, his research investigates the design of immersive analytics tools and virtual reality. The faculty has also hired four new assistant professors as contractually limited-term appointments, and prepares to welcome its biggest-ever entry-level class this fall. Incoming students will include the first crop of Bachelor of Information students, who will complete the last two years of their degrees at the faculty.

University of Ottawa, School of Information Studies (ÉSIS)

By Hélène Carrier

Leslie Weir, cross-appointed professor at ÉSIS and former University Librarian, University of Ottawa, has been named Librarian and Archivist of Canada. She is the first woman appointed to this position since the National Archives of Canada merged with the National

Library of Canada in 2004. ÉSIS will host **Ross Gordon** as a public-servant-in-residence, effective August 1, 2019, for one year. Currently Director of Records and Information Management at Environment and Climate Change Canada, he will benefit from this Public Servant-in-Residence Program from the Canada School of Public Service, to increase and strengthen the links between this institution and the University of Ottawa. During this residency, he will be teaching a course on information management, conduct research on how emerging technologies can be utilized by the government information-management specialists, and offer information sessions with students who wish to join the public service.

McGill University, School of Information Studies

By Peter F. McNally

Professor Benjamin Fung has been appointed Associate Editor *IEEE Transactions of Knowledge and Data Engineering (TKDE)* for a two-year term, effective May 2019. He has joined forces with industry to fight fraudulent insurance claims and has begun collaborating with Defence Research and Development Canada to develop an AI-powered interactive platform to understand the inner workings of software binaries.

Professors Max Evans and Ilja Frissen have recently been promoted to tenured associate professors. Their paper "The Strength of Strong Ties You Can Trust: Re-Examining the Mediating Role of Trust in Effective Knowledge Sharing" was presented at the 19th European Conference on Knowledge Management, Padua, Italy.

Professor Charles-Antoine Julien has left the school to pursue other opportunities.

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

By Isabelle Bourgey

There's lots of news regarding faculty this summer at EBSI. We are happy to welcome **Jean-Sébastien Sauvé** as adjunct professor, effective August 1, 2019. His current research interests include crowdsourcing, open access, museum information management, architectural drawings, and library design. **Professors Lyne Da Sylva and Vincent Larivière** were promoted to full professors on June 1, 2019. Congratulations to them both! Finally, EBSI now has the first female director in its history, as **Professor Lyne Da Sylva** was nominated Director of EBSI for a four-year term (2019–2023). She has been Acting Director since September of 2018.

Dalhousie University, School of Information Management (SIM)

By Sandra Toze

SIM is turning 50 this year. Please hold October 26 — details will follow. The name change from Master of Library and Information Studies (MLIS) to Master of Information (MI) was approved, to more accurately reflect more the content and goals of the program, and to be more inclusive of all the career options possible through the degree. The degree will continue to be accredited through the American Library Association. **Dr. Bertrum MacDonald** and **Dr. Fiona Black** retired as of June 2019, although both will continue at Dalhousie in post-retirement positions. We will be celebrating their tremendous impact on the school and the field this fall as part of SIM50. **Program Coordinator JoAnn Watson** also retired in June. She has been with SIM since 2005, and her contributions have been significant. We wish her well in her retirement. Welcome to **Janet Music**, who is taking on this role.

Milestones

Compiled by Frances Davidson-Arnott

Obituaries

Marg Allen died on January 7, 2019, at age 92, in Lindsay, Ont.

She was Librarian at the Fenelon Falls Branch of the Kawartha Lakes Public Library for 17 years. **Adelia Victoria "Dee" Amyoony** died

on July 23, 2019, at age 86. Dee graduated from McGill's Library Science program. In 1965 she became Head Librarian at the Halifax North Branch Library and

was instrumental in establishing this new branch and developing its community-based service focus. Some early initiatives included funding a student-tutoring program and establishing Black History Month programming, making Nova Scotia the first province to celebrate.

Irène Elizabeth Aubrey died on May 13, 2019, at age 91, in Ottawa. She headed Children's Literature at the National Library of Canada from 1975 to 1993.

Rosemarie "Mimi" Benoit died on June 7, 2019, at age 75, in Ottawa. Fluently bilingual, she worked in various federal government departments, ending her career as Chief Librarian for the Commissioner of Official Languages.

Mary Bogdanic died on March 21, 2019, at age 93, in Ottawa. She worked at the National Research Council of Canada.

Andrew Allen Davidson died on February 25, 2019, at age 66, in Toronto. He spent his working career (42 years) at Robarts Library, University of Toronto.

Geraldine Dobbin died on February 4, 2019, at age 89, in Vancouver.

After attending library school at the University of Toronto she returned to work at the University of British Columbia Library in 1956.

Adrian Dzerowycz died on March 18, 2019, at age 87, in Ottawa. He was a cataloguer at the National Library of Canada.

Joan Fairfield died on May 18, 2019, at age 97. In her forties, Joan returned to school to study Library Sciences at the University of Toronto and ultimately became Chief Librarian of the Markham Public Library.

Christine Margaret French died on May 10, 2019, at age 88, in Ajax, Ont. She worked as a librarian for many years at the Pickering Village branch library.

Ada Green-Nemec died on January 20, 2019, at age 93, in St. John's. She was Librarian at Memorial College and Memorial University of Newfoundland (MUN) and worked at MUN, with breaks, from 1948 until 1962. Ada was responsible for planning new library facilities on a new and expanded campus and overseeing the move to the present campus in 1961. She later worked at the College of Fisheries, Navigation, Marine Engineering and Electronics as its first librarian in 1964, and focused

the collection on fisheries research.

Gertrude Elizabeth Gunn died on March 18, 2019, at age 95, in Gagetown, N.B. She was Head Librarian at the University of New Brunswick for 23 years, and named Librarian Emerita after retiring in 1982.

Alto Hall died on February 28, 2015, at age 102, in Brantford, Ont. While raising three children, she obtained her BA and Master of Library Science from the University of Western Ontario. She was Librarian at Brantford Collegiate Institute.

Marian Elizabeth (Meg) Horn died March 16, 2019, at age 78, in Nanaimo, B.C. She co-authored the three-volume *Alberta Rural Libraries Project* in 1974.

In her work with the British Columbia Justice Development Commission, now the Legal Services Society, she created the province's first legal-information resource centre for the public. She also promoted popular legal-information collections in libraries and legal-information courses in public schools. In 1980 she became the founding executive director of the Public Legal Education Association of Saskatchewan, and, in 1984, she joined Justice Canada and was the driving force behind the Access to Justice Information Network (ACJNet), Canada's first portal to legal information on the internet. In 1987 she received the Sandra Garvie Memorial Award of Merit from the Legal Resource Centre of Alberta and, in 1994, she was awarded a Public Service leadership award for her role in creating ACJNet.

Barbara Janicek died on July 13, 2019, at age 44, in Kitchener. She graduated with an MLIS from Western University in 2007. Her library career led her first to Saskatoon, then back to Ontario, to Cambridge, then Kitchener, in 2011, where she worked as a children's librarian.

Cornelius Krygsman died on May 13, 2019, at age 82, in Toronto. His library career included being a cataloguer at Markham Public Library.

Betty McCamus died on March 20, 2019, at age 94, in Guelph, Ont. She was a professor in the Faculty of Library Science at Western University.

Gertrude (Trudie) McLaren died on September 6, 2018, at age 83, in Vilna, Alta. She spent her career as a librarian and archivist at the University of Alberta.

Corey MacNason died on March 25, 2019, at age 65, in Ottawa. Mac spent his

early career in the federal government, followed by many years as a professor in the Library and Information Technician program at Algonquin College in Ottawa.

John Mansbridge died on February 11, 2019, at age 83, in Castlegar, B.C. He spent more than three decades as Librarian at Selkirk College.

Nancy McCormack died on July 17, 2019, at age 56, in Kingston, Ont. With an MA in Library Science from Western University, she took a part-time job as a law librarian in a London, Ont., law firm and completed her LL.B at the University of Toronto (U of T). She added an MA in Law at Osgoode, articulated, and became a member of the Ontario bar.

As she still loved being a law librarian, she worked for two years at Fasken Martineau's law library in Toronto and for one more year at the law library at U of T. Queen's University offered her a cross-appointment between the Faculty of Law and the law library. She authored or co-authored six books on law and related topics, and won prizes in her field.

Edith "Bunny" Patterson died on August 3, 2019, in Truro, N.S., at age 92. She received her library degree from Dalhousie University in 1970, then was Librarian at the Cobequid Educational Centre until her retirement in 1988. A longtime member of the Colchester – East Hants Public Library Board, she was a founding member of the Colchester – East Hants Public Library Foundation.

Anita (Holzman) Rappaport died on March 30, 2019, at age 83, in Ottawa. She began her career as a librarian at the Jewish General Hospital in Montreal. After almost two years there, Anita accepted a position as Life Sciences Librarian at MIT in Cambridge, Mass. After the death of her husband, Anita returned to Canada, moving to Ottawa and a librarian position with the National Research Council. She worked for the public service until her retirement.

George Robinson died on June 25, 2019, at age 74, in London, Ont. He was Head Reference Librarian at Western University, then later served as Chief Law Librarian.

Mary Ann Ruby died on April 29, 2019, at age 80, in St. Mary's, Ont. She received a degree in Library Science from McGill University and worked as a librarian at the Kitchener Public Library.

Karen Leigh Smith died on March 21, 2019, at age 78, in London, Ont. She was a teacher and librarian for many years with the London Board of Education. She was president of the Ontario Library Association (1977–1978), very active in the Canadian School Library Association, and a board member of the City of London Public Library Board.

Mary Helen Spicer (née Blair) died on May 11, 2019, at age 95, in Ottawa. She worked for many years at the Ottawa Public Library. She was married to the late Erik Spicer, former Parliamentary Librarian of Canada.

André van Vugt died on February 11, 2019, at age 90, in Newmarket, Ont. His working life included senior positions at public libraries in Barrie, Georgina, Kitchener, Scarborough, and Stouffville in Ontario, and in Truro, N.S.

Lorayne Strachan Winn died on August 1, 2019, at age 76, in Montreal. A graduate of Concordia University Library Sciences, she was a librarian in the Selwyn House School library and a volunteer long after her retirement.

Lina Tremblay-Joseph died June 20, 2019, at the age of 59, in Iroquois Falls, Ont. Lina was CEO of Bibliothèque Publique d'Iroquois Falls Public Library (see the article about the library by Leslie McGrath, page 7).

Christine Claire Williams died on August 22, 2019, at age 57, in Halifax, after a lengthy career with Maritime Telegraph and Telephone Company (later Bell Aliant).

Retirements

Jenny Benedict, Director of Library Services, West Vancouver Memorial Library, retired, effective July 12, 2019. In May she was the recipient of the Association of British Columbia Public Library Directors (ABCPLD) 2019 Award of Excellence. The award recognizes outstanding leadership in library advocacy, innovation and contribution to the library community.

Guy Berthiaume, Librarian and Archivist of Canada, is retiring. An historian of classical antiquity, he has held the position of Librarian and Archivist of Canada since 2014. Previously, he was

President and CEO of the Bibliothèque et Archives nationales du Québec.

Karen Chandler, Manager of System-Wide Resources, Dalhousie University Libraries, retired in June after a 38-year career with the Dal Libraries.

Patricia Enright retired as Chief Librarian and CEO after 15 years with the Kingston Frontenac Public Library, effective August 31, 2019.

Lester Webb, the current Director of Outreach and Technology, Kingston Frontenac Public Library, will assume the role of Interim Chief Librarian and CEO. He has been with the library for 28 years.

Gary Gibson, Ex Libris member and Canadian vendor of sundry products, such as MicroMedia, announced his retirement at the end of the Atlantic Provinces Library Association's 2019 conference. He will, henceforth, commute between Montreal and Lunenburg, N.S.

Susanna Hubbard Krimmer retired at the end of August after 29 years at the London Public Library, the last 11 years as CEO and Chief Librarian. In 2016, she received the Ontario Library Association President's Award for Exceptional Achievement and, in 2018, was given the Ontario Public Library Association's Lifetime Achievement Award.

Carolyn Liggins retired in February 2019, after 17 years with the Dalhousie University Libraries.

Janet Marren retired in June 2019, after 13 years with the Prince George Public Library, and as Chief Librarian since 2013. She also served as Chief Librarian, Houston Public Library (1995–2006).

Ina Smith is retiring as Librarian, Bonnyville Alberta Municipal Library, on October 15, 2019.

Laura Snyder, Music Librarian, Mount Allison University, retired in June 2019. She previously held appointments at St. Olaf College, Oberlin College and Conservatory, Eastman School of Music (University of Rochester), University of Houston, and University of Alberta, joining Mount Allison's Libraries and Archives in 2012.

Alice Stover, Manager of Acquisitions and Metadata, Dalhousie University Libraries, retired at the end of June following a 38-year career with the Dal Libraries. Alice held leadership roles throughout her career and was an expert in her field.

Marc Truitt, University Librarian, Mount Allison University, retired in June 2019.

He joined Mount Allison's Libraries and Archives in 2012, moving from the University of Alberta Libraries, where he was Associate University Librarian. Previously he had an extensive career in technical services and library systems at the universities of Yale, Princeton, Notre Dame, Houston, and the Linda Hall Library of science, engineering, and technology in Kansas City, MO. He also served as chair of the Council of Atlantic University Libraries.

Marguerite Urban, Chief Librarian, Huntsville Public Library, retired in August, after 28 years with the library.

Awards

Carleton Place Public Library in Ontario won the Grand Prize in the 2018 TD Summer Reading Club Awards. Atlantic Provinces Library Association (APLA) awards for 2019 include the following individual award winners: APLA Advocacy Award, **Jenn Carson**, and APLA Merit Award, **Beth Maddigan**. British Columbia Library Association (BCLA) awards for 2019 include the following individual award winners: BCLA Champion of Intellectual Freedom Award, **Baharak Yousefi**; BCLA Outstanding Contribution Award, **Chris Reimer**; and BCLA Eureka Award for innovative problem-solving and original thinking, **Thompson-Nicola Regional Library** (for its Mobile Library, which has provided not only bookmobile service across the region, but also space for advance polling in recent local government elections).

Diana Davidson received the Library Association of Alberta President's Award for 2019. She is director of the Public Library Services Branch, Government of Alberta.

Fort Saskatchewan Public Library received the 2019 Punch Jackson Award of Excellence in Library Service, at the 2019 Alberta Library Conference, for its year-long My City, My Library, My Card campaign that put 6,152 library cards into the hands of residents. The campaign included programs, visits to schools and day-care centres, outreach pop-up tables, and special events

including a visit by Justin Sorensen from the Edmonton Eskimos and BodyBreak duo Joanne McLeod and Hal Johnson.

Brampton Public Library's Springdale Branch was awarded the 2019

Ontario Library Association (OLA)'s New Library Building Award. The OLA awards also went to **Hamilton Public Library's Binbrook Branch**, **Toronto Public Library's Albion Branch**, and **Vaughan Public Library Civic Centre Resource Library**. The **Manitoba Library Association's Prison Libraries Committee (PLC)** won the 2019 Premier's Volunteer Service Award in the category of Community Groups, for providing collections, programming, and library awareness for incarcerated and reintegrating men and women in the justice system. PLC is a group of volunteers who believe that prison libraries and literacy play an important role in peoples' reintegration into communities, and that thoughtful programming and access to meaningful and relevant reading materials can help improve quality of life both inside and outside correctional institutions. Their statement, *The Right to Read*, was adopted by the Canadian Federation of Library Associations in 2016.

Marc Richard, McGill University, received the Canadian Association of University Teachers 2019 Academic Librarians' and Archivists' Distinguished Service Award.

Vancouver Public Library and Greater Victoria Public Library each won one of seven 2019 American Library Association John Cotton Dana Library Public Relations Awards for marketing and public relations excellence.

Mark Williams, Chief Librarian and CEO, and **Milton Public Library** in Ontario are the recipients of a Public Library Association (a division of the American Library Association) 2019 John Iliff Award. "Under Williams's guidance, the library launched an open-source mobile gaming application that encourages patron interaction with community programs and services."

Ian E. Wilson, former Archivist of Ontario, was promoted to Officer of the Order of Canada in this year's Order of Canada appointments for his sustained leadership in the development and

accessibility of public archives, and for his published works on history, heritage, and information management.

Appointments

Julie Andrews was appointed CEO, Lincoln Public Library, effective April 2019. Previously, she worked at Brampton Public Library for seven years. Prior to that she was CEO of Hastings Highlands Public Library for eight years.

Paul Burry, Manager of Support and Circulation Services, was appointed acting Chief Librarian, Prince George Public Library.

Michael Ciccone assumed the role of CEO, London Public Library, at the end of August, when Susanna Hubbard Krimmer retired. He most recently served as Executive Director, Centre for Equitable Library Access.

Yemisi Dina was appointed Chief Law Librarian, York University Osgoode Hall Law School, effective May 2019.

Ken Hernden was appointed University Archivist and Associate University Librarian, Queen's University, effective July 1, 2019. He moves from Algoma University, where he was a member of the senior management team for more than a decade, as library director and later as university librarian. He replaces Paul Banfield as University Archivist.

Anna Gibson Hollow was appointed University Archivist, University of Alberta Libraries, on June 1, 2019. She was formerly with the Office of Advancement, University of Alberta, where she was Director of Advancement Records.

Sandy Iverson was appointed University Librarian, St. Francis Xavier University, on August 1, 2019. She came from St. Michael's Hospital in Toronto where she was the manager for health information and knowledge mobilization. She is also currently the vice-president/president-elect with the Canadian Health Libraries Association.

Diane Keeping has been appointed University Librarian, Mount Allison University, effective August 7, 2019. Most recently she was the manager of Library Collection Services at Mount Royal University.

Karen Keiller was appointed Dean, MacEwan University Library, on July 1, 2019. She was formerly the university librarian and vice-provost (teaching and learning) at Lakehead University. She has served on a variety of boards and committees including the Ontario Council of University Libraries, the Council of Atlantic University Libraries, and the Council of Prairie and Pacific University Libraries.

Loryl MacDonald was appointed Associate Chief Librarian for Special Collections and Director of the Thomas Fisher Rare Book Library, University of Toronto, in April 2019. She has served in this role on an interim basis since July 1, 2016.

Donald Moses was appointed University Librarian, University of Prince Edward Island, in May 2019. He served as Interim University Librarian from February 2016.

Heather Ratz was appointed CEO, Brighton Public Library, in January 2019.

Vivian Stieda will assume the role of Executive Director of The Council of Prairie and Pacific University Libraries on September 6, 2019.

Leslie Weir has been appointed Librarian and Archivist of Canada for a four-year term, effective August 30, 2019. She is the first woman to become Librarian and Archivist of Canada since the merging of Library and Archives Canada. Leslie was University Librarian at the University of Ottawa from 2003 to 2018. Prior to her tenure at the university, she held positions at the National Library of Canada and the Statistics Canada Library. She was also president of the Canadian Association of Research Libraries (2007–2009).

Jian Wang was appointed Chief Librarian, Yorkton Public Library in Saskatchewan.

Laughing in the Library

By Matt Scholtz

A student working on an assignment asked us if we had, in our collection, a "biology" of Margaret Atwood.

If you have a humorous personal story or anecdote to share about your library career, send it to mattscholtz@rogers.com.

THIS IS THE ADDRESS.

MR. T.W. McLEAN, - M.C.A. & L.C.
G.C.S.B.E.A. & Co. & Co.

(% MRS. DILWORTH)

DEER

OH YOU TOMMY, PRETTY
SUFT FOR YOU

Bob.

HOPE YOU WILL BE
BACK IN YOUR PLACE
SOON

WE'VE ALL GOT
THE GRIP. - WIMMY?

BE GOOD -
IF IT'S NOT LONESOME
BOLEANY

Dear Tommy
Kindly leave some of the Landscape for Yours truly W.N.

**Ex Libris Association is a member
of CFLA-FCAB.**



ELAN

exlibris.ca

Ex Libris Association Newsletter

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Touring Toronto Public Library Processing & Distribution Services

By Frances Davidson-Arnott

On October 16, 2019, a small but determined group of ELA members braved the weather — and what is, for some, the onerous travel to the suburbs — to visit the factory-like building that houses the administrative heart (what we used to call “technical services”) of the Toronto Public Library (TPL). We were warmly welcomed by manager Joan Luszczek, who brilliantly explained what happens here and how it came to be. The numbers are staggering and the organization is fantastic. You have to see it to believe it!

The purpose-built building is only five years old, comprises approximately 39,000 square feet on one-and-a-half floors, and occupies the former location of administration for the Scarborough Public Library. Bibliographic Services moved here from the TPL Front Street facility. While still at Front Street, the system was re-engineered with large and small details planned precisely, right down to colour-coded flooring and sliding doors that ease the movement of materials. Efficiency is designed in, from receiving at the loading docks to the delivery to branches. Worker health and safety is crucial. While the building is industrial in many ways, it is a bright and pleasant working environment.

Here, more than 140 staff carry out acquisitions, cataloguing, processing, distribution, and delivery for the entire 100-branch system. The annual materials budget of \$20 million buys approximately 50,000 catalogued titles comprising more than 670,000 items that leave this building. TPL orders from three main vendors who send a list of what's coming the next week, so that all the receiving, cataloguing, and processing can be done



ahead. This means that only applying labels to the items is necessary, and 65 to 75 percent of the materials can be shipped within two to three days from arrival.

Cataloguing of books, CDs, DVDs, audiobooks, children's kits, and Vox Books — in short, all new formats in 30 languages — happens here.

My inner geek was especially excited by the sorting machine, a huge commercial contraption that uses RFID technology and plastic boxes to sort materials, both new and those coming and going from holds, to all the branches. It was big, noisy, and magnificent.

Our little group ended the tour with lunch at a nearby restaurant, where we renewed our friendships. Thanks to Vivienne James for organizing another great outing! ■

President's Report

By Tom Eadie



With mixed gratitude and regret, I begin by reporting that our longtime Secretary, Jean Weihs, and our forever-Archivist, Nancy Williamson, have

resigned from these roles (though not from engagement with ELA and board membership). It is hard to imagine that ELA could have existed without the hard and thoughtful efforts of these two exemplary people. We are in their debt. I hope that by the time this reaches you, we will have a new archivist and secretary, but, even if this is the case, I would like to encourage members to serve on ELA committees and on the board. Opportunity for all!

Regarding the ELA Archives: during the Ontario Library Association (OLA) conference I was able to meet Loryl MacDonald, Associate Chief Librarian for Special Collections, and Director of the Thomas Fisher Rare Book Library at the University of Toronto. Loryl has very kindly agreed to house our archives. As of the time of writing, transfer details are still being worked out.

When last I wrote I mentioned a prospective visit to British Columbia. I

visited friends on the Gulf Islands, and on my way back to Ontario stopped in Vancouver and met Annette DeFaveri, Executive Director, British Columbia Library Association (BCLA), and Deb Thomas, ELA Board Member. We discussed potential areas of cooperation between BCLA and ELA, and the possibility of a joint-membership package along the lines of our arrangement with the OLA. (Similar arrangements are under discussion with the Atlantic Provinces Library Association and the Nova Scotia Library Association.) When agreements are concluded, I will report here, and on the listserv.

One minor note from our January board meeting: for the first time since trying this a few years ago with a former board member, we employed not-quite-cutting-edge technology to include our new West Coast board member in the meeting. Specifically, Bob Henderson's laptop, a somewhat tenuous network connection, and Zoom software enabled Deb to see and be seen, and to participate in our discussions. We will try to improve this for the next meeting.

As previously reported, one of our goals is to increase the membership of ELA across the country, and we have had some success in this regard. Membership Secretary Bob Henderson reports that by the end of January 2020 membership was almost 200, with 36 new members.

Unfortunately, two life members and two annual members died in the past year.

A key to successful recruitment is for ELA to give prospective members something to support and reasons to engage. Fortunately governments across the country continue to provide opportunities for ELA and ELA members to advocate on behalf of libraries and librarianship (for example, the appointment of a "woefully unqualified applicant to head [New Brunswick's] public library system" — quote drawn from Wendy Newman's powerful letter of protest, which has been posted to the listserv). This adds point to our association's commitment to commemorate what librarians have achieved (through our historical endeavours) and to advocate for, and defend, those achievements. Members will also be aware of recent threats to the autonomy of library boards; criticism of libraries when they allow their premises to provide venues for controversial speakers and events, and attempts to censor library collections. I think we have seen this before. I am reminded of George Santayana's much-quoted observation that "Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it." We must continue to remind those who seem to have forgotten. ■

W. Kaye Lamb Award for Service to Seniors 2020

By Rick Ficek

The deadline has been extended! You have until September 30, 2020, to submit applications for this award for outstanding service to a library's senior population. Sponsored by the Ex Libris Association and the Canadian Federation of Library Associations/Fédération canadienne des associations de bibliothèques, this prestigious award comes along with bragging rights and a \$500 cash prize. The award is open to any Canadian library: private, public, governmental, and academic. Past winners have ranged from the very small to some of Canada's largest libraries.

Please seek out suitable candidates and encourage them to apply.

Apply at: exlibris.ca/doku.php?id=award:application_for_wk_lamb_award.

For more information, contact Rick Ficek at ficekrichard44@gmail.com. ■

Ex Libris Biography Project

This column will return.

Welcome to New ELA Members

We're proud to welcome the following new ELA members:

Elizabeth Caskey, Vancouver
Peggy Ellis, London, ON
Becky Godwin, Willow Beach, ON
Maria Latyszewskyj, Toronto
Irena Lewycka, Toronto
Ralph Mackay, Stratford, ON
Marisa Maharaj, Toronto
Carr McLean, Toronto
Terrence Paris, Halifax
Angelina Pizzirusso, Toronto
Sylvia Prout, Mississauga, ON
Gladys Watson, Toronto

Canadian Federation of Library Associations/Fédération canadienne des associations de bibliothèques (CFLA-FCAB) — the National Voice of Canada's Library Associations

By Shelagh Paterson, reporting on behalf of the CFLA-FCAB Board of Directors, with information provided by Todd Kyle, (CFLA-FCAB) Board of Directors

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the CFLA-FCAB and the Manitoba Library Association cancelled the conference, themed Intellectual Freedom and scheduled for April 6 to 8 in Winnipeg. Please go to mla.mb.ca for more information.

CFLA-FCAB is four years old! During this time the organization has focused on building capacity — responsibly and responsively. A look back:

CFLA-FCAB launched its first strategic plan, Stronger Together: Advancing the Impact of Libraries, with the following four strategic priorities:

- to amplify the influence and impact of libraries,
- to anticipate and respond to the changing information environment,
- to raise the visibility of libraries, and
- to develop a sustainable organization.

CFLA-FCAB has four strategic national committees, some with subcommittees or task forces having national representation:

- Cataloguing and Metadata Standards Committee; Canadian BIBFRAME Readiness Task Force,

- Copyright Committee
- Indigenous Matters Committee; various engaged subcommittees, and
- Intellectual Freedom Committee.

In addition, this relatively new organization has:

- stewarded a selection of position statements and resources originally developed by the Canadian Library Association,
- annually submitted briefs as part of the federal-budget process,
- provided an international presence at the World Intellectual Property Organization and International Federation of Library Associations,
- stewarded effective governance through new board policies and membership and the AGM, and
- expanded CFLA-FCAB membership to include 25 library associations.

Shelagh Paterson was treasurer of the CFLA-FCAB from 2016 to 2017. Ex Libris Association is a member of CFLA-FCAB.

For more information visit cfla-fcab.ca. ■

CFLA-FCAB Intellectual Freedom Committee (IFC)

By Deb Thomas

The CFLA-FCAB IFC continues to be busy monitoring situations in which intellectual freedom is threatened, and to respond where appropriate. As well, the IFC is working on various aspects of a work plan approved in November:

- IFC member Wendy Wright participated in the planning of a national forum, at which the specific issue of platforming controversial speakers will be discussed. IFC Chair Richard Beaudry will attend.
- The promotion of Freedom to Read Week included a press release issued by the IFC (see cfla-fcab.ca/en/news/2020-freedom-to-read-week/).
- Other IFC members are working on a statement of workplace freedom of speech and the completion of an intellectual-freedom tool kit.

Deb Thomas is Ex Libris Association's representative on CFLA-FCAB IFC.

Upcoming Events

HOLD THIS DATE

2020 EX LIBRIS ASSOCIATION ANNUAL CONFERENCE AND AGM

Date: Monday, November 16, 2020

Place: Northern District Branch,

Toronto Public Library

40 Orchard View Boulevard, Toronto

Theme: The Public Library has a

Vision Problem — or Does It?

Please watch for more details, speakers, and content on the listserv.

Ex Libris Toronto Spring Tour 2020

Please watch our listserv for details.

Correction

The photo of the Marjorie Mews Branch in "Libraries Named After Librarians" on page 9 of the Fall 2019 issue of *ELAN* (No. 66) should have been credited Courtesy of Kristina Walters, Newfoundland & Labrador Public Libraries. We regret this error.

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.superrover@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.

The Digital World: ELA 2019 Annual Conference

By Barbara Kaye

Our 2019 Conference was held on November 4. The first speaker was Andrea Mills, Digitization Program Manager for Internet Archive Canada (IAC). This archive was established in 2004 as the Canadian counterpart to the Internet Archive (including the Wayback Machine) founded by Brewster Kahle in 1996 and described by Stan Orlov in *ELAN* No. 66/Fall 2019 (see article, page 4). IAC has two main centres, one at the Robarts Library (which works closely with the Fisher Rare Book Library, both at the University of Toronto), and the other at the University of Alberta, although there are now more than 28 scanning centres in total. Since its inception, the IAC has digitized more than 600,000 unique texts, working with more than 250 institutions to share open access to their collections.

The pace of digitization has increased dramatically as new partnerships have been established. In 2005 2,500 books were digitized, all of them in the public domain. By 2011 there were 80,000; approximately 450,000 books will be added this year and soon there will be one million texts added annually.

For an alphabetical list of the collections available, visit the Canadian Libraries page on archive.org. Related sites also worth a visit include: Open Library (openlibrary.org); Controlled Digital Lending by Libraries (controlledcdigitallending.org); Scholar's Portal (ocul.on.ca/scholars-portal); and National Heritage Digitization Strategy (nhds.ca).

From the Toronto Public Library (TPL), Allison Lennox, Manager, Service Development — Special Collections, and Eric Schwab, Manager, Preservation and Digitization, spoke about the collections, and digitization programs, and the access and engagement for researchers and other patrons. Access to many of these unique resources is available at the Marilyn and Charles Baillie Special Collections Centre, Toronto Reference Library. Highlights include the Baldwin Collection of Canadiana, the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection, the *Toronto*

Star Photograph Archive, and the Chinese Canadian Archive. The TD Gallery within the Toronto Reference Library regularly exhibits items from the special collections. Two additional major special collections — the Osborne Collection of Early Children's Books and the Merril Collection of Science Fiction, Speculation and Fantasy — are housed at the Lillian H. Smith Branch of the TPL.

For a searchable listing and a slideshow of some of the highlights, visit torontopubliclibrary.ca/books-video-music/specialized-collections/.

Since the 1990s, TPL has been digitizing significant provincial resources such as city directories, historical maps, and posters. The main access point for these is Digital Archive Ontario, formerly the Virtual Reference Library (torontopubliclibrary.ca/dao), where you will find Librarian Blogs, Primary Source Sets, Library Videos, and Ontario Communities (arranged alphabetically by city or town). Inspired by other major libraries, TPL also uses social media, such as Reddit and Instagram, for community outreach and the retelling of personal and family stories.

These excellent presentations elicited many questions and comments. Our dream of universal access is becoming closer!

Shelagh Paterson updated us on the activities and advocacy of the Ontario Library Association (OLA) and on the priorities of the Canadian Federation of Library Associations/ Fédération canadienne des associations de bibliothèques (CFLA-FCAB) of which Ex Libris Association is a member. With the change of government in Ontario, more than \$60 million was cut from the budget of the Ministry of Heritage, Sport, Tourism and Culture Industries, while \$25 million remained intact. OLA's "ask" was an additional \$17 million annually to support critical services and infrastructure in rural and northern libraries. The OLA is working closely with the Federation of Ontario Public Libraries to maintain open communication with the government ministers, MPPs, and



From left, Andrea Mills, Tom Eadie, Allison Lennox, and Eric Schwab. Photo credit: Josh Henderson

its own members, while remaining politically neutral. Although the OLA avoids speaking with the media, it does issue periodic press releases and advocacy alerts. In the next round of budget deliberations, the OLA will be concerned with how libraries can support digital priorities and how school libraries are coping with diminishing staff and budgets. As for the CFLA-FCAB, the new Executive Director Katherine McColgan can be reached at kmccolgan@cfla-fcab.ca (see the article by Shelagh Paterson, page 3 of this issue, for information on the CFLA-FCAB's strategic committees).

Thanks to all of the speakers and to the organizers of the conference. ■

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 Ex Libris 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.

Technology Unmasked: E-books

By Stan Orlov



Nothing beats reading a printed book — the smell, the look, the feeling of turning real pages is wonderful — but, for various reasons, one might want or need to read an electronic version. For that, there are many options. You can get an e-reader created just for that, so it's full of useful features and easy on the eyes — some play audiobooks, too. Two names stand out in the crowd — Kindle and Kobo. Made by Amazon, Kindle has three versions: Kindle 10 (\$100), Paperwhite (\$200), and Oasis (\$380). They offer access to the largest catalogue of books for purchase, but limit what you can get elsewhere. Two main problems

with Kindle for me would be the lack of direct support of the popular EPUB format and the impossibility of using it to borrow public library books. Kobo, on the other hand, is a Canadian company that offers Kobo Clara HD (\$140), Libra H2O (\$200), and Forma (\$300). While you can buy fewer books from Kobo than from Amazon, you can buy or borrow them in various formats, including EPUB, from many more locations.

Speaking of public libraries, you are not bound to e-readers to borrow a print or audiobook (or a magazine). You can download and use them on any smartphone, tablet, or computer using apps such as OverDrive and Hoopla. While OverDrive has the latest hits in books and audiobooks, it has hold queues and items might not be available

immediately. Hoopla, in contrast, has a wide selection of items that are not as hot, but there are no waiting lists so you can start reading/listening right away. Both are used by public libraries and provide access to more than 500,000 titles, so you can keep yourself busy even if you don't have a good old-fashioned paper book in your hands.

For more information, go to:

pcmag.com/picks/the-best-e-readers
hoopladigital.com/overdrive.com/

Please send your questions and comments to stan.orlov@msvu.ca. Stanislav Orlov is Systems Librarian at Mount Saint Vincent University in Halifax. ■

In the News:

Ex Libris Member Honoured

Guy Robertson, Ex Libris member and regular contributor to *ELAN*, has been honoured by Langara College: 49 Langarans honours “change makers, founders, and visionaries who have made an impact at Langara and in the community over the past 49 years.” For more details, see: beyond49.langara.ca.

Platforming Controversial Speakers in Libraries

By Deb Thomas, *ELA's representative on the CFLA Intellectual Freedom Committee*

Should libraries be offering platforms to speakers with views that vulnerable groups believe to be discriminatory? Should libraries continue to allow access to all speech that falls short of legal hate speech, in support of our value of intellectual freedom? These questions continue to be hotly debated in the wake of room bookings for events such as Feminist Current's Meghan Murphy at Vancouver Public Library (VPL) and Toronto Public Library (TPL) in 2019, and an event at VPL in 2020. A proposed

booking at Simon Fraser University was cancelled due to concerns that protests would become violent. Murphy's views are considered to be transphobic by members of the transgender and non-binary community and their allies. She has been quoted as saying “If you're born male, you remain male for life,” and the “trans-activist movement has made for the erasure of women.” Her views as expressed at the events appear to have fallen short of legal hate speech, however. All three institutions have made it clear that they do not support her ideology, but both VPL and TPL allowed the bookings in the name of freedom of speech and ensuring diversity of thought. Support for and protest against the events has been vocal and widespread in social and news media, and among academics and librarians. Some librarians feel that the very foundations of democracy are threatened when we censor unpopular views that fall short of hate speech. Others feel that Murphy's views have the potential to cause harm to transgender and non-binary people, and that libraries and universities should not be lending her the perceived authority of our venues. There are also many librarians struggling to come to terms with their commitments

to the values of intellectual freedom and inclusion and how those values inform their responsibilities to unpopular speakers. For the spring 2020 national forum sponsored by the Canadian Federation of Library Associations/ Fédération canadienne des associations de bibliothèques (CFLA-FCAB) — cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic — CFLA-FCAB had identified the following goals: to foster a conversation with the Canadian library community about intellectual freedom; to understand how intellectual freedom may, on occasion, conflict with other core values; to explore best practices on how to manage these situations as they arise; and to use the experience, knowledge, and skills of library workers to inform CFLA-FCAB's work in this area. Among the planned speakers were James Turk (Centre for Free Expression), Christina de Castell (VPL), and Marcus Logan (Oakville Public Library).

For more details on reaction to Feminist Current events, see:

straight.com/life/1316486/events-controversial-speaker-meghan-murphy-sfu-vancouver-and-toronto-public-library
dailyhive.com/vancouver/gender-

Continued on page 6

...continued from page 5

[identity-meghan-murphy-sfu-cancelled-cfe.ryerson.ca/blog/2019/08/can-public-libraries-maintain-their-commitment-intellectual-freedom-face-outrage-over](https://cfe.ryerson.ca/blog/2019/08/can-public-libraries-maintain-their-commitment-intellectual-freedom-face-outrage-over)

E-Book Publishers and Canadian Public Libraries

By Alvin M. Schrader

E-book publishers are gouging public libraries! In mid-2019, five major e-book and e-audiobook publishers began charging more and, in some cases, curtailing access for digital resources by public libraries across Canada and the U.S., effectively shutting them out of the competitive e-reader marketplace. Two multinational publishers — Hachette Book Group and Penguin Random House — replaced perpetuity clauses with a standardized two-year licensing policy for each e-title copy, requiring repurchase (relicensing) at the end of every cycle. Harper Collins revised its metering model (a set number of circulations of a given e-title before mandatory relicensing) to standardized 26-use licensing and Simon & Schuster revised its metering model to two-year licensing. New policies also affected newspaper e-subscriptions.

Macmillan Publishers' new model became even more restrictive, limiting each public library to just one copy of each new front-list e-title for the first eight weeks after publication. Astonishingly, this one-title/one-copy blanket embargo took no account of whether a library served 10,000 or three million residents and comprised a single physical location or a network of 100 branches. The first e-copy was deemed perpetual, but additional copies would be metered at 52 uses or subject to two-year licensing renewal, whichever came first. A [statement](#) last October by CEO John Sargent attempted to justify Macmillan's licensing-terms change, but the library community was unmoved. The next day, the American Library Association promptly delivered a petition (ebooksforall.org) to corporate headquarters, which was signed by more than 216,000 people from across Canada and the U.S. by the end of November.*

While the multinationals had always charged public libraries more for e-titles than hard copies (David Baldacci's *The Fallen*, for example, costs libraries less than \$23 for print but \$87 for the digital version), the requirement to relicense every two years becomes a daunting financial outlay, particularly for e-audiobooks, which, for the most part, had previously enjoyed much more favourable perpetuity agreements. The measures of some digital platforms — such as Amazon's refusal to sell any of its published content to public libraries at any price — are even more extreme.

In a similar vein, a harbinger of the new licensing-access model was indicated in a decision taken about the same time by the *Globe and Mail* to terminate, without notice, the remote-access capability through WordPress that was previously enjoyed by Canadian public libraries. Henceforth, *Globe and Mail* readers would have to travel physically to a public library for the print copy, if it subscribed, use an on-site computer to access it through WordPress, or subscribe to their own print or online copy.

For the previous decade, the Canadian Urban Libraries Council/Conseil des Bibliothèques Urbaines du Canada (CULC/CBUC) had been monitoring the emerging e-content market, having formed its first working group to start discussions with publishing and wholesale stakeholders back in 2010. In successive years, it released various position papers, foundational statements, and advocacy and public-awareness strategies (see [Knowledge Transfer](#)). In early November 2019, it joined with the Urban Libraries Council to issue a [Statement on Equitable Public Access to E-Books](#), which urged mayors and county leaders across Canada and the U.S. to sign the document and add their voices to support “the vital role that libraries play in building digital-ready communities” and call on digital publishers to institute “transparent and balanced lending models.” The statement declared that “restrictions will be most harmful for populations who already face significant barriers to equitable knowledge and information access in our communities.” It concludes: “Our cities and counties are strongest when all

individuals have the same opportunities to further their personal, educational, and professional goals. Our democracy is non-negotiable. We stand with all who are urging e-book and e-audiobook publishers to institute fair, transparent, and flexible lending models for public libraries.” As well as some board chairs, more than 20 Canadian mayors — including the mayors of Toronto, Ottawa, Halifax, Edmonton, Hamilton, and Vancouver — have signed the statement. Some city councils — among them Toronto, Ottawa, Halifax, and Edmonton — have even passed motions of support.

While public libraries in both countries appear to face an impasse in their opposition to digital-content barriers for public library customers and in their attempts to negotiate more favourable terms for customer-lending agreements, consideration in Canada is being given to appealing to the federal government and Competition Bureau Canada to change importation rules governing e-materials and, in the U.S., to seeking a political solution through Congress, with a bipartisan investigation into digital-markets competition announced in June 2019.

But, as always, readers have other options: endure longer wait times at their public library; read the public library's print copy (also presumably with longer wait times); pirate and download digital materials illegally; boycott these multinational e-publishers and their e-authors or forgo e-titles entirely; find other authors carried by public libraries; rely on free platforms; or, in the worst-case scenario — not only for digital publishers but, more importantly in my opinion, for public libraries and democracy — stop reading.

Corporate concentration in e-publishing has allowed this situation, with the desire to make higher profits forcing digital readers to pay out of their own pockets. Whether digital-reading patterns will shift away from public libraries to personal purchases is anybody's guess.

Stay tuned.

*In a [surprise announcement](#) on March 17, 2020, Macmillan CEO John Sargent said the publisher would return

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as early as March 19 to the pricing model in effect before the embargo was adopted, and some e-book prices would also be lowered on a short-

term basis “to help expand libraries collections in these difficult times.”

My thanks for advice and suggestions from Pilar Martinez, CEO, and Sharon Day, Director, Branch Services and Collections,

Edmonton Public Library; any errors of fact or interpretation are my own.

— Alvin M. Schrader

The Accidental Archivist

By Scott James



Scott James, 1976
Photo credit: City of Toronto Archives

For me, becoming an archivist was a happy combination of good luck and the generosity of friends and family.

It began with a childhood preoccupation with history, fostered by my grandmothers. For my sixth birthday, my paternal grandmother gave me a history of England, mesmerizingly illustrated with historical paintings. I recall especially *And When Did you Last See Your Father?* and *The Massacre at Glencoe*. My maternal grandmother worked at the Ashmolean Museum in Oxford, and consequently I was taken there a lot. Reinforcing my love of history and museums was her brother, on the reception desk. Instead of charging me for entrance, he gave me a coin from the cash register each visit. Sold for life.

Another early influence was my history teacher at Taunton School,

“Puffer” Billingham, a shy and retiring man who made a big impression as the owner of one of Garibaldi’s red shirts, bullet holes and all. Fortunately for me, who was less than ambitious at that time, he took my future in his hands, filling in my university applications and prodding me to continue my education.

As an undergraduate at the Swansea University I studied history. On graduation I moved to London, unclear as to my future. Unable to secure entry to the University of London’s School of Archives, I spent a year at the Institute of Education qualifying as a teacher. During this period, I formed the ambition of joining the staff of the British Museum. I was exploring this when I met an English professor from Dalhousie University in Nova Scotia, Dr. Varma, scholar of the Gothic novel, spending the summer in London at the British Library. He suggested that, as I awaited a break, I might consider doing a master’s degree at Dal and see North America. To cut a long story short, he secured me a scholarship. I (and my then wife) became landed immigrants, on the advice of Canada House, and were off. This was 1966.

After a delightful year in Halifax, and now expecting a child, we drove with friends to Toronto to look for work. During graduate work I had reached the conclusion that the life of an academic was not really for me. I felt more temperamentally suited to public service, helping others access the raw materials of history. My thrills were to come from recognition in the Acknowledgements section, rather than on a title page as the author. So, once settled in Toronto, I visited Canada Manpower seeking a job in “a museum, library, or archives” and within two weeks I had a referral to the city archives in the very new city hall.

These were pioneer days in Canadian archives. Bob Woadden, when appointed city archivist in 1960, had been the first municipal archivist in English-

speaking Canada. There was no archival education — the first graduate program was not established until the early 1980s, at the University of British Columbia. Graduate-level history was still sufficient to qualify. My biggest hurdle turned out to be the approval of the archivist’s boss, the city clerk.

I had a successful interview with Bob, but, when he reported that I had a beard, the city clerk made a condition — shave and I would be hired. Remember, this was 1967 and other city departments were having beard-growing contests to celebrate the Centennial. Offended, I declined, notwithstanding an eight month—expectant wife and no insurance. I shudder today to think of the consequences had not Bob insisted and secured me an interview with the clerk so I could impress him in person. I groomed myself assiduously and he relented.

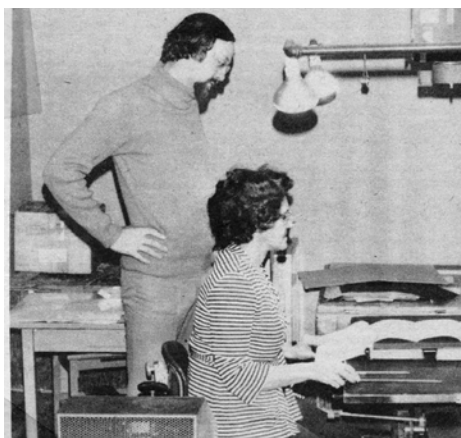
Work in the archives, at first completely on my own, met all my expectations. I had a virtually unexplored collection of city records dating from 1834 to research, organize, and share with a rapidly growing array of users. Coincidentally, scholars were discovering local history and the interest of the general public was being excited by the Centennial celebrations. It was certainly a propitious time to be entering the profession.

When I left the city archives in 1984, I was in charge of a division of 45 staff including archivists, records managers, conservators, a photographer, and an exhibition program at the St. Lawrence Market’s Market Gallery. Twelve years as managing director of the Toronto Historical Board was followed by retirement.

Since 1997, I have served as Archivist of the Arts and Letters Club of Toronto. My life in archives continues to fascinate and fulfill. ■

How (and why) I became a Librarian

By J. A. Forrester



J. A. Forrester (left)

After completing a degree in history at the University of Ottawa in 1976, my first position was with the Canadian Library Association (CLA), supervising its microfilm department on Sparks Street. It was a good fit after my earlier job as Stills Librarian at the Canadian Film Institute.* The CLA microfilm project had begun in 1946 when the organization was formed. Initially involved with preserving historic Canadian-newspaper back files, it branched out into government documents and mail-order catalogues from department stores. The CLA deserves a great deal of credit for preserving an important collection of Canadian materials at a time when government agencies either did not exist or did not consider preservation to be part of their mandate (a situation that changed dramatically when the Canada Council funded the Canadian Institute for Historical Microreproductions in 1978).

The Canada Council also provided me with funds to conduct an oral-history project about Crawley Films, headquartered at 19 Fairmont Avenue in Ottawa, and its colourful president F. R. “Budge” Crawley. This research was eventually incorporated into two books and a documentary film, all titled Budge. The mainstay of Crawley Films was industry-sponsored films, and the company shot *The Librarian* (1957) for the CLA at the Ottawa South branch of the Ottawa Public Library. Here’s the catch-line for the 10-minute instructional

film, “Follows the career of a young man in college after his decision to become a librarian.” At that time a microfilm reader was about the most complex piece of equipment in the building, aside from a typewriter. The film was clearly intended to convince more men to consider making librarianship a career.

I came to librarianship in a roundabout way. While working for the CLA, I interacted with many librarians, including Bruce Peel, who was active with the CLA microforms committee. In retrospect, I probably should have considered going to library school in the late 1970s. Instead, I opted for audiovisual work at Carleton University, a regional library, and a school library, then then segued to Queen’s University to complete a degree in film studies, before attending the School of Library and Information Science at Western University (SLIS).

My friend Gary Deane, from the Regina Public Library, had inspired me to attend library school. We had originally met at Film Showcase, organized by the Ontario Film Association at Geneva Park on Lake Couchiching near Orillia, Ont. Gary spent a year in London, Ont., at Western, while his family remained in Regina, and he encouraged me to follow his example to acquire a master’s degree in Library and Information Science. We were both avid cinephiles, and concurred that London’s New Yorker cinema was a highlight of our respective times in the Forest City.

According to CLA President Beth Miller, SLIS was the only library school in North America with a co-op program, of which I took advantage following my first term. I was able to alternate work/study terms and gain valuable experience at the Royal Military College of Canada’s Massey Library, and the NLC’s Information Technology Assessment department (ITA) in Hull, Que., under a unique librarian named Roddy Duchesne, formerly of the British Library. ITA did some groundbreaking work investigating optical-disc technology for the library community, and I worked for the first time with Art Rhyno and Walter Giesbrecht.

I remember a documentary from the early 1970s that screened at SLIS,

and which attempted to shift the image of librarians to “action figures” as a counterbalance to the vaudeville-era stereotype of the spinster librarian with the brown bun and sensible shoes. This film celebrated the fact that notable figures such as Casanova, J. Edgar Hoover, and Mao had all worked in libraries, and implied that the profession was much more exciting than was commonly known. We also organized screenings of popular Hollywood features with librarians as central characters, which was usually a comic, but revealing, experience.

This column, I now realize, is something of a prequel to my previous article in *ELAN* No. 64/Fall 2018 (page 4) about how the World Wide Web changed everything during my three decades as a systems librarian, mostly at what’s now OCAD University, in Toronto. Given my background and experience, working in an art-and-design college, was the perfect fit. SLIS (now the Faculty of Information and Media Studies) made my career possible — and I thank Western’s faculty and staff, and all of my mentors/colleagues within the profession, who contributed to my development as a librarian.

**More about this experience will be related in the Fall 2020 issue of ELAN. ■*

When You Move

When you move, please remember to send your new address to
Ex Libris Association,
Faculty of Information,
University of Toronto,
140 St. George St., Toronto, ON
M5S 3G6.

Alberta's Early Public Libraries

By Erin Hoar



Strathcona Branch, Edmonton Public Library (dated 2004)
Photo credit: Alberta Historic Resources Management Branch, Multiculturalism and Status of Women

Three of Alberta's earliest public libraries were established more than 100 years ago — Memorial Park Library, Strathcona Library, and the Edmonton Public Library. The first two are still standing as designated historic resources and, in their original form, as public libraries.

In 1906 the Calgary Women's Literary Club formed to discuss the readings of Shakespeare and current events, and it was out of these gatherings that the need for a public library grew. The women did what many of their contemporaries who wanted a public library did — they asked millionaire Andrew Carnegie's foundation for funding to build them a library. With some additional petitioning from the male electorate — required by the provincial government's 1907 *Libraries Act*, which stated that a minimum of 10 percent of the male voting community had to support the library project — Central Park Library (now Memorial Park Library) opened in 1912. This was Alberta's first major public library, and it was a grand building of its time, fashioned in Edwardian

classicism style. Today, Memorial Park Library is a provincial historic resource and a public library, as well as a community hub for arts and culture.

In 1910 the Strathcona Library Board was formed, with successful petitions circulated as per the *Libraries Act*. It requested \$25,000 from the Carnegie Corporation of New York (CCNY) to construct their library, but CCNY responded with an offer of \$15,000, instead. For the board's chairman and Strathcona's mayor, the amount wasn't acceptable, so they rallied the support of their community to raise enough to fund the library they wanted. Opened in 1913, the Strathcona Public Library was built in classical revival style, with orange brick and sandstone details. A designated provincial historic resource, it still functions as a public library.

In contrast, the Edmonton Library Board struggled to find the community support necessary to fulfill its vision. Experiencing an economic bust, Edmonton had opened a small temporary library above a liquor store and butcher shop in 1913. Shortly after that the First

World War began — not the time to construct an expensive new building, but a time when Edmonton citizens needed their library the most. After starting negotiations with CCNY years earlier, the board resumed discussions with the foundation in 1919 when Andrew Carnegie died. With funds from both the CCNY and the City of Edmonton, the Edmonton Public Library opened in August of 1923, completed at a cost of \$160,000. This building was demolished in 1968, after the Centennial Library (now the Stanley A. Milner Library) opened in 1967.

- Erin Hoar is an MLIS student at the University of Alberta and Cultural Resource Management student at the University of Victoria. This article is a condensed version of one that first appeared in *RETROactive*, the blog of the Alberta Historic Resources Management Branch.
- For the full story, see [albertahistoricplaces.wordpress.com/2018/10/10/albertas-early-public-libraries.](https://albertahistoricplaces.wordpress.com/2018/10/10/albertas-early-public-libraries/) ■

Tempest: a library story

By Bob Blackburn

In 1982 when I had retired and was beginning to gather material for a history of the University of Toronto Library — including the Robarts Library complex that was less than ten years old — I looked into the published accounts of the board of governors to see the wage rates of some of the early library staff. I saw that, in 1850, the president as librarian had instructed two undergraduates each term in their part-time work of keeping house for the library, and had paid them each something less than three pounds per quarter. For 1850 one of those undergraduates was Tempest Robarts, and the audited expenditures for the year were signed by Parminster Robarts.

Interested in those names, I wrote to John Parmenter Robarts, retired Premier

of Ontario who, in 1968, had delivered the construction budget of \$41 million for our library, to ask him to clarify the family connections. He responded that he was sending my request to their family historian, a cousin in London.

The cousin wrote that Parminster Robarts and his bride had left England to settle in Bermuda, but took fright at an 1832 storm that destroyed many trees and some houses, brought about the immediate birth of their first child, and no doubt raised stories of the Great Hurricane that had flattened Bermuda in 1780. They named their son Tempest and decided that settling near the quieter waters of Lake Ontario would be safer for the family. Their son Tempest was an appropriate age to become an assistant in the library in 1850, but did not bother to collect his pay. And, by 1852, Parminster was suing the university for two years pay owed to him as auditor. Maybe he needed the money, as Tempest was by then only the first of their seventeen children.

Last Friday I sat in a wheelchair in the cancer wing of the Credit Valley Hospital at age 100, awaiting my daily minute of radiation that was removing a lymphoma from my forehead. As I watched people come and go along the corridor I was reminded of a time in 2001 when I was in St. Michael's Hospital in Toronto recovering from quadruple bypass surgery, hearing doctors and others being paged up and down the hallway. A name being called often was Dr. Robarts. A nurse pointed him out to me one day as he was stopped outside my doorway, a handsome young man. Next time I saw him there I called him in. I told him that in writing the history of the Robarts Library I had seen that a student named Tempest Robarts had been a student assistant in the University Library in 1850, and I wondered whether he might be of the same family.

He said "My name is Tempest" but he had no time to chat. So he whirled away and I did not see him again. ■

A Library Treasure of British Columbia: University of British Columbia (UBC) Main Library

By Guy Robertson

Generations of students have climbed the steps to the entrance of the Main Library, one of the three original buildings on the UBC campus in Vancouver's Point Grey area.

"My great-grandfather was a philosophy student. He used Main not long after the construction finished in 1925," said Rick, a current engineering student. "He never forgot John Ridington, the University Librarian, who was very strict. Eventually Main became known as 'King John's castle.' And I remember the story about how the Main's granite stones were quarried on Nelson Island off the Sunshine Coast, and barged to the bottom of the cliffs near the campus. After that, the stones were hauled to the site by a temporary aerial tramway and a light railway. Say what you like about engineers, but without them there would be no Main Library."

Having served with the Canadian Army in the Second World War, Rick's grandfather arrived on campus in

1946. A science major, he studied in the Main Library's concourse, which is where he met the sorority sister who became Rick's grandmother. She told Rick about the bright light that filtered through the stained glass windows, which feature coats of arms of various Canadian and British universities.

"The concourse is 60 feet high, so the windows catch a lot of light," said Rick. "If the librarian on duty wasn't around, students would whisper their admiration of the stained glass. That's how my grandparents met."

Rick's father was born in the 1950s in Vancouver, and, in the 1970s, he arrived on campus to study European history. He made extensive use of the big card catalogue that occupied the concourse at the time. When Rick announced that he planned to study engineering, his father had misgivings. It turned out that a standard form of misbehaviour during UBC's annual Engineering Week was to rearrange the catalogue drawers in



Photo credit: Guy Robertson

Continued on page 11

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Photo credit: Guy Robertson

complete disorder. The librarians were not amused; neither was Rick's father, who, as a part-time student clerical, was obliged to return the drawers to their original order.

"My dad says that if nothing else, that task taught him the alphabet," said Rick. "He visits the campus occasionally and always pops into the old Main. The card catalogue is long gone, of course. Dad says that the librarians replaced it in the 1990s with the online catalogue to frustrate the engineers." Now the concourse is called the Chapman Learning Commons, and students search for online material where previous generations studied hardcopy books from the stacks. But on sunny days the stained glass glistens as it did almost a century ago.

In 2002 renovations to the Main Library began with the demolition and

rebuilding of the north wing. The south wing was then demolished and rebuilt, and the Main Library was reduced to its frame and granite exterior. Now called "the heritage core," it has become the prominent section of the Irving K. Barber Learning Centre, named after the philanthropist who donated \$20 million for the renovations.

Installed in the north wing is Canada's first automated storage-and-retrieval system, which provides compact storage accessed with robot technology. "Barber" now houses UBC's Rare Books and Special Collections and the University Archives. Visitors make a point of viewing the Chung Collection (chung.library.ubc.ca), which contains artifacts from the Canadian Pacific Railway, Asian culture in Canada, and West

Coast history. Rick promises to have a look at the Chung Collection soon.

"I've climbed the steps of the old Main Library, but, as an engineering student, I don't often go inside," he says with a wry smile. "Since they removed the card catalogue there's no point. But seriously ..."

Our regular feature "Library Treasures of Britain" will return. ■

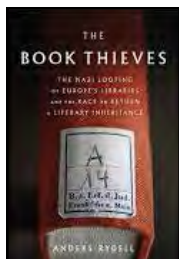
Archives News

This column will return.



Book Reviews

Edited by Susan Ibbetson



The Book Thieves: The Nazi Looting of Europe's Libraries and the Race to Return a Literary Inheritance
By Anders Rydell;
translated from
Swedish by Henning
Koch, Viking, 2017.
ISBN 978-0735221222. \$24.32

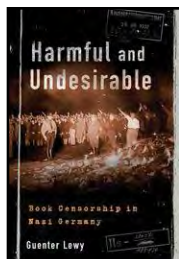
Reviewed by Rick Ficek

"Books should be placed in stately array near the dead, so that the souls of the righteous may in death study as they did on earth."

— *Judah of Regensburg, Sefer Hasidim, 13th-century work on ethics*

There have been many recent accounts of the theft and plundering of the great art treasures of Europe by Hitler and the German Nazi party during their reign of terror in the 1930s and 40s. Less has been written about the regime's plunder and destruction of libraries and archives. In the past few years, this barbarism has been documented in several books.

Journalist Anders Rydell documents the incredible loss of libraries in Germany, Poland, Lithuania, Italy, Greece, and the Soviet Union. To give a rough estimate, Poland saw the destruction of an estimated 15 million books, 70 percent of all the country's books; 350 libraries representing 90 percent of Poland's public and school libraries had their holdings sent to be pulped. The Soviet Union suffered the loss of more than 100 million books. Ironically, what was not lost in these countries were many rare books and documents that represented the essential beliefs and activities of what the Nazis regarded as their ideological and spiritual enemies. These were either

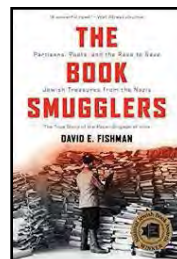


Harmful and Undesirable: Book Censorship in Nazi Germany
By Guenter Lewy
Oxford University
Press, 2016.
ISBN: 978-
0190275280. \$24.99

added to the so-called research libraries and institutions in Nazi Germany or confiscated and sold to enrich individual Nazi leaders, while others were displayed at the Degenerate Art Exhibition of 1937 in Munich, or in several other "shameful exhibitions" throughout Germany. Rydell also discusses the problems of returning these to their rightful owners. Reluctance, pure greed, and many realistic problems of identifying the heirs to these items make their legitimate return extremely difficult.

Guenter Lewy, professor emeritus of political science at the University of Massachusetts, provides a detailed look at the two main advocates and proponents within the Nazi hierarchy of the massive theft and destruction. The first was Heinrich Himmler who, as head of security for the Third Reich, was responsible for the Gestapo and the SS. He established institutions under the authority of the Reich Main Security Office that employed "researchers" and — shamefully, Nazi librarians — to document and investigate the "Jewish Question."

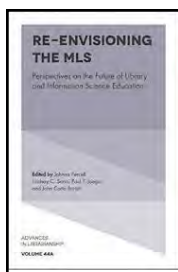
The other leader was Alfred Rosenberg, much despised even within the party. As Hitler's Plenipotentiary for Ideological Education, Rosenberg was responsible for overseeing the control of educational institutions such as libraries and publishers. Both Himmler and Rosenberg saw their goal as not only the control of thought, but as the



The Book Smugglers: Partisans, Poets, and the Race to Save Jewish Treasures from the Nazis
By David E. Fishman
University Press of
New England, 2017.
ISBN: 978-
1512600490 2017. \$38

destruction of their enemies, which included the total elimination of the influence, culture, and sheer existence of the Jewish people. To their eternal discredit, most Germans supported these efforts. As Lewy shows, it was university students — the Deutsche Studentenschaft — not the Nazi party, who staged the infamous night of book burning in 1933. Consigned to the flames were works by Thomas Mann, Alfred Einstein, and Karl Marx. In 1933 alone, there were 93 book burnings in 70 German cities.

David Fishman, who teaches history at the Jewish Theological Seminary in New York City, tells the inspiring story of a group of librarians, poets, and partisans who hid priceless Jewish books from the Nazis — to save them from destruction or removal to Germany — and set up a circulating library in the Vilnius ghetto. Under the most horrific conditions, this library managed to reach a circulation of close to a hundred thousand items in the few years of its existence. As one of the first public institutions in the ghetto and the first cultural establishment of the remaining community, the library stood as the living and indomitable spirit of a people who refused to perish. While not many survived the liquidation of the ghetto, a few of these priceless books and documents were saved, eventually finding a home in New York City at the world famous YIVO (yivo.org/Archives-Library). ■



Re-Envisioning the MLS: Perspectives on the Future of Library and Information Science Education
Edited by Johnna Percell, Lindsay C. Sarin, Paul T. Jaeger, and John Carlo Bertot

Emerald Publishing, 2018.

ISBN: 978-1-78754-885-5. \$114.14

Reviewed by Carole Moore

For those interested in forward-looking views on how best to prepare librarians for their future careers, this two-volume work provides a fascinating range of perspectives. *Re-Envisioning the MLS* began as a project at the University of Maryland. The leaders put out a call for papers that responded to the question “What should the future of MLS education be?” The result is this impressive work, with 26 chapters contributed by academics

and librarians from a wide variety of international backgrounds. Canadians are well-represented with chapters that include the 8Rs studies, design thinking, and archival-data records.

Opinions on the appropriate education for librarians frequently inspire vigorous discussions. The core values of the profession — such as ensuring access, equity, intellectual freedom, preservation, and privacy — remain, but views on how these can be furthered by libraries have changed enormously in the 21st century.

The authors are optimistic about the positive role libraries can play in the future. Each one makes persuasive arguments for improving professional programs, to give librarians the competencies they will need to succeed. Key examples include more training in skills for leading and managing projects, pedagogical knowledge and skills, and the capability to work with a range of changing technologies.

The first volume covers broad issues. The relevance of American Library

Association accreditation is questioned, given the rise of information science that prepares students for careers beyond libraries. Ways to bridge the gap between theory and practice in the curriculum, a common complaint shown in surveys of recent graduates, are examined. Integrating best practices from other fields — such as capstone projects, fieldwork, and apprenticeships — are suggested. The second volume explores many specific challenges — such as the changing nature of the communities that libraries serve — covering issues of diversity and inclusion. Several chapters focus on how best to prepare librarians for their role as educators, which the writers argue is critical in all types of libraries. A particularly timely chapter addresses the need to blend archival principles and computational methods in the growing field of digital archiving. Together, the articles confirm that library-and-information professionals have a bright future, but clearly need to be better prepared to meet new demands. ■

Laughing in the Library

By Matt Scholtz

In public libraries, it is not unusual for patrons to return books chewed up by the family dog. While most readers like to sink their teeth, figuratively, into a good book, dogs seem to like to do so, literally. One such mangled book, *Know How to Select Your Dog*, clearly was needed by our dog-owning patron. Presumably, the family dog knew that his days were numbered and wanted to sabotage the chances of his replacement.

An officer at the Canadian Armed Forces Base Borden, near Bolton, Ont., asked the base librarian to reserve the classic Walter Lord book on the sinking of the Titanic for him. The librarian dutifully placed *A Night to Remember* on reserve. A few days later, the book became available. Seeing the officer at the base supper that evening, she called out to him, “If you stop by at the library later on, I can give you “a night to remember.” More than a few eyebrows shot up in the mess hall.

Working on a Shakespeare assignment, a student asked me if we had any books on Shakespeare’s *Virgin of Venice*.

If you have a humorous personal story or anecdote to share about your library career, send it to mattscholtz@rogers.com. ■

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ELAN welcomes news about books by ELA members. Send a brief description or an advertising brochure to jean.weihs@gmail.com.

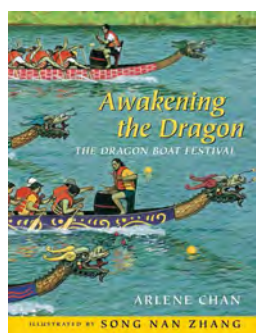
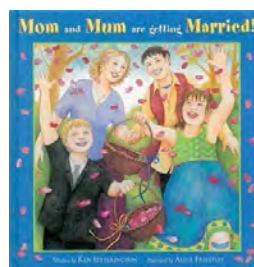
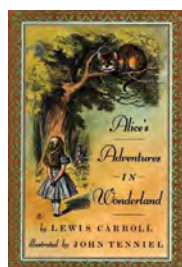
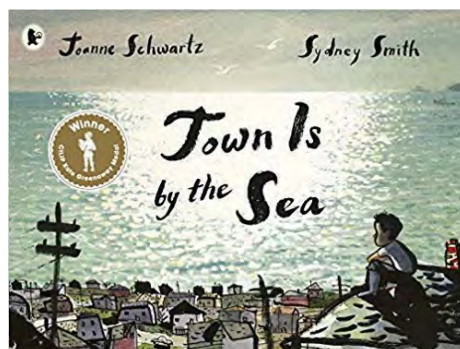
A Living Art: Children's Librarians Writing Books for Children

By Leslie McGrath

Journalist Meagan Flynn recently wrote* that Anne Carroll Moore, the first Supervisor of Work with Children at the New York Public Library, was instrumental in opening libraries to children, and encouraging literacy and the enjoyment of books. Moore inspired new generations of children's librarians, including Toronto's Lillian H. Smith, namesake of Toronto's College Street branch, to introduce children — many from underprivileged backgrounds — to the pleasure of reading. Both wrote instructional works that contain many still-valid truths, particularly the advice "to give each child the right book at the right time" (A. C. Moore, *A List of Books Recommended for a Children's Library*, 1902) and of giving children stories to grow up to:

"the thing that makes a book a good book to a child is that it is an experience"*** (L. H. Smith, *The Unreluctant Years*, 1953). Flynn's article is a reminder of the long tradition of librarians who became authors of critical works about children's books and of stories for children.

Early exemplars were the Brothers Grimm, librarians whose 19th-century philological studies included the examination of folk tales and traditions. Their retellings of the stories, capturing old German versions of European tales, inspired retellings that proliferate to this day. Charles Dodgson (a.k.a. Lewis Carroll), who served as college librarian of Christ Church College, Oxford, is remembered today for writing *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* rather than for his abstruse mathematical texts. If librarian scholars from academia are sometimes inspired to write for children, the urge is even stronger among children's librarians, who appear to have come from book-loving homes or made the local library a favourite haunt, and later integrated the knowledge and experience of their early reading into their own works of fiction and criticism. Some retell classics and folk tales, others launch into



popular new fiction and picture books, many of which have won critical acclaim.

Lyn Cook, who died in 2018, was part of this tradition. A children's librarian in Sudbury, Ont., she found inspiration in her community to write one of Canada's best-loved tales, *The Bells on Finland Street*, originally published in 1950. Celebrating a Canadian girl of Finnish background who becomes a figure-skating champion, it was fresh and welcome in a landscape of largely imported British and American stories, particularly for its unpretentious treatment of a mining family in hard times. Cook went on to write many other popular books, but *The Bells* remains a Canadian favourite. Ken Setterington's ground-breaking

picture book *Mom and Mum are Getting Married!* helped to broaden the concept of family, while former librarian Sarah Ellis gives sensitive treatment to changing family situations, such as the crisis of Sudden Infant Death Syndrome, in *The Baby Project*. These books allow children to be informed through reading, about their own circumstances, or to develop understanding toward others.

Librarians generally have a strong sense of their immediate community and a deep perception of what "home" means to a reading child. Kit Pearson's *Guests of War* trilogy, in which British children evacuated to Canada during wartime grapple with homesickness, explores this theme. In her books, Arlene Chan describes the Chinese-Canadian experience of celebrating traditional festivals and, in her biography of Jean Lumb, provides a role model of perseverance and success.

These and other Canadian children's librarians bring special skills to their writing. Raised on reading, they know what satisfies a child — books that build a sense of acceptance, belonging, and being loved, strengthening their confidence and empathy.

Children's librarian Joanne Schwartz's 2017 *Town is by the Sea* continues the tradition. In a mining town in the 1950s, a boy goes through his day, seeing the beauties of his sunlit coastal town on Cape Breton Island, but always aware that his father is digging in the darkness beneath the sea.

No doubt the next generation of children's librarians will share this love of sharing and writing stories — and find new ways to give young readers a more secure and happier place in their evolving world.

*Toronto Star, January 19, 2020

***"The writing of books for children is a living art..." from *The Unreluctant Years* by Lillian H. Smith, *American Library Association*, 1958. ■

British Columbia News

By Guy Robertson



Provincial funding for B.C.'s public libraries has remained at approximately \$14 million for more than a decade. At the Union of B.C. Municipalities

convention in September 2019, a resolution passed for the provincial government to increase funding to \$20 million. The resolution resulted from a lobbying campaign by the B.C. Library Trustees Association. This February, the NDP government released a budget that did not increase library funding. Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE) B.C. President Paul Faoro remarked that, while overall the budget was "excellent," CUPE will continue to work with the B.C. Library Association to attract more support for library funding.

For six Tuesday afternoons in January and February, patrons of the Sunshine Coast's **Gibsons & District Public Library** gathered to knit and crochet. Bringing varying levels of skill, they met to learn and create. This recurring event — dubbed Intergenerational Knitting and Crochet — attracts devoted participants.

A recent exhibit in **Special Collections, Simon Fraser University's W. A. C. Bennett Library**, featured monographs and ephemera created during the 2010s by various small presses in B.C. On display were fine press catalogues, prospectuses, invitations, and miscellaneous items including Robert Bringhurst's *How it goes: a convocation address* (Barbarian Press), Charles Mayrs's *Atlantic Canada: contagiously mournful / photography and BASH poetry*, and Jason Dewinetz's *A selection from the meditations of Marcus Aurelius, sort of* (Greenboathouse Press).

Last fall the **University of Victoria Libraries** listed almost 6,000 vinyl records, in lots of approximately 400, on the BC Auction website. University of Victoria (UVic) Music and Media Librarian Bill Blair says these included

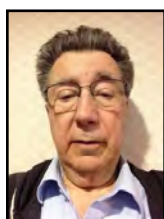
a few 78s, but mostly LPs. The majority featured classical music, with a few examples of jazz, pop, and world. Blair says that between 15,000 and 20,000 vinyl records will remain in the UVic collection, and noted that such auctions are part of the regular weeding that libraries must carry out to free space for new items. Interestingly, Blair says that library users — particularly those who are not students — are borrowing more LPs than CDs. Many people also depend on Spotify and streaming music.

In March the **Vancouver Island Regional Library (VIRL)** celebrated the official grand opening of its new Chemainus branch. The state-of-the-art building features 5,000 square feet of floor space, more public computers, a larger study space, a multipurpose room, and — much to the delight of dedicated regulars — a lounging area with a fireplace. The collection includes new materials, and the program schedule has expanded. **VIRL** Board Chair Brenda Leigh says that the public response to the new branch has been "overwhelmingly positive and excited." Patrons are especially pleased with the children's area and increased hours of operation.

The Library & Information Technician Program at Vancouver's Langara College announced the appointment of Fiona Hunt as the new Chair. She succeeds Diane Thompson, who will become Chair of Langara's Educational Technology Department. Both are graduates of the University of British Columbia's School of Library, Archival, and Information Studies and have many years of professional experience as librarians, teachers, and mentors.

Prairies News

By David Jones



Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the CFLA-FCAB and Manitoba Library Association conference, themed Intellectual Freedom and scheduled for April 6 to 8 in Winnipeg, has been cancelled, as has the Saskatchewan Libraries Conference,

scheduled for May 7 to 8 in Regina, and the Alberta Library Conference, themed Libraries: Building the Future and planned for April 23 to 26 in Jasper, Alta.

In June 2019 Lisa O'Hara was appointed Vice-Provost (Libraries) and University Librarian at the **University of Manitoba Libraries**, where she has welcomed innovation, helping to transform how information is discovered and accessed in print and digital formats, since 2002.

The **Frances Morrison Library** is teaming up with Family Service Saskatoon to offer free walk-in counselling for people on two Fridays each month. Counsellors will offer first-come, first-served sessions funded by Saskatchewan Ministry of Health.

Mikki, a German shorthaired pointer, will help **Saskatoon Public Library** to fight bedbugs. While library staffers are trained to identify bedbugs, visual inspections are only about 30 percent accurate, according to Director of Public Services Beth Côté, but dogs that can sniff out the bugs have about a 97 per cent success rate.

In November 2019, Saskatoon City Council approved borrowing for a new library. Planned to open in 2026, **Saskatoon Central Library** will blend traditional library service with innovative spaces, programs, and partnerships. It will be built to LEED Gold certification and City of Saskatoon Facility Accessibility Design Standards. Public input and inspiration will be sought in the design process.

The **Regina Public Library** has begun the process for renewal of its central library. The desired outcome of Phase I is a board of directors' decision by March 2020.

The **University Library, University of Saskatchewan**, is cancelling subscriptions to more than 3,800 academic journals due to the "unsustainable rising costs of subscriptions set by publishers." This will cut \$1.4 million from the library's \$14-million collections budget, almost three-quarters of which is currently

allocated to journal subscriptions.

Edmonton Public Library (EPL) had another record year in 2019 with more than 1.5 million checkouts in total between both e-books and e-audiobooks. EPL joined other North American public libraries to protest publishers' ebook restrictions (see the article by Alvin M. Schrader in this issue, page 6). The exterior of the **Stanley A. Milner Library** in Edmonton is almost complete, and the opening is expected in the spring.

Ernie Ingles, former Vice Provost and Chief Librarian at the **University of Alberta Libraries** had a successful double lung transplant on Canada Day, 2019, and is now resuming his post-retirement activities.

Calgary Public Library CEO Mark Asberg was appointed in September 2019. He has set his sights on being innovative in bridging the digital divide and creating free community spaces, as libraries experience a "renaissance." *Time* magazine named **Calgary Central Library** one of the World's 100 Greatest Places of 2019.

Since it began in December 2019, the **Grande Prairie Public Library's** Project Full Stop has distributed almost 2,500 menstrual hygiene products. Proposed by the youth members of the library, the project — to make free menstrual pads and tampons available to those in need — received a grant of \$15,000 from RBC's Future Launch Community Challenge.

Send your Prairies/Western news to david.jones@ualberta.ca.

Ontario News

By Vivienne James



The underlying thread in much of the Ontario news is partnership — between landmarks and library, bank and library, museum and library, and more.

Hamilton Public Library (HPL) was the recent recipient of a generous donation of the TD Canada Trust

bank branch and property for the new Carlisle Branch. When renovations are complete, this **HPL** branch will serve as a highly visible community hub and gathering place.

CN Tower and Toronto Public Library have partnered in an exhibit celebrating Toronto's changing faces and places. The 114 Stories X 114 Storeys exhibit at the tower's 360 Restaurant — which affords a panoramic view of the city as it revolves once every 72 minutes — explores the facts and fiction behind 10 of Toronto's best-known landmarks. The stories and images are drawn from **TPL's** Digital Archive, which visitors can access through the library. A special menu celebrates the city's diverse flavours, while original "landmark" cocktails are served. The exhibit runs until May 31, 2020, and is free with the purchase of general admission to the tower or for 360 Restaurant diners.

The Urban Libraries Council named **TPL** a 2019 10 Top Innovator, for creativity in civic and community engagement.

In its ninth year of partnering with the Stratford Festival, **Guelph Public Library** held four free thought-provoking lectures in March, based on this season's plays.

The recently unveiled design for the new **Ottawa Central Library** was inspired by the nearby escarpment, woodlands and the Ottawa River. Located on LeBreton Flats, the \$192-million facility is a joint project between the **Ottawa Public Library** and **Library and Archives Canada**.

McMaster University Library has acquired the corrected proofs of the first two volumes of Bertrand Russell and Alfred North Whitehead's three-volume project, *Principia Mathematica*, now publicly available for the first time thanks to a donation from philosophy professor and Russell scholar Bernard Linsky. The library has a substantial collection of Second World War maps and aerial photos available on its website, some of which were digitized in partnership with the Laurier Centre for Military and Strategic Disarmament Studies.

Partnering with the library, the Canadian Warplane Heritage Museum is digitizing aeronautical and bomber charts.

There are new CEO appointments at several Ontario public libraries: Laura Carter at **Kingston Frontenac Public Library**, December 2019; Matthew Corbett at **Bradford West Gwillimbury Public Library**, December 2019; Matthew MacDonald at **Sault Ste. Marie Public Library**, December 2019; David Tremblay at **Huntsville Public Library**, May 2020; and Sarah Vaisler at **Ajax Public Library**, March 2020.

Quebec News

By Pierre Guilmette and Peter F. McNally



On January 30, the Book Arts Lab, Department of Rare Books and Special Collections, **McLennan Library, McGill University**, was officially launched. Housed in a small printing room, it houses two functioning printing presses. The Farley, from the 1960s, is a British proofing press. The Columbian,

from 1821, is the oldest example of this particular iron press in North America and was recently restored to full working order. The **McGill Library** holds two additional presses awaiting restoration: a British Stanhope press (ca. 1813–1824) and a Washington press, from New York (ca. 1825). Workshops using the presses are planned in conjunction with various teaching programs. Tours are available by appointment. The Book Arts Lab complements the **McGill Rare Books and Special Collections**, particularly the **McGill William Colgate Printing Collection** — the university's major collection on the history and technique of printing and book arts.

Quebec public libraries saw an increase in use between 2013 and 2017, according to a 2019 survey. In 2017 there were 28.5 million in-person visits, eight percent more than in 2013. There were 34.8

million online visits, which represents a 60 percent increase between 2013 and 2017. People aged 35 to 54 are the heaviest public library users. Quebec readers read an average of slightly more than eight books per year, but it's calculated that more than one in five Quebecers do not read any books. Non-readers are more often men, people with less education, and those with lower incomes. People who read 20-plus books per year fall mostly into the 55-plus age group, as well as those with high family income.

Funding for school libraries has been a frequent target of budget cuts. Last fall the Government of Quebec made a commitment to correct this with an additional annual investment of \$5 million, which will bring the school-library acquisition budget to \$20 million. The overall annual budget for school libraries now stands at \$80 million. School library staff have not achieved adequate growth — there are still 18 school boards which don't have a single librarian.

Maritimes News

By Tanja Harrison



Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the annual Atlantic Provinces Public Library Association conference, themed Cross-pollinate, Cultivate, and Change, and planned for June 9 to 12 in

Wolfville, N.S., has been cancelled.

Prince Edward Island Public Library Service announced that Charlottetown will soon have a new library. The **Charlottetown Library Learning Centre** will provide a larger and accessible one-level location on a single level in the Dominion Building. Federal and provincial funding will contribute to the estimated \$16 million dollars required. It's expected to open in the summer of 2020. Also in need of more space, Charlottetown's Provincial Archives and Records Office has been described as 'bursting at the seams.' It has temporarily relocated to the Atlantic Technology Centre and the provincial government has issued a tender for renovations. Provincial public libraries

are offering free ancestry.ca subscriptions at all branches, along with regular genealogy-themed training sessions.

University of Prince Edward Island's (UPEI's) Robertson Library, in partnership with the province and the UPEI Student Union, has embarked on a program to help lower student fees while increasing access to learning resources. The collaboration will support the creation and adaptation of open textbooks and other open education resources (OER) to support learning and decrease student debt. The Council of Atlantic University Libraries (CAUL-CBUA) is also embarking on a collaborative OER project, funded by CAUL-CBUA and inspired by BCcampus Open Education and eCampusOntario Open Library. Tentatively called the Atlantic Open Textbooks Repository, its aims are: to create a serviced, peer-reviewed collection of open textbooks; to develop an OER tool kit; to offer faculty grant incentives to create, adapt, and adopt the resources for use at universities and colleges; and to advocate for future funding to ensure sustainability and growth.

According to University of New Brunswick research, use of the province's public libraries has steadily increased over the last decade, with the three largest urban areas seeing 19 percent increases. Imagine, then, the shock of New Brunswick public library workers — and library community supporters across the country — to learn that the newly hired head of the provincial library service had neither the experience nor the required educational qualifications of a librarian. CBC News quoted President Trecia Schell of the Atlantic Provinces Library Association as saying "We see no substitute for a solid grounding in the principles of library service, experience working with the public in a library, or progressive responsibility for the administration of a library system." A resounding 'amen' rippled across the region.

While a national search continues, MLIS graduate and longtime academic librarian Jennifer Richards has been appointed Interim University Librarian of **Acadia University Vaughan Memorial**

Library. Early winter saw the launch of NORA, the NSCAD Open Research Archive. NORA will host moving images and other media collections, forming an important new addition to the **Nova Scotia College of Art and Design Library's** online institutional repository.

Positive changes are on the horizon for **Nova Scotia Provincial Library** patrons outside Halifax. After years of separate operations, the regions will develop one searchable shared catalogue and offer interlibrary loans. This One Card initiative — coming into effect in 18 to 24 months — currently excludes Halifax Public Libraries, but it's expected that systems hurdles will be solved to close that gap.

Newfoundland & Labrador News

By Dick Ellis



The Provincial Library continues to increase its professional complement and focus efforts on outreach. Building on the 200th anniversary of the establishment of a

public library in the city of St. John's, the city's public library board has initiated The Once and Future Library, to solicit community engagement. Citizen participation in designing renovations to the existing AC Hunter Library and a vision of an entirely new main library is being enabled through online surveys and public meetings. Dan Duda has assumed a new role as Public Services Division Head at **Memorial University's Queen Elizabeth II Library**, which has opened a new main-level cafe. Operated by a local coffee roaster, Jumping Bean Coffee, it occupies the former main-circulation area. Given the last decade's decline of book circulation, that unit now requires between a quarter and a fifth of the staff it once did and has been amalgamated with the Information Services unit. With an uptick in interest in copyright (will it never stay dead?) Memorial has assigned responsibility for copyright administration to the University Library.

News from the North

By Julie Ourum



Yukon is Canada's smallest territory with five percent of the land mass, which includes Mount Logan, Canada's highest mountain, and the historic Yukon River that flows to the Bering Sea. Most of the territory has a subarctic climate, characterised by long, cold winters and brief, warm summers, although climate change is having an impact. Yukon became a territory in 1898, when the Klondike Gold Rush brought in a new population. Mining remains the largest economic sector, followed by government, tourism, construction, and retail, as well as fishing, hunting, and trapping. Canada's fastest-growing jurisdiction, Yukon has a population of 41,408, with 32,395 people in the Whitehorse area and 2,324 in Dawson City as of 2019. The remainder are dispersed in smaller communities. Since time immemorial, Indigenous peoples have lived on the land here, and comprised 23 percent of the population as of 2016.

This vibrant and thriving group includes 14 First Nations in eight Athapaskan-language groups. Promotion of Indigenous languages is critical to ensure that this rich cultural diversity continues to flourish. In Nunavut, Inuktitut syllabics are rendered in Pigiarniq, a Unicode font for Inuktitut keyboarding. Throughout the North, teaching is helping many residents to become fluent in their mother tongue.

The three northern territories have substantial collections of print and other northern materials, primarily located in territorial archives accessible through public libraries including **Iqaluit Centennial Library** (T. H. Manning Collection), **Yukon Archives Library** (Martha Louise Black Fonds), and **Inuvik Centennial Library** (Dick Hill Northern Collection).

The University of Alberta's Ali Shiri, Professor in the School of Library and

Information Studies and his team are preserving and adding Elders' stories to the **Inuvialuit Digital Library** (see "Prairies News" by Alvin M. Schrader, page 13, *ELAN* No. 61/Spring 2017).

Cultural organisations throughout the North are benefiting from **Library and Archives Canada's** recent initiative to help preserve Indigenous culture and language recordings.

Northerners with print disabilities can now access materials in various assistive formats through their local libraries as part of the National Network for Equitable Library Service. Yukon Library Week in October 2019 promoted these assistive technologies.

Please send news items about library matters in Canada's North to Julie Ourum at crocuscats@gmail.com.

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

On January 1, 2020, UBC's School of Library, Archival and Information Studies (SLAIS) officially changed its name to School of Information, with "iSchool" as a shortened form. Established in 1961, the School of Information is a Tier One member of the international iSchools organization. In 2019 it ranked first in the QS World University Rankings for studies in library and information management. In the fall of 2019, the faculty and staff approved a Climate Commitment Statement in response to "a climate emergency recognized in declarations by the Government of Canada, the City of Vancouver, and communities

throughout Canada and the world." The iSchool encouraged faculty, staff, and students to participate in calls to action. In January the iSchool began a research seminar on medieval manuscripts entitled *Fragments on Fridays*. Open to all UBC students interested in codicology and paleography, the seminar is organized and supervised by Dr. Erik Kwakkel, professor of book history. Thankfully a knowledge of Latin is not required.

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

By Toni Samek

SLIS is delighted to announce that **Dr. Dangzhi Zhao** was promoted to the rank of full professor effective July 1, 2020; **Dr. Ali Shiri** was appointed as an Associate Dean with the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research (January 1 to June 30, 2020) at 50-percent time; and **Dr. Tami Oliphant** received a 2020 Faculty of Education Graduate Teaching Award. Applications to our sought-after MLIS program submitted for the February 1, 2020, deadline reached an all-time high of 310. The school had information/recruitment booths at the Ontario Library Association Superconference, British Columbia Library Association, and Alberta Library Conference. On February 7, SLIS students hosted the annual Forum for Information Professionals with the theme of resilience. Chair Dr. Toni Samek closes her full five-year term on June 30, and looks forward to an earned administrative leave. A succession search is now underway.

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

By Becky Blue

FIMS said a bittersweet goodbye to long-standing LIS **Professor Lynne McKechnie** at the end of the fall 2019 term. While we will greatly miss her presence and professional contributions, FIMS wishes her all good things in the next stage of her life. Along with her impressive record of research and teaching, she retires having successfully supervised countless doctoral and independent/directed-study students in the LIS PhD and MLIS programs. FIMS was pleased to welcome **Professor Janice Radway** of Northwestern School of Communication as a guest presenter

on November 12, 2019. She presented a lecture entitled, *Girls, Zines, and Their Travels: Imagining Lives, Crafting Archives for the Next Century*, as part of the FIMS Making Matters Speakers Series.

University of Toronto (U of T)
Faculty of Information (iSchool)

By Ann Brocklehurst

Faculty of Information **Dean Wendy Duff's** term has been extended for 18 months until June 30, 2021. In making the official announcement, **Provost Cheryl Regehr** wrote, "During her tenure as Dean, [Duff] continues to make substantial progress and improvements to the Faculty's operating budget, enrolment targets, program reviews, and space considerations. Professor Duff has also overseen the development of the Faculty's one-of-kind second-entry Bachelor of Information (BI) program. Over the next year-and-a-half, Dean Duff will lead the Faculty in a self-study process and an external review under the U of T Quality Assurance Process framework."

The Faculty has a new technologically enhanced active learning (TEAL) classroom. The completely wireless environment accommodates 72 students in person, with connections available for 250 students including remote participants. It was designed by **Assistant Professor (Teaching Stream) Olivier St-Cyr**.

**University of Ottawa, School of
Information Studies (ÉSIS)**

By Hélène Carrier

ESIS welcomed **Dr. Pierre Desrochers** as Adjunct Professor. Currently the Director, Corporate Information Management, Crown Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada and Indigenous Services Canada, he holds a PhD from the University of Montreal in applied human sciences within the interdisciplinary fields of information science and public administration. **Dr. Mary Cavanagh** is co-chair of the Ontario School Library Impact Project investigating the impact of school libraries on the development of key

information-literacy skills in students entering postsecondary education. The goal is to discover whether a staffed secondary school library has a discernible impact on first-year postsecondary students' information-literacy skills. **Ross Gordon**, Public Servant in Residence (2019–2020), launched a call for papers for the History of Libraries in Canada Project. He is collecting and editing the essays, then compiling them as a reference work. To participate in the project, contact him at rgordon2@uottawa.ca.

**McGill University, School
of Information Studies**

By Peter F. McNally

In September of 2019, **Dr. Rebekah (Becky) Willson** joined the faculty as an assistant professor. Following studies at the University of Alberta — honours BA, Psychology, and MLIS, School of Library & Information Studies — she received her PhD, School of Information Studies, Charles Sturt University. Her areas of research interest are formation interaction, information literacy, information behaviour, and evidence-based practice. Her initial teaching areas are Foundations of Information Studies and Research Principles and Analysis. **Director Kimiz Dalkir** announced two new administrative appointments: **Professor Eun G. Park** as Program Director for the Master of Information Studies and Graduate Certificate programs, and **Professor Joan Bartlett** as PhD Program Director. **Professors Max Evans and Ilja Frissen** are on six-month sabbatical leave. Doctoral students have organized monthly Research Socials, followed by informal sessions at nearby Thomson House — McGill's social centre for graduate students.

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

By Isabelle Bourgey and Martin Bélanger

Université de Montréal has begun a collaboration with HEC Montréal to offer a variety of bachelor's degrees in management, which may include EBSI's

undergraduate certificate in Digital Information Management. Over the past year, EBSI has built a makerspace for students to discover this new area of librarianship. Students have been introduced to the space in workshops and courses, and can reserve the lab on an individual basis to complete academic projects. Congratulations to our three new PhDs in information science: **Simon Côté-Lapointe** (Exploitation of digital audiovisual documents from archives: theoretical conceptual model of the uses, methods and means of organization and dissemination on the web), **Zoé Aubierge Ouangré** (Information seeking behavior of doctoral students in medicine in Burkina Faso), and **Marcela Carvalho Baiocchi** (Diversity and recommendation: an investigation into the contribution of opinion mining to the classification of opinion articles in a media controversy).

**Dalhousie University, School of
Information Management (SIM)**

By Sandra Toze

We've had a busy and exciting year. We welcomed our new MI and MIM students, and are continuing to expand the courses we teach in the Bachelor of Management program. **M. J. Delia** was honoured as this year's recipient of the SIM Associated Alumni Outstanding Alumni award at a reception on September 30th, and gave an inspiring talk to a packed audience. We launched our SIM 50 celebrations on October 26th with a reception at the beautiful Halifax Central Library. One hundred students, alumni, faculty, staff, and friends attended. We hosted a SIM gathering at Ontario Library Association, and are planning for an event at Atlantic Provinces Library Association. Stay tuned to dal.ca/faculty/management/school-of-information-management.html for news and events, and for our SIM 50 retrospective. SIM is very pleased to announce that our Master of Information (MI) program has been granted continual accreditation by the American Library Association.

Milestones

Obituaries

Compiled by Irena Lewycka



Marilyn Elizabeth Berry died on October 11, 2019, at age 90, in Victoria. She worked for many years as a reference librarian at the University of Victoria

Robert H. Blackburn died on September 17, 2019, at age 100, in Toronto. (See the article "In Memoriam," in this issue, page 23.)

Geoffrey Hugh Briggs died late in 2019, at age 93 in Canberra, Australia. Educated at Cambridge and University College London, he was Assistant Librarian at London University (1949–1954), Deputy Librarian at Victoria University in Wellington, New Zealand (1954–1967), then worked at the University of Calgary (1967–1969). He was University Librarian at Carleton University (1970–1991) and served as CARL president (1978–1979).

Margaret Brunette died on September 4, 2019, at age 106, in Vancouver. She trained as a librarian at the University of Toronto and spent many years at the Vancouver Public Library, where she retired in the position of Coordinator of Adult Services. She was in this position the first year that University of British Columbia extension courses were held in the library.

Jonathan Burston died on October 15, 2019, at age 58, in Toronto. He earned a PhD from Goldsmiths, University of London, and was a winner of a Commonwealth Scholarship and a Fulbright. In 2002, he transferred from New York University's Media Program to become an associate professor at Western University's Faculty of Information and Media Studies.

Marion D. Cameron died on December 20, 2019, a few hours shy of her 101st birthday, in Fergus, Ont. A graduate of the University of Toronto, she was on staff at the University of Guelph Library, as well as its predecessor, Massey Library, Ontario Agricultural College (1956–1978).

Dora M. Dempster died on December

14, 2019, at age 74, in Victoria. She worked as Coordinator of Library Services at Ryerson University, Director of the Learning Resource Centre at Seneca College, and Assistant Director, Public Services, Toronto Reference Library.

Margaret "Jean" Deyo died on February 13, 2019, at age 92, in Sarnia, Ont. She was a longtime member of Ex Libris, and worked as a librarian at Sarnia's main branch for many years.

Mary-Reay Freve (née Howie) died on February 2, 2020, at age 89, in Truro, N.S. She worked in libraries in England and British Columbia, and was Chief Librarian of the Art & architecture & planning Library at MIT. In Truro, she was Chief Librarian of Colchester – East Hants Public Library until her retirement.

Gayle Garlock died on August 26, 2019, at age 75, in Victoria. He was a librarian at Dalhousie University (1973–1985), then at the University of Toronto until his retirement. In 2015 he published *Canadian Binders' Tickets and Booksellers' Labels*. In early 2014, Gayle had been diagnosed with Lewy body dementia. He chose to have medical assistance in dying (MAID), and his was only the second such procedure for a Canadian with a dementia diagnosis.

Howard Bernard Gerwing died on August 15, 2019, at age 87, in Duncan, B.C. He was a scholar, a rare-books librarian and specialist, and a bookstore proprietor. He was the first Curator of the University of Victoria rare-book room.

Anne Hart died on October 9, 2019, at age 84, in Victoria. She worked briefly at the British Museum library, the Dalhousie University Library (the Kipling Collection), Queen's University Library, Newfoundland & Labrador Public Libraries, then Memorial University, where she built the Centre for Newfoundland Studies into the largest collection of published materials

on Newfoundland and Labrador and an archives unit that now stands on its own as the university library's Archives and Special Collections. She published three biographies (two of Agatha Christie's fictional detectives, Jane Marple and Hercule Poirot, and one of Labrador explorer Mina Hubbard) as well as many poems and short stories. She received the Order of Canada in 2004.

Lloyd Walter Heaslip died on February 17, 2020, at age 98, in Ottawa. He was Senior Manager at the Library of Parliament.

Shirley Diane (née Stott) Henderson died on December 5, 2019 at age 74, in Toronto. She was Chief Librarian, Faculty of Library and Information Science Library, University of Toronto (1973–1996). With Edith T. Jarvi, Diane coauthored the *Guide to basic reference materials for Canadian libraries*, 4th edition. She wrote "ELA's Early Years, 1990–1995," which celebrated the 100th anniversary of library education in Canada, for *ELAN* No. 36/Fall 2004. An active member of Ex Libris, Diane was a regular contributor to *ELAN*.

Frank Kirkwood died on October 26, 2019, at age 75, in Ottawa. He worked at the Multilingual Biblioservice of the National Library of Canada, then as a reference librarian at the Library of Parliament. He also served on committees of the International Federation of Library Associations.

Pamela MacKenzie died on February 6, 2020, at age 92, in Toronto. She was the librarian at the Toronto Botanical Garden for 23 years.

Barclay McMillan died on November 2, 2019, at age 87, in Ottawa. With degrees in music, art, theology, and library science, he worked briefly at the National Library of Canada as a music cataloguer and a music reference librarian before

launching his career with the CBC as host of the daily classical music show *Mostly Music*. He wrote several articles for the *Encyclopedia of Music in Canada* and *The Canadian Encyclopedia*.

Andrzej Mrozewski died on January 24, 2020, at age 90, in Sudbury, Ont. Born in Paris in 1930, he joined the Armia Krajowa (Polish Underground) at age 12. He earned a master's degree in Slavic Studies from the University of Montreal, then a master's degree in Library Sciences from the University of Ottawa. He became Chief Librarian, Laurentian University, in 1972.

Mary Lois Pollard (née Williams) died on January 3, 2020, at age 98, in Temiskaming, Ont. She earned a BA and Librarian's Certificate from Western University, then a master's degree in Library Science from the University of Toronto. She worked in several Ontario libraries and institutions in London, Brantford, and Toronto, and later helped her husband manage Highway Bookshop (located near Cobalt, Ont.) until its closure.

Bill Ptacek died on October 15, 2020, at age 69, in Calgary. In 2014 he became CEO of the 21-branch Calgary Public Library and was named the 2018 Calgary Citizen of the Year. The Urban Libraries Council (ULC) presented him with the 2019 ULC Executive Board Award in recognition of his outstanding leadership.

Anne Elizabeth Robison (née Merklinger) died on January 6, 2020, at age 81, in Ottawa. She worked at the Naval Research Establishment in Dartmouth, N.S., with a research group analyzing underwater acoustical data and using computers for which she wrote her own software. The group conducted experiments and research at sea, and Anne was proud to have been at the forefront of women participating fully at sea and in shore laboratories. As a librarian, Anne worked in government, then public libraries in Ottawa, where she used her experience with computers as libraries moved into the digital age.

Kusam Lata Sangal died on January 29, 2020, in Ottawa. She was a librarian

at the National Library of Canada.

Joseph Robert "Joe" Stevens died on January 20, 2020, at age 68, in Kentville, N.S. After earning a BA from Acadia University, he studied photography at the Banff Centre and performing arts management at Confederation College. In 1987 he graduated from the Library Technician program at Nova Scotia Community College. At Acadia University, he became the serials assistant, assistant cataloguer, then cataloguer.

Karla Van Kessel died on February 17, 2020, at age 43, in London, Ont. She was the director of library and media services at Fanshawe College.

Joyce Norine Watson died on January 3, 2020, at age 97, in Sault Ste. Marie, Ont. She earned her BLS from Queen's University in 1946, then worked as a librarian in Kitchener and Belleville, Ont. After earning her MLS from the University of Toronto in 1954, she worked at the Toronto Reference Library from 1957 to 1987.

Catherine Elizabeth Weeks died on Sept 26, 2019, at age 79, in Thornhill, Ont. She was a graduate of McGill University and held special-library positions in Montreal and Toronto.

Ian Campbell Wees died on November 4, 2019, at age 92, in Ottawa. He earned a BA from the University of Manitoba, at age 17, then an MA at age 19. His thesis supervisor remarked that he was "one of Manitoba's most distinguished graduates in French." He studied French literature at the Sorbonne for two years and, at the age of 21 in 1949, was granted the degree of Docteur de l'Université de Paris. He earned a BLS from McGill University in 1952 and worked briefly as a reference librarian at the Winnipeg Public Library before moving to Ottawa and the Canadian Bibliographic Centre. Ian and a small group of other librarians and professionals, led by W. Kaye Lamb (at the time, Dominion Archivist of Canada), were pioneers who brought the National Library into being in 1953. Over the next 25 years at the National Library, Ian held various senior positions, helped to create several services, and served

on or chaired a variety of departmental and external committees. He chaired a national Task Group on Library Service to the Handicapped, with a report published in 1976. The first editor of the *National Library News* (1969–1972), he authored *The National Library of Canada: twenty-five years after: a retrospective overview*. He was also the author of several periodical articles, mostly related to the National Library. In 1977, Ian was granted the Queen's Jubilee Medal.

Christine Claire Williams died on August 22, 2019, at age 57, in Halifax. She earned an MLS from Dalhousie University and enjoyed a long career with Maritime Telephone and Telegraph (later Bell Aliant).

Gordon Henry Wright died on January 3, 2020, at age 97, in Toronto. He was born in England, served in the RAF during the Second World War, then entered the technical-library field. He edited *The library in colleges of commerce and technology: a guide to the use of a library as an instrument of education*. In 1969, he came to Canada to manage and develop the College Bibliocentre, one of the earliest shared-service organizations in the country, to support the Ontario College Library System. Before retiring, he was Director of Planning, Budgeting and Administrative Services for the Robarts Library, University of Toronto.

Frederick "Fred" Ziegler died on November 24, 2019, at age 69, in Edmonton. He had been Collections Librarian for Humanities and Social Sciences at the University of Alberta Libraries.

Shirley Elizabeth Zinman died on February 15, 2020, at age 75, in Toronto. She was Special Education Teacher and Librarian at St. Joseph Catholic Elementary School in Markham, Ont.

Obituaries are brief due to space constraints. The ELA website, exlibris.ca/doku.php?id=elan:memories_and_tributes, provides more information celebrating the lives of our members.

Retirements

Compiled by Suzette Giles



Geoffrey Cannon will retire in June 2020 from Ontario's Halton Hills Public Library, where he started as a library page. After becoming a professional librarian, he spent the more than 30 years of his career there, the last three as Chief Librarian.

Daphne Flanagan, University Librarian at Acadia University, has retired. Prior to joining the university in 2018, she was at the American University of Sharjah, United Arab Emirates, for 12 years, the last eight as University Librarian. Her career also included positions at Algoma University College, York University, and the University of New Brunswick.

Shelley Fleming, supervisor of the John Kenneth Galbraith Reference Library, Dutton, and the West Lorne and Rodney libraries, retired in July 2019, after 33 years with the Elgin County Library in Ontario.

Carolyn Graham retired in January 2020 as Director of the Jake Epp Public Library, Steinbach, Man. She began her career at the library 29 years ago as Story Hour Administrator, becoming Director in 2015.

Joann Hamilton-Barry, Director of Saint John Free Public Library, N.B., retired after 33 years with the library, in January 2020. She held a number of positions including Children's Librarian, Public Services Librarian, and Acting Regional Director, before becoming Director in 2005. She is the author of four children's books including *Oak Island and the Search for Buried Treasure*, which was shortlisted for the Hackmatack Award.

Faye MacDougall, Regional Librarian, Cape Breton Regional Library, Sydney, N.S., since 2004, retired in August 2019 after a 38-year career with the library. She was the recipient of the Nova Scotia Library Association's Norman Horrocks award in 2017, and is a past president of the association.

Ian MacIntosh retired in the summer of 2019 from the Cape Breton Regional Library, Sydney, N.S. He joined the library as Regional Librarian in 1982 and, in 2004,

stepped back to become Deputy Regional Librarian and Collections Librarian.

Lynne McKechnie retired in the fall of 2019 from the Faculty of Information and Media Studies, Western University (see the article by Becky Blue in this issue, page 18).

Terry Paris retired in 2019 after more than 47 years with Mount Saint Vincent University. As Collections Librarian, Terry was responsible for developing and managing the library's collections and, together with the archivist, the university archives. He served on numerous committees, the university senate, and the Novanet executive and policy committees.

Louise Proctor Maio, CEO, Richmond Hill Public Library, Ont., retired in November 2019. She took the position in August 2012 after successively serving as CEO of the East Gwillimbury Public Library and the Aurora Public Library. Under her leadership the new Oak Ridges Library was approved, and opened in February 2020.

Rebecca Raven, CEO, Brampton Library in Ontario retired in January 2020. She was Program Director of the Public Library Leaders program at the University of Toronto from 2015 to 2018. Prior to joining Brampton Library in June 2013, she was at Hamilton Public Library serving as Director of Public Services.

Rod Sawyer retired in December 2019 after more than 29 years as Library Services Advisor at the Ontario Ministry of Heritage, Sport, Tourism and Culture Industries, where he worked closely with Ontario's First Nation public library and public library sector. He was awarded the Ontario Public Library Association Lifetime Achievement Award in 2016. In addition, he was a member of teams that won an Ontario Government Amethyst Award in 2006 and 2013, and the APEX Award for Excellence in Partnership in 2005.

Shelley Sweeney, head of the University of Manitoba Archives and Special

Collections for 21 years, retired in December 2019. She led the establishment of the university's National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation. Significant collections of Indigenous, and Gay and Lesbian archives, as well as parapsychological research records were acquired under her auspices. She was the first two-year president of the Association of Canadian Archivists. In 2011 she became a fellow of the Association of Canadian Archivists and received the University of British Columbia School of Library, Archival and Information Studies Distinguished Alumni Service and Leadership Award, 50th Anniversary.

Terri Watman, CEO, Bradford West Gwillimbury Public Library and Cultural Centre, Ont., retired in December 2019. Beginning as a reference librarian at the University of Toronto, she held positions in Ontario at Richmond Hill and Vaughan Public libraries, becoming CEO at Bradford West Gwillimbury in July 2015.

Cynthia Williamson, Manager, Library and Learning Commons at the Welland Campus of Niagara College, Ont., retired in December 2019. President of the Ontario College and University Library Association in 2009, she joined Niagara College in 2016 after being a librarian at Mohawk College for more than 15 years.

To save space, *ELAN* will include only awards and appointments of national importance and high relevance to our members. Look for these in the news sections. A great roundup of 2019 awards compiled by librarianship.ca will interest many of you: librarianship.ca/blog/2019-honour-roll. A Canadian awards page will be available on ELA's website this fall; the URL will be posted on our listserv and in the fall issue of *ELAN*.

In Memoriam

Robert H. Blackburn

(February 3, 1919 to

September 17, 2019)

The following is an abbreviated version of a talk given by Larry Alford, Chief Librarian, University of Toronto Libraries (UTL), at Bob's memorial service held on October 4, 2019. A longtime Ex Libris member, Bob contributed frequently to *ELAN*. His latest submission, which came just weeks before his death, is on page 10 in this issue.

Just outside my office in Robarts Library hang the portraits of my five predecessors going back to 1892. Bob Blackburn's portrait is in the middle of the five, literally, and his tenure as chief librarian was also in the middle in terms of time. He knew every chief librarian since 1892 — 127 years of UTL history. Bob was Associate Director of UTL from 1947 until 1954 when he was appointed Chief Librarian, a post held until his retirement in 1981.

His leadership began just as a sea change in research libraries was beginning, a change he embraced and helped lead at U of T and internationally. Bob's legacy straddles the building of great book collections housed in iconic buildings that started in the 18th and 19th centuries to the library of today with information available electronically any time and anyplace. Under Bob's leadership UTL built world-class collections, adding almost five million volumes from almost every country in the world.

The Robarts Library and adjacent Fisher Library were conceived, designed, built, and occupied during Bob's tenure as chief librarian. With more than one million square feet, the Robarts complex is one of the world's iconic library buildings and has been used by millions of students and faculty since it opened in 1973. People travel from around the globe to use the services and collections, but they also come just to see the amazing architecture. Robarts is considered one of the most important examples of brutalist architecture in the world. The building Bob created is an enduring physical landmark in Canada, and very much his legacy, both in a physical and



Photo caption from the *U of T News* story: Former Chief Librarian Robert Blackburn, seen here in October, 2017, at the Thomas Fisher Rare Book Library for the 125th anniversary of University of Toronto Libraries
Photo credit: Geoffrey Vendeville, *U of T News*

a symbolic sense. The Fisher Library is one of the most beautiful interior spaces in Toronto. This great cathedral of rare books has inspired generations of students, but even more inspiring is the extraordinary collection that Bob started. One of the great Canadian treasures is the *First Folio Shakespeare*, a book of enormous importance. Bob convinced the Fisher family to give it, and the rest of one of the most important Shakespeare collections in the world to UTL, to be housed in the Fisher Library. That donation attracted many more great gifts over many generations.

Libraries built then were closed-stack facilities only open to faculty and graduate students. Bob loved to tell the story of the U of T undergraduates who insisted that they, too, should enjoy this great building. The undergraduates occupied the President's office to make their point loud and clear. Bob quickly arranged access to the stacks, and Robarts Library become one of the first large research libraries in North America and Europe to open its stacks to undergraduates.

Bob was a prolific writer. His books include a history of UTL, *Evolution of the heart: a history of the University of Toronto Library up to 1981*, and a charming and insightful autobiography, *From Barley Field to Academe*. Bob remained deeply interested in the libraries after his

retirement. His questions and comments were always insightful, even though he retired from UTL more than 38 years ago.

As I walk by his portrait daily, I am reminded of his vision, his impact, and his tremendous legacy. I imagine him saying, "Don't mess it up, and work every day to make it even better." That is how he led. I also know he felt deeply about continuing the long tradition of preserving the record of human achievement and culture for those who come 200 or 300 years from now. Bob ended his history of the library by writing, "The university could not thrive without a healthy heart." He did much to create that healthy heart — the research library — and generations of students past and future owe him a great debt of gratitude.

It is a great irony that this remarkable man grew up in what he described as a pioneer community in Alberta, and then became a pioneer in implementing information technologies that transformed scholarship in many ways.

It has been an extraordinary privilege to have known this wonderful man and great librarian. I will miss him, as I know will Verna, his family, and all of you, but I am so glad I had a chance to know him, to learn from him, and to follow in his giant footsteps. ■

A Minuscule Moment of Library History

By Guy Robertson

On a bright spring morning 40 years ago, Professor Roy Stokes, the Director of the University of British Columbia's School of Librarianship, was conducting a tutorial on descriptive bibliography in his top-floor office in the university's main library. Gazing out his window, he was surprised to see a Volkswagen Beetle perched atop the Ladner Clock Tower. He turned to his small group of student bibliographers.

"Can anyone tell me how a Volkswagen has arrived on the top of the clock tower?"

One student told Professor Stokes that undergraduate engineers had raised the Beetle to its lofty position. Professor Stokes was not satisfied.

"Why?"

A second student said that such activities were common during the university's annual Engineering Week, as testaments to the technical skills of young engineers.

"I assume," said Professor Stokes, "that none of you are tempted to hoist a reference desk to the top of the clock tower."

"Absolutely not," said another student. "I can't stand heights. But there are lots of library students who'd put the card catalogue up there."

"Quite," said Professor Stokes.



Ladner Clock Tower, University of British Columbia
Photo credit: Guy Robertson

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Ex Libris Association Newsletter

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Ex Libris in the Time of COVID-19

By Tom Eadie



I write this report in very different times than I wrote the last. For some of us, personal plans and schedules have become uncertain. Organizations have had to reconsider their ways

of doing business, at least for a time. As has been the case for many of us in our private lives, Zoom (or Google Meet, or ...) is becoming a thing for ELA. Our upcoming board meeting will be virtual; the *ELAN* committee meeting was held on Zoom, and the ELA Conference and AGM is almost certain to be virtual. To make a virtue of necessity: this approach to meeting in the age of COVID-19 will make it possible for those not otherwise able to attend to be participants, but it will be a learning experience for all of us.

Over the last few months, ELA has been able to weigh in on such matters as the New Brunswick Provincial Librarian controversy (see the article by Sylvie Nadeau in this issue, page 10) and is following Black Lives Matter (see the article by Deb Thomas in this issue on the back page). The listserv has been busy with comments from members, and I hope this will continue — it is a way we can stay connected in disconnected times. Social distancing is a critical part of coping with COVID-19. Initially seen as primarily a matter of physical distancing, social distancing certainly has had social consequences. I hope that, through the listserv, we can keep in touch with each other, and with library-related issues across the country.

During difficult times, it seems to me particularly important to support and strengthen our institutions — and of course libraries and library

associations such as ELA loom large in my consideration. As I have mentioned on other occasions, I had intended to take advantage of personal travel to connect with ELA colleagues across the country, and attempt some recruiting. One such venue was to be the Atlantic Provinces Library Association conference in May — alas cancelled because of COVID-19. That was the first of several pleasures deferred. So I urge all members to consider a little recruiting on their own.

On a personal note, in the spring I had a few weeks of illness followed by a few days in hospital, and a period of recovery. My warmest thanks go out to our Vice President Deb Thomas and to the other ELA board members who kept things on the rails while I was slacking off.

I conclude by informing you that Matt Scholtz has agreed to serve on the board. His name will be brought before the AGM for endorsement. I should also mention that we are seeking volunteers for the board positions of Recording Secretary and Archivist. ■

Upcoming Events

Virtual ELA Annual Conference and AGM

Watch your email for announcements concerning the details of our hoped-for event!

ELA Toronto Spring Tour 2021

We hope a Toronto tour will take place in the spring of 2021. Keep watch for an email with details from Vivienne James.

Canadian Federation of Library Associations/Fédération canadienne des associations de bibliothèques (CFLA-FCAB) — the National Voice of Canada's Library Associations

By Shelagh Paterson, reporting on behalf of the CFLA-FCAB Board of Directors, with information provided by Todd Kyle, (CFLA-FCAB) Board of Directors

Executive Director update:

CFLA-FCAB extends a heartfelt thank you to Katherine McColgan who served as executive director for three years. Katherine has returned from her secondment to CFLA-FCAB to the Canadian Association of Research Libraries (CARL/ABRC). CFLA-FCAB is pleased to announce the appointment of Rebecca Raven as the new executive director. Rebecca brings two decades of experience in Canada's library community to her new role. Since 2013 she served as CEO of the Brampton Public Library, where she successfully built relationships with government. She also oversaw capital building-and-renovation projects at library facilities, and embraced new technologies, leading the Brampton Library to become an award-winning institution.

Since the Spring 2020 edition of *ELAN*, CFLA-FCAB has been working on various initiatives, including: **COVID-19 related federal advocacy and initiatives for the library sector:**

- in conjunction with the Federation of Canadian Municipalities, supporting the call for federal COVID-19 funding,
- creating the pre-budget federal submission emphasizing COVID-19 recovery that included green infrastructure, broadband access, and e-materials access,
- producing two resources — *Fair Dealing Guidance for Canadian Libraries During the Time of COVID-19* and *Online Storytimes: Copyright Guidelines for Canadian Public Libraries During COVID-19* — and
- cancelling the national forum scheduled for spring 2020, which will be rescheduled in 2021

Programs and Initiatives:

- securing a student grant to modernize the data collection and sharing for CFLA-FCAB's Intellectual Freedom Challenges Survey (the survey is available on CFLA-FCAB's website and libraries from any sector can enter reports of challenges to materials, online content,

services, and more, at any time),

- publishing the Canadian version of *Getting Started: Implementing the Marrakesh Treaty for persons with print disabilities: A practical guide for librarians*, and
- publishing a statement on anti-Black racism that condemns racism, white supremacy, and all systems of oppression that continue to deny citizens equitable treatment and justice in contemporary society (find it at: cfla-fcab.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/EN_CFLA_FCAB_Communique_on_Anti_Black_Racism.pdf).

Shelagh Paterson was treasurer of the CFLA-FCAB from 2016 to 2017. Ex Libris Association is a member of CFLA-FCAB

For more information visit cfla-fcab.ca. ■

CFLA-FCAB Intellectual Freedom Committee (IFC)

By Deb Thomas

The IFC continues to monitor hot issues related to freedom of expression — most recently, the statements of J. K. Rowling that have been interpreted as anti-transgender, and the subsequent responses from bookstores, authors, journalists, academics, and librarians.

Deb Thomas and Brent Roe are putting the finishing touches on a statement about workplace freedom of speech that will then be forwarded to the CFLA-FCAB board members for their comments and eventual approval.

The IFC and Ex Libris Association members Deb Thomas and Dick Ellis

are currently supervising a practicum student from the University of Toronto's Faculty of Information. This student is creating a database into which challenges to collections, spaces, and Internet services will be entered, as well as a web form that will facilitate those entries by library staff. The database is designed to provide a rich resource for tracking challenges over time — by issue, region, and type of library — and how libraries are responding to these challenges.

Deb Thomas is Ex Libris Association's representative on CFLA-FCAB IFC. ■

Welcome to New ELA Members

We're proud to welcome the following new ELA members:

Andreaa Marin, Toronto, ON
Sylvie Nadeau, Saint Andrews, NB
Gloria Reinbergs, Toronto
Eric Robbins, Mississauga, ON
Harold Swartz, Toronto
Maggie Trott, Toronto

Archives News

This column will return.

In the News

CRKN Transcription Project

By Tanja Harrison

Members of ELA are invited to participate in a pilot transcription crowdsourcing project developed by the Canadian Research Knowledge Network (CRKN). Since merging with Canadiana in 2018, CRKN now oversees the Canadiana collections that include more than 60 million pages of digitized documentary heritage.

The goal of the project is to provide a national engagement opportunity for CRKN institution–member staff who are working from home, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and to enhance the metadata and discoverability of the Héritage collection (heritage.canadiana.ca/).

With transcription activities underway, ELA members would provide exceptional expertise to the project as reviewers. Reviewers provide the final step of the transcription process by reading typed transcriptions and assessing them for errors before marking them as complete. Participating in the project is an excellent way to contribute to a collaborative resource-building initiative and to learn more about Canada's history.

If you would like to join the project, please email Francesca Brzezicki at digitization@crkn.ca, stating your interest. There is no minimum time commitment and participants are welcome to contribute as much or as little time as is appropriate. For more information, go to: crkn-rcdr.ca/en/digitization.

Value Study of GLAMs in Canada (December 2019)

By Wendy Newman

What is the value of the GLAM (galleries, libraries, archives, and museums) sector in Canada? A new report by Oxford Economics was prepared for Library and Archives Canada and the Canadian Museums Association to identify, measure, and communicate it — one outcome of the 2016 Taking it to the Streets Summit (see the article by Wendy Newman in *ELAN* No. 61/ Spring 2017, on page 4). Given today's intense competition for attention and funds, it is imperative to measure and communicate impacts and value.

Report authors, Oxford Economics, worked with a national steering committee comprising members from the Canadian GLAM sector. The report employs quantitative

metrics and qualitative assessments to provide “an assessment of the value of GLAMs using cost-benefit analysis (CBA) within an economic welfare framework. It takes a Total Economic Value (TEV) approach, which measures the economic benefits accruing not just to direct beneficiaries such as GLAMs visitors, but to ‘non-users’ — people who value GLAMs’ existence even if they have not recently visited one” (from the report's Executive Summary).

Here are some of the findings: Based on 150 million visits, a “consumer surplus” of visitors is estimated at \$4 billion. Per year, GLAMs' online services are valued at \$1.6 billion and the educational value to students stands at \$3.1 billion. Annual “non-use value” is estimated at \$2.2 billion. The total estimated annual value is \$11.7 billion. For every dollar invested, society benefits by about \$4. In addition, the annual value to an average GLAM user in improved well-being (as measured through health effects) is equivalent to \$1,400. You can read the full report at: museums.ca/uploaded/web/LIBRARY_20-032_HTML/pdfs/value_study_GLAMs_EN.pdf. ■

W. Kaye Lamb Award for Service to Seniors

By Rick Ficek

Due to disruptions to libraries across Canada from COVID-19, we have received no submissions for the W. Kaye Lamb Award. When the pandemic crisis abates and normal library operations resume, we hope to receive submissions. Soon, we will notify libraries on our listserv regarding new deadlines.

Sponsored by the ELA and the Canadian Federation of Library Associations/Fédération canadienne

des associations de bibliothèques, this prestigious award comes along with bragging rights and a \$500 cash prize. The award is open to any Canadian library: private, public, governmental, and academic. Past winners have ranged from the very small to some of Canada's largest libraries. Apply at: exlibris.ca/doku.php?id=award:application_for_wk_lamb_award. ■

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.

Technology Unmasked! COVID Challenges and Library Solutions

By Stan Orlov



As seen throughout this issue, COVID-19 has changed the way libraries provide services. Technology became central to

providing services, especially in the early days before there was any physical interaction allowed between libraries and their patrons. With so much moving online, libraries are keeping themselves relevant by beefing up existing services and coming up with new ones. They are now making their programing available over the phone or Internet, including song-and-story times for children now also available via Zoom or YouTube. According to Zoom, its use shot up from 10 million users in December of 2019 to 200 million

in April of 2020, indicating a rapid adoption of this platform by everyone, including libraries and their patrons.

The digital divide is a reality in Canada, with the CRTC reporting that only 59 percent of low-income households have Internet access at home. Some Canadians have lost their jobs and rely on libraries for help looking for a new one, while students of all ages turn to libraries for assistance with their homework. To help these people, many libraries left their WiFi Internet access on, so people could stop by and use it even while the buildings themselves were closed. Some library systems had a chance to go further, lending WiFi hotspots with unlimited monthly data plans to patrons who need it the most.

Another way libraries have helped is providing people with more online content, including e-books via services

such as Overdrive and Libby, electronic newspapers and magazines via PressReader and RBDigital, adding dozens of thousands of films and audio recordings to their streaming subscriptions via Kanopy and Hoopla, language-learning platforms such as Rocket Languages, and many more. Whether it's physical or virtual materials and services that patrons require, libraries are here for them in these challenging times.

For a list of free online resources for Canadians during the pandemic, visit fopl.ca/news/list-of-free-online-resources-for-canadians-during-the-covid-19-pandemic/.

Please send your questions and comments to stan.orlov@msvu.ca. Stanislav Orlov is Systems Librarian at Mount Saint Vincent University in Halifax. ■

How/Why I Became a Librarian

By Alvin M. Schrader

Knowing only what I didn't want to do — medicine, law, teaching, acting, trades, science, politics, religion — I drifted until my master's program in Canadian history and political science at Carleton University in 1966. There, the unwelcome epiphany struck that I could not become an academic historian, either, having no grasp of how society and politics worked nor any passion for a grand theory, interpretive framework, historiographical paradigm, or even a simple narrative of how history unfolded. I didn't have an inkling of what to do with the chaos of original source documents as I desperately tried to make sense of newspaper editorial opinion across Canada about the Imperial Conference of 1937, my chosen graduate project. I had experienced a hint of this incomprehension at the University of Alberta, when I struggled to grapple with analysis of Canada's 1876 *Indian Act*.

By default, I joined the Ontario Public Service in June 1967 for one year as an

administrative trainee, spending two months in each of six departments, including a rotation in tourism where I learned about advertising and crowd-testing, and another in correctional services where I toured jails across the province, visited a juvenile boys' detention centre one winter in the Far North, and observed — terrified but at a safe distance — an incarcerated (gay) serial killer, who was locked in a cage set within a cell.

My last rotation was with public works, as an executive-assistant. I then joined the department's planning branch, reputedly staffed by "young Turks" bringing oversight and control to government office-space planning and budgeting. With the province's nearly 70,000 civil servants spread across 25 or so departments and agencies, I was responsible for Metropolitan Toronto. Eventually I realized I did not have the business credentials — or appetite — to succeed my MBA supervisor, and so I resigned, in June 1972, after barely

surviving the mental and emotional stress of planning office space for the massive new government medicare program, implemented by July 1st that year on less than six months' notice.

I settled, nervously, on librarianship as a tentative career choice and blithely assumed I could start a master of library science program at the University of Toronto that September. Applications had closed months before; I would have to apply the next year. After spending three months travelling across North America on a \$99 Greyhound Bus pass, and an extended stay in Mexico, I worked as a freelance financial analyst for a planning firm.

I still have a copy of my U of T application that asked why I had chosen librarianship. I had noted three reasons. Two were respectable enough — to have a more intellectual life, and to help people (though not as a teacher or social worker) — and one was amusingly

Continued on page 5

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naïve — to get away from bureaucracy (people laugh when I tell them that).

My years at U of T were among the best of my life. Afterward I was lucky to secure a contract with the Council of Ministers of Education (Canada) to organize its never-used document collection. I was even luckier to be appointed deputy head of the Chinguacousy Branch in the City of Brampton Public Library and Art Gallery in 1977, and had the great privilege of working for Jo Bryant.

My MLS led to a lifelong interest in service measurement and evaluation. At Brampton, I did library-user feedback surveys; a report was archived with ERIC and a research-article version was published in the new peer-reviewed *Library Research*.

An epiphany at age 35 led to a more research-oriented career. I secured a three-year Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada doctoral fellowship, as well as graduate fellowships

from Indiana University (Bloomington) to study there for a PhD in library and information science. That afforded me the pleasure of living in an American college town, populated by 32,000 students and about the same number of “townies.”

Once out in 1982, I was lucky to land a tenure-track faculty appointment with the Faculty of Library Science (now the School of Library and Information Studies, SLIS) at the University of Alberta. I had arrived full circle from my undergrad days at the university, and managed to complete my dissertation in the IU doctoral program the next year.

By the time I retired as professor emeritus in 2009, I had taught 13 different graduate courses and served as department chair from 1996 to 2003. I subsequently spent three years as director of research, half-time, for University of Alberta Libraries. Since then I have been privileged to teach the Practicum course for SLIS and to

serve as adjunct professor with the Institute for Sexual Minority Studies and Services at the University of Alberta.

Looking back, I made a good decision in 1972. Librarianship as a profession of service has informed all of my teaching and research interests, and I have benefited by volunteerism in the Canadian and American library communities. The University of Alberta has given me a multitude of opportunities for public service and for learning so much from so many colleagues in Canada and beyond.

Since we met in 1993, I have had the proud support of my life partner Tony Thai. I am truly privileged — and deeply grateful to everyone who has supported me, made me laugh, offered me wise counsel, and helped to reinforce my lifelong conviction that intellectual engagement and professional activism are their own reward.

A Brief Personal History of the Canadian Film Institute (CFI) (1935–1975)

By James Forrester

At Christmas of 1972, I arrived at 1762 Carling Avenue, Ottawa, to work as a “stills librarian” for the CFI Canadian Film Archive department. Archivist Peter Morris was a major authority on the history of Canadian film production. In many ways, Peter became a mentor to me and a whole generation of keen, young film-studies students, including Piers Handling of the Toronto International Film Festival and Wayne Clarkson of Telefilm Canada.

At that time, the CFI was a vibrant organization with a large 16mm-film library that generated revenue for the non-profit side of the operation. The Film Study Centre had a specialized film book and periodical library, a collection of 100,000 photographs, and an archival-storage facility. The institute also published a series of film monographs, focusing primarily on Canadian cinema, as well as *Film & Video Canadiana*. FilmExpo was an annual film festival held at the National Arts Centre in Ottawa.



Director James Forrester at the controls of *The Film Scene* on Ottawa Cablevision, 1973
Photo credit: Canadian Film Institute

The National Film Society of Canada (NFS), founded in 1935 by a CBC/NFB director Donald Buchanan and a group of film enthusiasts, became the second-oldest film institution in the world. This organization was modelled on the British Film Institute in London,

founded in 1933. Within a year, the society opened branches in Ottawa, Toronto, Montreal, and Vancouver. In 1950 the National Film Society was renamed the Canadian Film Institute, becoming a major clearing house for film

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The stills collection at CFI
Photo credit: Jim Forrester

societies and researchers across Canada.

Peter Morris had completed his MSc in chemistry in 1962 at the University of British Columbia, before he relocated to Ottawa to start the Canadian Film Archive in December of 1963. This archive was the country's first professional film archive recognized by the International Federation of Film Archives (FIAF). I recall helping to organize a FIAF conference in both Ottawa and Montreal in 1974, with the main sessions held in the former Ottawa Union Station,

converted to a conference site. We also toured the NFB's Montreal studio and the Vidéographe downtown location. There was a reception at the NFB headquarters, and the highlight for me was meeting Norman McLaren, Wolf Koenig, and other members of the animation department.

Unfortunately, that year proved to be the swan song for the Canadian Film Archive. The Canada Council manipulated its granting formula, so that the CFI would have to divest itself of the Canadian Film Archive, handing it over to the National Film Archive (which was founded in 1972 by Sam Kula). During a particularly heated CFI board meeting, the staff intervened with a "manifesto" defending the Canadian Film Archive as a viable entity, but the Film Study Centre and the archival films were eventually transferred to the Public Archives of Canada.

Another aspect of this organization's legacy is what we now call the Canadian Screen Awards. Under the umbrella of the Canadian Association for Adult Education (CAAE), 44 organizations,

including the NFS/CFI and Donald Buchanan, undertook to launch the Canadian Film Awards (CFA) in 1949. Crawley Films won the first Film of the Year award for *The Loon's Necklace*, an animated film made using West Coast Indigenous masks. For the first three years the awards ceremony was held at Ottawa theatres, before the CFA awards relocated to Toronto, Stratford, Montreal, and Niagara-on-the-Lake. The first prizes awarded were works of art by Canadian artists, rather than statues.

The CFI still operates in Ottawa. It continues with its mandate, screening a number of international film festivals, as well as the annual Ottawa International Animation Festival, but is "more limited in scope in its delivery," according to Tom McSorley, the current CFI Executive Director.

Unfortunately the CFI is not widely credited for the groundbreaking work it accomplished as the premier film institute in Canada, since other organizations took over many of CFI's initiatives, and functions. ■

Laughing in the Library

By Matt Scholtz

Yes, Virginia, there used to be an excellent interlibrary loan service in our province. When it was operational, we had a request from a patron for a book entitled *Unlimited Sex: Seventy Positions to Enhance Your Sexual Experience*. Since the best we could do locally was to provide a book with only 30 positions, we submitted the request to the interlibrary loan system. Subsequently, Thunder Bay Public Library funnelled the book to us, and then we handed it to our happy patron. The normal due date of 30 days had come and gone, and Thunder Bay began sending us overdue notices. Oh, dear. Thirty days is really not enough time to try 70 positions — some might require

more work than others, while others might be delightful enough to repeat and perfect. More than 30 days was needed for such a book. But Thunder Bay was adamant, so our patrons speeded up their research, and back to Thunder Bay, the book went. Possibly, someone in that city was in desperate need of it. Surprisingly, our patrons didn't ask us to resubmit a request for the book. Presumably, going forward, they had enough positions to try out. Or they were just too tired.

If you have a humorous personal story or anecdote to share about your library career, send it to mattscholtz@rogers.com. ■

ELA Biography Project

Here are the new biographies added to the website:

Clare Lawton Beghtol, Mavis Cariou, Marie-Claire Daveluy, Anne Hart, Shirley Diane (Stott) Henderson, and Charles Keith Morison.

See all of the completed biographies at:

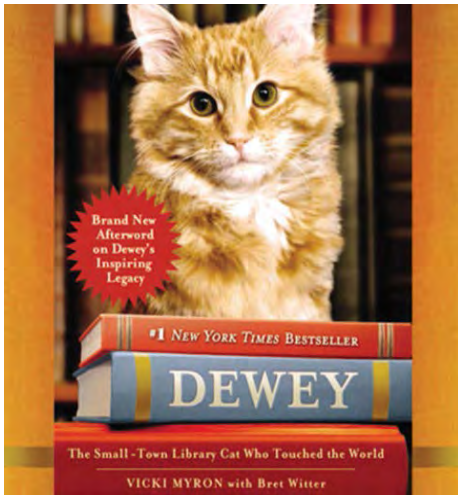
exlibris.ca/doku.php?id=history:biographies:biography_mainpage.

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Enter the Cats: a new library niche for felines

By Leslie McGrath



Dewey Readmore Books

Library cats have continually reinvented themselves. In ancient Egypt they were welcome guardians of libraries, attacking the mice that chewed papyrus. Venerated and well-treated in life, they were mummified after death, to continue their important work.

Cats were no less welcome in the chilly medieval scriptoria and libraries. There is ample evidence in the manuscripts themselves that cats were considered amusing and companionable, and that they performed valuable services in protecting the monasteries from vermin. Pictorially, they joined other animals on the pages of manuscripts, both to illustrate religious themes and to add lively decorative imagery.

For centuries, librarians welcomed cats who slumbered happily in baskets during the day but patrolled the stacks hunting rodents at night. In modern times, children in particular became attached to library cats who became a draw to storytimes and programs. Perhaps the most famous library cat of recent times was a kitten left abandoned one winter night in 1988 in the Spencer Public Library book drop. Following a widely-publicized contest he was named Dewey Readmore Books and adopted by the library, where he lived a long, happy life, recounted in three books. Dewey's obituary in 2006 circulated worldwide, notably in Japan, where he enjoyed a cult following.

Over time, an increasing number of people have become sensitive to various allergens, chief among these are animal fur and dander. Other changes in the library environment — such as increased noise levels, fewer quiet corners, and liability concerns — also brought about the retirement of many a library cat, though online libraries may adopt virtual feline mascots.

In an international census of library cats, published in 2010, blogger Amy Bojo listed more than 30 resident cats, including 12 in Canadian libraries. A 2016 blog about three well-loved library cats in Alberta found that when one died or retired, it was the last incumbent. A few traditional library cats still carry on (see their job descriptions at oedb.org/ilibrarian/quick-guide-library-cats/), but others have found a fine new niche as “official helpers.”



Molly
Photo credit: Courtesy of Catherine James

Dogs still dominate the therapy field, but cats now earn their certificates and operate, in uniform and by special invitation, at libraries. Molly is one; she became child-certified with Therapeutic Paws of Canada (TPOC) in 2015. She's now representing TPOC in a Peel District School Board classroom after first visiting for three years in a public school library. Therapy cats cannot be taken to private homes, so a library offers an ideal environment in which to combine cats and books.

Molly works weekly with groups of four children, in the six-week TPOC Paws to Read® program, which involves



Cat sitting under the chair of the mistress of the house, offering her protection and friendship
Photo credit: ancientegyptonline.co.uk/cat

certified cats who are read stories aloud by participating children. The children enjoy having a live, appreciative feline audience, while they gain confidence and build their reading skills. (Molly also visits a local retirement home.)

Experts agree that therapy cats offer benefits: “The petting and the physical contact side of things is critical in terms of oxytocin release ... physical contact with something warm and fuzzy and soft is also a good trigger,” Dr. James Serpell (a professor of ethics and animal welfare at the University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine and director of its Center for the Interaction of Animals and Society) is quoted as saying in a September 6, 2018, *New York Times* article. Though not considered service animals under the *Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act*, therapy cats may be permitted in libraries. As recognition grows of their valuable new role, perhaps we will see a renaissance of the library cat — as a visiting, credentialed professional helping librarians and teachers to promote books, reading, and libraries. ■

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.superrover@gmail.com.

Library Treasures of Britain: Palace Green Library, Durham University

By Guy Robertson

You haven't opened your copy of the Venerable Bede's *The Ecclesiastical History of the English People* for ages. Perhaps you've never opened it. Notwithstanding, you feel the need to take the train from London's King's Cross Station north to Durham, where you'll drop your bags at a respectable hotel and march over to the magnificent cathedral. Bede's tomb is easy to find in the cathedral's west end. You promise yourself — and Bede's ghost — that you'll take *The Ecclesiastical History* off the shelf as soon as you arrive home. And now you're ready for something non-ecclesiastical, such as nearby Durham University's Palace Green Library (PLG).

PLG comprises several buildings constructed from the 15th to the 20th century. For many years it was the university's main library. In 2012 travel writer and former University Chancellor Bill Bryson returned to the campus to open what is now the Bill Bryson Library, which holds modern research collections. PLG became the repository for the university's archives and special collections. The Exchequer Building is the oldest building on the site. Dating from the mid-15th century, it originally served as the Bishop of Durham's administrative centre. Aside from various offices, it once featured a small dungeon. Adjoining it is Bishop John Cosin's Library, which he built in 1669. It was the first public lending library in Northeast England. Together the Exchequer Building and Cosin's Library became the university's main library in the 1850s, but Cosin's retained its public-lending function. In 1858 another structure was added to the site, and the trio of buildings stood as the university's library until an extension was built in 1968. The nearby Durham Cathedral's Diocesan Registry, built in 1822, was added to PGL in 1978. The cathedral, Durham Castle, and PGL became a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1986.

"Cosin's Library used to be the main tourist draw after the cathedral and castle," says Connie, a retired



Palace Green Library
Photo Credit: Durham University

schoolteacher who has lived in Durham most of her life. "It's a lovely space, and visitors get a sense of the university's scholarly traditions. Durham residents as well as tourists can stroll from the cathedral and castle to the PGL in a few minutes. When you see today's students wandering past the Exchequer Building and Cosin's, and you hear them complaining about assignments and exams, you realize that some things haven't changed much since novices at the local Benedictine priory grumbled about the amount of material their masters forced them to memorize. Durham has been in the education business for almost a millennium."

Aside from providing scholars with access to collections such as the Sudan Archive, which includes the papers of men and women who lived in the Sudan during the Anglo-Egyptian Condominium of 1898 to 1955, PGL also hosts numerous exhibitions of historical materials, especially those of interest to archeologists and museum curators. A recent example is 2000 years of life at 18-29 Claypath, which featured artifacts discovered on the site of an old garage, snooker hall, and cinema in Durham's city centre. In 2017, a popular exhibition

at PLG's Museum of Archeology was *Decay: Time, Objects & Destruction*, which demonstrated ways in which time affects museum objects of leather, glass, and iron. Visitors were particularly interested in the effects of time on modern objects such as cellphones and plastic toys. Many exhibitions are mounted by the university's Archeology and Anthropology departments, and the traditional relationship between libraries and museums has become one of PGL's notable strengths.

A day's visit to PGL will not suffice to give you a full sense of the area's historical significance. You should try to stay longer to appreciate it. Bede would expect no less.

For contact and visiting information, see: dur.ac.uk/palace.green. **I**

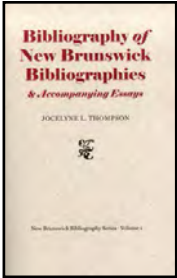
Books of Interest to Members

ELAN welcomes news about books by ELA members. Send a brief description or an advertising brochure to jean.weihns@gmail.com.



Book Reviews

Edited by Susan Ibbetson



Bibliography of New Brunswick Bibliographies and Accompanying Essays
Jocelyne L. Thompson, compiler; Peter F. McNally and Tony Tremblay, essayists
Gaspereau Press, 2020

ISBN 978-1554472079. \$39.95

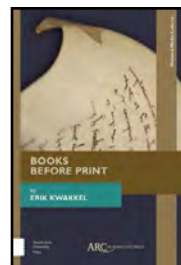
Reviewed by Lorne Bruce

This first volume of the New Brunswick Bibliography Series is an enumerative bibliography compiled by Jocelyne Thompson. Books, directories, catalogues, guides, indexes, government documents, reports, book chapters, journal articles, and online databases are included in 91 pages featuring 146 entries. The bibliography reveals both a richness of resources in some subject areas and a deficiency in others, suggesting many possible approaches for future study and publication. Thompson's bibliography is accompanied by two related essays that provide context for the series: *New Brunswick's Contribution to the World of Knowledge: Collecting & Organizing the Published Record*, by Peter F. McNally, and *Operationalizing Cultural Work in New Brunswick: From Theory to Practice*, by Tony Tremblay. Attractive illustrations and photographs provide visual appeal for readers.

The entries annotated by Thompson are subdivided into eight sections: Canada in general, general regional, general to New Brunswick, Indigenous Peoples, Acadiana, arts and literature, history and the social sciences, natural history and applied sciences. The efforts of librarians and libraries to publish bibliographical works are often in evidence: articles in the *APLA Bulletin* and *Papers of the Bibliographical Society of Canada*, various catalogues of special collections

or subjects, and checklists created by notables such as Douglas Lochhead, Olga Bishop, and Eric Swanick. Accomplished ELA member Peter F. McNally has contributed an essay delivered at the 2018 New Brunswick Bibliography Symposium. Dr. Tony Tremblay's essay followed at the 2019 symposium. The first two conferences have done much to stimulate work in bibliography and book history in the Atlantic provinces. The annual symposiums offer the prospect of future scholarly publications and presentations despite the April 2020 cancellation due to the coronavirus pandemic. The New Brunswick series is off to a promising start with the publication of this volume.

A final word about the quality of this book, printed and published by Gaspereau Press in Kentville, N.S.: this press emphasizes quality across the entire production of books — from editing and design to the manufacturing stage. Gaspereau offers an alternative publishing model to that of contemporary trade or academic publications, one which reunites printing, binding, and publishing together — in its fashion, a homage to the “book arts.” ■



Books Before Print
By Erik Kwakkel
ARC Humanities Press, 2018
ISBN: 978-1942401629. \$54.95
e-ISBN: 9781942401636

Reviewed by Guy Robertson

Envy those who have as their introduction to medieval manuscripts this informative and beautifully illustrated book. Book historian Erik Kwakkel satisfies his audience — which includes curious general readers as well

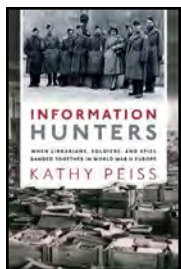
as undergraduates, graduate students, and their professors in the Humanities — by addressing their need for clear definitions of key terms and memorable examples of manuscripts that contain important characteristics. In some places Kwakkel is lighthearted and amusing, in others he impresses readers with his technical insights and analyses of different manuscripts, but he succeeds throughout in entertaining readers while educating them. Kwakkel has given us a textbook that could serve for many years as a standard introduction to the field.

Brief chapters cover major areas of manuscript study. Chapter titles are concise and memorably droll: “Hugging a Manuscript,” “Mary Had a Little Book,” and “The Skinny on Bad Parchment.” What is Kwakkel up to? One must read on to find out, and one can be surprised and intrigued by what he writes about hands with pointing fingers (maniculae), speech bubbles, and multi-dynamic bookmarks. Readers might be tempted to dash through the book in a couple of sittings, and then return for closer study to sections and chapters that interest them most.

One outstanding feature that readers will find particularly useful is the selection of colour photographs, many of them by Kwakkel. These do an excellent job of illustrating manuscript characteristics, and complement points made in the text. The book's overall production quality is high, but this should not stop readers from making marginal notes and adding their personal maniculae, or, if one hesitates to mark up the text, one can add yellow sticky notes. Having discussed the precursors of such items in his chapter on “Slips, Strips, and Scraps: Messaging,” Kwakkel would approve. ■

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*Information Hunters:
When Librarians,
Soldiers, and Spies
Banded Together in
World War II Europe*
By Kathy Peiss
Oxford University
Press, 2020
ISBN: 978-

0190944612. \$38.50

Reviewed by Jean Weihs

There are two things that should be noted about this book. Despite the picture on the book's paper jacket and on page 104, only one woman "information hunter" was part of the group that operated in Europe immediately preceding the German invasion of France, and the content is limited for the most part to the activities of this group of people and others from the United States. Peiss calls this "an unusual period when libraries and the military, intelligence and cultural heritage were closely intertwined."

Librarians, archivists, and scholars travelled from the United States to Europe to collect books and documents to aid knowledge of the expanding military conquest by German forces. In its short life, the Library of Congress Mission to Europe acquired 1.5 million books, periodicals and other materials, which went to the collections of the Library of Congress and important research libraries in the United States. At the end of the Second World War, much energy was devoted to finding and returning books to libraries and other organizations that had been seized by German forces in occupied France. "Librarians, scholars, soldiers and spies took on the challenges of books and information in wartime, and in the process helped to save knowledge and culture threatened by war."

The text of the book is accompanied by pictures — such as the piles of books hidden in a salt mine and in a sub-basement in Munich and the crates of books at the Offenbach Archival Depot.

The Second World War ended 75 years ago at a time when very few of the readers of the words on this page were alive or were too young to remember the conflict. ■

A New Brunswick Story — Shock, Dismay, and Finally a Happy Dance

By Sylvie Nadeau

Last February the Canadian and New Brunswick Public Library Service (NBPLS) communities, as well as New Brunswick's residents, were shocked to learn that the Government of New Brunswick (GNB) had appointed a person who did not have the required qualifications of a master's degree in Library and/or Information Studies (MLIS) and extensive library-management experience to the position of Provincial Librarian/Executive Director of the NBPLS, despite these requirements being clearly stated in the recruitment ad. These requirements are enshrined in the Position Description Questionnaire (PDQ) that the GNB Office of Human Resources used to classify the position at its hierarchical and pay-scale level (PB 9) using the international Hay system. This classification reflected the extensive provincial responsibilities of the position, as well as the high level of academic and specialized experience required. The person appointed did not even have a bachelor's degree, a minimum requirement for Library Manager of a small library. NBPLS is the branch of provincial government responsible, in partnership with participating municipalities, for the development and management of the province's public library system. NBPLS has a provincial office, five regional offices, 64 public libraries, a Book-by-Mail Service, a Virtual Library, and extensive online services. All employees are civil servants.

NBPLS has been led by professional librarians since its creation more than 66 years ago. It employs a good contingent of professional librarians along with a larger contingent of library managers in small libraries, assistants, and clerks. The quality and effectiveness of this professional management over these years speak for themselves. Although facing chronic and ongoing budget constraints, the NBPLS maintained solid ongoing development thanks to the creativity, resourcefulness, and hard work of its management team and staff. As recently as the fall of 2019, the University of

New Brunswick's Institute for Research, Data and Training conducted a study of eight years of statistical data (at the request of the GNB), concluding that "Overall, the growth and steady demand for Public Library services in NB is remarkable, given the technological and social changes taking place throughout the province." (For the full report, see unb.ca/nbirdt/). This report is an objective and independent validation of the quality of the NBPLS management, which has been led by professional librarians in senior management roles.

Following the announcement of this February appointment, there was an outcry of dismay and opposition across the province and the country. Concerned citizens, members of the library community, such as library patrons, trustees, library boards, municipal councils, retired librarians (including those from legislatures and universities) and staff, and library associations — including the NB Library Trustees Association, the Atlantic Provinces Library Association, the Canadian Federation of Library Associations, Fédération des milieux documentaires du Québec — sent emails and letters to the Premier and the minister responsible. Letters to the editors were published in newspapers, and media — including CBC, Radio-Canada, Canadian Press, *Acadie Nouvelle*, *Telegraph Journal*, *Daily Gleaner*, Global News — covered the story, the story that never died because the protests never stopped. Supported by stakeholders, a request was made to the Premier to conduct an independent review of the recruitment process.

On July 6, 2020, the minister responsible held a press conference via telephone to inform the media that the appointed person had resigned and been reassigned to a position within the GNB Executive Council Office. A qualified professional librarian in a senior management role within NBPLS was then appointed Acting Provincial Librarian/Executive Director of NBPLS.

Continued on page 11

...continued from page 10

The minister responsible made a public commitment to hold a new competition and do it right. Many of us did a happy dance following this announcement!

I am convinced that this result could not have been achieved without the spontaneous and ongoing groundswell of dismay and opposition that kept coming. We need to remain vigilant and keep a close eye on what will happen next, and the provincial and Canadian library community will do just that.

Sylvie Nadeau is the retired Provincial Librarian/Executive Director of NBPLS. ■

Laughing in the Library

By Matt Scholtz

It isn't often that one can call a troublesome patron a liar. A member of the town's garbage pick-up squad happened to spot a library book tossed in among household garbage, ready to go to the dump. He retrieved it and kindly brought the book to the library. Thankfully, the book was not soiled. When we checked the status of the book, we learned that it was overdue. Glory be! The borrower suddenly stormed into our library, incensed, an overdue notice in hand. What kind of inefficient library are we running? He had already returned the book! Oh, really? When we showed him the book and explained how it came into our possession, he quietly slunk out of the door. *If you have a humorous personal story or anecdote to share about your library career, send it to mattscholtz@rogers.com. ■*

British Columbia News

By Guy Robertson



In April the British Columbia government announced a \$3 million grant to public libraries to enhance digital library services including literacy programs,

e-books, and online learning. Minister of Education Rob Fleming said he was "proud to see the innovative ways that BC's libraries continue to support and connect people who want to learn, explore, and be entertained through digital resources. This funding will help bring libraries into the homes of families throughout the province."

In June the Association of BC Public Library Directors (ABCPLD) awarded Maureen Sawa, Director, **Greater Victoria Public Library (GVPL)**, the ABCPLD 2020 Award for Excellence. She has introduced innovative programs and services to GVPL, and has served as an inspiration and mentor to her colleagues. She has also contributed to the national library scene. As Past Chair of the Canadian Urban Libraries Council (CULC), she continues to promote public library interests on a number of advisory committees.

In June the **Vancouver Island Regional Library (VIRL)** and the BC

Securities Commission (BCSC) offered a free webinar on investment-fraud awareness. Melissa Legacy, Director of Library Services and Planning at VIRL, and her colleagues were pleased to work with BCSC to foster a better understanding of investment fraud and its implications. She noted the webinar "aligns perfectly with VIRL's commitment to supporting lifelong learning."

In July, after closing its facilities in response to the coronavirus pandemic, the **Vancouver Public Library (VPL)** started reopening and offering basic services. The downtown **Central Library** and four other branches allowed patrons to access computers, return borrowed items, and pick up items reserved before the March shutdown. The next phase of reopening, scheduled for the fall, will include services at most branches, greater access to collections, and small in-person events and programs. The expansion of digital collections and services will continue for the foreseeable future. Other public libraries in Greater Vancouver began to offer similar services, and informed patrons that more access to library facilities and collections had been scheduled for later this year. Most of BC's academic and school libraries remained closed, as did many special libraries serving local businesses.

In July **Surrey Public Library (SPL)** Children's Librarian and literacy advocate Sara Grant won the Council of the Federation Literacy Award. Supporting

a team of 30 children's library staff members, she has established a number of popular programs including Daddy Storytime, which encourages fathers to actively encourage their children's literacy. Chief Librarian of Surrey Libraries, Surinder Bhogal, noted Grant has been a tireless supporter of literacy, benefiting numerous Surrey families.

The **University of British Columbia Xwi7xwa Library** holds an extensive First Nations collection. On the library's website this spring and summer, Public Service Student Librarian Bronte Burnette posted a series of useful articles and displays concerning the memoirs of Indigenous people, Indigenous dance and music, ancestral plants, and graphic novels with Indigenous themes. While the library was closed during the pandemic, patrons could stay in touch with First Nations issues through these postings.

Prairies News

By Alvin M. Schrader



Across the Prairies, COVID-19 has resulted in temporary closures of public libraries in 2020.

After its shutdown in March, **Regina Public Library (RPL)** extended

free Wi-Fi coverage to areas adjacent to its branches, to ensure people — including underprivileged community members and those with old cellphones

— have Internet access. In April RPL signed a partnership with Folding@home (foldingathome.org/), an online project with Washington University School of Medicine professor Greg Bowman, to use its servers and computers to crunch COVID-19 research data for scientists around the world. **Winnipeg Public Library (WPL)** closed on March 16, along with city-operated recreation centres, pools, arenas, and programming services (674 non-permanent city staff were temporarily laid off). At the end of April, WPL began providing reading kits for underprivileged kids, delivered to children and adults through resource centres, shelters, and neighbourhood associations. **Saskatoon Public Library** also closed as of March 16. **Edmonton Public Library** closed its 21 branches on March 14 (489 EPL staff were temporarily laid off — 75 percent of its workforce — along with 1,600 city employees). **Calgary Public Library** closed on March 15 (temporary layoff notices were issued to 550 library staff — 75 percent of the CPL workforce — along with 1,200 temporary city-staff layoffs). **Saskatoon Public Library (SPL)** announced Danny Ramadan as 2020/21 Writer in Residence as of September 1. An award-winning Syrian-Canadian author, public speaker, LGBTQ-refugee activist, and master's student at the University of British Columbia, he will begin meeting remotely with writers from the home he shares with his husband, Matthew Ramadan, in Vancouver. If current social-distancing guidelines are lifted, he may move to Saskatoon for the second half of his residency. He is SPL's 40th writer in residence since the program was established in 1981.

Manitoba Library Association's restructuring evolution is documented by its former president, now chair of the Manitoba Libraries Working Group, Alix-Rae Stefanko, in the latest issue of *Partnership: The Canadian Journal of Library & Information Practice & Research*.

Calgary Public Library (CPL) announced its first Storyteller in Residence, Richard Van Camp, on June 30, 2020. His ten-week sharing of culture, craft, traditions, and inspiring stories of

Indigenous resilience and beauty, will incorporate online workshops and virtual one-on-one consultations for all ages. Van Camp is a Tlicho Dene man who grew up in Fort Smith, Northwest Territories, and found his identity listening and learning from his community's Elders. One of the most distinguished and prolific authors in Canada, he was named Storyteller of the Year by the Wordcraft Circle of Native Writers and Storytellers.

In July the University of Manitoba and the University of Winnipeg held a public consultation via Zoom on the future of the Archival Studies stream of the Joint Master's Program in the Departments of History. The Association for Manitoba Archives has campaigned for broader consultation since changes to the Archival Studies program at the University of Manitoba were first proposed in 2017.

Since it opened in 2014, Winnipeg's **Canadian Museum For Human Rights** has been involved in controversies involving racism, discrimination, and censorship, which came to a head this year. It was criticized for its approach to Indigenous history even before construction began as only two percent of almost 600,000 artifacts were recovered and sifted during a year-long archeological dig at the building site. Leigh Syms, former archeology curator at the nearby Manitoba Museum, wrote in *The Idea of a Human Rights Museum*, it was "the worst case of legal destruction of the rich heritage that I have had the misfortune to witness." Some museum employees reported racism and discrimination, and others said they were forced to censor displays about LGBTQ history at the request of some visiting school groups.

Margaret Law was appointed CEO of **The Alberta Library**, effective March 2, 2020, for one year. She is a past president of the Canadian Library Association and a frequent sessional instructor for the School of Library and Information Studies, University of Alberta.

Bill Sgrazzutti received the 2020 Saskatchewan Library Association's (SLA) Frances Morrison Award. His career of more than 20 years with the

University of Regina Library includes positions as associate university librarian, university librarian, and strategic initiatives co-ordinator. Provincially, he led the growth and development of RegLIN into CASLS, and he has been an active member and volunteer with SLA. Nationally, he represented the **University of Regina Library** at the Council of Prairie and Pacific University Libraries and the Canadian Association of Research Libraries.

Ontario News

By Vivienne James



Survival during the pandemic — that's been the story on everyone's mind and attention, and Ontario libraries are no exception. Even though libraries have

had to temporarily close, staff continue to serve the public — their adjustment of service to a new type of demand is the result of amazing creativity and planning. With many programs and workshops now virtual, borrowing has continued — mostly for digital materials — with loans of e-books and audiobooks vastly increased. Moving from complete shutdown to providing curbside pickups, book returns, and limited computer use at certain locations, Ontario libraries are determining what reopening would look like. Most systems waived fines for the duration of the closures.

Hamilton Public Library went a step further: fines were waived from March 15, 2020, until December 31, 2021.

Toronto Public Library (TPL), in partnership with Renewed Computer Technology and with support from the Toronto Public Library Foundation, launched its Internet Connectivity Kit to provide vulnerable residents with a free laptop and WiFi hotspot with four months of unlimited data. An Instant Digital Card is available to those without a library card, giving them temporary access to OverDrive. TPL is providing

new books for children, free of charge, in the food hampers distributed through its pop-up food banks.

Kingston Frontenac Public Library hosted (via Zoom) bestselling author and activist, Jesse Thistle, whose *From the Ashes: My story of Being Métis, Homeless and Finding a Way* was shortlisted for Canada Reads.

In partnership with the Ottawa International Writers Festival and Library and Archives Canada, **Ottawa Public Library (OPL)** hosted Hugh Segal with his memoir, *Bootstraps Need Boots*. OPL also hosted a six-week series of online concerts and workshops celebrating local music and musicians.

Janet Rogers, Mabel Pugh Taylor Writer in Residence at **McMaster University/Hamilton Public Library**, invited area residents and writers to share what home means to them in the pandemic. Their stories are included in "Writing Home," a two-part podcast hosted and produced by Rogers.

Ryerson University Library is developing a COVID-19 digital archive of images (shared by students, faculty, staff, and alumni) which will eventually be publicly available. Other university and public libraries are also inviting people to contribute stories, diaries, photos, poems, art, or anything else that represents life in isolation, to comprise an archive that provides future generations with an understanding of all aspects of this crisis.

Quebec News

By Pierre Guilmette and Peter F. McNally



The 88th annual conference of L'Association des bibliothécaires du Québec/Quebec Library Association (ABQLA) Annual Conference, Timeless/Intemporel, scheduled for May 8, 2020, was postponed due to COVID-19. ABQLA's Anne Geller Award for outstanding



contributions of Quebec librarianship was not awarded this year. Sandy Hervieux, Liaison Librarian, **McGill Library**, was elected 2020/2021 president.

Quebec public and academic libraries, following the provincial lockdown due to the health crisis, closed on March 13. During June and July, limited curbside service resumed, with no direct public access to collections.

Pat Riva, Associate University Librarian, Collection Services, **Concordia Library**, received The Canadian Association of Research Libraries' Award of Merit at its virtual spring general meeting, in recognition of her national and international accomplishments in the development of bibliographic standards and the conceptual modelling of bibliographic information.

L'Université du Québec à Montréal (UQAM) celebrated its 50th anniversary. The **UQAM Library** opened the **Centre for Rare Books and Special Collections** on December 4, 2019, in a new space in the Pavillon Hubert-Aquin. It features a collection of 45,000 works (inherited mainly from older institutions) that comprises two categories: works published before 1850 and rare books published after 1850. To highlight the legacies of the Collège Sainte-Marie (1848–1969), the École Normale Jacques-Cartier (1857–1969) and the École des beaux-arts de Montréal (1922–1969) from its collection, the UQAM Library Service held an exhibition in three parts until fall 2020. When reorganizing the collection, Sylvie Alix, head of the Rare Books Centre, relied on the work by Brenda Dunn-Lardeau, *Catalogue des imprimés des XV^e et XVI^e siècles dans les collections de l'Université du Québec à Montréal* (Presses de l'Université du Québec, 2013), produced in collaboration with the members of the Montreal multidisciplinary research group on ancient books (15th–18th centuries).

Maritimes News

By Tanja Harrison



The July 29th public statement of the Nova Scotia Library Association (NSLA) supported Black Lives Matter and condemned the systemic police

racism and brutality faced by Black and Indigenous people every day. NSLA stated it "recogniz[es] the library sector, our institutions, and our practices reinforce and perpetuate colonialism, white privilege, and other systems of inequity." The NSLA commits to several initiatives, including the development of an anti-racism policy, raising awareness of library resources on issues of resistance and anti-racism to educate NSLA members and the library community, and a plan to support Black, Indigenous, and People of Colour (BIPOC) students to enroll in the Nova Scotia Community College library technician and Dalhousie University Masters of Information programs.

The pandemic dominated the news and affected everyone and everything — library conferences in the Maritimes were all postponed. Planning teams remain optimistic that delegates will take part (in person) next year. Virtual graduations, faculty/staff video montages, and convocations-in-a-box were just a few of the Class of 2020 offerings by Maritimes universities to help new alumni feel connected and congratulated despite having to forego traditional ceremonies. University libraries helped students finish up the winter term by making a smooth transition to completely virtual operations by mid-March. Institutions now face decreased fall enrolment and other revenue losses; cuts across the post-secondary system will be devastating to many. Strategies vary by institution, while each braces for finalized October enrolment numbers.

Crisis brings people together. With most classes online or operating in a hybrid model, staff at Maritimes academic libraries (plus Newfoundland colleagues at Memorial University and

the College of the North Atlantic) are sharing information and strategies as members of the Council of Atlantic University Libraries. Fall will see many academic buildings remain closed, with mandatory masks, on-campus visits by appointment, book-quarantine protocols, and equipment/high-touch cleaning procedures in place, and only a fraction of staff leaving home for work. Curbside pickup and the classic Books by Mail Service continue to fill out physical-material needs as academic libraries around the world begin to open up their collections once again. To assist patrons, libraries now extend automatic-term loans for all, with overdue fees on most items a thing of the past. Virtual chat and online research-help services reign, with library instruction via various online university teaching environments. Many of these activities are not new; with most collections online and regular operation of virtual services, other departments are beginning to understand the complex, long-standing, and integral role of the campus library.

NSCAD University Library plans to capture and preserve all NSCAD-related COVID-19 web pages, social media posts, and media for a NSCAD Pandemic collection to be available via NSCAD's Open Research Archive (NORA). Additionally, the **University of Prince Edward Island Archives and Special Collections** has developed service-learning collaboration with students to create a COVID-19 digital and physical time capsule.

Curbside pickup has become the staple service to reconnect with library books again. In early August, all public libraries across the Maritimes are open for in-library browsing, limited computer use, and varying programs and services. Overdue fines have essentially been eliminated.

Catherine Arseneau has been appointed Dean, Library and Cultural Resources, Cape Breton University. The appointment of Jennifer Richards, Interim University Librarian, Acadia University, is extended until December 31, 2020. At the University of New Brunswick,

Joanne Smyth was appointed Director of Collections Services, Marc Bragdon was appointed Head of the Research, and Merle Steeves has been reappointed as Head of Technical Services. Early in 2020, the New Brunswick Public Library Service hired a non-librarian Executive Director; Mr. Ken Cormier has since resigned due to the controversy surrounding his lack of qualifications for the appointment. Many thanks to everyone — from members of the public to government officials to librarians and library staff — who made some noise and made a difference (see the article by Sylvie Nadeau in this issue, page 10).

Newfoundland & Labrador News

By Dick Ellis



Public libraries in the province have been hard hit by the pandemic, and only reopened for curbside pickup in mid-July. Considerable effort was made to promote electronic resources and reading programs.

On the academic side, libraries have followed institutional leads and have severely limited in-person access while delivering physical volumes at the front door by appointment. Campuses are deserted and only online offerings are going ahead.

Su Cleyle, University Librarian, participated in the search committee (as the representative of the deans) for the new Memorial University president. Dr. Vianne Timmons, previously of the University of Regina was the successful candidate.

Notice to Members

Help us keep our email listserv current. Anyone who is not receiving our emails should send your new email address to Bob Henderson at bob.superrover@gmail.com. The names of potential new members may also be sent to the same email address.

News from the North

By Julie Ourom



Northern libraries were busy last winter. In Yukon, activities included a Blind Date with a Book for Valentine's Day, an outdoor Family Literacy Day, Dawson City's Double Bob

Potluck to commemorate Robert W. Service and Robert Burns, and a pop-up library at Whitehorse Connects (provides services for those in need). In Northwest Territories (NWT), there was kit-bag making in Tuktoyaktuk, Gwitch'in storytime in Fort McPherson, and Armchair Traveler in Hay River. Nunavut recognised Inuktitut-language month, and, in Iqaluit, holiday-themed Crafternoons, a throat-singing event, and a pasta-dinner giveaway kept people engaged.

When COVID-19 hit, e-books and other resources were made more available, including free access to Inuktitut titles in Nunavut and NWT's promotion of the University of Alberta Faculty of Native Studies Indigenous Canada, a 12-lesson open online class. In NWT, home delivery moved online, with some libraries offering free Internet access from their parking lots.

In Nunavut, Iqaluit's Facebook storytime included printable craft-and-colouring pages that included local content. Inuvik's YouTube book series — read by local personalities, including Mayor Natasha Kulikowski — proved popular, as did Yukon's Rise & Shine Facebook storytime. NWT's downloadable Colouring Through the Communities booklet ([colouring.toolkitnwtac.com/wp-content/uploads/sites/36/2018/12/colouring-through-the-communities.pdf](https://toolkitnwtac.com/wp-content/uploads/sites/36/2018/12/colouring-through-the-communities.pdf)) was popular.

An online challenge in Yukon featured intriguing themes that included Finding Silver Linings, Naming the Storytime Raven, and a Quarantine Fashion Challenge. Yukon celebrated National Poetry Month with National Poem in

Your Pocket Day, for which people shared short poems or other poetic forms.

Once restrictions began to ease in mid-summer, libraries established reopening plans. In the interim, curbside pickup was available in many locations. The TD Summer Reading Club — Game On! was available all summer.

Writers and publishing were celebrated across the North in exciting ways. NWT writer Richard Van Kamp received the 2020 Alberta Literacy Awards' Georges Bugnet Award for Fiction for *Moccasins Square Gardens: Short Stories* and Yukon-born author Ivan Coyote was awarded the Writer's Union of Canada 2020 Freedom to Read Award.

In 2020, Angélique Bernard, Commissioner of Yukon, launched two initiatives: the Story Laureate of Yukon program to create works with themes relevant to Yukon's people and heritage, and the Borealis Prize (through BC and Yukon Book Prizes) to recognize excellence by writers, publishers, and literary community builders.

There was renewed interest in the NFB's 1961 *Journey from Zero* (nfb.ca/film/journey-from-zero/) by Roger Blais. The film documents the trip by a British Columbia public library bookmobile from Mile Zero — where the Alaska Highway begins in Dawson Creek, B.C., to Whitehorse — with stops at scattered settlements along the way. *Please send news items about library matters in Canada's North to me at crocuscats@gmail.com.*

News from Canadian Library/Information Studies Schools



Compiled by Judy Dunn

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

By Guy Robertson

Noted book historian, **Dr. Erik Kwakkel**, has agreed to serve a three-year

term as the iSchool's Director. He joined the faculty in 2018. The W. Kaye Lamb prize winners for 2020 include **Jennifer Douglas**, an assistant professor, and **Alexandra Alisauskas**, an MAS/MLIS candidate in the First Nations Curriculum Concentration. They share the prize with **Devon Mordell**, a librarian at the University of Windsor's Leddy Library and a graduate of the iSchool's MAS program. Their prize-winning paper, *Treat Them with the Reverence of Archivists: Records Work, Grief Work, and Relationship Work in the Archives*, appeared in the Fall 2019 issue of *Archavaria*. The Association for Information Science & Technology (ASIS&T) has announced that **Saguna Shankar**, an iSchool PhD candidate, has received the 2020 ASIS&T Doctoral Dissertation Proposal Scholarship Award for her proposal entitled *Caring for Information Practices: An Inquiry into Visions of Data, Digital Technologies, and Migration*.

University of Alberta, School of Library and Information Studies

By Kathleen De Long

The School of Library and Information Studies (SLIS) at the University of Alberta welcomed **Dr. Kathleen De Long** on July 1, 2020; she will be acting Interim Chair of the school for a year. De Long continues as Executive Director (Library and Museums) and Deputy Chief Librarian, University of Alberta Libraries. She is a past president of the Canadian Association of College and University Libraries under the Canadian Library Association umbrella, and she has been a frequent sessional instructor for the School of Library and Information Studies at the University of Alberta. **Dr. Dinesh Rathi** is acting as Associate Chair and Graduate Coordinator. Former chair, **Dr. Toni Samek**, is on administrative leave over the 2020/2021 year and has left big shoes to fill. Thanks to Toni and her team, SLIS was granted continuing accreditation by the Committee on Accreditation of the American Library Association at the end of June. The school will be up for accreditation again in 2028. While the University of Alberta won't be open for in-person classes in the fall 2020 term, SLIS enrolments remain strong; the in-person program will be offered

remotely, along with the online program.

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

By Becky Blue

In May professors **Heather Hill** and **Paulette Rothbauer**, along with FIMS Librarian **Marni Harrington**, won a 2020 Fellowship in Teaching Innovation Award, through Western University's Centre for Teaching and Learning, which supports their ongoing project on Indigenizing and decolonizing the MLIS curriculum. In other positive news, alumna **Heidi Jacobs** (MLIS 2006) won the 2020 Stephen Leacock Memorial Medal for Humour with her debut novel, *Molly of the Mall*. Finally, the entire FIMS community was saddened by the death of retired LIS professor **Patricia Dewdney** on March 12. Professor Dewdney was supervised by **Catherine Ross** as a doctoral student, and taught at Western as an LIS faculty member until 1998. She co-authored two professional books, wrote numerous scholarly articles, and collaborated with many. She will be remembered fondly by her colleagues and LIS alumni.

University of Toronto, Faculty of Information (iSchool)

By Ann Brocklehurst

Since the last report, it's been pretty much all COVID all the time. Like almost every other institution, the University of Toronto moved completely online last March. The fall term will also be remote although, public health authorities permitting, Toronto students may be able to take part in some non-mandatory face-to-face activities. Dean **Wendy Duff** and associate professor **Kelly Lyons**, Academic Continuity Lead and Special Advisor to the Dean, have overseen the tremendous efforts made by faculty members and staff as they prepare for a unique academic year. Student Services has worked flat out to engage students who cannot be on campus, setting up, for one example, a Virtual Inforum. Students, too, have been phenomenal, participating in a wide range of remote activities — some academic and some just for much-needed fun.

University of Ottawa, School of Information Studies (ÉSIS)

By Hélène Carrier

Dr. Mary Cavanagh was appointed Director of ÉSIS, effective July 1, 2020, for a three-year period. An associate professor and founding member of ÉSIS, she was Interim Director at the school for the 2016/2017 year. Her deep practical knowledge of Canada's academic and public library sectors developed over many years in the field and as a researcher.

Dr. Stefanie Hausteine, assistant professor and co-director of the School Com Lab, was awarded an Alfred P. Sloan Foundation research grant of more than \$280,000 to fund an interdisciplinary project exploring scholarly data use and citation. ÉSIS welcomed **Dr. Alexandre Fortier**, Metadata and Taxonomy Librarian, Library of Parliament, as adjunct professor. He has an established record of research and publications, and has taught at ÉSIS, University of Western Ontario Faculty of Information and Media Studies, and Université de Montréal École de bibliothéconomie et des sciences de l'information.

McGill University, School of Information Studies

By Peter F. McNally

The School of Information Studies, along with McGill and other provincial institutions, went into lockdown on March 13, and courses were completed virtually. **Gracen Brilmyer** joined the school as an associate professor (special category) on August 1. With a PhD in Information Studies, from the University

of California, Los Angeles, and a master's degree in Information Management and Systems from the University of California, Berkeley, their research lies at the intersection of archival studies, disability studies, and the history of science.

Professor **Catherine Guastavino's** research on quieted city sounds during lockdown has been featured on local media. Professor **Kimiz Dalkir**, director of the school, is participating in a project to help citizens critically assess and become resilient against harmful online disinformation: Développement et expérimentation d'outils éducatifs pour contrer la désinformation en ligne chez les jeunes adultes. The Canadian Heritage Digital Citizenship program has funded this project from 2019 through 2021.

Université de Montréal, École de bibliothéconomie et des sciences de l'information (EBSI)

By Isabelle Bourgey

During the winter and spring of 2020, semesters at EBSI were transformed by the COVID-19 pandemic, with all classes switching to an online mode. As of June 1, **Lubna Daraz** joined EBSI as an assistant professor. Previously a professor at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota, she has research interests that include health-information seeking and evidence-based practice, and, specifically, research and information services, systematic reviews, mixed methods, knowledge transfer, implementation science, health literacy, quality improvement, and online health information — with a focus on disadvantaged populations. As of the

same date, **Sabine Mas** was promoted to full professor. **Guillaume Boutard** was awarded tenure and promoted to associate professor. Congratulations to them all!

Dalhousie University, School of Information Management (SIM)

By Sandra Toze

The new year began with our Dalhousie-Horrocks National Leadership Lecture (After 50 Years of Information Management @ Dal — what's to come in the next 50?), given by **Leslie Weir**, Librarian and Archivist of Canada. The event also honoured **Cassandra Larose**, 2019 recipient of the Dalhousie-Horrocks National Leadership Fund. Information without Borders, our student-led conference, celebrated another excellent year of programming, focussing on Information at Home. Due to COVID-19, classes and all regular scheduled activities for the term were moved online in March, with some cancelled. We celebrated our graduates, award winners, and their families at our Virtual SIM Graduation Kitchen Party on May 25, and were delighted with the attendance. SIM is happy to welcome our newest faculty member, **Dr. Philippe Mongeon**. Since our MI classes are online this fall, SIM faculty spent the summer examining the best ways to transition our courses. SIM faculty are also engaged in new research examining the effect of the pandemic across society, education, business, and government.

Milestones

Obituaries

Compiled by Irena Lewycka

William Adkins died on July 3, 2020, at age 74, in Victoria. Born in Medicine Hat, Alta., Bill spent much of his life in Winnipeg. He chose teaching as his career, and taught in Selkirk and The Pas (both in Manitoba), before completing his bachelor's degree in library science. He became Librarian and part-time computer science teacher at Oak Park High School in Winnipeg.

Dr. Beryl Lapham Anderson died on May 6, 2020, at age 95, in Ottawa. Beryl was a graduate of Dalhousie University (BA 1946, MA 1949), of McGill University (BLS 1956) and of Walden University (PhD 1980). She was an Associate Professor, McGill Graduate Library School from 1956 to 1971. After completing her doctorate, she was Chief of the Library Documentation Centre, National

Library of Canada until her retirement (see exlibris.ca/doku.php?id=elan:memories_and_tributes).

Joyce Merlyn Beeckmans died on April 27, 2020, at age 87, in Toronto. Merlyn was a longtime member of ELA and worked on *ELAN*. She received her MLS and a teaching certificate



from the University of Toronto, and was a respected teacher-librarian in the Toronto District School Board.

Phyllis Jane Blumel died on March 7, 2020, at age 88, in Amherst, N.S. Born in Detroit, she eventually moved to Amherst, where she taught school. At Dalhousie, she earned a master's of library services degree and then went to Cornwallis, in 1972, as a librarian. She was a librarian at Acadia University.

Douglas Bruce Boylan died on August 1, 2020, at age 83, in Charlottetown. He graduated from McGill's Library School (BLS 1964). He served as Librarian of Confederation Centre Library, Provincial Archivist, Clerk of the Executive Council, Chair of the Royal Commission on the Land, and finally as Clerk of the Legislative Assembly.

Jean Mary Cotter Carson died on June 9, 2020, at age 97, in Brantford, Ont. She stayed in the province as a proud reference librarian in public libraries in Kitchener, Brantford, and Hamilton Region.

Mona Emma Cram died on June 30, 2020, at age 89, in Newfoundland. After receiving her BA from Mount Allison University and her master's degree in library sciences from the University of Toronto, Mona spent decades of her life in the public library system. She was a well-known librarian, history enthusiast, and businesswoman in Trinity Bay, Nfld.

Elizabeth Betty Anne Drummond died on June 29, 2020, at age 88, in Durham, Ont. A medical librarian at Charles E. Frosst & Co., she then became Librarian, Markdale Library, for 16 years, and sat on the board of the West Grey Public Library in Ontario.

Roger Frederick Gardiner died on June 30, 2020, at age 83, in London, Ont. In 1967 he became a librarian at Western University where he developed research collections to support study in medieval history, classical studies, visual arts, and art history.

Peter Louis Emile Girard died on July 23, 2020, at age 92, in Kingston, Ont.

Born in Anjou, France, Peter arrived in Canada at the age of nine with his family. He grew up on Vancouver Island in Cedar, B.C. After completing a degree in Library Science at the University of British Columbia, he was a librarian at Queen's University until his retirement in 1993.

Effie Brook Gordon died on March 26, 2020, at age 89, in Vancouver. After attending McGill's School of Library Science, she was a reference librarian at Saskatoon Public Library, then at Langara College Library in Vancouver.

Julia Anne Hendry died on April 3, 2020, at age 46, in Kitchener, Ont. She earned master's degrees in Library and Information Science (Western University) and in history (University of Illinois at Chicago). In 2010, she became Head of Special Collections and Archives at Wilfrid Laurier University.

Elizabeth Betty Hunter died on July 25, 2020, at age 77. In Ontario, Betty was responsible for setting up Kemptville Agricultural College's library, then in Brockville she became the first "Sunday" librarian at the public library before moving into the health-care sector.

Irma Ellen Kadela died on July 30, 2020, at age 90, in Kitchener, Ont. A graduate of University of Toronto's library school, she was a renowned children's librarian, starting her career in 1953 as Children's Librarian at St. Thomas Public Library, and then as Head of Children's Services at North York Public Library. She was Chief Librarian at the public libraries in Richmond Hill and Port Credit, Ont. Later she worked in Ontario as a library consultant for the Waterloo Public School Board and then as Librarian for Conrad Grebel University College. As Head of Children's Services, Waterloo Region Libraries, she served branch libraries throughout the region and organized numerous author's visits for children. After retiring in 1995, she became a library tutor in small Ontario libraries. Irma was a member of the ELA.

Malva Kannins died on March 15, 2020, at age 99, in Toronto. Malva was a librarian with the Toronto

Public Library system for 34 years.

Hazel Maude Lazier died on July 5, 2020, two weeks shy of her 100th birthday, in Toronto. Hazel worked as a school librarian for 34 years at the Toronto District School Board. After retiring in 1978, she volunteered on the East York Library Board, then with the Ontario and Canadian Library Trustees Associations. The Hazel Maude Lazier Children's Room at the Thorncliffe Branch of Toronto Public Library honours her many years of service.

Elizabeth Mary Lockett died on May 6, 2020, at age 94, in Mississauga, Ont. Educated in India and England, Elizabeth was the second woman to graduate in engineering from the University of Bristol. In the early 1960s she graduated from McGill's library school, then held various library positions.

Gary Wayne MacDonald died on April 12, 2020, at age 72, in Calgary. He graduated from the University of Toronto School of Library Science (BLS 1969), then worked as a librarian at North York Public Library, was Program Head of the Library and Information Technology Program at the Southern Alberta Institute of Technology (SAIT), and ended his career designing the email system at SAIT.

Lori McLeod died on December 17, 2019, at age 60, in Toronto. Lori earned her MLS at the University of Toronto, then worked at the Toronto Public Library's Osborne Collection of Early Children's books in the Lillian H. Smith Branch. (For a tribute written by Leslie McGrath, former Senior Department Head, Osborne Collection, see exlibris.ca/doku.php?id=elan:memories_and_tributes).

Lachlan McNair died on June 4, 2020, at age 79, in Toronto. A graduate of the University of Toronto (BLS 1967, MLS 1980) he was a respected colleague of many at Robarts Library, where he worked for 41 years in the Collections Development Department in classics, philosophy, and German. He was greatly admired for the clarity of his written work and his knowledge of the library's history, policies, and procedures.

Luella Newman died on October 15, 2019, at age 71, in Regina. Born in Ponoka, Alta., she earned her BA and BLS degrees from the University of Alberta. She was the co-owner of the Children's Corner (Reader's Corner) Bookstore for 17 years. Later she became Information Consultant and then Manager of Communications, Information and Research, Saskatchewan Parks and Recreation Association. Luella was an active volunteer with many organizations, such as Coteau Books, the Saskatchewan Book Awards, and the Lifelong Learning Centre book sale. She also served as director of the Western Canada Chapter of the Special Libraries Association and was a longtime member of the Women's Action Collective on Health and the Saskatchewan Library Association.

Mary Nutting died on April 20, 2020, at age 67, in Grande Prairie, Alta. She was the founding Executive Director for

the South Peace Regional Archives in 2000, where she worked for 17 years.

Karen Sandra Shalala died on June 8, 2020, at age 70, in Quispamsis, N.B. At Dalhousie University, she earned her BA (1971) and a master's degree in library services (1976). She worked as a librarian at the Legislative Library in Fredericton and later as Associate Librarian, University of New Brunswick Fredericton Law School. Karen provided library services for two law firms in Saint John.

Catherine Anne Smith died on February 17, 2020, at age 81, in Halifax. At age 50, she began MLS studies at Dalhousie University, and later held several librarian positions in Halifax libraries, including at Saint Mary's University.

Shirlee Anne Smith died on April 17, 2020, in Winnipeg. She was the first Canadian Keeper of the Hudson's Bay Company Archives

(1974) and was inducted into the Order of Canada in 1984.

Rita Phyllis Weintraub died on June 11, 2020, at age 93, in Vancouver. In 1995, she founded the Isaac Waldman Library, within the Jewish Community Centre of Greater Vancouver. It is the only Jewish Library west of Winnipeg, and has served as an essential Jewish educational resource for the public, the school system, and researchers in the province.

Timothy Craven died on August 17, 2020, at age 72, in London Ont. With a PhD in Classics from McMaster University, he took an MLS at Western University where he then taught for more than 30 years and authored numerous publications, most notably *String Indexing* (1986).

Obituaries are brief due to space constraints. The ELA website, exlibris.ca/doku.php?id=elan:memories_and_tributes, provides more information celebrating the lives of our members.

Retirements

Compiled by Suzette Giles



Correction

Terry Paris, Collections Librarian, Mount Saint Vincent University, retired in 2014 not in 2019 as stated on page 22 of *ELAN* No. 67/Spring 2020.

Suzanne Dubeau, Archivist and Assistant Head, Clara Thomas Archives and Special Collections, Scott Library, York University, retired on July 1, 2020. A graduate of MIST (Toronto), she was recruited in 1997 to develop a collection-management database, which resulted in her continuing appointment and several terms as Acting Head. Suzanne received the Archives Association of Ontario's Alexander Fraser Award in 2017 and the Association of Canadian Archivists' Membership Recognition Award in 2019, in recognition of her work with the York and Canadian archival community. She forged significant links to donors and raised the profile of the archives throughout the community.

Walter Geisbrecht, Data Librarian, Scott Library/Map Library, York University, also retired on July 1, 2020. A graduate of Brock University and the School of Library and Information Studies at Western University, Walter joined York University Libraries in November of 1988. A major contributor to the building of the York Libraries' website in 1994, he became Data Librarian in Business and Government Publications in 1998, before moving to the Scott Library in 2003. He was active in the York University Faculty Association, the Canadian Association of Public Data Users (CAPDU), the International Association for Social Science Information Service and Technology (IASSIST), and served one term as the Canadian representative on the Council of the Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research.

Doug Kariel, Head, Technical Services and Systems, Athabasca University Library, retired in June of 2020 after nearly 22 years. He received his MLIS

degree from Western University in 1988. Very active in the community, Doug has been a trustee of the Alice B. Donahue Library & Archives Board for the Town of Athabasca for almost 20 years, and a member of the Athabasca County Library Board for 16 years.

Murray McCabe, Chief Librarian, Wellington County Public Library, in Wellington, Ont., retired on August 3, 2020. Appointed in 2011, Murray oversaw a fourteen-branch renewal project, begun in 2000, culminating with Hillsburgh branch, completed in 2018. Earlier in his career, Murray was CEO/Chief Librarian of King Township Public Library in Ontario.

Sylvie Nadeau, Provincial Librarian and Executive Director of New Brunswick Public Library Service for 20 years, retired at the end of 2019. She had also served as the regional director for the Chaleur Library region, based in Campbellton, N.B., and as Director, Le Cormoran Library in Saint John.

She received the Atlantic Provinces Library Association Merit Award in 2009. In 2013 the Dr. Dayton M. Forman Memorial Award, for outstanding leadership in the advancement of library and information services for Canadians with sight loss, was awarded to the New Brunswick Public Library Service.

Judith “Judi” Simpson, a librarian at Carleton Place Public Library in Ontario, retired in December 2019 after 27 years. In 2018 the library earned first place in the TD Summer Reading Club, a highlight of her tenure and major feat for a small-town public library.

Jocelyne Thompson, Associate Director of Libraries (Collections Services), University of New Brunswick Libraries, retired in June of 2020 after 20 years. With a degree from Concordia and an MLS from McGill, she joined the New Brunswick Public Library Service in 1989 as Assistant Director and then moved up to Director and Provincial Librarian. In 2000 she began work at the University of New Brunswick Libraries where, among other responsibilities, she

was the Digital Licensing Coordinator for the Council of Atlantic University Libraries for more than a decade and a member of the Canadian Research Knowledge Network negotiations research team. She was president of the Atlantic Provinces Library Association (APLA) from 2011 to 2012, and received the APLA Award of Merit in 2017.

Karen Thorneloe retired from Bishop’s University library on July 1, 2020, after 45 years. While studying for her degree in psychology from Bishop’s Karen became a student employee in 1972, then a technician in the cataloguing department. After receiving her master’s degree in library and information studies from McGill, she became a reference librarian in 2004.

Cheryl Woods retired on April 30, 2020, after 40 years at the Weldon Library’s Serge A. Sauer Map Collection, Map and Data Centre, Western University. A graduate of the university in 1980, she worked in the map library while a student, became a library assistant, and completed her MLIS in 1983. When

Serge Sauer retired, she became Map Curator and continued to develop what has become one of the largest and most comprehensive map collections in North America. Cheryl was active throughout her career at the local, provincial, and national levels, and contributed to the Historical Topographic Map Digitization Project and the Ontario Historical County Map Project. She held several positions in the Association of Canadian Map Libraries and Archives (now CARTO/ACMLA), including that of president, and continued the ACMLA Facsimile Map Series. In 1997 she was the recipient of the ACMLA Honours Award.

Kathleen Wyman, Map/Urban Affairs Librarian at the Toronto Reference Library, retired on July 31, 2020. Her 35-year career began at the Map Library, York University. In 1989 she moved to the Toronto Reference Library’s Urban Affairs Library, in Metro Hall. In 2011, when that moved to the main reference library, Kathleen became responsible for the map collection and urban-affairs materials.

To Save Space,

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

Look for these in the news sections. A great roundup of 2019 awards compiled by librarianship.ca will interest many of you: librarianship.ca/blog/2019-honour-roll.

A Canadian awards page will be available on ELA’s website this fall; the URL will be posted on our listserv.

Laughing in the Library

By Matt Scholtz

Dealing with nuisance odds and ends stuffed into our book drop was sometimes a problem. On one occasion, we were stunned to find a fine yellow powder enveloping the book drop. Turned out that some idiot had stolen a fire extinguisher somewhere, blew the contents into the book drop, and threw the empty extinguisher on our roof. Persons unknown.

But on another occasion, we did, in fact, know who the miscreants were. While working late one night in my office, I heard a commotion at the front entrance book drop, which emptied into the library auditorium’s kitchen. Kids again, up to mischief. Quietly, I stole into the kitchen. When the book-drop chute opened again, a hand reached in to dump another load of leaves and branches. That’s when I quickly reached up, and grabbed the hand. The howl of fear and confusion was music to my ears! The hand quickly withdrew and the kids disappeared, never to return.

If you have a humorous personal story or anecdote to share about your library career, send it to mattscholtz@rogers.com. I

Black Lives Matter: Anti-Racism Statements from National Library and Archival Associations in Canada

By Deb Thomas

In the wake of the murder of George Floyd by a police officer — an act that some have called a public lynching — there have been protests and also supportive statements from around the world for an end to racism and police brutality against people of colour. Library associations have responded with statements to support people — in Canada and elsewhere — who are working toward a future in which people are not discriminated against based on the colour of their skin.

Canadian national library associations issuing such statements include:

- Association of Canadian Archivists (archivists.ca/Blog/9030609?fbclid=IwAR0Rll-TUbyu2GQIIAyBtVA1J4bagXnhDB-NvcstAG7SmstglHuM9nRZ1EQ),
- Canadian Association of Law Libraries (callacbd.ca/CALL-Blog/9031592),
- Canadian Association of Professional Academic Librarians (capalibrarians.org/2020/06/capal-acbes-stands-in-solidarity-with-black-communities/),
- Canadian Federation of Library Associations/Fédération canadienne des associations de bibliothèques (cfla-fcab.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/EN_CFLA_FCAB_Communique_on_Anti_Black_Racism.pdf), and
- Canadian Urban Libraries Council (culc.ca/advocacy/statements-briefs/statement-on-race-social-equity/).

As well, some of the above have laid out clear plans of action for confronting systemic racism in their professions and associations. As the Canadian Urban Libraries Council stated: “Libraries are trusted, venerable and enduring institutions, central to their communities and an essential participant in the movement for racial and social equity.” We need to live up to that vision.

A number of provincial library associations have also issued statements. You can find these on the ELA website (see exlibris.ca/doku.php?id=activities:current_issues).

School library associations no longer have a national voice that may issue such statements, but, in various regions, a provincial library or teachers’ association may have issued its own statement.

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ELAN

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Ex Libris Association Newsletter

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Ex Libris in the Time of COVID-19 President's Report

By Tom Eadie

The year of the pandemic has been a year spent on hold for many of us, and for the ELA, as well. Most of our normal activities have been suspended or transformed. This issue of *ELAN* gives us a lot of information about what libraries have been doing during the COVID-19 period. For us, as an association, there have been no tours, no ELA tables at other association conferences, and our board meetings and AGM were conducted over Zoom, rather than in person. And projects, such as strengthening our membership in under-represented regions of the country, have marked time. This sets some of the context for the March board meeting.

One major area of discussion was how to approach the 2021 AGM and the annual conference. While planning

and discussions are ongoing, there was agreement that separating the AGM from the conference would be a good idea. The AGM will certainly be held by Zoom. Feedback about the 2020 AGM was positive, many commenting they had not previously been able to attend because of location. The conference will likely be virtual, at least in part. The possibility of having one or more physical sites for some presentations, while at the same time making the entirety of proceedings accessible online, is under discussion. Of course, all planning must take into account potentially unknown restrictions on travel and gatherings.

ELA's budget continues to be stable, and membership has increased slightly over the last year, even though such initiatives as establishing joint

Continued on page 2



March 4, 2021, ELA board meeting on Zoom

...continued from page 1

memberships with other regional or provincial library associations have been placed on hold. The possibility of co-sponsoring some online programming with them is being explored, but rather slowly, as the exigencies of lockdown have tended to lead organizations to focus on maintaining their own operations. Nevertheless, one outcome of pandemic practice is likely to be enhanced online capability and, if we can tap into it, it will support our goal of enabling all of our members to participate, wherever their locations.

The board conferred emerita board-member status on Nancy Williamson. The appointment recognizes Nancy's very long service on the board, and her exemplary contributions to board deliberations and the ELA, in particular through her work as Archivist and Biography Project leader. Nancy joins Jean Weihs as the only emerita board members in ELA's history.

I am very pleased to announce that Christina Wilson (formerly CEO, Red Deer Public Library, Alta., now living in Burlington, Ont.) and Matt Scholtz (formerly CEO, Tillsonburg

Public Library, Ont.) have joined the board. Christina has volunteered to organize the W. Kaye Lamb Awards, and Matt has yet to be cornered.

I am also obliged to report, with deep regret, that Wendy Newman is stepping down from the board. Wendy has been a steadying influence (at least for me), and her soundness of judgement, breadth of knowledge, and omniscience are without parallel. Very sorry to see her leave, and already hoping to get her back. She will be sorely missed. ■

CFLA-FCAB Intellectual Freedom Committee (IFC)

By Deb Thomas

The Intellectual Freedom Committee (IFC) for CFLA-FCAB continues to monitor hot issues related to freedom of expression. Most recently, these have involved workplace speech and freedom of speech on post-secondary campuses.

Two issues of note arose in February.

- The IFC was made aware of an attempt to remove two books (*The Hate U Give* and *Underground to Canada*) from school libraries in Prince George, B.C., without consultation with teacher-librarians. Timely intervention by IFC Chair Richard Beaudry has resulted in a reversal of this action.
- The American Library Association recently passed a resolution, with only four dissensions, that raised serious concerns about

censorship of collections and programs that may result (<https://tinyurl.com/108spa8i>). The IFC will discuss the resolution and craft a response at its March meeting.

Deb Thomas, Dick Ellis, and Brent Roe completed a position statement about workplace freedom of speech and an accompanying discussion document. With IFC Chair Richard Beaudry, and IFC member Wendy Wright, they met with members of the CFLA-FCAB board executive to discuss the documents. The position statement was not recommended for approval at this time. There was, however, interest in wider discussion on workplace speech, and it was felt that a somewhat expanded discussion document could help to facilitate this.

Deb Thomas submitted an article on the 2019 challenges to library services and collections to this year's

Freedom to Read Kit, to come out in late February. She is currently drafting a report on these challenges, including graphs, for the IFC website.

IFC and ELA members Deb Thomas and Dick Ellis have been joined by Quebec librarian Katya Borrás on the committee maintaining the challenge survey. A student from the University of Toronto has created a database, which is being populated with current and past challenge survey data. The database will be hosted on a web service and will enable the CFLA-FCAB to own the data, rather than having to retrieve it from a survey tool in the future. A call for 2020 challenge reporting has been sent out through library association listservs.

Deb Thomas is the ELA's representative on CFLA-FCAB IFC. ■

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.superrover@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.

2021 W. Kaye Lamb Award for Service to Seniors

By Christina Wilson and Rick Ficek

During this year of great change, as we've all struggled to cope with a worldwide pandemic, it has been heartening to learn of the many creative ways Canada's library workers have responded. To support library users and ensure accessibility and relevance, library services and collections have been retooled to adhere to COVID-19 protocols. Examples include ramping up online programming, conducting one-on-one customer telephone and virtual health checks, and lending snowshoes, sports equipment, bird-feeder kits, craft-supply kits, and more! This

creativity and passion will likely be reflected in future applications for the W. Kaye Lamb Award for Service to Seniors. Encourage your colleagues to apply for this prestigious award and share their expertise and resilience.

Named to commemorate Canada's first National Librarian, William Kaye Lamb, OC, FRSC, the award recognizes outstanding library service to seniors, with a \$500 cash prize funded by ELA and a commemorative plaque. Co-sponsored with the Canadian Federation of Library Associations/ Fédération canadienne des associations de bibliothèques, the award is open

to any library across Canada, whether private, public, governmental, academic, special, or postsecondary. When merited, it is presented biennially.

Speaking of change, Rick Ficek is passing the baton for administering this award to Christina Wilson. ELA members thank Rick for his work in managing the program over the years.

Apply at: exlibris.ca/doku.php?id=award:application_for_wk_lamb_award. For more information, contact Christina Wilson at chriswilson@shaw.ca. ■

Canadian Federation of Library Associations/Fédération canadienne des associations de bibliothèques (CFLA-FCAB) — the National Voice of Canada's Library Associations

By Shelagh Paterson, reporting on behalf of the CFLA-FCAB Board of Directors, with information provided by Todd Kyle, (CFLA-FCAB) Board of Directors

CFLA-FCAB provides a united, national voice of Canada's library community.

Key priorities include:

- advancing library excellence in Canada;
- championing library values and the value of libraries; and
- influencing national and international public policy impacting libraries and their communities.

An advocacy priority for CFLA-FCAB over the past six months has been engaging with members and government regarding access to Government Publications:

In conjunction with the Canadian Association of Research Libraries (CARL), CFLA-FCAB has connected with provincial associations, as well, to call on federal and provincial governments to make official publications more accessible to Canadians, by assigning a Creative Commons Attribution Licence (CC BY) to make government information publicly available.

CFLA-FCAB held its AGM February 12, 2021, and welcomed the following new board members:

- Hélène Carrier, Francophone Representative;

- Graeme Tennant, Northern Territories (Yukon, the Northwest Territories, and Nunavut) Representative;
 - Todd Mundle, British Columbia Representative;
 - Ann Smith, Atlantic Canada Representative; and
 - Katya Borrás, member at large.
- Todd Kyle was elected Chair, CFLA-FCAB.

Shelagh Paterson was treasurer of the CFLA-FCAB from 2016 to 2017. ELA is a member of CFLA-FCAB. For more information visit cfla-fcab.ca. ■

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.

Technology Unmasked! 5G

By Stan Orlov



In the past few years, there has been a great deal in the news about 5G. It stands for the fifth generation of the wireless communication standard, and promises a quantum leap in communication capabilities that will benefit both organizations and end users. This technology sends much more data much faster than the existing fourth-generation networks allow. This data transfer, high speed and bandwidth coupled with very low latency or response time, will lead to a rapid growth of the Internet of Things, a scenario in which objects, animals, or people are provided unique identifiers and can

instantly connect with each other.

Add Artificial-Intelligence techniques to this and you get a recipe for a smart library. It will be able to monitor current weather conditions and time, automatically adjusting the temperature and humidity, opening and closing curtains and lights. On their portable devices, patrons will be able to view a 3-D map of shelves, and visualize the exact location of a book, in no time. Virtual and Augmented Reality halls will allow new ways of interacting with characters and locations in a book through 3-D immersion and tactile feedback.

While 5G sounds exciting, there are a few concerns that need to be addressed for it to become fully established. Privacy and security of data need to be protected, because,

after all, information will be constantly travelling around the globe and could fall into the wrong hands. Also, while fiber-optic lines have been developed everywhere for a few years, 5G infrastructure is very new and limited in coverage. It will take a couple of years to get to the library near you, but it is certainly worth the wait.

Find out more at: <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/5G> and https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Internet_of_things.

Please send your questions and comments to stan.orlov@msvu.ca. Stanislav Orlov is Systems Librarian at Mount Saint Vincent University in Halifax. ■

ELA is on Facebook

By Donna Burton,
ELA Facebook Editor

If you haven't yet checked out the ELA Facebook page, you might want to take a look. You'll find postings on recent news and trends in the library world, such as dealing with the pandemic, going fine-free, and building new facilities.

Items are received from a variety of sources, including library Facebook postings, the non-profit <https://librarianship.ca/>, library associations, and newspaper articles. Only publicly available articles and news are posted.

You can find the ELA Facebook page at www.facebook.com/

ExLibrisAssociation.

Recent postings include an interview with Toronto Public Library City Librarian, Vickery Bowles, and Rideau Lakes Public Library CEO, Vicki Stevenson, on TVO's *The Agenda with Steve Paikin*. They discuss how libraries are responding to the pandemic. (You can also see it at tvo.org/video/libraries-in-the-time-of-covid-19?fbclid=IwAR10wCwP9EumHhIGYOIykIsxWQnG-egL02PRa0YCiR1cRuURle6DnKenLLo).

You can "Like" or "Follow" the ELA page so that you see new updates in your Facebook newsfeed.

Feel free to add your comments to any of the postings and share anything you wish on your own Facebook page. ■

Welcome to New ELA Members

We're proud to welcome the following new ELA members:

Jane Beaumont, Ottawa
Ross Gordon, Cantley, QC
Bertrum H. MacDonald, Halifax
Marilyn McDermott, Burlington, ON
Lorraine McQueen, Hantsport, NS
Vicki Milnes, Ottawa
Derek Robertson, Ottawa
Laraine Tapak, Thunder Bay, ON
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When You Move

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Bob Henderson, 66 Walkerton Drive, Markham ON L3P 1H8 or
bob.superrover@gmail.com.

How and Why I Became a Librarian

By Deb Thomas

Before I retired from my last library job, I participated in one of those getting-to-know-you exercises at a senior staff meeting and found that, among the 20 staff around the table, I was one of very few who had known I wanted to be a librarian while in my teens. For me, it was a clear goal but not a straight path.

I give my mother credit for this early passion for libraries. She might have become a librarian herself, but university was not an option for her as one of five daughters in a farm family. Instead, she used her community-development skills to enrich her community in other ways. Our hometown of Hudson, N.Y., did not have a public library. My mother joined with other local residents to lobby for one, and they were successful in 1959.

Before that, my mom would take us up to the library in Albany, and I can remember wandering tall aisles of shelves looking for books by Margaret Wise Brown, Wanda Gag, Robert McCloskey, and Crockett Johnson. Once the library opened, I often spent time there after school waiting for a ride home. The Hudson Area Library had several separate rooms in which I loved to curl up and read. It also loaned records and films, and we once borrowed a telescope to watch a lunar eclipse. My personal love of libraries — and my interest in community development — was born. In addition to other volunteer activities in high school, I helped out in the school's library.

My first paid library job would be in my undergraduate university as a circulation clerk in 1971. After graduating, I went on to McGill University to study library science. I worked two jobs while there — at the Instructional Communications Centre, where I developed my love of Canadian film, and at the Humanities and Social Sciences Library. I was young, however, and Montreal proved to be more interesting than the conservative library education offered at the time (1973/1974). I didn't finish the program,

and subsequently moved to Vancouver.

I continued working in academic libraries — specializing in media resources — at Vancouver Community College and Selkirk College until 1988 when I was able to move into public libraries. My community-development muscles had been languishing for a decade or more. Public libraries gave me the opportunity to re-engage with that interest.

My first public library job was as Chief Librarian of the Nelson Municipal Library. I knew very little about managing a public library, but I managed to convince the board I could learn. I spent my first four years fighting three referendums to get a new library building and financial support from the surrounding regional districts. In 1992 we succeeded in getting a new library building, although it would be a strategic successor and a changing regional demographic that finally brought the districts on board for library taxation.

A lesson from a mentor was to connect with the city and its goals; sitting at the table with other city department heads was my first step. I formed a strong relationship with the local writing community, and offered many successful author readings and book launches. I was able to double the library's budget and increase its circulation. My volunteer activities included chairing the West Kootenay Library Association, the Association of BC Public Library Directors, and the British Columbia Library Association's (BCLA) Continuing Education Committee. I was among the founders of British Columbia's first rural library federation — 20 libraries in the East and West Kootenays.

In 2006 I completed an MLIS at the University of British Columbia. Shortly after graduation, I was offered and accepted a position as a branch manager at Burnaby Public Library (BPL). Around that time, I was president-elect and then president of the BCLA. In 2008 I was promoted to Deputy

Chief Librarian and Branch Manager of the main branch, where I remained until my retirement in early 2019.

While at BPL, I had many opportunities to connect with a diverse urban community. I co-facilitated a monthly learning table with Douglas College at an outreach event for the homeless. I was liaison to the architects in the building of a new branch in a low-income neighbourhood and for renovations to the main branch to make it more accessible and welcoming. I worked with receptive chief librarians to enact policies that enhanced access: library cards for patrons with no fixed address and reduced fines. I co-chaired a committee of community agency representatives, city staff, and Simon Fraser University faculty and librarians who launched an annual learning festival in 2016.

In my retirement, I have taken on roles with the Intellectual Freedom Committees of the Canadian Federation of Library Associations/Fédération canadienne des associations de bibliothèques (CFLA-FCAB) and BCLA, and the ELA executive.

Over my years in libraries, the biggest changes I have seen are technological — from punch cards to self-checkout machines, from reel-to-reel tape to streaming music, from mainly print services to a range of media, to the many electronic collections and services offered today. I am pleased to say, however, that I have also seen changes in policies, service approaches, and buildings that make libraries more welcoming and accessible to all of those in our constituent communities, and increased efforts to advocate for and reach out to vulnerable communities. I have never been prouder to call myself a librarian. *Deb Thomas retired after more than 40 years of working in libraries. She is currently ELA Vice-President, a member of the CFLA-FCAB Intellectual Freedom Committee, and Co-chair of the BC Library Association Intellectual Freedom Committee. ■*

ELA Biography Project Report

By Lorne Bruce

Last year, nine biographies were added to the “Biographies of Librarians and Information Professionals in Canada.”

There are now more than 130 people listed in our index.

Currently, the project is on a hiatus. We are trying to consolidate our existing information for new biographies and seeking volunteers to write bios. Once we have gathered information on persons, we will put out a call on the ELA listserv, listing potential biographies and looking for people who may be interested in writing one up. To help potential writers, we

have a template for the biographies. Writing up a bio may involve additional research, because our information is often not complete, but it is possible we can help with this, as well. I expect this to happen during the summer, so we can commence putting new biographies on the website this fall.

If you are interested in working on this project, please contact Lorne Bruce (lbruce@uoguelph.ca) or Trudy Bodak (tbodak@yorku.ca).

See all of the completed biographies at: www.exlibris.ca/doku.php?id=history:biographies:biography_mainpage. ■

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Library — A Rose By No Other Name

By Arn Bailey

The words “library” and “librarians” have come under siege over the years. I attended The School of Library and Information Science (SLIS) at Western and graduated with a master’s degree of Library Science in 1971. Back then, I didn’t see any threat to those words or where any such threat would originate.

The first threat arrived from a battalion of people armed with cameras who were, in retrospect, entrenching themselves at SLIS. A member of staff had a title related to film production. He was shooting films on such exciting topics as how to sign out a book. Without an audition, I starred as the clerk relating a book, a three by five-inch punched card, and student-identification card. The SLIS library was the only one on campus using a punch-card system (and its own cataloguing system). In another building, gigantic machinery sorted the cards and produced a printout of the day’s circulation at midnight. Behind the camera, the experiment needed someone with some technical knowledge, not a traditional librarian.

Schools were purchasing novel

items — such as film strips, microfilm, and kits containing a variety of objects, which were immensely popular with elementary students for whom they were designed. Their double nature as learning devices and diverting toys linked them to join books in the library. Librarians might have locked them in cupboards; instead, they promoted them to teachers as a new resource. And, so that teachers could find them, they had to be catalogued. Although I was based in a high school, it was arranged that I would take a couple of afternoons a week to catalogue these materials for lower-grade schools. I needed the rules formulated by Jean Weihs, in chapters of her book I had never looked at before. Did this new role change librarians into media- or audio-visual experts?

That would have been stepping on the toes of a new group of educators, experts in their own fashion, who had built up film collections. These expensive items were housed at the board office from which they could be distributed throughout the system. Many heads of departments made use of the films. The art department of a

school, for example, could carve out a unit on film appreciation; another on documentaries. The experts couldn’t see what librarians did — in providing a supportive role after pleading for a budget to supplement new courses with books such as encyclopedias on photography. Librarians could remain librarians. The new labels they could leave to other people or assume the new responsibilities for non-book materials themselves, under the umbrella of library storage and co-operative work with the grade or subject teachers.

I remember going to a meeting in an elementary school I had not visited before. I met the principal in the hall and asked directions to the library. He said, “We don’t have a library here. We have a media centre.”

Things eventually righted themselves. Those with proclivities toward things mechanical may have emphasized this new field, but they had to take library courses first. Co-ordinators of libraries sometimes had to fight to hold their positions and titles. They and those in libraries remained “librarians,” even taking over or at least subordinating

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those in charge of new media, who were happy to occasionally flex their muscles with cameras and films.

Who was coming next to take control over libraries and librarians? People with computers. SLIS had offered courses in computers, recognizing their potential for preserving data. Their use seemed visionary, but unlikely to materialize any time soon. Wrong. To meet the onslaught, librarians took summer computer courses, earning them certificates to brandish. In school, I teamed with teachers keen to get started with these new tools. I gave up space in the library for Commodores discarded from who knew where, and, in time, bought better equipment. Students lined up to use the search machines and play games. Administrators and teaching staff were shown practical applications in research. I put up a sign proclaiming that “Computers began in the Library.” While both libraries and computers are noted for organized information, libraries have a much longer history. Computers became prominent and necessary, and people who knew how to use them were respected and still called librarians.

The largest gain for the familiar terminology was made with the designation “teacher-librarian,” a double qualification popularized by people like Ken Haycock and Larry Moore. Call us librarians, even when university faculties label themselves information schools or iSchools, and bring on the cameras, the audio-visual media, the computers, and ... the books (in all kinds of formats). ■

Archives News

This column will return.

A Great Craft: The Robertson Davies Library and the Art of Printing

By Leslie McGrath



Massey College Upper Library
Photo credit: Courtesy of Massey College

Designed by Canadian architect Ron Thom, on the plan of Oxbridge colleges, Massey College opened in 1963 on the University of Toronto's St. George campus. On the college's 50th anniversary, in 2013, Thom was the winner of two architectural design awards, the 2013 Prix du XXe siècle, presented by the Royal Architectural Institute of Canada, and the 2013 Landmark Award, presented by the Ontario Association of Architects. Both awards paid tribute to the enduring quality and beauty of the structures.

Nowhere is the harmony of design and function more evident than in the library. Massey College's library, like the graduate residence college itself, is unique. The library, named in 1981 for the college's founding master, contains choice collections of materials pertaining to the history of the book, printing, publishers, and the book trade. Its largest holding is the Ruari McLean Collection of Victorian Book Design and Colour Printing—devoted to the publishing historian's studies of typography, graphic arts, and book design—with additional collections of Private Press publications, Type

Specimen Books, Wood Type, and Balinson Hebrew Type. Complementary holdings range from periodicals to the Gitton Ephemera Collection, Coach House Press publications, Otto Ege Leaves (comprising one leaf from each of the 50 medieval manuscripts formerly owned by the historian), and archival collections, including the Carl Dair and the Aliquando Press fonds.

Down the hall from the stacks and reading room, in the printing and demonstration area, are working 19th-century presses, including two Albion presses, an Imperial press, and a Washington press. Here, the college printer and apprentices practice, perfect, and teach their craft, enlivening university courses from different disciplines with a hands-on experience.

For all its emphasis on the technical and design aspects of book-production processes, the Robertson Davies Library offers literary resources to complement the practical and historical side of printing, together providing what Davies once described as “the means of craft and the aspiration towards beauty” that the library aspires to fulfill.

Though intended primarily to

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serve the Massey College community, students, and faculty in the University of Toronto's Collaborative Program in Book History and Print Culture (BHPC) and other programs, the library welcomes researchers from other institutions and disciplines, fostering the connections the study of book history invites. I recall fascinating BHPC discussions held in the "Upper," the library's seminar room, in which participants ranged from a mathematics scholar to a specialist in graphic arts.

The library provides assistance by appointment, including help with online research in the field, tours, and exhibits. These exhibits highlight, but are not limited to, Massey holdings, and many are now available as digital presentations. The library recently hosted the travelling display, *Make Believe: The Secret Library of M. Prud'homme — A Rare Collection of Fakes*. This exhibit has been shown in venues across Canada; Robertson Davies would be highly amused at its appearance in his library in these "post-truth" days. Among all its various commitments, including collection building, mentorship programs, printing, apprenticeships, demonstrations of printing, and support for various programs dedicated



Massey Printing Press Room
Photo credit: Courtesy of Massey College

to book history and print culture, the library also offers an oasis of quiet reading-and-study space.

Library tours may be booked to see typesetting and printing on a platen press, presentations on such topics as "the Bibliographic Autopsy" and William Blake's "infernal method." Visitors will find Davies's ambitions for "a fine library," preserving the tradition of hand-press printing, "a great craft which we must not allow to die," amply fulfilled.

The Massey Library collections are searchable by the University of Toronto Libraries catalogue; researchers may contact College Librarian P. J. MacDougall, to locate uncatalogued materials, for advice about the collections or to book an appointment. Staff email addresses and tour information, including bookings, news about openings, and announcements of Massey Lectures, can all be found on the Massey College Library website: masseycollege.ca/library/. ■

Ernie Ingles (1948–2020): A Lasting Legacy

By Wendy Newman

Friends and colleagues were saddened to learn of the death of Ernie Ingles in September 2020.

Ernie was a towering figure in librarianship in Canada and abroad. His chosen venue was academic libraries, but he saw the connectedness of all types of libraries, past and present. He encouraged librarians to collaborate, transcend traditional distinctions, and create new and more open structures such as The Alberta Library.

Ernie's significant contributions are summarized by his colleague, Merrill Distad, in the Memories and Tributes on the ELA website (exlibris.ca/doku.php?id=elan:memories_

[and_tributes](#)). His is a record of collaboration and service through libraries, leadership in multiple library associations, and innovation in national and international organizations that advance scholarly communication and preserve the human record. I will mention only two of the building blocks of Canadian librarianship here.

For many of us who observed or participated, Ernie's capstone initiative was his founding of the Northern Exposure to Leadership Institute. This leadership-development program for high-potential librarians who are relatively new to the profession has already had significant impacts on

librarianship in Canada. It has inspired, strengthened, and equipped a new generation to step up to the plate.

Another national landmark was his leadership of the massive five-year 8Rs study — *The Future of Human Resources in Canadian Libraries* (2004) — for which Ernie assembled a research partnership of unprecedented breadth and focus. This work established the foundational data on which to ramp up our human-resource development for a resilient future. Once again, the strengthening of leadership emerged as a critical strategy.

A remarkable librarian; a lasting legacy. ■

Bibliophilatelic Trivia — Canada

By Bob Henderson

I began collecting library-related stamps and other philatelic items about ten years after retiring. This was to be a modest diversion from my country collections; however, I expanded this collection to include similar topics that form the GLAM cultural institutions, by adding galleries, archives and museums.

The following are just some of what I've discovered or relearned these three-plus years from building my Canadian library stamp collection. Future trivia articles will concentrate on other facets, including librarians, library builders and workers, and libraries from other countries.

Did you know?

- Canada is one of almost 190 countries, territories, city states, and other entities that have issued library-related stamps.
- Canadian stamps commemorate four different types of libraries — academic, legislative, national, and public — and the attractiveness of the buildings themselves.



- The University of British Columbia's Walter C. Koerner Library (since 1997) was featured

prominently on a 2008 stamp, celebrating UBC's centenary. Space allocated within the building includes 54 percent for collections (at least 800,000 volumes), 25 percent for service and office, and 21 percent for study spaces.

- The Library of Parliament (since 1876) has been commemorated on numerous stamps, and is the most-featured Canadian library. —To date, it's the only Canadian legislative library



acknowledged on stamps.

— Its 1930 stamp was the earliest to honour any Canadian library and featured the library by itself, in the King George V "Arch/Leaf" issue.

— From 1933 to 2016, as part of the Parliament Buildings and background to Queen Elizabeth II, the library was included on many stamps.

— In 1976, as part of the Centre Block, it was designated a National Historic Site.

— It is also honoured on several subjective lists of internationally beautiful and/or striking libraries.

- Between 1975 and 2010, stamps commemorated parts of the Library and Archives Canada collections, including Yousuf Karsh photographs and paintings by noted Canadian artists. No stamp has acknowledged the building itself.
- One hundred and twenty-five Canadian Carnegie public libraries were opened between 1903 and 1924, with generous donations from philanthropist Andrew Carnegie. — Only one stamp acknowledged



any of them — the former Victoria central library (1906–1980), in 1996, as part of the Canadian architecture series.

- Four other public libraries and the buildings in which they have resided were honoured on stamps: Confederation Centre Public Library in Charlottetown; Lunenburg Public Library (in Nova Scotia); and Ontario's Niagara-on-the-Lake Public Library and Runnymede Public Library in Toronto.

— Confederation Centre Public

Library (since 1964) is Charlottetown's principal public library, P.E.I.'s largest Public Library, and is a vital part



of the Confederation Centre of the Arts National Historic Site. Its stamp for the Confederation Centre (in 1964) celebrated the centenary of the Charlottetown Conference that led to Confederation.

— Lunenburg Public Library has been housed in the Lunenburg Academy Foundation's building since 2018. This National Historic Site hosted a school (1895–1912) for community and county students, and



is commemorated for the building's 1995 centenary.

— Niagara-on-the-Lake Public



Library was the first circulating library to be established in Upper Canada and was housed

in the Court House, on Queen Street, for 152 years (1848–2000). The stamp was issued as part of a set of 2001 tourist attraction booklet stamps.

— Canada Post commemorated the present Runnymede Public Library building (since 1930) in 1989, as part of the Canadian architecture



series. In 1975 the building was listed on Toronto's Inventory of Heritage Properties and, in 2008, was presented with a Heritage Toronto plaque.

All Photos Credit: Louise Henderson

If you know of any other such Canadian bibliophilatelic trivia, please let me know at bob.superrover@gmail.com. ■

Library Treasures of Britain: Cambridge University Library

By Guy Robertson

Rarely does the Cambridge University Library appear at the top of must-see lists. Visitors to the county town of Cambridge prefer to spend their time in the Fitzwilliam Museum and the Henry VI Chapel, and in famous college institutions, such as the Wren Library in Trinity or the Pepys Library in Magdalene. Everyone must stroll along the Backs, that beautiful area between the River Cam and the back of a number of colleges, such as St. John's and Clare, and, as tourists in Venice enjoy skimming along the Grand Canal in gondolas, so they must pole down the Cam in punts. Why should anyone care about the big library on West Road?

Giles Gilbert Scott designed the building. American oil magnate and philanthropist John D. Rockefeller donated a large sum of money for its construction, which commenced in 1931. It opened in 1934. The largest of the university's 114 libraries, it is a Grade II-listed building and referred to as "UL." Its most prominent feature is the 48-metre tower that rises above the front entrance. The tower is visible for miles around Cambridge, and does *not* contain a large collection of pornography, despite the rumour that local students enjoy spreading. For the record, the tower's shelves hold one of the better collections of popular British fiction, periodicals, board games, toys, and ephemera. As one of the country's six Legal Deposit Libraries, the UL receives copies of all books, periodicals, printed maps, and music published in Britain at no cost. Every year, approximately 100,000 items arrive in UL and its 21 affiliate libraries. The 2018 opening of UL's Ely storage warehouse — one of the largest library off-site storage facilities in the world — will allow the university to continue its legal-deposit role, at least until the 100 kilometres of shelving are full. That eventuality could be delayed indefinitely, owing to the advent of digital publications, which are welcome in an age of space shortages.



Cambridge University Library
Photo credit: Reproduced by kind permission of the Syndics of Cambridge University Library

Most remarkable are UL's Special Collections, which hold items of enormous value and interest. The manuscript holdings include the Taylor-Schechter Genizah Collection, which comprises approximately 140,000 complete manuscripts and fragments from Cairo's Ben Ezra Synagogue. The music archives contain the papers of composers, such as William Alwyn, Peter Tranchell, and Arthur Bliss. The papers of the poet Siegfried Sassoon and the philosopher G. E. Moore have attracted many researchers, but the Special Collections are most noted for the papers of various scientists: Isaac Newton, Ernest Rutherford, and Lord Kelvin (the Victorian mathematical physicist who developed the system of absolute temperature). Recently, worldwide media have expressed interest in Charles Darwin's correspondence and books — including copies of some of those he wrote — from his working library. Sadly, the reason for this interest is the loss or theft of two of Darwin's notebooks, one of which contains the famous Tree of Life sketch. The

notebooks disappeared 20 years ago. UL staff continue to search for them, in hopes they have been misplaced in the stacks, rather than stolen.

The UL's Special Collections hold myriad priceless printed items. The Gutenberg Bible, printed in 1455, is one of the finest surviving copies. UL holds the libraries of eminent persons, such as the historian Lord Acton and the typographer Stanley Morison, who was closely associated with the Cambridge University Press. The Royal Library, which King George I bequeathed to UL in 1715, includes more than 30,000 books collected by John Moore, Bishop of Ely. And, naturally, UL holds the university archives, which include fascinating records of student societies.

UL staff point out the importance of UL to the endeavours of students and scholars from all over the world. Before the coronavirus pandemic, students crowded the study areas during open hours; unoccupied desk space was rare. During what some call the "days of COVID," UL closed, but continued to provide online and zero-contact

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services. The Cambridge community hopes UL will reopen soon and offer access to some of the finest collections in the U.K. But, we shall not find the pornography collection, since it does not exist in the UL tower or anywhere else in Cambridge. Or, so say the librarians. Many students disagree. Believe whom you will, but admit that UL is worth visiting, because of much more than a mischievous rumour.

For contact and visiting information, visit www.lib.cam.ac.uk ■

Cambridge Back
Photo credit: Frances Davidson-Arnott



Book Reviews

Edited by Susan Ibbetson



*Pour une histoire
des femmes
bibliothécaires au
Québec: Portraits
des femmes
bibliothécaires
au Québec*
Sous la direction de
Marcel Lajeunesse,

Éric Leroux, et Marie D. Martel
Montréal, Presses de l'Université
du Québec, 2020
ISBN: 978-2-7605-5251-7. \$40

Reviewed by Peter F. McNally

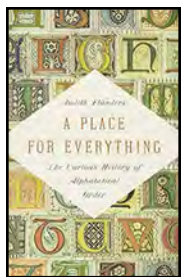
This collective biography reveals the crucial role played by women in the development of libraries and library education for Quebec, particularly its francophone community. Eight women receive in-depth study by prominent academics, focusing primarily upon Montreal between

1917 and 2017. In addition to their institutional accomplishments, these women had significant impacts on broader library and civic communities. Éva Circé-Côté (1871–1949) and Marie-Claire Daveluy (1880–1968), senior librarians in the Montreal Public Library, undertook a combination of reference, circulation, and cataloguing duties, and emerged as the library's guiding force due to their personalities and accomplishments. Both were also prominent authors. In 1937, Daveluy established at the library Canada's first French-language library-education program. Louise Guillemette-Labory (1953–) was instrumental in the library's 21st-century building program. Hélène Grenier (1900–1992) and Hélène Charbonneau (1929–) pioneered school and children's librarianship. Paule Rolland-Thomas (1929–2021; see "Milestones" in this issue, page 21) joined the faculty of the Université de

Montréal library school in 1961, and crafted the French-language edition of the Anglo-American cataloguing rules. Mary Sollace Saxe (1868–1942), the sole anglophone, led Westmount Public Library. Céline Robitaille-Cartier (1930–2017) was Director of the Laval University Library. Running throughout the essays are several sub-themes: underpaid women in subordinate roles outperforming better-paid men; the impact of anglophone librarianship from inside and outside Quebec; Circé-Côté, Daveluy, Grenier, Saxe, and Rolland-Thomas studied at McGill's Library School; and the deep-seated notion of libraries as vehicles for social change. This book should be read by anyone interested in the role of women in librarianship. The text is illustrated and footnoted; there is no index. ■

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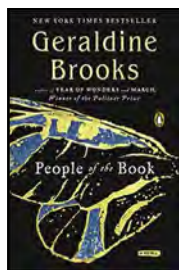
A Place For Everything: The Curious History of Alphabetical Order
By Judith Flanders
Basic Books, 2020
ISBN: 978-154167507-0. e-ISBN: 978-1541675063. \$38

Reviewed by Guy Robertson

"Problems of human behaviour still continue to baffle us, but at least in the library we have them properly filed," says Fanny, the main character and a librarian in Anita Brookner's *Look at Me*. As well as writing brilliant novels, Brookner conducted research into art-history topics for several scholarly monographs, and relied heavily on alphabetical order and proper filing, without which she would have been lost. In *A Place For Everything: The Curious History of Alphabetical Order*, Judith Flanders covers the development of the general organization of information and, in particular, the growth and influence of alphabetical order. She begins with the early history of writing, from a summary of ancient Egyptian and Mesopotamian scripts to the Phoenician, Greek, and Roman versions of the alphabet. She describes the influence of the Christian church and monastic libraries, the evolution of manuscript collections, and the extraordinary growth of printed materials from the 15th century to the present. Her discussion of the first library catalogues is insightful and entertaining. Above all, Flanders impresses the reader with her ability to describe complex bibliographic ideas and systems in a style that, while academic, is nonetheless clear, concise and readable.

Flanders outlines the characteristics that librarianship shares with archival work and records management. Her book will appeal to a wide range of information professionals — from rare-book librarians, reference workers, and technical-services managers to archivists, records analysts, and digital conservators. She has included

an impressive bibliography and useful notes that will inspire further investigations of numerous different topics. Librarians can take pride in having filed challenging aspects of life properly, but the work is unfinished and Flanders asserts it must continue indefinitely. Brookner would agree. ■



People of the Book
By Geraldine Brooks
Viking Press, 2008
ISBN 978-0143115006
\$18.50

Reviewed by Leslie B. Ko

This is the evocative reconstruction, based on fact, of the journey of the 15th-century Hebrew codex called the Sarajevo Haggadah, from its creation during the years of the Spanish Inquisition, forward into the 20th century. The little folio survives through six centuries of holy terror, famine, forced exile, and war. Within its covers, pages, and bindings, it provides the clues that are woven together to create a historical tapestry of richly imagined characters, stories, and situations.

A well-respected conservator of mediaeval manuscripts, Hanna Heath, is required in Sarajevo when the priceless treasure comes to light in 1996. Her subsequent, expert examination of the codex and the separate clues discovered within, unfolds in this fascinating history. The historical story of the folio is interwoven with the daily modern life of the conservator herself, which gives the novel pivotal grounding in a present-day context.

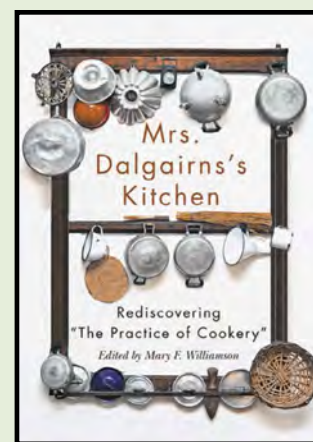
This is a rich, intriguing literary puzzle, into which the pieces fit flawlessly, presenting a complete picture of a true wonder of the world. The Sarajevo Haggadah was submitted by Bosnia and Herzegovina for inclusion in UNESCO's Memory of the World register and included in 2017. ■

Books by Members



Disaster Planning for Special Libraries

By Guy Robertson
Chandos Information Professional Series,
Elsevier, 2020
ISBN: 978-0081009482. \$99.99



Mrs. Dalgairns's Kitchen: Rediscovering "The Practice of Cookery"

Edited by Mary F. Williamson
Carleton Library Series, McGill-Queen's University Press, 2021
ISBN: 978-0228005339. \$39.95

British Columbia News

By Guy Robertson



In 2019 the **Greater Victoria Public Library (GVPL)** was pleased to announce that John Barton had been appointed Poet Laureate of Victoria

for a term of three years. Barton's 26 books, chapbooks, and anthologies include *The Malahat at Fifty: Canada's Iconic Literary Journal*, *Polari*, *For the Boy with the Eyes of the Virgin: Selected Poems*, and *Seminal: The Anthology of Canada's Gay-Male Poets*. In 2020 Signal Editions published his *Lost Family*, a collection of sonnets. Among his awards are the Ottawa Book Award, a CBC Literary Award, a National Magazine Award, and the Archibald Lampman Award, which he has won three times. "As the City of Victoria Poet Laureate," says Barton, "I aim to broaden the local audience for poetry, to make readers more aware of the diverse community of poets in [Greater Victoria], and to provide support to LGBTQ2S poets working among us." In January 2021, GVPL and the City of Victoria appointed James Summer Youth Poet Laureate for one year. Summer receives a \$1,750 honorarium and \$2,000 in project funding. He says, "as a transgender individual and as Youth Poet Laureate, I hope that I can bring awareness about the topic of being transgender and to have important conversations about stigma and labels."

In January the **Vancouver Island Regional Library (VIRL)** announced the opening of its Adult Winter Reading Club. In 2020 the club's membership reached 500 patrons, who read more than 5,100 books during the cold and rainy months. Members sign up at their local branches and record what they read in January and February. Lucky winter readers can win prizes, including gift certificates to Chapters-Indigo and a Kobo eReader. Also this January, VIRL announced its Top 10 Titles of 2020. These included Margaret Atwood's *The Testaments*,

Lee Child's *Blue Moon*, Delia Owens's *Where the Crawdads Sing*, and John Grisham's *The Guardians*. VIRL also announced its Top 10 Video Games, which include *Spider-Man: Miles Morales*, *The Last of Us Part II*, and *The Legend of Zelda: Link's Awakening*.

In January **Burnaby Public Library (BPL)** announced its Family Literacy Day, during which parents can help their children develop literacy skills at home, outdoors, or at the library. Activities included a storytime for pets or stuffed animals, a scavenger hunt, and visiting the library together and choosing books for each other. Popular in itself, this event also helped families cope with pandemic restrictions by adding variety to the increasingly limited routines.

In February the **University of British Columbia's Library Research Commons** hosted Love Data Week, which offered online learning opportunities, including Building a website with Github Pages and Jekyll, Introduction to Voyant, and Open Chat – Open Research, with speaker Dr. Aled Edwards, the founder and chief executive of the Structural Genomics Consortium (SGC), a pioneering researcher of open science as it applies to fields such as chemical biology and drug discovery. Edwards is a professor at the University of Toronto, a visiting professor at the University of Oxford, and an adjunct professor at McGill. The Program for Open Scholarship and Education sponsored his lecture.

In February the **Vancouver Public Library (VPL)** celebrated the Lunar New Year and the Year of the Ox with events including a Zoom session on traditional Chinese arts. Jiangang Su, a specialist in Chinese painting and calligraphy, gave a demonstration of seal carving, and Joyce Ji discussed the best ways to appreciate tea and teapots. Those interested in Chinese music enjoyed Fan Yang's performance on the guqin, an ancient instrument. Yang is a core member of the Vancouver Fraser Guqin Club. These events were offered in English and Mandarin.

Prairies News

By Alvin M. Schrader



Edmonton Public Library reopened the downtown Stanley A. Milner Library, on September 17, 2020, after seven months of delay and initially

limited guided tours necessitated by COVID-19. The extensive renovations took almost four years and cost \$84.5 million, of which \$18 million (\$8 million more than targeted) was raised through donations from 5,000 community members and organizations. Among many facilities and services, the library features The Wall, the largest digital interactive learning exhibit in North America; two makerspace rooms, one each for children and adults, which offer multiple hands-on opportunities, including robotics, 3-D printing, woodworking, sewing, and video and music production; and an Indigenous gathering space, PÎYÊSÎW WÂSKÂHIKAN (Thunderbird House), the first public space in Edmonton to allow smudging for cultural ceremonies. A time capsule holding library mementos and love letters from staff, trustees, and customers, was sealed within the walls for 100 years. Take a virtual tour at facebook.com/EPLdotCA/videos/636345420357228 and view the opening ceremonies at asquared.tv/epl.html.

Among many other public libraries on the Prairies, **Edmonton Public Library** and **Calgary Public Library** eliminated late fees for library materials.

Calgary Public Library chose *Tabitha and Magoo Dress Up Too*, a picture book by Michelle Tea, for its featured banned book of 2021, in celebration of Freedom to Read Week 2021; a copy was presented to Mayor Naheed Nenshi, in early February. The story is about two children who defy restrictive gender roles, with the magical appearance and help of a new friend, drag queen Morgana.

University of Manitoba Libraries has developed an Indigenous Cultural Competency program to foster

staff learning about key issues in Canadian history from an Indigenous perspective. It includes the University of Alberta's 12-week Indigenous Canada Massive Online Open Course, weekly Meaningful Dialogues led by Indigenous Elders and others, participation in ceremonies and sharing circles, and a one-day land-based experiential learning opportunity. More than half of the library's staff has completed the program to date.

Athabasca University has served notice of a proposal to de-designate and remove all professional staff, including librarians, from the Athabasca University Faculty Association, which would constitute two-thirds of the bargaining unit.

University of Alberta Archives has digitized the media collection from the university's Department of Radio and Television fonds *In Touch with U*, a campus television series documenting various aspects of campus life in the 1970s.

Saskatchewan Library Association's choice for the 2021 One Book, One Province program was *Blanket Toss Under Midnight Sun* by Paul Seesequasis, a collection from eight Indigenous communities from across North America of never-before-published archival photographs and recovered histories. Paul is a nipisihkopawiyiniw (Willow Cree) writer, journalist, cultural advocate, and commentator, currently living in Saskatoon. Since 2015, he has curated the Indigenous Archival Photo Project, an online and physical exhibition of archival Indigenous photographs that explores history, identity, and the process of visual reclamation.

City of Winnipeg Archives, as part of its Winnipeg in Focus website, has mounted online exhibits on the Winnipeg General Strike, Victory in Europe Day, and other historical events, together with a video library, Into the Archives, accessible at winnipeginfofocus.winnipeg.ca/IntoTheArchives.

University of Calgary Libraries and Culture Resources has completed the transfer of the **Glenbow Library and Archives** collection of books,

journals, photographs, maps, videos and films, audio recordings, and other archival materials to the **Taylor Family Digital Library**, as well as to its rare books and special collections holdings. A digitization project involving 115,000 photos is also underway. The collection reflects the history of Alberta and Western Canada.

Lisa O'Hara, Vice-Provost (Libraries) and Chief Librarian at the **University of Manitoba Libraries**, was appointed Vice-Chair of the Content Strategy Committee of the Canadian Research Knowledge Network (CRKN) for a three-year term, effective October 22, 2020. The committee will assist the CRKN board of directors in fulfilling its oversight responsibilities, by reviewing and making recommendations regarding the overall direction of the CRKN content program.

Ontario News

By Vivienne James



Ontario libraries have responded creatively to continue to serve their customers. Library systems are following COVID-19 regional

restrictions announced by the Government of Ontario. Many have customers returning books in drop boxes and picking up their holds at the door. Others, as of February 2021, are allowing limited numbers of customers inside for minimal browsing and computer access.

Starting February 22, most of the open **Ottawa Public Library** branches welcomed customers inside for returns and holds pickup, browsing, and computer use. Provincial regulations limit branch capacity, masks must be worn inside and in lineups outside, and visits are restricted to 45 minutes daily.

Toronto Public Library (TPL)

was also innovative during the COVID-19 restricted-access period. Examples include:

- A December Toronto Symphony Orchestra live online performance featured music by Mozart and Brahms and holiday favourites;

- The 2020 annual *Young Voices Magazine* launched online in November, with 75 attendees;
- More than 9,000 customers over the age of 13 registered for a Digital Access Card, since its November launch (the card provides immediate access to the library's digital resources and services including e-resources, and streaming movies and music);
- Toronto readers borrowed more than 8.5 million e-books in 2020, breaking the record of 6.6 million downloads in 2019, and with a significant spike in e-book borrowing since March 2020.
- TPL's Innovation Council presented two online programs in November: Designing for Equity and Women in AI, which explored equity, inclusion, and social justice through the lens of technology, innovation, and design;
- TPL donated 2,000 withdrawn books to Toronto homeless shelters and received overwhelmingly positive feedback from shelter residents;
- TPL hosted its first Innovation Symposium event, in December, focused on library resiliency and innovation during the pandemic, for library staff around the world; and
- TPL held six online programs — including scratch coding, web design, and Python — during December's Hour of Code week, a global event dedicated to building coding skills for all ages.

Hamilton Public Library (HPL)

began offering bags of books by genre. HPL's Grab and Go Bags contain up to 10 staff-chosen items, based on customer information.

Western University Libraries initiated the HathiTrust Emergency Temporary Access Service to provide digital access to more than 760,000 print volumes to enable remote research by students and faculty.

York University Libraries have been providing resources and staff expertise, enhanced access to collections, and services for faculty moving to online instruction, and are involved in the creation of the **COVID Research Guide** to allow researchers, collaborators, and partners worldwide free access.

The **University of Toronto's Robarts Common** is the signature project of the Robarts renewal. The five-storey structure offers 1,200 new work and study spaces, natural light, ample workspace, comfortable seating, and full Internet connectivity.

The University of Toronto has signed on to a three-year open-access agreement with the Public Library of Science (PLOS). U of T researchers will benefit from unlimited publishing in PLOS Medicine and Biology, without article-processing fees.

Queen's University Library appointed Mark Asberg as Vice-Provost and University Librarian for a five-year term, effective May 1, 2021. He is currently CEO, Calgary Public Library.

McMaster University Library has acquired the archive of Judith Robinson, a Canadian journalist reporting on people, ideas, and events — from the 1930s through 1950s — that shaped Canada.

Library and Archives Canada's Vision 2030 is a reflection and planning exercise involving consultations with staff, stakeholders, and other groups until March 28, in the federal government's partnership with **Ottawa Public Library**.

Quebec News

By Pierre Guilmette and Peter F. McNally



In Quebec, the COVID-19 crisis saw libraries with a combination of closures and limited service. Curbside delivery of books to general patrons, along with limited study space for students, have become common.



The Quebec Library Association announced that l'Association des bibliothécaires du Québec/Quebec Library Association (ABQLA) Annual Conference will be held virtually on May 14. ABQLA events held to date include: Understanding Power,

Identity, and Oppression in the Public Library and Trivia Night in October 2020, and RDA in the New Toolkit with Chris Oliver, in January 2021. All were entirely or partially virtual.

In the fall of 2020, the Friends of the **McGill University Library** held the annual Shakespeare lecture (Antoni Cimolino, Shakespeare and the Weight of This Sad Time) and the Hugh MacLennan lecture (Carol Off, Crossing the Line).

McGill Library Rare Books and Special Collections mounted two virtual exhibitions: the Taylor White Natural History Collection and Food Riddles and Riddling Ways.

Librarians in Quebec are fighting against disinformation, in general, and fake news, in particular. An article published in the last issue of the journal *Documentation et bibliothèques*, Vol. 67, No. 1, January–March 2021, and reproduced in *Le Devoir*, January 26, 2021, highlights the work of librarians in this field. A survey of 263 librarians reveals that 87 percent of them are concerned about this situation. The measures put in place against fake news include publishing corrections, establishing training activities, workshops, or conferences, creating video clips and web pages, and sharing a newsletter on fake news. Donald Trump's arrival as President of the United States, in 2017, sparked an explosion of fake news on social media, and American librarians reacted strongly against disinformation. This mobilization went beyond borders to reach Canada and Quebec. As information professionals, librarians are involved in the fight against disinformation.

The Quebec government is abandoning the **Bibliothèque nationale du Québec Saint-Sulpice** project, which aimed to transform the building into an information-technology lab for young people. Built in 1914, the **Saint-Sulpice Library** housed the **National Library of Quebec** from 1967 until it moved to the new Grande Bibliothèque building in 2005. The Saint-Sulpice building, vacant for the last 15 years, was previously designated a heritage asset in 1988. Abandoning the project

prompted strong reaction in the press, but, last December, Premier François Legault said the Quebec government will find a new use for the building.

Maritimes News

By Tanja Harrison



When the Atlantic bubble burst at the end of November 2020, Maritime libraries remained resilient throughout the second wave of COVID-19

cases, pivoting between various modifications of in-person and online operations, tailored to the public-health directive of each situation in a community or zone. Keeping doors open and virtual resources stocked, as well as ensuring safe in-person services and helping communities amid restrictions, has been the consistent and underlying theme.

As the days grow longer and spring draws near, there is positive news on every front. Academic libraries are nimble with flexible services and online resources, slowly increasing in-person seating capacity, welcoming back more staff to offices, and announcing further on-campus classes on the horizon. Some public library systems are getting the green light for greater investments in e-books and funds to continue supporting the community through their provisional food-security programs. More than ever before, online events in the library and archival fields abound, with accessible literary podcasts, virtual book readings and exhibits, student drop-in sessions, and live help chat services, as well as many free webinars (now common and expected) with the ability to record, archive, and share across the Internet with unprecedented reach. In the past, this column has reported on libraries lending unique, yet helpful, items including everything from telescopes to snowshoes. Inspired by the **PEI Public Library Service**, the University of Prince Edward Island has recently teamed up with its students' union to purchase

lamps that help ease the effects of Seasonal Affective Disorder. At this writing, all lamps were out on loan.

Silver linings are everywhere. Freely available and accessible educational resources — such as open textbooks — reduce student debt and provide educators with the flexibility to customize their course material. Joining BCcampus OpenEd and eCampus Ontario, the Council of Atlantic University Libraries has launched the Atlantic Open Educational Resources (OER) project. A first for the region, AtlanticOER is a scholarly publishing initiative offering teaching faculty at universities and colleges across the Maritimes and Newfoundland a grant program with access to Pressbooks publishing software to assist with the creation and adaptation of open textbooks and other OERs. Find more information at <https://caul-cbua.pressbooks.pub>.

The spring and summer will also bring the revival of Maritimes library conferences, which will move forward in an online format. It has never been easier or more economical to attend these events! Register online (at conference.apla.ca) with the 2021 Atlantic Provinces Library Association conference, Cross-Pollinate. Cultivate. Change.

You can also catch up on developments specific to information literacy and library instruction at the 2021 Workshop for Instruction in Library Use conference, Visions of the Possible, with your virtual hosts — the **libraries at Dalhousie, Mount Saint Vincent University, and Saint Mary's University**. Find out more at wilu-conference.github.io/.

We hope you'll check out the programs, consider attending, and spread the word.

ELAN in Electronic Format

For members who wish to receive future *ELAN* issues in an electronic format, please contact Bob Henderson at bob.superrover@gmail.com.

Newfoundland & Labrador News

By Dick Ellis



There is nothing to report. Libraries are open and closed and half-open by turns. No librarian has died or been accused of anything dastardly.

There is a provincial election on the go, by fits and starts, but no party articulated a library plank in its platform.

News from the North

By Julie Ourom



Libraries across the North have adapted to the pandemic, finding innovative ways to provide services and promote library use under COVID-19 restrictions. Most

locations opened by mid-summer. They continue to operate and adjust to local situations with a mix of limited in-person, pickup, online services, and temporary closures. When the school library in Rankin Inlet was permanently closed, the Nunavut Literacy Council stepped in with its **Ilitaqiniq pop-up library**.

Anecdotal feedback in all three territories indicates patrons are eager for regular services to resume. In the meantime, patrons are delighted to have access to what can be safely provided. Initiatives, such as the Town of Inuvik's survey of public spaces, include the **Inuvik Centennial Library**, and will provide direction for planning for the future.

An unanticipated benefit of the pandemic has been enhanced online services through various platforms. Streamed and downloadable music, movies, comics, audiobooks, magazines, and courses are all popular. Yukon's **Whitehorse Public Library** promoted these new resources and services

with a program called New reasons to fall in love with your library. That library's Baby Rhyme Time and Storybook Characters programs are accessible at yellowknife.ca/en/living-here/online-resources.asp.

In Yukon, the **Mayo Community Library** displayed beaded-moccasin photos for Rock your Mocs, a worldwide Indigenous Peoples celebration in November, and the **Isabelle Pringle Community Library (Carcross)** spread the word about storytime, using puppies on International Dog Day. Yukon's virtual video series, Stories with Santa, featured Whitehorse's longtime Santa and library supporter, Michael Dougherty, who was also picked up by Vancouver Public Library for a holiday program.

In Northwest Territories, **Hay River Public Library** celebrated Family Literacy Day with pick-a-country travel bags and a learn-to-paint event offered over Zoom. With help from the **Yellowknife Public Library**, children are following Elon Muskox and friends on a trip around the world; Elon visited Japan for Family Literacy Day. The **Iqaluit Centennial Library** celebrated Valentine's Day with a pickup bag-and-book program. Yukon Libraries Week, held during Canadian Library Month, featured a crack-the-codes contest to match books to emoji codes. The Virtual Indigenous Book Club — a co-production of **Whitehorse Public Library** and the Kwanlin Dün Cultural Centre (in partnership with the Canada Council for the Arts) — and events with local authors and musicians have loyal followers.

The **Mary Kaeser Library**, in Fort Smith, N.W.T., recognised Indigenous Languages Month in February by offering books, ornaments, and neck warmers, with print materials in four Indigenous languages.

Please send news items about library matters in Canada's North to me at crocuscats@gmail.com.

News from Canadian Library/Information Studies Schools



Compiled by Judy Dunn

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

By Guy Robertson

Despite the challenges of the pandemic, UBC's iSchool continued to offer online opportunities for students and faculty. In January, the First Nations Curriculum Concentration hosted an open house on Zoom for students interested in finding out more about Indigenous-information organizations. In February, the university's Records Management Office offered a workshop on the creation of professional-experience proposals and project plans. The iSchool congratulated doctoral students **Amelia Cole** and **Vanessa Figueiredo**, the 2020/2021 recipients of the Anne and George Piternick Student Research Award. Ms. Figueiredo conducts research into the ways in which young people relate to information at school. Ms. Cole specializes in adult-learning processes. The 2020 winner of the Mary Sue Stephenson Award for Excellence in Adjunct Teaching was **Dr. Kathryn Shoemaker**. The award acknowledges the significant influence of adjunct professors in the information community. Students and faculty members look forward to returning to the campus when the pandemic subsides.

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

By Kathleen DeLong

At SLIS we continue to respond to the changing academic and administrative environment of the University of Alberta. We now know SLIS and the Faculty of Education

will be part of the College of Social Sciences and Humanities, with all of the attendant possibilities for greater collaboration with the Faculties of Arts and Law, and the Alberta School of Business. We currently have two joint programs: an MA in Digital Humanities and a joint MBA/MLIS, and look forward to exciting future ventures. Many of our administrative workflows are under review, and we anticipate greater centralization of administrative services over the course of the spring/summer. On a very bright note, we see strong numbers for admissions in the fall of 2021, and we continue to review and build upon our established programs.

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

By Becky Blue

At the close of December 2020, FIMS and the LIS community said a fond farewell to professor **Liwen Vaughan**, who retired after 27 years of teaching at Western (see "Retirements," in this issue, page 23). The FIMS community was unable to say goodbye to professor Vaughan at an in-person celebration of her career and her absence will be keenly felt, especially once we return to on-campus activities. In other news, FIMS is drawing closer to announcing two new appointments in Indigenous Scholarship, Indigenous Journalism, or Indigenous Creative Production and Teaching. With the ongoing work to decolonize the LIS curriculum, and to re-examine the curriculum across programs in FIMS through an Equity, Diversity and Inclusion lens, the community is looking forward to welcoming the new hires and continuing on that path.

University of Toronto, Faculty of Information (iSchool)

By Ann Brocklehurst

Due to the pandemic, the Faculty of Information remained online through the 2020/2021 academic year and will continue to do so through the 2021 spring and summer terms. U of T is, however, hoping to have students, faculty, and staff back on campus in

the fall and hold as many in-person classes as possible during the 2021/2022 academic year. There will almost certainly still be some health-and-safety restrictions in place, so the planning for the coming year is quite complex, but we remain cautiously optimistic. The biggest non-pandemic news for the 2020/2021 academic year was the arrival of six new assistant professors: **Rohan Alexander** (with Statistics); **Stacy Alisson-Cassin** (Teaching Stream); **Claire Battershill** (with English); **Priyank Chandra**; **Shion Guha**; and **Anastasia Kuzminykh**.

University of Ottawa, School of Information Studies

By Mary Cavanagh

Mary Cavanagh was named School Director, as of July 1, 2020, for a three-year term. **Inge Alberts** will be taking an academic leave during 2021/2022, and **André Vellino** and **Heather Morrison** returned from their academic leaves on July 1, 2020. We look forward to returning to campus and our in-person experience, when the health and safety of our faculty, staff, and students is more certain. Like most library-and-information schools and faculties in Canada, our entire academic year 2020/2021 consisted of online instruction only. At this time, we know the spring/summer 2021 terms will also be online. Our fall 2021 term will be planned initially as online instruction, with the possibility to move to face-to-face classes on campus, if public-health and university guidelines deem that possible. Our teaching faculty has expanded its pedagogical repertoire in the online environment, and our students are excelling despite the circumstances.

McGill University, School of Information Studies

By Peter F. McNally

The School of Information Studies hosted four Workshops on Indigenous Acknowledgement and Reconciliation. Speakers from galleries, libraries, archives, and museums talked about their roles and experiences with land acknowledgements, truth and reconciliation, and recognition of

Indigenous collections within their institutions. The workshops were hosted online and students who attended all four events received a certificate of participation. The workshops were as follows: February 4, Archives: **Raymond Frogner**, Royal BC Museum; February 11, Libraries: **Elis Ing**, McGill University Rare Books and Special Collections; February 18, Museums: **Jonathan Lainey**, McCord Museum; and February 25, Galleries: **Gwendolyn Owens**, McGill University Visual Arts Collection. On February 5 the McGill student chapter of the Association for Information Science and Technology held a writing retreat, using a Pomodoro technique — writing in 25-minute intervals with five-minute breaks to chat and take a quick breath. The retreat was open to master's degree and PhD students, and faculty.

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

By Isabelle Bourgey

In September 2020, a revised

master's degree was implemented in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic (100 percent distance learning). It was an adaptation for everybody — students and faculty! We also established a set of six fundamental values inherent to our field of study and practice; in accordance with these values, in June 2020, EBSI took a stance to condemn racism and any form of discrimination, and support the statement by the International Federation of Library Associations President and Secretary General: "Racism Has No Place in the Society Libraries are Working to Build." On a sad note, in January 2021, we learned about the passing of honorary professor **Paule Rolland-Thomas**, a leader in teaching and research in cataloguing and classification for 33 years (see "Obituaries," in this issue, page 21).

Dalhousie University, School of Information Management (SIM)

By Vivian Howard

The 2020/2021 academic year has been busy and exciting, and SIM

students and faculty are adapting well to online learning. We welcomed our new MI and MIM students through a successful virtual orientation program, and are continuing to expand the courses we teach in the Bachelor of Management program. SIM held two well-attended virtual public lectures — Vulnerabilities exposed and the opportunity to respond: Reflections on public libraries in the time of COVID-19, presented by **Asa Kachan**, Chief Librarian and CEO of Halifax Public Libraries, and Killer Info: Big Data, the fallacy of homicide stats, and disrupting the murder industry, presented by **Dr. Michael Arntfield** of Western University. In addition to these formal public lectures, we piloted a new format for discussions of internal research projects: informal fireside chats, in which faculty members shared an overview of a current research interest and then engaged in extended Q & A discussions with students. These have proven very popular and inspire student enthusiasm for original research.

Milestones

Obituaries

Compiled by Irena Lewycka



Young-Ju Ahn died February 4, 2020, age 85, in Vancouver. From 1965 to 1970, he was an instructor in the Department of Library Science, Yonsei University, South Korea. In 1970 he accepted a staff position at UBC Library, retiring in 1999.

Lidia Baggs died January 27, 2021, age 95, in SSt. Catharines, ON. She earned her library degree at U of T.

Linda "Gael" Blackhall died August 7, 2020, age 65, in Calgary. She earned her MLS at UBC in 1979, and began her career at Vancouver PL. In 1987 she moved to Calgary and worked at Calgary PL, in various positions, for the next 20 years.

Susan Cara Bloos died November 8, 2020, age 54, in Kitchener, ON. She

co-authored the book *Community Library Programs That Work: Building Youth and Family Literacy*.

Deniz Bokesoy died November 24, 2020, age 48, in Ottawa. She earned her MLS at U of T and worked as a librarian at Ottawa PL.

Stéphanie Both (née Meszner) died April 29, 2020, age 97, in Montreal. She and her husband came to Canada from Hungary after the 1956 Hungarian Revolution. She earned her MLS and became a senior librarian at McGill University, where she retired as Head, School of Information Studies Library. After retiring, she helped establish a Hungarian-language library at the Our Lady of Hungary Parish church, Montreal, and edited the Hungarian newspaper *Magyar Krónika*.

Dawn Patricia Bryden died March 2, 2021, age 86. She received her BLS at McGill University, and her career took her from Hamilton to Dundas (via Oakville), ON, where she was the head librarian, until retirement in 1995.

Elizabeth Anne Budgell died May 5, 2020, age 70, on Pender Island, BC. Anne earned two music degrees before completing her MLS at UBC. She joined the staff of Richmond PL and was a longtime librarian at Steveston Branch. Her popular preschool programs earned her the sobriquet "Queen of the animal noises."

Alexandra "Lesia" Bulchak died November 20, 2020, age 88, in Toronto. She worked as a music librarian at Robarts Library, U of T.

Gemma Cantin died October 23, 2020, age 91, in Quebec City. She earned her MLS at Université de Montréal in 1988, and worked at Laval University Library (1975–1995).

Sandra Casey died December 28, 2020, age 81, in Kingston, ON. She earned a BLS at U of T in 1970, and spent her career as a librarian at Queen's University. While there, she was president of the Faculty Association and president of the Ontario Confederation of Faculty Associations. In 1990 she obtained her EdD at U of T and, subsequently, lectured in the Queen's Faculty of Education, while still a librarian.

Emily "Myra" Clowes died January 5, 2021, age 91, in Ottawa. After earning a library science degree at McGill University, she worked for many years as a librarian in the public service, mostly at the National Library of Canada.

Barbara Coleman died January 1, 2021, age 85, in Brampton, ON. She was a voracious reader and devoted her career to the love of reading and the service of shut-ins, through her work as a library assistant at Toronto PL's Travelling Branch.

John Paul Costabile died September 15, 2020, age 60, in Toronto. He graduated from St. Michael's College, U of T, then earned a library science degree. Paul was a Toronto librarian, collector of soundtracks and other movie memorabilia, and wrote the "In Release" column for *CineMag*.

Camille Côté died December 9, 2020, age 87, in Montreal. She was Chief Librarian at Bell Canada before becoming a professor in library science at McGill University (1977–1998).

Elizabeth Jean "B. J." Couser (née Webb) died August 13, 2020, age 81, in St. Lambert, QC. She earned a library science degree at Concordia University, and worked at McLennan Library, McGill University for more than 15 years.

Bert Franklin Crandall died October 27, 2020, age 85, in Toronto. He studied Chinese and Russian history, and French at the University of Arizona, and earned a library science degree at UBC, in 1966. Bert worked for 35 years as a librarian in public and university libraries in Vancouver, Burnaby, and Victoria before moving to Toronto, where he was a reference librarian at Toronto PL and Manager, Long Branch.

Beverly Dalley died December 27, 2020, age 71, in Windsor, ON. After 40 years, Bev retired from the Leddy Library, University of Windsor.

Dorothy Louise Davies-Flindall died September 17, 2020, age 86, in Picton, ON. She earned a library science degree at U of T, and completed her full-time career as Director, Trenton PL.

Verona Dechene died April 17, 2020, age 87, in Winnipeg. She earned a BLS at McGill University, and worked at the Elizabeth Dafoe Library, University of Manitoba. She spent many years researching the languages of what was once known as Rupert's Land, resulting in a festschrift, *Essays in Algonquian Bibliography in Honour of V. M. Dechene*.

Hélène Dechief died March 8, 2020, age 104, in Montreal. After her war service, Hélène had a long career with the Canadian National Railroad, beginning as a systems librarian and later as the head librarian, the highest-ranking woman at the time. Her book, *Railroads*, was published in 1975.

Dr. Patricia Helen "Pat" Dewdney died March 12, 2020, age 78, in London, ON. Patricia earned her library science degree at University of Michigan, and worked at London PL, becoming Director of Community Relations. She earned her PhD at Western University in 1986, and her thesis led her to publish *Communicating Professionally, a handbook of librarianship*. She then joined the Western University Faculty of Information and Media Studies staff.

Marion L. Dixon (née Bishop) died February 10, 2020, age 98, in Vancouver. She earned a BLS at U of T. She worked at Chatham PL before moving to New York, where she took a position at Columbia University Library. After five years, she returned to Vancouver and worked at Vancouver PL until retirement.

Marjorie Barbara Douglas died November 7, 2020, age 110, in Toronto. She graduated from the U of T Library School in 1932, then began her library career at Trinity College, U of T. In 1961 her husband, George, was appointed Librarian of Knox College and they became a two-librarian family. After a 23-year interlude, Marjorie resumed her library career at North York PL, retiring 45 years ago.

Patricia Drummond (née Wightman) died January 28, 2021, age 91, in Montreal. She earned her BLS at McGill University. She volunteered at her children's school libraries and, after they grew up, continued to volunteer at John Rennie High School library, which was later renamed in her honour, for her many years of service.

Donna Noreen Duncan died January 15, 2021, age 80, in Montreal. She had an illustrious career as a librarian at McGill University, culminating in being awarded Emerita Librarian. She was active in professional associations and was an author, contributor, or editor of many publications. She was recognized with the 1992 Anne Galler Award for Outstanding Library Service, among other honours.

Georgia Ada Ellis (née Phelan) died January 3, 2021, age 92, in Smith Falls, ON. In 1969 she earned her MLS at McGill University. She held several positions with McGill University libraries and later was Director of Library Services at Statistics Canada in Ottawa. In 1990 she received the Canadian Association of Special Libraries and Information Services Award for Special Librarianship in Canada. Under her guidance, the

Statistics Canada Library grew to provide support for the Canadian research community and the public. In retirement, Georgia was an active volunteer as Secretary to the Board of the Friends [of what was then known as] the National Library and Archives.

Lynn Erickson (née Wong) died January 1, 2020, age 84, in Vancouver. She earned her MLS at UBC in 1977, and worked at Burnaby PL as a children's and reference librarian.

Ture R. Erickson died September 21, 2020, age 84, in Vancouver. A library science graduate of UBC, he became Head, Sedgewick and District Municipal Library in 1965.

Constance Fetchison died April 24, 2020, age 95, in London, ON. She earned her MLS at Case Western Reserve University in 1951, and worked in various London PL branches (1964–1987).

Marion Grace Fisher died January 14, 2021, age 103, in Ottawa. She obtained her library science degree at McGill University. Over many decades, she was a librarian in Vancouver and Belleville, ON.

Carol Anne Freeman died January 23, 2021, age 79, in Ottawa. She earned her library science degree at UBC, then worked at the University of Ottawa Library, Environment Canada, and as Head of Cataloguing at the Library of Parliament.

Elizabeth Gibb died January 24, 2021, age 77, in Ottawa. She earned an MLS at McGill University in 1982, and became a reference librarian and Head of Reference at McGill's Schulich Library of Science and Engineering, retiring in 2006.

Gary G. Gibson died February 13, 2021, age 72, in Montreal. Living in Montreal and Russell/Ottawa, he managed the regional office of Micromedia Limited, for 10 years. He started his own business in Saint Lazare in 2002, serving

as electronic-service sales representative to the Canadian academic community, developing many lifelong friendships. Gary was an ELA member.

Marian Morton Cree Given died August 17, 2020, age 103, in Kitchener, ON. Widowed suddenly at age 50, she learned to drive and went back to teach full-time with the Waterloo Region District School Board, as a teacher-librarian who loved children and books.

Stephen Greenhalgh died May 21, 2020, age 48, in Edmonton. He earned his MIS at the University of Alberta, and worked for the Government of Alberta as an information-sharing analyst.

Eileen Hammill (née Mack) died March 28, 2020, age 90, in Guelph, ON. Eileen and her husband, Ken, helped found the Guelph Community Foundation. During the 1960s, she served as president of the Guelph Historical Society, promoting the Guelph Museum's establishment. In the 1980s, Eileen was instrumental in establishing the Southern Ontario Library Service, and served on a provincial government task force on public library funding. She was a member of the Guelph PL board for nearly 30 years, and the Ontario PL Association recognized her as Trustee of the Year in 1990.

Grant Harland died February 14, 2021, age 75, in Almonte, ON. After his marriage to Kim Lohse (deceased 2013), they moved to Vancouver and both earned MLS degrees at UBC. Back in Ontario, Grant worked as a cataloguer at the National Library of Canada, and Kim worked at the Almonte PL.

Julia Hendry died April 3, 2020, age 46, in Kitchener, ON. She earned her MLIS at Western University and a master's degree in history at University of Illinois at Chicago, where she later served as Assistant Special Collections Librarian. Julia's professional life culminated as Head of Archives and Special Collections at Wilfrid Laurier University.

Ernest Boyce "Ernie" Ingles died September 17, 2020, age 71, in Edmonton. Ernie was one of Canada's pre-eminent academic librarians and library innovators. He served as founding Director of the Canadian Institute for Historical Microreproductions (now [Canadiana.org](http://exlibris.ca/doku.php?id=elan:memories_and_tributes&s%5B%5D=ernie)), and was University Librarian of the University of Regina, and Vice-Provost and University Librarian and Director of the School of Library and Information Studies at University of Alberta. He served on numerous professional associations, societies, government boards and committees, including as President of the Canadian Library Association, the Bibliographical Society of Canada, the Canadian Association of Research Libraries, the North America Association of Research Libraries, and the Council of Prairie and Pacific University Libraries. He was honoured with 29 professional awards and four medals, including the Marie Tremaine Medal of the Bibliographical Society of Canada, his election as a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada (the first practicing librarian to be so honoured), and Red Crow College's award of the honorary degree of Blackfoot Eminent Scholar Kainai PhD, along with the Blackfoot title "Kaaahssinnin" ("Elder"). (See the memoir by Wendy Newman in this issue, page 8. Go to http://exlibris.ca/doku.php?id=elan:memories_and_tributes&s%5B%5D=ernie for a full obituary by Merrill Distad.)

Kathleen Miriam "Kay" Lake died June 3, 2020, age 94, in Saskatoon. After graduating from the University of Saskatchewan, she worked at Saskatoon PL and obtained a library science degree at U of T. Returning to Saskatoon PL, she led the Reference Department from 1948 to 1953.

Frederick Longley died February 2, 2021, age 76, in Toronto. He graduated with a BLS and MLS from the University of Ottawa, and enjoyed a long career at the federal Department of Labour and successor departments, retiring in 2006 after 35 years.

Shirley Lorimer (née Johnston) died January 22, 2021, age 90, in London, ON. She earned her master's degree at Western University. She found her passion with the McIlwraith Field Naturalists (now Nature London), where she compiled and edited four editions of *A Guide to Natural Areas of London and Vicinity*, as well as other writings (often under the persona of "The Observant Nuthatch") for the club's newsletter.

Joan Anna Maass (née Solomon) died May 17, 2020, age 95, in Montreal. At 48 she fulfilled a lifelong dream and enrolled full-time in a university BLS program. She worked for many years at McLennan Library, McGill University.

Linda Mackenzie died January 14, 2021, age 70, in Markham, ON. Linda was Toronto PL's Director of Research and Reference Libraries (1998–2016). As a member of the senior management team, Linda provided leadership that supported Toronto PL's transformation during and after its early post-amalgamation years. She was also a founding member of the Federation of Ontario Public Libraries.

Linda Ruth MacNeill died October 19, 2020, age 80, in Golden, BC. She earned her library science degree at UBC, and started her career as a librarian at Carleton University. As Media Librarian, Langara College, in BC, Linda was an expert in the field. She taught media literacy classes in both Langara and UBC library programs, and helped develop the BC Media Exchange Cooperative.

Ruth Marks died February 27, 2021, age 87, in Toronto. She was a librarian at the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education from the late 1960s until retirement.

M. H. Donley Mogan died August 8, 2020, age 96, in Toronto. He was a retired teacher-librarian with the North York Board of Education and taught at York Mills Collegiate for more than 20 years.

Elizabeth "Bette" Ellen Morgan (née Barbour) died January 3, 2021, age 90, in Toronto. She completed her formal education as a library technician at Ryerson, then managed the law library for the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, in Toronto, until retirement.

Sylvie Nadeau died December 12, 2020, age 63, in New Brunswick. Sylvie was well known for her role as the executive director of the New Brunswick PL Service, for 20 years. She was one of the first librarians at the Centre Scolaire-Communautaire Samuel-de-Champlain, in Saint John. She became Administrative Secretary, New Brunswick Arts Board, in Fredericton, in its early years. She was also President, Théâtre populaire d'Acadie. She later set up a translation service, Text in Context/Texte en contexte, in Saint John. Later still, she worked as the head of the Haut-Saint-Jean Library Region, in Campbellton, and concurrently as Executive Director, New Brunswick PL Service, for several years, until returning to Fredericton to continue in the latter capacity. Her accomplishments garnered national and international praise. Sylvie successfully and publicly campaigned for the bureaucrat appointed as her successor Executive Director, NB PL Service, to be replaced by a professionally qualified librarian. Sylvie was an ELA member.

Ryan T. Naylor died November 29, 2020, age 34, in Barrie, ON. In 2011 he graduated from the U of T Faculty of Information and worked in various positions in the U of T Libraries. He joined the Native Counselling Services of Alberta, as Digital Librarian and Communications Officer.

Sylvia Newman died February 21, 2021, age 77, in Toronto. A U of T library science graduate and a health-sciences librarian, Sylvia held positions at U of T Libraries, including Science and Medicine, and Pharmacy. She was active in professional associations.

Cynthia Norris died October 12, 2020, in London, ON. She was a librarian at Western University for many years.

William Perry died April 3, 2020, age 78, in Toronto. He was a teacher-librarian at Brookfield High School in Ottawa until his retirement. William was an ELA member.

Elaine Amy Rillie died February 1, 2021, age 71, in Kentville, NS. She earned her master's of library science at Dalhousie University. In 1973 she was hired as an elementary school librarian in Avonport, NS, and was professionally active with library associations and the provincial teachers union, including as First Officer/Co-chair, fellow of The School of Library Service Associated Alumni Association, and President of the Nova Scotia School Library Association. She also served one year at the Nova Scotia Department of Education as a provincial library consultant.

Paule Rolland-Thomas died January 15, 2021 age 91, in Montreal. Recruited in 1961 — when the city's Library School became École de bibliothéconomie et des sciences d'information, Université de Montréal — she filled a major role in cataloguing and classification teaching and research until retiring in 1994. Paule also played a major role in standardizing practices through preparation of the French version of the Anglo-American Cataloging Rules, 1st and 2nd editions.

Ann K. Savage (née Kettenbach) died September 4, 2020, age 91, in Calgary. A lifelong learner, she earned her master's degree in library science at Syracuse University. She worked as Head Librarian, City of Calgary Electric System, and later started ASK Information Services.

Margaret Maria Schade died September 28, 2020, age 98, in Ottawa. In 1986 she retired as Head, Aeronautical/Mechanical Engineering Branch, after nearly 30 years of service to CISTI and its predecessors.

Dale Schulte-Albert died May 29, 2020, age 89, in London, ON. She earned her master's degree in library science at Case Western Reserve

University, Cleveland, where, in 1962, she met and married the late Dr. Hans Schulte-Albert (see Milestones, *ELAN* No. 65/Spring 2019, page 19).

Thomas Herman Schulte-Albert died April 3, 2020, age 56, in London, ON. The son of the late Hans Schulte-Albert, Sr., and Dale Schulte-Albert, he earned a master's degree in library science at Western University.

Dorothy Shields died September 9, 2020, age 97, in Vancouver. She graduated from the University of Denver with a master's degree in library science in 1961, then worked at the UBC Library until retirement. She collaborated with author Robert M. Hamilton in the preparation of the revised and enlarged edition of *The Dictionary of Canadian Quotations and Phrases*.

Mary Jane Southorn (née Quinn) died December 24, 2020, age 55, in Hamilton, ON. She earned her MLIS at Western University in 1989.

Erie Jacqueline Vockerorth (née Holmes) died December 7, 2020, age 93, in Victoria. After obtaining her teaching qualifications and BLS at U of T, she was a passionate educator who was well-loved by her students and fellow staff.

Carol Wiens died September 30, 2020, age 69, in Montreal. She earned her MLIS in 1989, worked at the Montreal Neurological Institute for 20 years, and co-ordinated a major library renovation.

Paul Bernard Wiens died November 19, 2020, age 76, in Ottawa. After graduating from UBC, Paul enjoyed a fulfilling career as a university librarian, most recently at Queen's University, where the Stauffer Library was built in 1994 under his leadership. He also worked at the universities of Waterloo, Manitoba, Lethbridge, and Saskatchewan.

Margarete Woollatt died February 21, 2021, age 76, in Woodstock, ON. She taught history for many

years and earned her master's degree in library science.

Janet Elizabeth Wynne-Edwards died July 7, 2020, age 71, in Vancouver. She earned her MLIS at Western University and was a children's librarian at Vancouver PL. She also taught part-time online courses for UBC's Library and Information Science program.

Elizabeth Michiko Yamashita died September 4, 2020, age 93, in Vancouver. After earning her BLS at U of T and her MLS at McGill University, she spent most of her career at the Metropolitan Toronto Reference Library.

Obituaries are brief due to space constraints. The ELA website, exlibris.ca/doku.php?id=elan:memories_and_tributes, provides more information celebrating the lives of our members.

Retirements

Compiled by Suzette Giles



Donna Bright, Chief Librarian and Executive Officer, Ajax Public Library, Ont., retired in December 2019, after 10 years in the position. After receiving her MLIS from Western University, she worked at Thunder Bay Public Library and was CEO at Cobourg Public Library for seven years before joining Ajax Public Library. In March 2020, Sarah Vaisler took over as Chief Librarian and Executive Officer at the Ajax Public Library.

Suzanne Campbell, Chief Librarian and CEO, Orillia Public Library, Ont., for the last 10 years, will retire on July 31, 2021. Campbell began her 33-year career there as Children's Librarian, then Director of Children's and Youth Services. Suzanne was part of the library's building team that resulted in a LEED Silver-certified library building completed in 2012. During her time as Chief Librarian and CEO, Campbell successfully implemented

the library board's 2016–2020 Strategic Plan and introduced the library's new RFID collection-management system.

Ken Cooley retired in December 2019, after a 29-year career at the University of Victoria Libraries. After earning a degree from the University of Manitoba and an MLS from the University of British Columbia, Ken began his career at the University of Victoria Libraries as Humanities Reference and Collection Development Librarian in 1991. This was followed by positions as Head of Acquisitions, Head of Library IT and Technical Services, before becoming Associate University Librarian, Research Resources. He was Special Projects Librarian for two years before retiring.

Annette DeFaveri will retire on June 30, 2021, after nine years as Executive Director, British Columbia Library Association (BCLA), during which the association's bylaws underwent a

major overhaul, and the board was restructured. In 2020, she steered the association through the pandemic into becoming more of a virtual entity. Prior to being at the BCLA, Annette worked at the North Vancouver District Public Library and the Vancouver Public Library. In 2006 she was listed under Movers and Shakers by the American Library Association's *American Libraries* magazine, in recognition of her contributions to social-inclusion programs.

Linda Duplessis retired in August 2020, after 27 years with the Peace Library System, Grande Prairie, Alta., the last 19 as Director and CEO. Linda began as a teacher in British Columbia, Ontario, and Alberta. After obtaining an MLS as a teacher-librarian, she worked for the Peace Library System in 1993, and was appointed Director and CEO in 2001. Louisa Robinson became the

new director and CEO, on September 1, 2020; she was previously Head Librarian, Alberta Government Library.

Sandy Gray, Head Librarian, St Michael's College School, Toronto, retired in July 2020. She joined the school in 2008, after nearly five years as the Director of Library Services, Appleby College, Oakville, Ont. She also worked at Toronto's Caldwell Partners and Korn Ferry. In April 2020 she was the first Canadian recipient of the Association of Independent School Librarians Marky Award.

Louise O'Neill retired from the Toronto Public Library in April 2020 after nearly three years as Sunday Duty Manager, Toronto Reference Library. She was Manager, Southeast Area, Scarborough Public Library, for more than eight years, followed by nine years as IT Manager, Client Services, Toronto Public Library, then Associate Director, Library Technology Services, McGill University Library (2007–2011).

Liwen Vaughan, Professor, Faculty of Information and Media Studies (FIMS), Western University, retired on January

1, 2021, after teaching there for 27 years. She earned her PhD in Library and Information Science from Western in 1991, then worked as an assistant professor at Dalhousie University's Faculty of Information and Media Studies. In 1994 Liwen returned to the University of Western Ontario as an assistant professor in the School of Library and Information Science (now FIMS). She was promoted to associate professor in 1998 and professor in 2004.

To Save Space,

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

Look for these in the news sections. A great roundup of 2019 awards compiled by librarianship.ca will interest many of you: librarianship.ca/blog/2019-honour-roll.

A Canadian awards page will be available on ELA's website this fall; the URL will be posted on our listserv.

Laughing in the Library

By Matt Scholtz

In the pre-computer days, before patrons could renew their own books online, we would receive requests for book renewals over the phone. One such request — for *How to Write Life* — caused more than a little consternation and puzzlement. Eventually, we figured it out. The correct title? *Hutterite Life*.

One of the books often overdue in our library was entitled *The Memory Book*. Clearly, our patrons needed it.

Probably one of the most satisfying moments in my public library career came the evening I happened to wander into the children's section. There stood a young boy, smiling and clutching a book to his chest. He looked at me with sparkling eyes, and said, "I really like this book!" It doesn't get a whole lot better than that.

It is not unusual for our travelling patrons to leave library books behind in motels along the way. One patron unhappily paid to replace a book she lost on her holidays. In her motel room, she had abandoned the Harold Robbins novel, *Never Leave Me*.

Book repairing is usually a constant in most libraries (although lately I have noticed libraries are, sadly, more inclined to discard rather than repair). One such book that needed attention: *Fix Me, Please*. And I did.

If you have a humorous personal story or anecdote to share about your library career, send it to mattscholtz@rogers.com. ■

Get your ELA-logo products!



Photo credits: Louise Henderson

T-shirts (long and short sleeved), polo shirts, and sweatshirts are available in various sizes and colours. Our beautiful and versatile book/shopping bags are for sale, too!

There are still some copies of our book, *The Morton Years: The Canadian Library Association, 1946–1971*.

To see what we have and to order, go to exlibris.ca/html/shop.html or contact Bob Henderson for more information at bob.superrover@gmail.com.

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ELAN Indexing

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Ex Libris Association Newsletter

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Touring Calgary Public Library Central Library (CPL) — Virtually

By Carrol Lunau

On May 28, 2021, with technical assistance from CPL's Alexis Apps, 19 ELA members took to their computers to tour this stunning library comprising 240,000 square feet and costing almost \$245 million. Interim CEO Sarah Meilleur gave an informative and interesting tour, providing insights into the process used for its design and new service development, and the lessons learned during the process. Reflecting the community it serves, the building has its own personality.

Immediately after its opening in November 2018, the library caused an international sensation. Prior to the COVID-19 closure, the building received about two million annual visitors (between 4,000 and 6,000 per day). Built over an LRT station, it offers easy access for Calgarians. The first of four levels is the noisiest,

with the spaces becoming quieter as you ascend. Partnerships are key, and examples include a historian in residence (in partnership with Heritage Calgary), a mental health initiative (in partnership with the United Way), and a pop-up newsroom (in partnership with the CBC).

A great deal of consultation and thought was invested in meeting the needs of the diverse communities the library serves. Of special note are the services developed with the Indigenous community, including a quiet space for an Elders' Guidance Circle (supported by Suncor Energy Foundation with Elders' honoraria provided by the Calgary Foundation), and the inclusion of Indigenous Placemaking throughout the library.

One of the major challenges was accessibility, with issues such

Continued on page 2

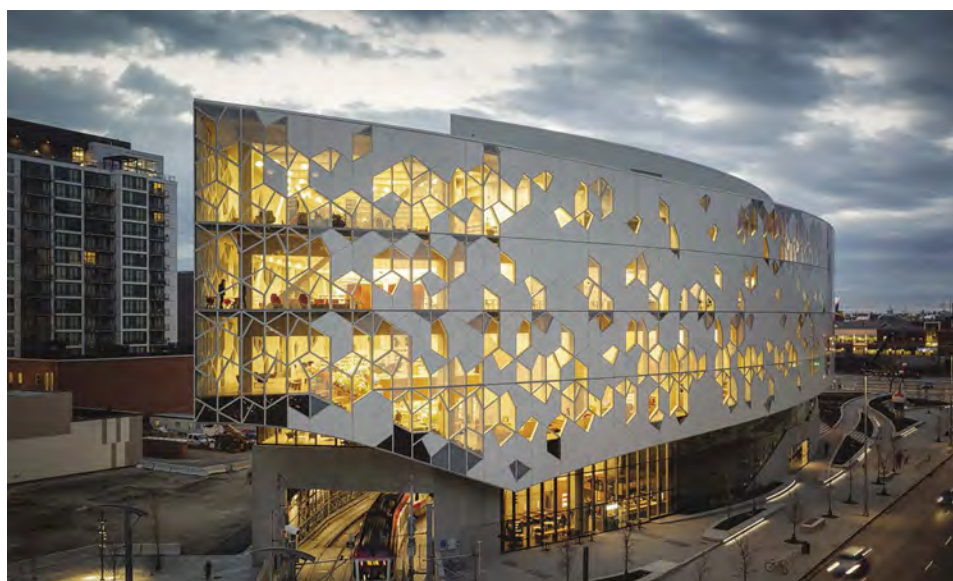


Photo credit: Michael Grimm

...continued from page 1



Photo credit: Calgary Public Library

as a sloped walkway and elevator-door timing. After thoroughly auditing the building for accessibility and implementing numerous improvements, the library won the

City of Calgary Accessibility Award.

Some of the lessons learned throughout this major project were:

- trial and test everything in advance,
- do not fully book performance spaces from day one and allow one free day a week to troubleshoot technical issues, and
- ensure that flexibility and versatility are key.

The pandemic also provided some lessons for the future:

- Outdoor spaces are important, and they need to be better designed and used.
- Individual workspaces and small

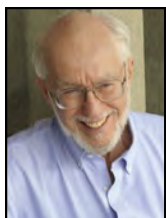
meeting rooms will be in demand and must be accommodated.

• Good airflow for enclosed spaces should be considered. Calgary's Central Library is an excellent example of how thoughtful planning, thorough consultation, innovative services, and striking architecture can revitalize an urban neighbourhood.

The only drawback to our virtual tour was that the traditional after-tour lunch was impossible! Thanks to Vivienne James for organizing the tour. To learn more, visit calgarylibrary.ca/read-learn-and-explore/central-library. ■

President's Report

By Tom Eadie



I'd like to begin by recalling what I initially saw as an overarching goal for ELA during my term in office — becoming a truly

national association. At the time, I saw this as primarily a matter of membership — recruiting more western and eastern members, perhaps building toward a 'chapter' structure, with multiple centres of activity across the country. I am ashamed to say it took a pandemic and the need to distance ourselves, one from the other, to make the obvious point: that, in addition to building membership, we must move more of our activities online. My thanks to Vivienne James and Deb Thomas for arranging the spring virtual tour of the Calgary Central Library, showing what can be done. Our step will be a transformed annual conference and AGM that build on our novice effort last December. While I hope and expect that the COVID-19 pandemic will ultimately disappear — when we finally achieve comprehensive vaccination and general immunity — and future tours, meetings, and conferences

can involve personal presence, the new virtuality will still be with us. With so many of my own intended efforts stalled or on hold, I am encouraged by the initiatives of others. My thanks to Lorne Bruce and others in the Biography Project group for extending their ambit to include the quick as well as the dead (See the article by Lorne Bruce in this issue, page 5), to Christina Wilson for her recommendations on the W. Kaye Lamb Award and her organization of ELA's input to the Library and Archives Canada's Vision 2030 process, and to Deb Thomas for her engagement with the CFLA-FCAB Intellectual Freedom Committee. I should also note works-in-progress. Christina Wilson and Donna Burton *et al.* are exploring funding sources for student assistance in digitizing the ELA archives. Deb Thomas and I have begun exploring the possibility of establishing an ELA bursary or scholarship to help an Indigenous student attend a library school or a library technician program. And, while I have stressed myself (and you) of the continuity and connectivity provided by *ELAN* (thank you, Frances, and thanks to all the authors and editors), by Lorne

Bruce on the website, and by Donna Burton on our Facebook presence. And by all of us on the listserv. Late-Breaking News — Christina Wilson has negotiated our acceptance into the Internet Archive's Community History Web Archiving Program. Well done, Christina! Finally, I should note that the AGM is planned for Monday, November 1, 2021, at 1 p.m. EST via Zoom. Details about the AGM and the fall conference will be posted to the listserv as planning proceeds. This is my last report in *ELAN* as President. I want to thank Bob Henderson for talking (pressuring?) me into serving. He managed this by offering to help and buy me a beer. Still waiting for the beer, but the help has been abundant and always available! I am honoured to have been able to serve with Jean Weihs and Nancy Williamson before they relinquished their heavy duties, with the invaluable Wendy Newman and Michael Moir, who also stepped down during my term, and to have been present as Donna Burton, Deb Thomas, and Christina Wilson joined us! It is with pleasure and confidence that I look forward to the reign of President Deb. ■

ELA 2021 Fall Conference and AGM

Monday, November 1, 2021, at 1 p.m. EST via Zoom

All ELA members are invited to attend. The agenda and supporting documents will be available in advance and an invitation to join the Zoom meeting will be posted on the listserv.

2021 W. Kaye Lamb Award for Service to Seniors

By Christina Wilson

ELA invites applications for the W. Kaye Lamb Award, which is co-sponsored with the Canadian Federation of Library Associations/ Fédération canadienne des associations de bibliothèques. With this award — named to commemorate Canada's first National Librarian, William Kaye Lamb, OC, FRSC — the two national library associations recognize outstanding library service to seniors. ELA provides a \$500 cash prize and a commemorative plaque, and CFLA-FCAB uses its network of library associations to encourage applicants

from all Canadian library sectors.

Awarded biennially when merited, it was last presented in 2018. For this intake, we are accepting completed applications or notification of the intention to apply, by Thursday, September 30, 2021.

During the worldwide pandemic, we've learned of the innovative ways Canada's library workers have served library users, especially seniors. Libraries have retooled their services and spaces to comply with COVID-19 protocols to keep people safe, informed, and connected to their communities.

The W. Kaye Lamb Award for Service to Seniors will highlight these efforts and share our colleagues' expertise and resilience in service to seniors. Please encourage your colleagues to apply for this prestigious award, so they may share their expertise.

To apply, go to: <https://cfla-fcab.ca/en/programs/w-kaye-lamb-award/>. For more information regarding the W. Kaye Lamb Award for Service to Seniors, please contact Christina Wilson at chriswilson@shaw.ca. ■

Canadian Federation of Library Associations/Fédération canadienne des associations de bibliothèques (CFLA-FCAB) — the National Voice of Canada's Library Associations

By Shelagh Paterson, reporting on behalf of the CFLA-FCAB Board of Directors, with information provided by Todd Kyle, (CFLA-FCAB) Board of Directors

CFLA-FCAB has published the following recent initiatives:

- **The Final Report of the Canadian BIBFRAME Readiness** (<http://cfla-fcab.ca/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/Final-Report-Canadian-BIBFRAME-Readiness-Task-Force.pdf>): The Bibliographic Framework Initiative (BIBFRAME) "provides a foundation for the future of bibliographic description, both on the web, and in the broader networked world, that is grounded in Linked Data techniques" (loc.gov/bibframe/). The Canadian BIBFRAME Readiness Task Force's mandate was to produce documentation that outlines the

impact on Canadian libraries of migrating from MARC to BIBFRAME, assess the understanding of and readiness for BIBFRAME transition in Canadian libraries, and make recommendations for how the CFLA-FCAB Cataloguing and Metadata Standards Committee/Comité sur les normes relatives au catalogage et aux métadonnées and CFLA-FCAB and Fédération des milieux documentaires can support Canadian libraries' transition to BIBFRAME.

- **Copyright Statement** ([http://cfla-fcab.ca/en/copyright/unanimous-supreme-court-of-canada-decision-is-a-major-win-for-education-and-libraries-in-canada-confirms-](http://cfla-fcab.ca/en/copyright/unanimous-supreme-court-of-canada-decision-is-a-major-win-for-education-and-libraries-in-canada-confirms-tariffs-not-mandatory-and-reiterates-users-rights-and-fair-dealing-principles/)

[tariffs-not-mandatory-and-reiterates-users-rights-and-fair-dealing-principles/](http://cfla-fcab.ca/en/copyright/unanimous-supreme-court-of-canada-decision-is-a-major-win-for-education-and-libraries-in-canada-confirms-tariffs-not-mandatory-and-reiterates-users-rights-and-fair-dealing-principles/)):

On July 30, 2021, the Supreme Court of Canada released its judgment in *York University v. Canadian Copyright Licensing Agency* (Access Copyright).

- **A call for Immediate Reinstatement of a Clear Regulatory Exemption of End-User Content in Bill C-10.** (<http://cfla-fcab.ca/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/CFLA-FCAB-C-10-Release-Final.pdf>):

The recent removal of this clause allows the CRTC the ability to regulate user-generated content on a variety of platforms, opening the door to infringement of

Continued on page 4

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Canadians' freedom of expression.

CFLA-FCAB participated in two other federal legislative consultations, producing submissions regarding copyright for online intermediaries — such as ISPs and libraries providing Internet access — and the extension of copyright under the Canada-United States-Mexico Agreement.

CFLA-FCAB endorsed the Canadian Collective Print Strategy, a plan among academic libraries to jointly ensure that final copies of

historical works are preserved.

At the administrative level, CFLA-FCAB Executive Director Rebecca Raven chose not to renew her contract, and the organization is now engaged in a search for new leadership. CFLA-FCAB's administrative functions continue with the hiring of Office Co-ordinator Michael Rogowski. *Shelagh Paterson was treasurer of CFLA-FCAB from 2016 to 2017. ELA is a member of CFLA-FCAB. For more information visit cfla-fcab.ca.* ■

Notice to Members

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

And please submit any outstanding membership dues.

CFLA-FCAB Intellectual Freedom Committee (IFC)

By Deb Thomas

In recent months, the hottest issue has been challenges to Abigail Shrier's *Irreversible Damage: The transgender craze seducing our daughters*. Libraries across Canada have chosen to make the book available, in spite of their community members' pressure to remove it. Concerns have been expressed about its views on the reasons why girls and young women may choose to transition to male and the need for school programs, like SOGI (Sexual Orientations and Gender Identities) 123, that aim to create awareness and understanding about LGBTQ+ issues and acceptance of LGBTQ+ students. Libraries making the book available acknowledge that its assertions are controversial, but feel it serves the community better to have the book available for readers to decide its value for themselves, and challenge its assertions if they feel they are harmful.

On behalf of the IFC, Deb Thomas engaged in mutually respectful correspondence with a young Kingston-area trans man who wanted to understand better why libraries would defend retaining the book. She advised the Kingston-Frontenac Public Library director she was doing so, and shared the essence of the response with her.

The IFC also drafted a statement in support of libraries experiencing criticism for having the book in their collections. Deb Thomas and Tina Thomas (Edmonton Public Library) presented the statement, *Challenges to the book Irreversible Damage by Abigail Shrier* — a CFLA-FCAB Intellectual Freedom Brief, to the CFLA-FCAB board, on July 23, and it was approved, with some revisions. The brief has been published on the CFLA-FCAB website (<http://cfla-fcab.ca/en/home-page/>) and will be

sent to all member associations.

The IFC has also submitted a brief on protest and dissent to the CFLA-FCAB board (not yet approved) and continues with work on creating an in-house database of the results of challenge surveys (from 2006 to the present) that should be completed by fall. ELA member Dick Ellis, with Deb Thomas and Katya Borrás as advisors, is chiefly doing the work. When completed, this resource will be invaluable to researchers in the areas of censorship and intellectual freedom. The IFC has already had two requests by researchers for access.

Finally, the IFC has undertaken a review of its work plan to refine its goals and priorities for the coming years. *Deb Thomas is ELA's representative on CFLA-FCAB IFC.* ■

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Options for donations include cheque, CanadaHelps, and e-transfer.

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ELA Biography Project

By Lorne Bruce

begun by Nancy Williamson and a small committee, the ELA Biography Project (exlibris.ca/doku.php?id=history:biographies:biography_mainpage) is now more than a decade old. Under Nancy's leadership, it became a developing database of individuals who had made their marks in Canadian LIS and archival studies. The database presents the most significant facts about each person's personal and professional life, and identifies useful sources of further information that people may explore. References note the location of personal papers, with links provided to other electronic resources.

From the outset, as a practical matter, biographies were limited to deceased persons. As Nancy wrote in *ELAN* No. 41/Spring 2007 (see her article, page 21), "When a few more decisions have been made, we will be able to get the project on the road and add biographies as they become available. We are beginning with the past but hope to include retired and still-active professionals as time goes." Now, after more than 125 biographies

have been created, it is time to move to contemporary persons. Naturally, it is much easier to compose a biography using a resumé or CV that a person agreeing to be in the database forwards in confidence. Also, some ELA members who know the individual would likely be interested in composing a biography, especially if they live in the same city.

The past year has been one of reorganization. No new biographies were added to the ELA website last winter. Work has been difficult, given that we have to use sources that cannot be accessed in closed libraries. Nancy stepped down from chairing the committee, but she will continue as a committee member and is working on a couple of biographies this summer. I agreed to take this on and we have added a new committee member, Suzette Giles, who has written many *ELAN* articles about libraries named after librarians. Elisa Sze, currently working at the Robarts Library, will be helping to find resources for the project. The committee is drafting a list to prioritize names collected before 2021. Likely, we will not be able

to add all of those suggested, due to the difficulty of finding information.

The database will continue to feature brief, pertinent biographies about prominent Canadian persons in the LIS and archives fields. Biographies include personal facts and significant information on education, careers, publications, honours, awards, accomplishments, and association work, as well as comments by contemporaries. The inclusion of sources provides readers with further references on each individual. With the addition of current (retired) professionals, we hope to add personal comments provided through direct communication.

ELA members can contribute to the project in a number of ways — writing biographical entries, suggesting database improvements, correcting erroneous information, and adding to biographical material already in the database.

We welcome contributions to this project. For details on contributing, please contact Lorne Bruce, Ex Libris Biography Project Committee chair, at lbruce@uoguelph.ca. I

Celebrating Longtime ELA Members

By Suzette Giles

ELA is 35 years old this year, and it is an appropriate time to recognize the members who have been with the association the longest. With the help of Bob Henderson, who oversees membership, five stalwart members who joined in the early years were identified.

After being Director (1956–1972) of the Edmonton Public Library (EPL), **Morton Coburn** returned to his hometown of Chicago, IL. On a visit to Toronto, he heard about ELA and joined in 1986 as a way to stay connected with Canadian colleagues. Morton appeared in a video celebrating EPL's centenary in 2013, where the photo on page 6 was taken. In 2012 he retired from the Chicago Public Library at the age of 91! Living in Chicago, he has

not been able to be an active member but enjoys reading *ELAN* and sends good wishes to ELA and its members.

A member since 1988, **John G. Wright** enjoys receiving *ELAN* as a way of keeping up-to-date with the library community and old colleagues. John was Dean of the School of Library and Information Studies, University of Alberta from 1984 to 1987, and was the chief author of the section on the University of Alberta library school in *ELAN*'s special edition of 2004, *A History of Education for Library and Information Studies In Canada*. John also wrote an article for *ELAN* No. 37/Spring 2005 (see "Edmonton Librarians Celebrate," page 4) about a meeting he arranged

Continued on page 6

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.

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in Edmonton. Living in Edmonton prevented him and his late wife from taking tours or attending ELA's AGMs, but he values his membership and sends best wishes for the future.

Joyce Sowby, who was a senior librarian at the University of Toronto Scarborough campus library, joined ELA in 1990. A board member for several years, she helped organize meetings and has attended many AGMs and tours. The photo, below, is from the *Globe and Mail* library's 2013 ELA tour.

William (Bill) Roedde retired in 1985 and joined ELA a few years later. Bill has contributed many articles and poems to *ELAN*, including descriptions of his career — from being a librarian in northwestern Ontario to being a bureaucrat as Director of Provincial Library Services (1960–1980). He lives on Algonquin Island in Toronto, and is well known for his “junk metal” sculptures mentioned in *ELAN* No.

13/Spring 1993 (see “Retired ... and Loving It,” page 21). He celebrated his 96th birthday in May 2021, with a socially distanced party arranged by neighbours (see photo, below).

As one of the earliest members, **Jean Weihs** has been actively involved for many, many years. In 1995 she became ELA Board Secretary and continued until 2020; Jean remains an emerita board member. Since 2003 she has been on numerous committees, including *ELAN*, and became an honorary member in 2020. In 2017 Jean was appointed a Member of the Order of Canada with the citation: “steadfast attention to detail has helped shape library science in Canada and around the world.” A regular at the AGMs in Toronto, Jean notes that ELA has been a great way to keep in contact with other librarians, and she has especially enjoyed the library tours and lunches afterwards. She hopes they will resume

at some point. Meanwhile, she will continue to contribute to ELA and *ELAN*, as long as possible, and wishes ELA a long and prosperous future.

It was an incredible experience contacting these long-term members and learning their histories and connections with ELA. We thank them for their commitment and contributions. ■

Welcome to New ELA Members

We're proud to welcome the following new ELA members:

Larry Alford, Toronto, ON
Todd Kyle, Newmarket, ON



From left: Joyce Sowby and other long-term ELA members, Jean Weihs, Jean Orpwood, Edna Hajnal, and Diane Henderson.
Photo credit: Doreen London



Bill Roedde. Photo credit: Bruce Weber



Morton Coburn. Photo credit: Edmonton Public Library



John G. Wright. Photo credit: Saskatchewan School Library Association

Technology Unmasked: Event-Management Platforms

By Stan Orlov



We all love a good conference.

Nothing compares to meeting colleagues, browsing vendors' exhibits, and mingling at receptions.

Unfortunately, in the COVID-19 era, we are temporarily deprived of the luxury of face-to-face meetings. However, life goes on and librarians are not going to press the pause button, so an alternative solution had to be found. That's why attention turned to event-management platforms. For instance, this year the conferences of the American Library Association and the Ontario Library Association were held on eventScribe, while the

International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions and the Australian Library and Information Association went with Delegate Connect, while the Atlantic Provinces Library Association used Sched.

The goal of such platforms is to reproduce, as closely as possible, the spirited and dynamic experience to which we all are accustomed. This is done by ensuring seamless registration and scheduling processes, and professional content management (including abstract/paper handling and program publishing), floor planning, and billing. Of course, each platform offers beautifully designed, efficient websites that make registering for the conference, navigating various streams, and attending selected sessions a breeze.

Even swag bags could be ordered, which is the cherry on the cake. This year's attendees were pleasantly surprised by the organizational quality of various conferences and — though we still look forward to seeing each other in person soon — it is good to know robust event-management alternatives are available.

For more information, visit:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Event_management_software.

Please send your questions and comments to stan.orlov@msvu.ca. Stanislav Orlov is Systems Librarian at Mount Saint Vincent University in Halifax. ■

How and Why I Became a Library Technician

By Janna Munkittrick-Colton

Hi, my name is Janna Munkittrick-Colton and I am a library technician at the Belleville Public Library. I graduated from the program at Sheridan College, where I attended for two years (with children's literature as an elective), after I had volunteered in the libraries in my elementary school and Quinte Secondary School in Belleville, Ont.

I have always been passionate about books and reading, and was encouraged by my parents. My mother read all the books I was assigned in high school and then we discussed them, making the books become more alive. In my volunteer library work I would shelve books and shelf read. My high school librarian encouraged me to take the Sheridan program to share my love and passion for books with others.

When I graduated I went back to the Belleville Public Library and was offered part-time work until I could find a full-time position. I had previously worked for a couple of summers at the Belleville Public Library doing inventory, and I literally started at the bottom and worked my way up through the library,

from the basement to circulation and on to the children's library to type up shelf-list and catalogue cards. When I started in the basement, I straddled a stool between two tall book stacks. Eventually a full-time job appeared in the children's library, but my first response was "I don't want to work with children! How can I do that?"

I did accept the job. My first assignment was to start planning children's programs, about which I knew nothing. I also planned and conducted class visits, organized and gathered books for teachers' bundles, and checked books in and out. I did this job until January 2014. In a meeting one day, my CEO challenged me to work in technical services and do the cataloguing. My first response was "Why would I want to do that?"

"Because you say you are bored," he replied.

I thought about it, asked a lot of questions and one question that I couldn't answer was "What do you know about MARC records?" I had graduated in 1977, almost before computers were in existence.

So now, every day, I go into work and catalogue the books and do database maintenance and some troubleshooting on the system, as well. I spent a few years updating the series titles, especially in the adult collection and their order, and updating information in the MARC (machine-readable cataloguing) records for large-print books and biographies.

This year we have taken on the challenge of ensuring that our Indigenous collection reflects modern expressions. We have been identifying books in the picture-book collection that need a special label, in addition to the other topic labels on our picture books.

"I am going to finish my career doing what I had always wanted to do." Many people can't say that but I can!

Recently, I participated in a panel discussion for the Ontario Library Association (OLA) on library technicians. Four of us talked about our careers in different libraries.

Over the past couple of years, with the help of a few people, I have

Continued on page 8

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been planning OLA/ABO of Library Technicians conferences. This is a new role for me, and it is actually a lot of fun searching out workshops that would be of interest to a wide audience and some that are more specific. Over the past year, we decided our conference needed to become virtual. It was an amazing

challenge to figure what, where, and how — and it was an amazing mutual experience for more than 90 people.

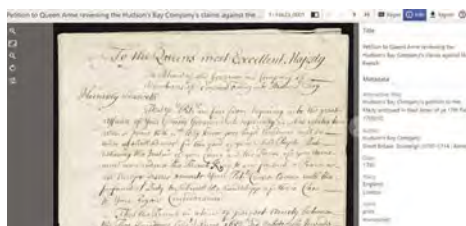
I am now heading toward my sixty-fifth birthday and 44 years in a career that I love and will continue in, until it is no longer my passion or my health gets the better of me. ■

Rare-Book Classes During COVID-19: Exploring Digital Humanities Projects

By Leslie McGrath

During the current library closures, rare-book classes have used fine digitized collections of books and manuscripts to study paleography, illumination, early printing, and bindings, and have also explored more broadly how librarians and scholars have used digital humanities (DH) projects to offer new methods of study and interpretation of texts, music, and images. These projects may involve creating new digital content, as in full-text, searchable, digital reproductions of books and manuscripts, or mining existing digitized collections to create new knowledge and answer research questions. Though some DH projects are small scale, and some, such as creating exhibits and timelines using templates, may be suitable for student projects, many are large, spanning collections around

for creating data records. These began with text through the Text Encoding Initiative consortium (TEI), followed by a similar initiative for music documents, the Music Encoding Initiative (MEI), and an international protocol for accessing images, the International Image Interoperability Framework (IIIF), all of which are fully described on their web pages. The IIIF framework allows images of digitized materials in various rare-book collections to be searched on a single site. One such project, Biblissima, covering medieval and Renaissance written cultural history in Europe, now offers access to 82,000 rare books and manuscripts in numerous collections, including 72 from the University of Toronto's Thomas Fisher Rare Book Library. Many of the projects and the software with which they were created are open access, or the projects may be licensed under Creative Commons licensing, allowing their contents to be shared with appropriate permissions.



Biblissima. University of Toronto. Thomas Fisher Rare Book Library. Digital Collections. MS. F2633
<https://iiif.biblissima.fr/collections/manifest/059718aec3348ddf843a86c7e2d4dc237dd2b98?tify={%22panX%22:0.428,%22panY%22:0.346,%22view%22:%22info%22,%22zoom%22:0.846}>
 June 17, 2021

the world and involving scholars, librarians, archivists, and students.

This collaboration in DH projects is made possible through the use of internationally established standards



Exploring Medieval Mary Magdalene, Text Editions, Manuscript Shelfmark

<https://maria-magdalene.ub.uni-freiburg.de/ms-viewer/viewer.html>
 June 17, 2021

A small text-based DH project, Exploring Medieval Mary Magdalene,

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now at Albert-Ludwigs-University Freiburg, allows researchers to compare 10 early manuscripts containing the story of Mary Magdalene's conversion, a subject of intense interest in Europe during the Middle Ages. These are shown in digitized versions, together with their Latin and vernacular transcriptions. Regional and linguistic differences in text, rubrication, and orthography can



Measuring Polyphony A Maistre Jehan Lardier/Pour la plus jolie/Alleluia. McGill University
https://measuringpolyphony.org/display.html?/assets/mensural/334_MENSURAL.mei

easily be compared and identified.

McGill University's Measuring Polyphony is an MEI project that presents 13- and 14th-century music in its original mensural notation, linked to images of manuscripts and audio files. These features allow researchers, previously limited to modernized print versions, to experience the music in its original form, including the length of notes and pauses, staff breaks, and ligature groupings. Underlaid texts are also presented, generally in their edited form from scholarly editions.

Books, and manuscripts and ephemera (especially postcards)

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New Brunswick Loyalist Journeys. University of New Brunswick. arcgis.com/apps/MapSeries/index.html?appid=074bb6c35b0b464e94f72ffc2b4bda6a

June 17, 2021

abound in place references, and some geographical DH projects create interactive maps based on literary works, creating visual representations of human communications. The New Brunswick Loyalist Journeys, published by the University of New Brunswick, combines materials from The Loyalist Collection and University of New Brunswick Libraries. Story-mapping software was used to add details to illustrate the difficult journeys — from America to the British colony that would become known as New Brunswick — of 10 loyalists and their families.

For rare-book and manuscript students, DH projects and digital access are not substitutes for examining and handling the actual books. These projects have the strengths and limitations of curated digital collections. Yet they offer not only fascinating content, and bridges to collection access, but also models of how eagerly and innovatively scholars in the humanities are using data that rare-book librarians are gathering, using, and sharing. ■

Magna Carta 1215: Four Essential Documents in Three Essential Places

By Guy Robertson



Magna Carta Salisbury
Photo Credit: Courtesy of Salisbury Cathedral

“I didn’t read the Magna Carta, but it’s nice to know it’s there,” said a retired Winnipeg mathematics professor, who had just left the British Library’s Sir John Ritblat Gallery. He had spent a minute or two gazing at one of the four surviving copies of the earliest version of Magna Carta, displayed behind bulletproof glass. His comment summarizes how most of us think about this most famous medieval document. We take its influence for granted and assume, correctly, it concerns matters of liberty. But read it? Not likely. Our medieval Latin is rusty and, even with a translation, we tend to get bogged down in clauses that cover scutage, amercements, and fish weirs.

King John was scheming, dishonest,

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and cruel. To discourage some of his more nefarious behaviour and to set limits on his power, Barons of England presented the first version to him on June 15, 1215, at Runnymede, a meadow near Windsor. John assented to it, although, contrary to popular accounts, he did not sign it. He was probably illiterate, and allowed his clerks to affix his seal to the manuscript.

In its 63 clauses, Magna Carta of 1215 affirms the King and his administrators are not above the law. Key clauses guarantee due process of law, freedom from arbitrary imprisonment, and trial by jury. Limitations were placed on the King's interference in ecclesiastical affairs. The most famous clause states the King will not sell, refuse, or delay justice. After eight centuries and numerous editions, this clause remains in force and is sometimes quoted during modern litigation.

The 1215 parchment documents one sees in the British Museum, Salisbury Cathedral, and Lincoln Castle are roughly square, but of differing sizes, due to different scribes. Copies were distributed throughout England, but, over the centuries, most were destroyed or lost. The ink the clerks used contains oak-gall sap, mixed with lampblack or soot. This acidic combination burns into the parchment to create lustrous black writing that, in time, will fade to sepia. Much of the writing on early copies remains dark and completely legible.

The two British Library copies were once part of the library assembled by Sir Robert Cotton (1571–1631). In 1731 a fire broke out in Ashburnham House, Westminster, where Cotton's library was temporarily stored. One copy — the "Canterbury" — sustained considerable damage, made worse during an attempt to restore it in the 1830s. Most of it was illegible. In 2014 the British Library used multispectral imaging to determine the handwriting style, to enable comparison with the other three copies' styles. The "Canterbury" is the only 1215 copy with King John's Great Seal still attached. Unfortunately, the fire left the seal shapeless and without identifiable lettering or images.

While the gallery attracts crowds of tourists eager to see its copies, Salisbury Cathedral and Lincoln Castle can draw even larger groups. Some visitors pose problems. In October 2018, a man attempted to steal Salisbury's copy, by smashing its display case with a hammer. He failed and, in early 2020, he was convicted of the crime. The judge noted the irony of the legal proceedings, during which the rights of the accused were protected by the very document he had attempted to steal. Happily, the document escaped damage. These days conservators visit the cathedral's Chapter House not only to see Magna Carta, but also investigate on-site security measures and inspect the display case that stood up under violent attack. Many archivists and manuscript experts consider the "Salisbury" to be the best-preserved of the four. It arrived in Salisbury in the hands of Elias of Dereham (1167–1237), a master stonemason and designer, who attended the events at Runnymede, in 1215, and was responsible for distributing several original copies. Eventually, he supervised the cathedral's construction and became a canon.

One would expect security to be less of a concern at Lincoln Castle, which is heavily fortified. The site of Lincoln Crown Court, it once accommodated a prison (now a museum). The castle displays a 1215 copy brought to Lincoln by Hugh de Welles, Bishop of Lincoln, who was present at Runnymede during the original documents' sealing process. On its reverse side, the Lincoln copy includes the address "LINCOLNIA," inscribed twice. Annotations include "Agreement between King John and the Barons" and "By grant of liberties of the Church and of the Kingdom of England." The document was preserved — or hidden — in the cathedral archives, until its importance was recognized in the 19th century. It is on long-term loan to the castle, where it is exhibited in the custom-built David P. J. Ross vault. Beside it, a display case holds one of two surviving copies of the Charter of the Forest, which asserted the rights of free men to the Royal Forests and was issued in 1217, as an addition to the original Magna Carta.

Following the initial distribution of Magna Carta, it was quoted, condemned, annulled, revised, reissued, lost, rediscovered, and finally treasured as a foundational document for numerous legal systems and governments. The surviving 1215 copies are all worth a visit, not only for historical interest, but also for recognizing the reverence with which visitors examine the documents. In the presence of these four parchment pieces, people tend to whisper. Even though they cannot read Latin, people are pleased that, after eight centuries, the documents are still there.

For more information, visit:

<https://www.bl.uk/events/treasures-of-the-british-library>

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To Save Space,

ELAN will include only awards and appointments of national importance and high relevance to our members. Look for these in the news sections.

A great roundup of awards compiled by librarianship.ca will interest many of you: <https://librarianship.ca/blog/2020-honour-roll/>. A Canadian awards page is available on ELA's website.

Through the Looking Glass at OCA/OCAD/OCADU, 1991 to 2014

By J. A. Forrester

My first day at the Ontario College of Art (OCA) was July 22, 1991. When I arrived at 100 McCaul Street, the street-side facade of the building resembled a 1960s high school. However, the Dorothy H. Hoover Library at that time was located on the ground floor of the original 1920 OCA building in Grange Park, behind the Art Gallery of Ontario. Designed by Principal George Reid, the original building resembled a classic New England college building, mirroring the Georgian style of the Boulton family's Grange House manor beside it. In this article, I include my best photo of the structure with the ivy and lilac bushes that had to be removed to preserve the mortar. I spent my first eight years working in this building, with its french doors opening onto the park where local citizens performed Tai Chi in the morning light.

A hundred years ago the original college library was located in this building, now called the "Grange Wing," on the second floor. It housed a modest collection donated by Robert Holmes, and occupied a corner of the life models' dressing room. Selections from this premier collection have been digitized and the titles are accessible via Internet Archive Canada at University of Toronto's Robarts Library, funded by the Ontario Council of University Libraries (https://archive.org/details/ontario_college_art_design?&sort=-week).

In July 1996, OCA changed its name to the Ontario College of Art & Design (OCAD). President Alan Barkley (former president of Emily Carr University of Art + Design) arranged for a partnership with Open University in British Columbia, which allowed OCAD students to pursue a bachelor's-level degree. During the 1990s the Harris government directed a financial review of the school. The library had substantial staff and budget cuts, despite the institution's stated direction toward a "university-level" curriculum. When it became necessary to expand library space, a proposal was put forward to



OCAD Library
Photo credit: James Forrester

devote all three floors to the library. While the administration considered this idea to be too costly, it would have been a more satisfactory resolution than what subsequently took place.

On April Fool's Day 1999, OCAD purchased a four-story office building at 113 McCaul Street (part of the Village By The Grange) and began a campus expansion (including the library) in anticipation of the shift to become a degree-granting institution. The building was not purpose-built and there were questions about the ability of the floor plate to sustain the collection's weight. The administration then assured us the library's relocation across McCaul Street was only a "temporary five-year relocation" (some 22 years ago). Minister of Training, Colleges and Universities Dianne Cunningham came to the grand ribbon-cutting ceremony and pronounced this "public-private" partnership a complete success — today it remains one of the few known examples of this questionable concept.

In January 2008 OCAD began planning for a new library facility to support the expanded curriculum. Clearly, there was a serious need for library resources. Oh, and there was also the small matter of the administration's assurances made to the Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada and Ministry of

Training, Colleges and Universities that library facilities appropriate to the new curriculum would be built.

Mike Ridley of the University of Guelph recommended Scott Bennett, a Chicago library-planning consultant, and Boston architecture firm Perry Dean Rogers to assist in "visioning" a new university library by 2012. The library spent a year and lots of consulting fees on this project, and the result was Enacting a Learning Mission: A consulting report for the Ontario College of Art & Design (June 2008).

Instead of investing in the infrastructure necessary to provide resources for "graduate-level research," OCAD University (OCADU) decided to promote itself as "The University of the Imagination." It's sort of conceptual — instead of the adage often used for library planning, "If you build it, they will come." — this OCADU phrase suggests "If you imagine it, then they don't need to come." or "We thought about a new library facility, so it must have happened." A distorted-mirror mantra.

It is not enough to "imagine" a university library, the board of governors needs to invest in that vision, otherwise the institution is delusional and the students are being shortchanged. Welcome to wonderland... ■



Book Reviews

Edited by Susan Ibbetson



The Last Bookshop in London: A novel of World War II
By Madeline Martin
Hanover Square Press, 2021.
ISBN: 13 978-1-335-63907-1.
\$12.99 Kindle

Reviewed by Arn Bailey

Grace Bennett arrives in London as the city prepares for the Second World War. She is hired as shop assistant in Primrose Hill Books, close to the retail-book area of Paternoster. She first cleans the musty store with its open staircase and balcony, then organizes the piles of books in shelves, tables, and window displays.

As the phony war becomes the

actual Blitz, her world changes — handbags fitted for gas masks, massive anti-aircraft guns, evacuated children, blackout curtains, sandbags, identification wristlets, vegetable gardens. A handsome pilot introduces her to actually reading the books around her, and she is then able to talk to the customers about the relevance of their reading to their lives, including his (by mail). She also takes on the role of Air Raid Patrol Warden, in spite of criticism of women in this task, and her landlady rolls bandages in the Women's Volunteer Service.

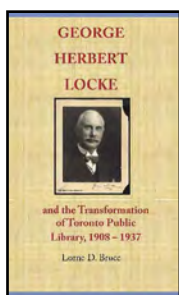
Strengthening statements are made, such as ideas in books “will never be silenced.” People “relish the joy of reading.” “War was not meant for tender souls.” Books are “a glorious distraction in time of stress.” “You can’t save the world but

keep trying in every way you can.”

In one dramatic moment, a mother receives a “deeply regret to inform you ...” In another, Grace reads aloud in a subway shelter, a practice she continues also in the shop, with discussions afterwards.

After devastating bombing of Paternoster, shelves are allotted to other stores and her customers erect a sign for “The Last Bookshop.” When Grace, too, is hit, customers repair the damage. She is told she can change the war one book at a time.

The characters, like the cat that wanders through the plot, are quite ordinary. They keep going with fish and chips, toad-in-the-hole and an ever-ready cuppa. This book is a tribute to them. Lest we forget. ■



George Herbert Locke and the Transformation of Toronto Public Library, 1908–1937
By Lorne D. Bruce
Waterloo, 2020
ISBN: 978-0-9866666-2-9

Reviewed by Peter F. McNally

Our understanding of Canada's library past has made such remarkable strides forward in recent years that it seems almost pedantic to point out how much more needs to be done. Yet Lorne Bruce's recent book on George Herbert Locke and Toronto Public Library (TPL) brings us face to face with the great gaps in knowledge that still exist. This seems ironic in light of Bruce having illuminated Ontario's public library heritage through splendid publications such as *Free Books for All: the Public*

Library Movement in Ontario, 1850–1930 (1994) and *Places to Grow: Public Libraries and Communities in Ontario, 1930–2000* (rev. ed. 2020).

This volume serves, however, as a reminder that Canada's largest and most impressive public library system — Toronto Public Library — and its most renowned librarian — George Herbert Locke — have yet to receive full scholarly attention. Privately printed, this book provides an excellent introduction to both topics, with six sections covering Locke's life and career: Education and Academic Career; Intellectual and Religious Outlook; Transforming Toronto Public Library, 1908–1937; Expansive Vision; Lasting Ideals and Influence; and Locke's Publications.

Although the book lacks a formal statement of purpose, its intention is readily deduced through reading the text and analyzing the footnotes, and the six-page bibliography of Locke's

publications — one dozen authored and co-authored monographs and reference works, and 54 articles. In effect, Bruce has synthesized the published record relating to Locke — primary sources produced by Locke himself and relevant secondary information on Toronto librarianship by authors such as Boon, Fasick, Friskney, Hanson, McGrath, Myrvold, and Penman. Little, if any, use of TPL's problematic archival collection was observed.

The book is an easy read, but there is much to digest and consider. The section on Intellectual and Religious Outlook bears close reading — and rereading! Bruce's manoeuvring of early 20th-century idealism and pragmatism provides a necessary intellectual dimension that is rarely found in Canadian history at any level. Anyone interested in Canadian library history, particularly Ontario public libraries, will find this book

Continued on page 13

...continued from page 12

essential reading. Along with providing excellent information and analysis, it may well serve as an outline/guide for Bruce or some other historian wishing to undertake full-scale studies of the man and the institution.

The book is footnoted and generously illustrated with black-and-white images. There is no index.

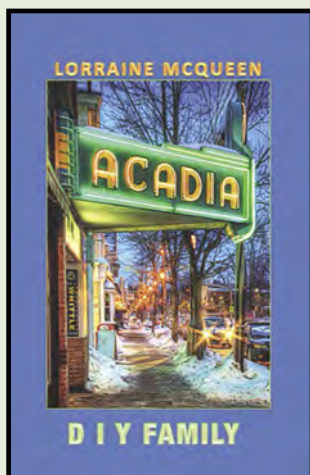
For more information, see ELAN No. 53/Spring 2013 ("Libraries Named after Librarians" by Suzette Giles, page 11). ■

Books by Members

DIY Family

By Lorraine McQueen
Windywood Publishing, 2021
ISBN13: 978-1-7774064-3-1

(This first novel is available through the author at: lorrainemcqueen@eastlink.ca) and on [Amazon.ca](https://www.amazon.ca) (Search "DIY family".)



George Herbert Locke and the Transformation of Toronto Public Library, 1908–1937

By Lorne D. Bruce
Waterloo, 2020
ISBN: 978-0-9866666-2-9
(See the review by Peter F. McNally in this issue, above.)



The Paris Library: A Novel
By Janet Skeslien Charles
Simon & Schuster
Canada, 2021
ISBN: 978-1982134914. \$19.80

Reviewed by Bernard Katz

The author turns events at the American Library in Paris during the Second World War into a compelling read. Founded on the American Library Association's First World War Library War Service for American soldiers, the American Library became the largest English lending library in continental Europe. Skeslien Charles was programs manager in 2010, and learned how the director and staff determinedly defied Dr. Hermann Fuchs — the Nazi-appointed *Bibliothekansschütz* (Library Protector) in charge of intellectual activities in occupied France, Belgium, and the Netherlands, and a former director of the Berlin Library — and his Gestapo overseers. Library staff did so by maintaining certain so-

called "anti-German" books in the collection and assisting subscribers — especially Jewish subscribers — at their own and the library's peril.

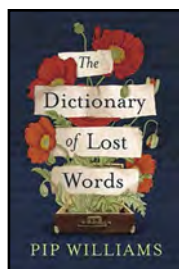
Most characters model and carry names of library staff, including legendary director Dorothy M. Reeder; even Dr. Fuchs is present. The story unfolds through a developing friendship between two fictional characters in 1983 Montana — Odile Suchet, a former librarian at the Paris Library, and her teenage neighbour, Lily. Some chapters take us to Paris, while others are set in Montana. They are narrated by Odile and Lily, respectively, and contain both historical facts, such as letters found by Skeslien Charles in the Mémorial de la Shoah archives (from Parisians denouncing their neighbours to the Gestapo), and realistic fiction. Fact and fiction are woven together using a deceptively simple narrative style and dramatic technique that draws us into the novel from its very first page. Gradually we learn more and more about what went on and how the library and its staff (including two Canadians) became unusual and active members of the French Resistance. ■

Good Reads

Compiled by Judy Dunn



The Bookseller of Florence: The Story of the Manuscripts that Illuminated the Renaissance
By Ross King
Atlantic Monthly Press, 2021
ISBN: 978-0802158529. \$16.65



The Dictionary of Lost Words
By Pip Williams
Ballantine, 2020
ISBN: 978-0593160190. \$28



The Left-Handed Booksellers of London
By Garth Nix
Katherine Tegen Books, 2020
ISBN: 978-0062683250. \$24.74



The Midnight Library: A Novel
By Matt Haig
Viking, 2020
ISBN: 978-1443455879. \$14.50

In the News

By Christina Wilson



Welcome! With this new *ELAN* column, readers will glimpse Canadian library trends and newsworthy items gleaned from the ELA listerv, library listservs, blogs, newsletters, Tweets, Facebook postings, and mainstream media. **Good News!** Our advocacy efforts on behalf of the National Network for Equitable Library Service (NNELS) and the Centre for Equitable Library Access CELA) bore fruit, persuading Minister of Employment, Workforce Development and Disability Inclusion Carla Qualtrough to restore their funding and continue supporting their work in providing accessible reading materials to persons with print disabilities across Canada. By adding \$1 million to the Social Development Partnerships Program – Disability component, she recognized the profound effect the pandemic has had on the accessible publishing industry and the significant need for access to print materials, as individuals are more isolated than ever. Her announcement acknowledged that access to NNELS and CELA resources helped Canadians with print disabilities gain technological skills and confidence, by using the digital tools needed to access these collections.

Resilient Together! Pandemic uncertainty and provincially mandated protocols profoundly challenged libraries of all sectors to be agile, positive, and supportive of library staff — both professionally and personally — and the communities served. Library staff developed and shared tools (such as COVID-19 library tool kits) and methods (such as retraining and resilience plans) to assist peers to withstand the pandemic itself and prepare for normalized services. Calgary Public Library exemplified this approach by using work disruption as an opportunity to pilot staff training on reconciliation, diversity, and inclusion among staff working from home or on-site, as preparation for

return to work. By staffing Okanagan Regional Library System's (ORLS) Virtual Services with teams of normally geographically distant staff, ORLS bridged its large service area, unified the staff, and encouraged collaboration among colleagues.

Plus C'est la Même Chose! Institutional budgetary pressures continued, particularly among libraries serving education and governments. Most notably, Laurentian University, the University of Alberta, and the Ontario College of Art & Design University (OCADU) announced restructuring efforts, resulting in library-staffing reductions. At OCADU, three library units were melded into one, resulting in four senior staff exiting with a month's notice. Despite strong protests highlighting the consequences, from library and faculty associations, these actions played out. On another front, Ryerson University's Centre for Free Expression highlighted the continued decline in support of school libraries during a virtual session on the Demise of School Libraries: Consequences & Options, held in May. On the government-library front, Quebec's Ministry of Culture and Communications closed its library in October 2020, one of 35 of the province's government libraries closed since 2000 (see "Quebec News" in this issue, page 17). In a similar fashion, the Government of Alberta saved \$1.2 million by closing its last government library in July 2021 (see "Prairies News" in this issue, page 15).

Better Together! Several provincial library associations underwent staffing changes. British Columbia Library Association (BCLA) Executive Director (ED) Annette DeFaveri capably oversaw the annual conference before retiring, with incoming ED, Rina Hadziev, starting in July. Two library-association ED positions have been vacant since 2020. While the Federation of Ontario Public Libraries (FOPL) Board is actively searching, the Library Association of Alberta (LAA) will keep its position vacant. The LAA office also relocated from Calgary to

Edmonton, sharing administrative support and office space with The Alberta Library. Both are housed on the top floor of Edmonton's Stanley A. Milner Library. Following a review by both boards, in August, LAA and the Alberta Library Trustee's Association (ALTA) together announced that the Alberta Library Conference (ALC) Planning Committee has been dissolved and the 2022 ALC has been cancelled (not postponed to 2023).

Plus ça change! Libraries across all sectors continued their work to achieve the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) of Canada report goals. In August 2021, the partnership planning the joint facility to house both Ottawa Public Library (OPL) and Library and Archives Canada (LAC) announced the new name will be Ādisōke, chosen in consultation with the Anishinābe Algonquin Nation, Kitigan Zibi Anishinābeg, and the Algonquins of Pikwakanagan First Nation — connecting all partners in their work to build the joint facility via this meaningful name. Ādisōke refers to storytelling in the Anishinābemowin language. Indigenous peoples traditionally share knowledge, culture, and history over generations through storytelling — as do libraries and archives. Other libraries across Canada have taken equally meaningful steps on our national road to truth and reconciliation.

Finally, Some Fun! As often happens, there are more news items and intriguing trends than *ELAN* space allows. Please keep watch for items of interest to you, for example the growing cross-country trend to eliminate fines in public libraries. Has your "local" gone "fine free" yet? Secondly, check out TikTok. Libraries (and museums) have embraced this virtual space to creatively engage visitors (just as libraries did using Facebook, YouTube, Instagram, etc.). *Plus ça change, plus c'est la même chose!*

I welcome your responses to this and future columns. Please send them directly to chriswilson@shaw.ca.

British Columbia News

By Guy Robertson



This summer the temperature in the area of Lytton, B.C., reached 49.6 C and set new Canadian records. On June 30 a wildfire destroyed 90 percent of the townsite including its public library. More than 1,000 local residents were forced to evacuate, and many lost their houses and other property. The **Lytton Library** is affiliated with the **Thompson-Nicola Regional Library**, which will work with federal and provincial government assistance to replace the Lytton facility and its assets. Also destroyed was the **Lytton Chinese History Museum**, which held a substantial collection of artifacts, books, and archives illustrating contributions made by Chinese workers in the B.C. Interior.

The Thompson-Nicola Regional District Board approved the cancellation of late fines on all library items. All overdue fines have been forgiven, and library cards were reset. The **Thompson-Nicola Regional Library** will continue to send reminders to borrowers and maintain charges for damaged and lost items. Libraries in Richmond, Burnaby, North Vancouver City along with smaller libraries in Fort St. James, Invermere, and Creston have done the same. Many of the province's librarians believe the fine-free trend is strengthening. In June the **Vancouver Public Library (VPL)** announced a two-week Fine Forgiveness Event to encourage former library patrons to contact their branches and request fine cancellations.

VPL and the Pacific Bookworld News Society were pleased to announce that playwright, historian, and editor Betty C. Keller has been awarded the 28th George Woodcock Lifetime Achievement Award. In 1983 Keller founded B.C.'s first annual literary festival, Sunshine Coast Festival of the Written Arts. She has written biographies of Ernest Thompson Seton,

Bertrand Sinclair, and Pauline Johnson (Canadian Biography Medal winner in 1982). Among Keller's other awards are the 1985 Gillian Lowndes Memorial Award, the 1996 Talewind Books Award, the 2002 Queen's Golden Jubilee Medal, and the 2015 Lieutenant Governor's Award for Literary Excellence.

The **University of British Columbia Library** has announced the 2021 winners of Employee Recognition Awards: Employee Excellence Award to Emma MacFarlane, Irving K. Barber Learning Commons Coordinator; Innovation Award to Hannah McKendry, Conservation Technician; and Unsung Hero Award to Veronica Mewis, Serials Orders Assistant.

In July 2021 the **University of the Fraser Valley** appointed Camille Callison, a member of the Tsesk'iyā clan of the Tāltān First Nation, as University Librarian. She earned her MLIS at UBC in 2005, with a First Nations Curriculum Concentration. In 2012 Camille became the first Indigenous Services Librarian at the **University of Manitoba (UM) Libraries** where she developed the *Mazinbiige Indigenous Graphic Novel Collection*. She served on the Indigenous Advisory Circle and the UM Bid and Implementation Committees, established to organize the acquisition of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission archives and form the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation on the UM campus. As Learning and Organizational Development Librarian and Indigenous Strategies Librarian, she developed the UM libraries' introduction to Indigenous Cultural Competency Training for librarians, archivists, and library staff. She was a founding board member of Canadian Federation of Library Associations/Fédération canadienne des associations de bibliothèques, vice-chair of Memory of the World Canadian Commission to UNESCO, president of Manitoba Library Association, and member of the Indigenous Advisory Group to the National Film Board. Chair of the International Federation of Library Associations' Indigenous Matters Section, she is working on a PhD in anthropology at UM (for more

information, visit <https://blogs.ufv.ca/blog/2021/06/camille-callison-appointed-university-librarian/>).

Prairies News

By Alvin M. Schrader



In July 2021 the Alberta Government closed the **Alberta Government Library (AGL)**, ending access for Alberta public servants to libraries and databases across the country and to (often prohibitively expensive) academic journals. AGL was also responsible for the depository library program in Alberta. The closure was intended to eliminate \$1.2 million per year in expenditures, including 12 full-time positions, claiming AGL was little-used over the previous two years (conveniently ignoring the pandemic anomaly).

In May 2021 **Calgary Public Library** launched a reading-materials home-delivery service for Calgarians who are self-isolating at home.

The **Saskatchewan Access to Legal Information Project** is a partnership among libraries, justice stakeholders, and community organizations that is dedicated to increasing legal-information access for the people of Saskatchewan. Since 2016 the project has engaged with Saskatchewan public libraries to enhance public access to legal information and resources, in recognition of resource access as a critical component in access to justice.

A new website for the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation (NCTR) has been launched (<https://nctr.ca>). Created as a trust in 2013, through an agreement between the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada (TRC) and the University of Manitoba (https://umanitoba.ca/admin/indigenous_connect/media/IND-00-013-NRCAS-AdminAgreement.pdf), the centre continues the work started by the TRC to preserve the memory of Canada's residential school system. It is a permanent host for survivors' statements, documents, and other

materials gathered by the TRC about residential schools; the NCTR governance structure is described at <https://nctr.ca/about/about-the-nctr/nctr-governance/>. The centre's mandate is for ongoing learning and research to examine the residential school system and its legacy more deeply, with the goal of fostering reconciliation and healing.

A joint discipline committee governing the joint master's and archival studies programs at the University of Manitoba — placed under review in fall 2017 (*ELAN* No. 63/ Spring 2018, page 14) — has proposed changes now formally awaiting approval by the joint senate committee and respective senate bodies of the universities of Manitoba and Winnipeg.

Saskatoon Public Library appointed Winnipeg-based author Di Brandt as its 41st Writer in Residence from September 1, 2021 to May 2022. She is an award-winning writer of several acclaimed poetry collections as well as fiction, essays, translations, literary criticism, and multimedia works. Her honours include the Gerald Lampert Award for "best first book of poetry in Canada," the McNally Robinson Manitoba Book of the Year Award, and the Foreword Gold Medal for Fiction. She served as the City of Winnipeg's inaugural Poet Laureate, 2018 and 2019.

David A. Robertson won the 2021 Freedom to Read Award, given annually by The Writers' Union of Canada during Freedom to Read Week. He is a Swampy Cree author and graphic novelist based in Winnipeg. He has published more than 20 books across a variety of genres including novels, children's books, and memoir. He also hosts the CBC Manitoba podcast "Kiwew," (cbc.ca/listen/cbc-podcasts/425-kiwew). His picture book, *When We Were Alone*, about residential school legacy, was illustrated by Julie Flett and won the 2017 \$25,000 Governor General's Literary Award for young people's illustrated books.

Ontario News

By Vivienne James



Libraries in Ontario have continued to do a great job of responding to COVID-19 restrictions with creative services and programs.

Beginning in March 2020, through a Seniors' Wellness Check service, **Toronto Public Library (TPL)** staff called thousands of seniors to help break the isolation and provide important information about **TPL's** services and COVID-19 responses. **TPL** hosted six pop-up vaccination clinics where more than 1,100 people were vaccinated. National Indigenous Month was celebrated through programs and Read Indigenous lists highlighting collection items. **TPL** is now among the 189 library systems in Canada (with 27 in Ontario and nine in the Greater Toronto Area) to eliminate fines for children first, then for teens and adults. Fines were found to act as a barrier against the use of all library services, with a disproportionate impact on racialized and low-income communities.

Hamilton Public Library (HPL) has found a world stage for almost 1,000 books about 18th- and 19th-century theatre in the Internet Archives, an online-access tool for worldwide researchers. **HPL** is also helping to set up a library at the Hamilton-Wentworth Detention Centre, with a donation of 4,500 new paperbacks.

In July the **Guelph Public Library Board** reviewed the latest architectural design for a new central library. The three-storey design, in which community involvement played a significant role, will result in a stand-alone institutional anchor in the Baker District Redevelopment — a place for community gatherings, celebration, storytelling, and the keeping of Guelph's history. Design final approval is expected this fall.

In the wake of the tragic discovery of buried residential schoolchildren, and as part of June's National Indigenous History Month, the **University of Guelph Library** has created a new online collection entitled Exploring Indigenous Narratives and World Views (lib.uoguelph.ca/collections/featured-online-collection-exploring-indigenous-narratives-and-worldviews). Curated by Indigenous Initiatives and the University of Guelph Student Centre, it highlights writers, content, and research frameworks through a variety of resources.

Western University Libraries marked National Indigenous History Month with a special 30-day challenge for all ages, as a way to learn about Indigenous Canadians that included a collections guide containing materials created by Indigenous writers.

The Archives Association of Ontario awarded the 2021 Emerging Leader Award to archivist Katrina Cohen-Palacios of **York University's Clara Thomas Archives & Special Collections**. Katrina has made important contributions to the discourse and workflows related to Canadian archives and linked data, and played a key role in the Home Made Visible project (<http://homemadefisible.ca/>), which preserves and celebrates important memories created by Indigenous and visible-minority Canadians.

Stephen Lewis, celebrated humanitarian, diplomat, and activist, has given his papers to **McMaster University Library**. The papers provide valuable insight into the world's most pressing social and global health issues.

At the **University of Toronto** in July, Mindy Thuna became Associate Chief Librarian for Science Research and Information, and Chief Librarian Larry Alford received the Canadian Association of Research Libraries award for Distinguished Service to Research Librarianship.

Quebec News

By Pierre Guilmette and
Peter F. McNally



With the easing of COVID-19 restrictions, Quebec libraries hope to resume normal service and patron access during the autumn.



The Quebec Library Association/l'Association des bibliothécaires du Québec held a virtual annual conference on May 14. This year's theme was Timeless/Intemporel. The opening

keynote speaker was Leslie Weir, Librarian and Archivist of Canada, who provided An Update on Library and Archives Canada. The closing keynote speech, The Technological and Social Future of Libraries, was given by Karim Boughida, Dean of Libraries, **University of Rhode Island Library**. Co-presidents for 2021/22 are Maria Ressina (Director, **Norman Berman Children's Library, Jewish Public Library**) and Barbara Whiston (Assistant Librarian, Loyola High School).

The Ministry of Culture and Communications closed its library in October 2020. The library held a collection of 27,000 documents, including many reports and investigations related to the ministry's activities. It also included works on heritage, communications, media, intellectual property, radio and television broadcasting, cinema, museology, and arts funding. This administrative decision is probably part of a process of reducing the number of Quebec government libraries. Thirty-five of these libraries have been closed or integrated into the **Cécile-Rouleau Administrative Library** since 2000. The Ministry of Health's library was closed in 2015, and the closure of the Ministry of Culture and Communications Library might be a result of pandemic-linked budget cuts.

The **Bibliothèque et Archives nationales du Québec (BANQ)** digital catalog was shut down

for approximately two months, starting May 15, 2021, after the discovery of a flaw that threatened computer security. The platform is provided by the Montreal company InMedia Technologies, and no data appears to have been lost. Corrections were made to ensure the security of this digital resource.

Jean-Louis Roy, President and CEO of **BANQ**, left his position on June 3, after having held it since 2018, and his successor, Marie Grégoire, started in the position on August 9. Her appointment has been the subject of reservations in the library community, and the Council of Ministers has been criticized for making a partisan appointment. Madame Grégoire, a well-known figure in Quebec politics, is being criticized for not having sufficient experience for this position. **BANQ** is an institution with 700 employees, 12 establishments, and does business with 2,500 government partners. We can add here that a very limited number of people appointed to the management of **BANQ** had professional training or experience in librarianship. This situation is not unique to Quebec.

Montreal Public Libraries Network has joined the Fine Free Libraries movement. In October 2021, it will stop imposing fines for returning late books. Already, 272 Quebec public libraries have removed late fees. In Montreal, public libraries stopped charging late fees at the start of the pandemic. This decision contributed to the increase in the number of subscribers, about 22 percent over the past year.

Maritimes News

By Tanja Harrison



As reported in this column over the years, Maritime public libraries have circulated unique and creative items, with some of the memorable selections including tool kits, telescopes, and snowshoes. Located next to the **Fredericton Public Library**, a new all-wheel sport plaza has prompted library staff to acquire

and circulate skateboards and skills kits, allowing people to try the sport before making an investment. More importantly, free access to skate equipment has lowered the socio-economic barrier that might keep some people (especially community youth) from engaging in the activity.

As Novanet consortium members, Nova Scotian university and college libraries and **Mount Allison University Libraries & Archives** have made the decision to upgrade their shared integrated library system from Aleph to Alma, the newest Ex Libris web-based platform. Using a plan several years in the making, library staff from every institution across the system are now fully engaged in a collective implementation effort, with an estimated launch mid-2022.

An important, collaborative reading book club wrapped up at the end of the school year. Meetings to discuss *The Skin We're In: A Year of Black Resistance and Power* by Canadian author and anti-racist activist Desmond Cole were made possible through a partnership that included the **University of Prince Edward Island's Robertson Library**, International Student Office, Student Union, and Rotaract Club, **Prince Edward Island Public Library Service**, and the Charlottetown Rotary Club.

After a move by the **Halifax Public Library (HPL)** to keep Abigail Shrier's controversial book, *Irreversible Damage: The Transgender Craze Seducing our Daughters*, in its collection — despite requests to remove it — Halifax Pride responded by ending its longtime partnership with the library. **HPL's** main reason for this decision was that removal would be a form of censorship. Citing misinformation and transphobic hate speech, a local backlash against the library ensued, and many who sided with Halifax Pride took part in a community petition.

As a commitment to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada calls to action, Cape Breton University joins Dalhousie University in creating a new Indigenous Librarian position that combines the responsibilities of the **Downie-Wenjack**

Legacy Room, archival projects, and liaison with Unama'ki College and local Indigenous communities.

Two Dalhousie School of Library and Information Science students created an Indigenous Data Sovereignty Libguide for **Dalhousie University Libraries**.

Nova Scotia Community College (NSCC) Libraries partnered to host a film screening and discussion of Cultural Diversity: Food For Thought, and *Stories Are in Our Bones*, a short documentary by Janine Windolph. Led by NSCC's Brady Paul, Indigenous Community and Cultural Liaison Coordinator, discussion focused on the different food and mealtime traditions of pre- and post-colonialism.

Heather Saunders has been hired as Dean of the **Library and Archives, Acadia University**. The university's Librarian, Ann Smith, has been elected as the Atlantic Representative on the Canadian Federation of Library Associations (CFLA) board of directors.

Associate Dean Scholarly Communications & Head Ann Barrett, **Kellogg Library, Dalhousie University**, is on administrative leave and has announced her upcoming retirement, after a long and successful career as a health-sciences librarian.

Tanja Harrison is the recipient of this year's Atlantic Provinces Library Association (APLA) Merit Award, presented at the annual — and first-ever virtual — APLA conference, held in June and hosted by Acadia University.

Newfoundland & Labrador News

By Dick Ellis



As vaccination rates have increased in the province, restrictions related to the spread of the virus have been relaxed. At writing time, the mask mandate for interior spaces is scheduled to be dropped mid-August. **Memorial University Libraries** are gearing up for the return of students to campus, but an abundance of caution has kept all services virtual (picking up physical items by appointment

only) over the summer. Staff returned to in-person work mid-July.

The **Newfoundland and Labrador Public Libraries** have been open since May, with masks and social distancing mandatory and curbside pickup available. Programs (story hours, author talks) have continued and COVID-19 protocols are being followed.

In July Susan E. Cleyle stepped down from the position of Dean of Libraries at Memorial University to begin a year's administrative leave. At publication time, her successor has not been appointed.

News from the North

By Julie Ourom



Libraries across the North adapted to changing pandemic and other circumstances. While the North is heavily impacted by the legacy of residential schools, its libraries remain welcoming and inclusive community places.

Online access soared and new ventures replaced in-person visits, library programs, and other activities, when these were suspended. **Yukon Public Library's** Bright Side project provided craft kits that became hand-crafted cards and bookmarks sent to more than 150 care-home residents and garnered accolades. *Les p'tits yeux pointus*, the local French youth book club, gave a set of book-club books to **Yukon Public Libraries**.

The **Hay River Public Library** offered the 18+ Philosopher's Lawn café that served up respectful and stimulating conversations over the summer. It also offered a Zoom Virtual Book Club for families, based on *Sitting Still Like a Frog: Mindfulness Exercises for Kids*, and a spring Boreal Feast Foraging event encouraged exploration of the local environment. The library also provided online paint-with-acrylic sessions and a Mother's Day Bake Off/Spring Tea Party.

Children's programs, including the TD Summer Reading Club, are

always popular; summer activities focus on the outdoors and the intense season with its long daylight hours.

Although in-person National Indigenous Peoples Day gatherings were largely cancelled this year, online events proved popular. The **Whitehorse Public Library** contributed to virtual celebrations with Yukon Indigenous leaders reading from Richard Van Camp's *Welcome Song for Baby: A lullaby for newborns*. At the library, kids younger than 14 were invited to draw a picture inspired by a Game On! theme and win a chance to paint their entry on the interior glass windows in the kids' area of the library. At the **Kwanlin Dün Cultural Centre**, Kate Harris, author of *Lands of Lost Borders: Out of Bounds on the Silk Road*, presented a slide show and reading to a capacity crowd.

Yellowknife Public Library's Books and the Outdoors Family Bingo encouraged participants to enjoy the world around them. An adult Book Bingo, in partnership with a local bookstore, enticed an older audience through reading challenges. The **Iqaluit Centennial Library** tempted a young audience with loans of Xbox and PlayStation 3.

The North benefits from such initiatives as Library and Archives Canada's Heritage Communities Program and the federal Universal Broadband Fund Rapid Response Stream that will improve high-speed Internet connectivity and affordability to communities in Nunavut and the Northwest Territories.

School libraries in the Sakku School (Coral Harbour, Nunavut) and **Deh Gáh School** (Fort Providence, N.W.T.), are among 30 Canadian elementary-school libraries to receive funding for a facelift, through the Indigo Love of Reading Foundation.

Five years after the Northwest Territories' law library was shuttered and replaced by a resource centre, local efforts continue the campaign for a return to the same full service provided in all other jurisdictions. *Please send news items about library matters in Canada's North to me at crocuscats@gmail.com.*

News from Canadian Library/Information Studies Schools

Compiled by Judy Dunn



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

By Guy Robertson

The iSchool has received funding from UBC Vancouver Academic Excellence Funds for a project entitled Re-envisioning the First Nations Curriculum Concentration (FNCC). Facilitated by FNCC Co-ordinator **Amy Perreault** and professors **Lisa Nathan** and **Luanne Sinnamon**, the project will create an FNCC vision statement, rework the structure of the FNCC advisory board, and plan for the development of interdisciplinary courses. Students in the Theory and Practice of Oral History course have developed the 2020 (Re) Collection Project, an exhibit that features interviews with the students' friends and family members, as well as strangers. Interviewees described the ways our lives have changed during the pandemic. The school congratulated Dual MASLIS student **Caleigh Matheson** on receiving an Aboriginal Graduate Fellowship, a merit-based award for Indigenous students participating in a full-time, thesis-based graduate-degree program. UBC's Faculty of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies annually selects only 12 Fellowship winners.

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

By Becky Blue

On March 9, the FIMS Graduate Library invited Winnipeg author **David Alexander Robertson** to speak with students about his work. The event was hosted by the MLIS course Introduction to Indigenizing and Decolonizing LIS. Of Swampy Cree heritage, Robertson has written more than 25 books reflecting Indigenous peoples, their

cultures, and their histories. On July 1 the wider FIMS community was also pleased to welcome new faculty members **Sally Kewayosh**, originally of Walpole Island First Nation, Ont., and **Sofia Locklear**, a member of the Lumbee Tribe in N.C. Kewayosh and Locklear collectively bring expertise in filmmaking, whiteness, the racialization of Indigenous people, and public-health research. With COVID-19 restrictions relaxing over the summer and an in-person start to the fall term, the entire community is savouring the chance to once again collaborate face-to-face.

University of Toronto, Faculty of Information (iSchool)

By Ann Brocklehurst

The pandemic continues to have major effects. The goal for the fall 2021 and winter 2022 terms has been to develop a plan that includes in-person components for as many courses as possible and provide in-person experiences for every learner, while protecting the health and safety of everyone in our community. This has been a complex balancing act, but the faculty is well on its way to meeting its goal. Dean **Wendy Duff** has been reappointed for an additional two years, until June 2023, and the faculty has completed a self-assessment of its programs and activities. The resulting report, as well as the feedback and recommendations received from external reviewers, will aid the faculty in the strategic-planning process on which it is about to embark. The faculty has also hired its first-ever Director of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion.

University of Ottawa, School of Information Studies (ÉSIS)

By Mary Cavanagh

During the past pandemic year, all teaching and learning happened virtually. Our fall 2021 term will also be conducted only virtually, while we expect to return to campus for the winter 2022 term. We welcomed 27 new students in the fall of 2020, and will welcome approximately the same number in the fall of 2021. In terms of faculty comings and goings, **Dr. Stefanie Haustein** has been on

family leave since January and will return mid-fall. **Dr. Inge Alberts** began her one-year academic leave as of July 1, 2021. This fall, ÉSIS will virtually welcome an American Library Association-appointed external review panel of five members for two days, to engage with our students, faculty, alumni, and wider stakeholder community, as part of our regular re-accreditation process. We were very fortunate to receive approval to hire a new tenure-track professor in the area of digital humanities and big data, with a planned hire date of July 2022.

McGill University, School of Information Studies (SIS)

By Peter F. McNally

McGill University expects in-class teaching to resume in September. The School of Information Studies recently hired Assistant Professor, **Gracen Brilmyer**, whose PhD thesis from the Department of Information Studies, UCLA, is entitled *Proximity Matters: Disability, Erasure & the Archival Bond of Natural History*. Research areas include accessibility of computer systems, digital archiving, and information organization. Professor **Catherine Guastavino's** research on urban sounds has been featured on the Radio Canada TV show *Découverte*, with the participation of several SIS students and postdoctoral students from the Sounds in the City partnership. The student's association has organized the online purchase of school merchandise — casual sportswear — with orders placed online and shipped directly.

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

By Isabelle Bourgey

In April 2021, the Departmental Assembly of EBSI voted unanimously to strongly condemn the cuts to programs and positions at Laurentian University in Sudbury. In May we conducted our annual survey of master's degree graduates, and we happily discovered the COVID-19 pandemic did not have a significant impact on placement rate. The results indicate 89.8 percent of respondents (class of 2020) had a job

at survey time. On the research front, Professor **Vincent Larivière**, Scientific Director for Consortium Érudit, received a \$3 million Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council grant (2020–2023) for the Pan-Canadian Knowledge Access Initiative. This funding will support Coalition Publica, a Pan-Canadian partnership that brings together key players in scholarly publishing and research in Canada and abroad, in support of an open and sustainable ecosystem for scholarly communication. **Jean-Philippe Warren** (Concordia University), **Florence Millerand** (L'Université du Québec à Montréal), **Juan Pablo Alperin**

(Simon Fraser University) and **Stefanie Hausteine** (University of Ottawa) are co-investigators on this project.

Dalhousie University, School of Information Management (SIM)

By Vivian Howard

The winter and spring terms have been busy. We have continued to offer all classes virtually, and are looking forward to a greater return to in-person teaching in the fall term. SIM held two well-attended virtual public lectures: Reflections of a First Nations librarian from the 1970s to the present, given by **Gene Anne Joseph** (the Dalhousie

Horrocks National Leadership Lecture); and On the Never-Ending Serials Crisis and the Need to Re-Think Scholarly Publishing presented by **Dr. Philippe Mongeon**, an assistant professor at SIM. In addition to these formal public lectures, we held a very successful virtual student-and-alumni research day, consisting of lightning current-research project presentations. We also held a virtual convocation and awards celebration, which was very well attended by graduates and their families and friends, as well as by all SIM faculty and staff.

Milestones

Obituaries

Compiled by Irena Lewycka



Renana Almagor died April 20, 2021, in Toronto. Renana held three degrees. A graduate of the Seneca College Library and Information Technician Program, she worked at the U of T Centre for Criminology Library.

Patricia Jean Appavoo died August 13, 2021, age 84, in Toronto. After earning a BA and BLS at the University of Alberta, she went to India to work as a librarian at the United Theological College in Bangalore. On her return to Canada with her husband and daughter, and while working as a librarian at Victoria College, Pat continued her academic pursuits, earning her MA and PhD in political science at U of T. Later, she became University Librarian at Athabasca University, then founding University Librarian at University of Northern British Columbia. Pat had been a longtime ELA member.

Stephen Douglas Bateman died May 26, 2021, age 73, in Stratford, ON. A graduate of the University of Alberta, he was a branch manager, then an area manager responsible for several locations, at Calgary PL. Stephen was instrumental in the building of Calgary libraries, especially the Nose Hill branch. He retired in 1993.

Barbara Joan Gowan Campbell (née Smyth) died April 20, 2021, age 88, in Guelph, ON. She graduated with a degree in modern languages from U of T, and later worked at Trinity College Library while studying for a library science degree. Barbara was involved for many years with the U of T Book Sale.

Barbara Mary Carlton (née Black) died August 9, 2021, age 86, in Bayfield Inlet, ON. She attended St. Michael's College, U of T, and graduated with honours English in 1955, winning the gold medal. A trip to the library at the age of five inspired her passion for reading and her career. Encouraged by her husband, she returned to complete her library science degree while she had four children under the age of nine. She joined the former Galt PL, eventually leading the reference department at the Cambridge Library & Gallery in Ontario.

Moiria Dexter died July 11, 2021, age 89, in Ottawa. She worked in television for many years, then returned to university to earn a master's degree in library science at the age of 60.

Sharon Angela Doyle died June 21, 2021, age 52, in Tsawwassen, BC.

She completed her BA in history and a diploma in teacher-librarianship, before obtaining her MLIS from UBC in 2008. She taught for 28 years, mostly in the BC public school system. She will be remembered by the thousands of students she helped.

Ann Eddie died July 19, 2021, age 79, in Toronto. Ann held a BLS and an MLS. Her career led from Mississauga Library to Scarborough PL and then to Toronto PL.

Donald John Forgie died May 21, 2021, age 94, in Ottawa. He studied political science and economics at U of T, where he was a photo editor of *The Varsity*, then earned his MBA and MLS. Fascinated by advances in communication technology, he taught at the formerly named U of T Faculty of Library and Information Science for many years.

Joyce Marian Gardiner died July 4, 2021, age 93, in Cooksville, ON. Marian earned a BLS at U of T in 1950, and retired from the Toronto PL in 1988.

Alexander Bruce Geddes died April 6, 2021, age 81, in Perth, ON.

Bruce earned his BLS at UBC. He worked for Toronto PL, then became Chief Librarian, County of Lennox & Addington PL. Later ordained as a priest for the Anglican Diocese of Ontario, he served the parish of Parham-Sharbot Lake from 1988 until his retirement in 2004.

Frances Katherine Gorber died June 22, 2021, age 83, in Winnipeg. She earned her BSc/BED at the University of Manitoba, then her library science degree at McGill. School Librarian at Aberdeen High School in Winnipeg, she later taught at Wolseley School and Machray School, retiring in 1998.

Brenda Grassau died April 28, 2021, age 86, in Ottawa. Brenda received her teaching certificate from Macdonald College in Montreal and, while teaching full-time, she went on to pursue her undergraduate degree at Sir George Williams, and then her BLS at McGill. Her first librarian posting was at Queen's University, followed by a position at the University of Guelph's Ontario Veterinary College. After raising a family, Brenda worked at Mississauga PL's Burnhamthorpe branch.

Lois Marie Haynes died June 26, 2021, age 87, in Rossland, BC. Rossland City Librarian for many years, she enjoyed sharing her love of reading with everyone who dropped in.

Jennifer Fiona Holland died July 3, 2021, age 50, in London, ON. She completed her LLB at Western in 1998 and was called to the bar in 2000. Jen earned her MLIS at Western in 2001 and became Legal Research and Reference Librarian at WeirFoulds LLP in Toronto. Moving to London, she was Research Librarian, Faculty of Law at Western, a position she held from 2007 to 2013.

Marjorie Judah (née Carter) died May 7, 2021, age 98, in Calgary. She earned a BA in 1943 from Winnipeg's United College and a BLS in 1944 from McGill. She served in the Navy during the Second World War; following

discharge, she took librarian positions at Verdun High School and the Commerce Library at McGill. In 1969, Marjorie earned her MLS degree at McGill. Head Librarian, Howard Ross Management Library, she worked until retirement.

Mary Esme Leask, died June 26, 2021, age 96, in Victoria. She earned her BA from Western, then graduated from UBC as a librarian in 1964 and worked for the BC library system, retiring in 1982.

Margaret Isabel Little (née MacLean) died April 9, 2021, age 96, in Woodbridge, ON. She was a volunteer with Woodbridge PL, which was originally housed in the former Woodbridge Jail. As chair of the Woodbridge PL Board, she oversaw the opening of Woodbridge's first "real library."

Dorothy MacLeod Forsyth died July 20, 2021, age 96, in Ottawa. She graduated from UBC in 1947, earning the gold medal in agriculture. She worked in Summerland, BC, then studied at McGill, graduating from library school in 1950, at the top of her class. She returned to the Summerland Experimental Farm to build an extensive library. In 1954 she was appointed Travelling Librarian in charge of all Canadian regional libraries for the Canadian Department of Agriculture, headquartered in Ottawa, where she stayed until her retirement in 1980.

Ian Ross MacIntosh died May 22, 2021, age 66, in Sydney, as a result of injuries sustained May 15, when he was struck by a vehicle while out for his daily walk. Ian attended Carleton University and Dalhousie, where he earned BA and MLS degrees. Regional Librarian, Cape Breton Regional Library System, for 37 years, he became Deputy Chief Librarian, allowing him to devote more time to building the library's collections. Ian had recently retired.

Anna Marion Shepley Matthias died July 2, 2021, age 79, in Newmarket, ON. With a library science degree from U of T, Marion enjoyed many years as a librarian at the City of

Markham PL, retiring as Technical Services Manager in 1985. In 2017 Markham honoured her with a Canada 150 Women of Distinction Award.

Stanley A. Milner, OC, AOE, MSM, CD, BSc, LL.D (Hon) died April 21, 2021, in Edmonton. Chair of the Edmonton PL Board of Trustees from 1963 to 1968, he spearheaded the construction of the main library as a Centennial project. Stan was recognized when the downtown library was named in his honour in 1996. He remained committed to EPL, serving as honorary chair of its first capital fundraising campaign, Foundations of Learning, which enabled the building of three new libraries. In 1999 Stan agreed to chair a campaign to raise funds for major interior renovations to the library named in his honour. The renovations to the children's library are a result of a generous donation made in honour of the memory of his daughter Shelley Milner.

LaRea Moody died July 4, 2021, age 93, in Barrie, ON. LaRea attended Columbia University and Brooklyn College, earning a BA in political science in 1948. She moved to Thunder Bay with her family in 1971, where she enrolled at Lakehead University, then taught at the university's School of Library Technology for 10 years. In 1981 she became Courthouse Librarian, Ontario Superior Court of Justice, where she worked for 19 years. Upon her retirement, the Thunder Bay Law Association renamed the library the LaRea Moody Law Library.

Margaret Anne Moreau died May 27, 2021, age 73, in Peterborough, ON. Margaret earned her MLS from U of T, was Social Sciences Specialist at TPL's Northern District Library, then a teacher in Toronto. She was an ELA member.

Lynette Eugenie Ng (née Blizzard) died April 28, 2021, age 85, in Ottawa. Librarian of Health Science, University of Ottawa, she retired in 1999.

Jean Elizabeth Painter died April

24, 2021, age 82, in Ottawa. She was a graduate of the universities of Carleton and Ottawa, in journalism and library science, respectively. She worked as a librarian on Parliament Hill and later taught at Algonquin College, as head of the Library Technology program.

Irene Palmer died September 7, 2021, age 99, in Calgary. Raised on a farm, she was a hard worker, a ship riveter during the Second World War, then an English teacher who went on to earn a master's degree in library science at Arizona State University, Tempe. She retired after 30-plus years as a school librarian with the Calgary Board of Education. Irene had a lifelong love affair with books and reading.

Helen Perry died May 4, 2021, age 85, in Orillia, ON. She pioneered the talking book service at the CNIB, where she worked for 25 years. She was Secretary of the International Federation of Library Association Section of Libraries for the Blind.

Frederick Walter Popowich died August 6, 2021, age 74, in New Glasgow, NS. Fred graduated from Loyola (now Concordia), with a BA in theology, then earned a BLS from U of T. As CUSO volunteers, Fred and his wife Coreen worked in Nigeria for two years. In 1973 they moved to New Glasgow, where Fred worked at Pictou-Antigonish Regional Library as a librarian, Technical Services Librarian, and Deputy Chief Librarian, retiring in 2013. Fred was also a past-president of the Nova Scotia Library Association.

Erika Maria Rebello died August 11, 2021, age 85, in Windsor, ON. Immigrating from Germany in 1966, she joined the Windsor PL's Sandwich Branch in a clerical position. She obtained a University of Windsor history degree in 1972, and an MLS, in 1974, from Wayne State University. In 1995 she retired from the Windsor PL as Senior Librarian and High School Liaison.

Jean Elizabeth Rider died August 15, 2021, age 90, in Toronto. She

went to Victoria College, U of T, earning academic medals while studying modern languages. She worked in Etobicoke libraries before returning to U of T in her fifties, earning an MLS. Jean loved library life and worked into her seventies.

Catherine Louise Sheldrick Ross died September 11, 2021, age 75, in London, ON. She studied at Western University (BA, PhD, MLIS) and U of T (MA). She was a professor, then Dean in what is now Western's Faculty of Information and Media Studies. Her research focused on readers' experience, reference services and readers' advisory, and Canadian literature, particularly the works of Alice Munro. Her research on reading for pleasure grew out of her own lifelong passion for reading. She authored numerous scholarly books, and four children's books. She was a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada.

Ruth Aileen Russell died April 30, 2021, age 88, in Toronto. Ruth was Head Librarian at Toronto's David and Mary Thomson Collegiate from 1961 to 1993.

Beatrice "Babs" Saunders died August 6, 2021, age 103, in Toronto. After graduating from Trinity College at U of T, in 1940, Babs completed librarian training, then worked in U of T libraries, followed by Bell Canada in Montreal, before returning to Toronto to become Chief Librarian, Trinity College, until her retirement. During her time at Trinity, she helped found a Friends of the Library group and the Annual Book Sale, a spectacular fundraiser for which Babs volunteered in retirement.

Peter John Smith died July 7, 2021, age 85, in Toronto. An architect, he designed Trent University's Bata Library (1969) and the National Library and Archives building auditorium reconstruction.

Lorna Diane Toolis died August 11, 2021, age 68, in Toronto. Her distinguished tenure at TPL's renowned collection, Science Fiction, Speculation and Fantasy — known until 1990 as

the Spaced Out Library and later as the Merrill Collection — spanned its renaming in honour of the late Judith Merrill. Lorna guided its growth into a world-famous special collection until her retirement as Senior Department Head. Her knowledge of the genre was inexhaustible and her enthusiasm unbounded, as her many popular lecture presentations and articles attest.

Eleanor Wees (née Belyea), died July 30, 2021, age 98, in Ottawa. With a BA from the University of New Brunswick (1945) and a BLS from U of T (1946) she was Head Cataloguer, UNB Library from 1946 to 1953. In 1953, she moved to the recently-established National Library of Canada (later Library and Archives Canada). Eleanor and a small group of other librarians and professionals, led by W. Kaye Lamb, were the founders who gave initial shape and direction to the National Library. In 1952 she met Ian Campbell Wees, who had come to work at the Canadian Bibliographic Centre (the forerunner of the National Library). Between 1953 and 1958, and from 1964 until her retirement in 1987, she worked on Canadiana, and as a cataloguer of books and, later, of sound recordings.

Margaret Susan Whiteside died July 8, 2021, age 81, in Charlottetown. Susan earned a BA from Dalhousie University, an MA (history) from UBC, and a library science degree from U of T. She worked as a librarian at Dalhousie and the Nova Scotia Museum.

Obituaries are brief due to space constraints.

The ELA website, exlibris.ca/doku.php?id=elan:memories_and_tributes, provides more information celebrating the lives of our members.

Retirements

Compiled by Suzette Giles



Correction

Ture R. Erickson died September 21, 2020, age 84, in Vancouver. A library science graduate of UBC, he became Head of Sedgewick Library at UBC in 1965.

Ken Haigh, CEO of Collingwood PL, ON, for eight years, left at the end of April 2021. In a change of career, he looks forward to completing a second book and qualifying as an ESL teacher overseas. Prior to working at the Collingwood PL, Ken was CEO at the L. E. Shore Memorial Library, Thornbury, ON, for many years. Ashley Kulchyski succeeded him in June 2021.

Lynne C. Howarth, Professor Emerita and former Dean, Faculty of Information, U of T, retired at the end of June 2021. She is one of the pre-eminent cataloging and classification theorists of her time and author or coauthor of at least 95 publications. Completing her PhD in 1990, Lynne was appointed to the Faculty of Information the same year. She served as Dean (1996–2003), Associate Dean, Research, (July 2010–June 2013), and Interim Director of the Museum Studies

Program (September 2008 – December 2009). In 2017 she received the ALISE / Connie Van Fleet Award for Research Excellence in Public Library Services to Adults. Lynne is currently working on a three-year Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council–funded project entitled Show, Tell, Bridge: The Affordance of Objects in Negotiating Individual and Group Identity.

Kim Isaac retired on June 30, 2021, after 21 years as University Librarian at the University of the Fraser Valley. A student at the university, Kim went on to earn an MLS degree at University of British Columbia. In 1989 she returned as Program Head for the Library and Information Technology Program, then became University Librarian in 2000. The new University Librarian is Camille Callison (see “British Columbia News” in this issue, page 15).

Mary-Jo Mahoney retired from Trent Hills PL, ON, earlier this year. She joined the three-branch library 24 years ago as Children’s Librarian/Assistant CEO and, in 2015, became CEO. Graeme Peters succeeded her in July 2021.

Penny Markland, Branch Librarian Melfort PL, SK, retired on May 27,

2021. Penny worked at the library for 37 years, the last 17 as Branch Librarian. Melfort PL is part of the Wapiti Regional Library that serves central Saskatchewan.

Cathryn Rodney retired from Bracebridge PL, ON, on June 30, 2021, after 15 years as CEO. Cathryn earned her BA from Western University in 1981, then managed a bookstore before returning to Western to earn her degree in library science in 1985. After a range of professional experiences, she joined Bracebridge PL in 2006. Crystal Bergstrom succeeded her in July 2021.

Karen Schecter, CEO of Smiths Falls PL, ON, retired in March 2021. In 1984 she joined the library as Children’s Librarian and became CEO in 1987. In 2005 she received the Joyce Brennan Award for her tireless efforts and contributions to the arts and culture in Smiths Falls. Amanda Foster succeeded her in May 2021.

Caroline Shewburg, CEO of West Perth PL, Mitchell, ON, retired in September 2020. Caroline had headed the library for 23 years. Rosemary Minnella succeeded her.

Laughing in the Library

By Matt Scholtz

Sign outside a bankrupt bookstore: “Words Failed Us.”

Trying to be clear and unequivocal when calling patrons about their reserve books is sometimes difficult. That’s the problem we had when we called a patron to tell him that his reserve was available: *Sooner or Later*. (It was a bit like the classic Abbott and Costello “Who’s On First?” sketch.)

More frequently than I would like, books about Alzheimer’s disease were regularly listed on outgoing overdue notices.

A student once asked for a book about moths. So, I gave her a book entitled *A Guide For Young Mothers*. She was not amused.

If you have a humorous personal story or anecdote to share about your library career, send it to mattscholtz@rogers.com. I

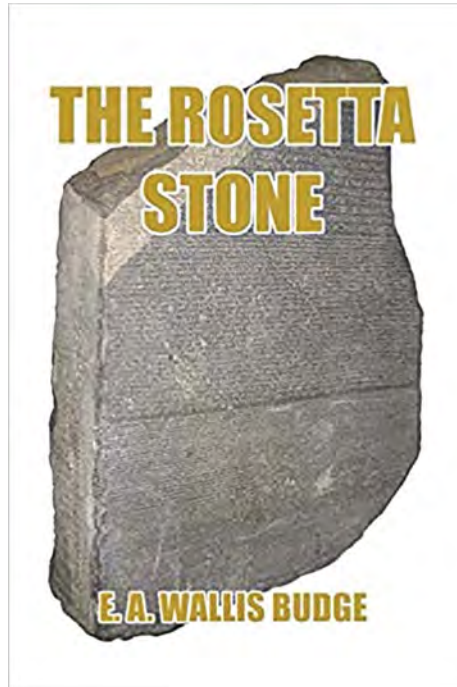
Romancing the Stone: A Brief Study in the Power of Artifacts

By Guy Robertson

Years ago, a student in my Library History class became fascinated with the Rosetta stone, a world-famous Egyptian artifact in the British Museum. She wrote a paper on the stone, and a second paper on the Egyptian collections in the British Museum. In the latter paper, she noted that the stone was the most popular artifact in the museum, in the same way that the *Mona Lisa* is the most popular painting in the Louvre.

At the end of the term, the student told me it was her desire to travel to London and see the Rosetta stone in its glass case. She said it was “the ultimate goal” on her bucket list, and nothing else came close.

She graduated from Langara College, found a job at a local corporate library, and saved up to go to the U.K. She also met a fellow whom she liked a lot. He was a geologist and understood her interest in the stone. He suggested they fly to London during her vacation. They did. And,



one morning, they walked up the British Museum’s front-entrance stairs and into the gallery that contains the Rosetta stone. For her, this was a peak

experience. She was overcome with joy.

“Dang, that’s impressive,” said her boyfriend. “That’s a fine piece of granodiorite.”

“This is a fantastic moment in my life,” said my former student. “I will never forget being here.”

“Well then,” said her boyfriend, “will you marry me? It seems like a good time to ask. You don’t have to, but you’ll always associate me with the first time you saw the Rosetta stone.”

My former student accepted his proposal there and then. She started to weep, and his eyes became damp as well. A group of French tourists overheard their conversation, gathered around them and started to applaud.

It was a fine morning at the British Museum....

Among many books on the subject, Budge’s is a standard work on a famous stone: a popular description of all things Rosetta. The 2015 edition is available on Project Gutenberg at <https://www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/48649>.

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A Profile of the West Vancouver Memorial Library (WVML), 2021 W. Kaye Lamb Award for Innovative Services to Seniors

By Christina Wilson, Chair, ELA's W. Kaye Lamb Award Committee

ELA's W. Kaye Lamb Award Committee selected WVML, due to the outstanding work of its Assistive Services team who provide an innovative range of accessible collections, services, programs, and events tailored specifically to the needs of their senior communities.

The library already had programs and services in place to ensure that seniors had the means and opportunities to connect with friends, family, and others in the wider world, as well as the ability to access important government and library services and resources. The Assistive Services staff's innovation and creativity positioned WVML to serve its senior populations during the encroaching effects of the pandemic, which caused many seniors to become especially vulnerable and isolated.

Early in the pandemic, the library partnered with other library systems in the region to distribute TELUS-donated

phones and tablets, through local community agencies, to those in need. The libraries provided ongoing user support by phone and online to ensure that recipients were able to effectively use their new tools. In addition, the libraries provided access to a wide array of free downloadable audio and e-books, movies, music, and classes.

Library staff built partnerships with area libraries and seniors' homes including the

Skwxwú7mesh Úxwumixw (Squamish Nation) Elders' Centre. The committee was especially impressed with the Dial-a-Story: Indigenous Storytelling by Squamish Elders, presented in partnership with the Squamish Nation Elders' Centre. This popular program reached more than 230 seniors — as listeners and as storytellers. According to Acting Customer & Community Experience

Continued on page 2



Library Assistants Kim Enjo and Kelly Bailey, WVML's Assistive Services team
Photo credit: West Vancouver Memorial Library

...continued from page 1

Coordinator Kendra Sakamoto, “This program provided a low-barrier opportunity for patrons to connect with others, and not only allowed isolated members of the community to listen to a story, but also gave Squamish Elders a chance to tell their stories and connect with their wider community.”

The Assistive Services team further strengthened relationships by working with the two other North Shore library systems to produce a flyer promoting library resources and services, which was distributed with the Elders’ Centre newsletter.

The library pivoted early in the pandemic to offer virtual instead of in-person events. One-on-one device clinics were particularly helpful for seniors with access to devices, but without the skills and knowledge to use them effectively. In addition to the Indigenous Storytelling by Squamish Elders, the opportunity to connect with others during this isolating time was provided by Dial-a-Story, the phone-in program for adults. Using only a telephone, participants could join in and connect with others, listening and discussing stories. In addition to its collection of accessible materials such as large-print books and audiobooks, and related devices such as DAISY players (CD players that are simpler to use for people with visual impairments or limited mobility), Assistive Services has begun lending dementia-friendly pastime kits and simple music players, making WVML one of very few libraries in Canada to do so.

Finally, Assistive Services has continued deliveries of physical materials to seniors in care homes, assisted-living facilities, and private homes. The seniors miss the in-person visits with staff that they had pre-pandemic, but material delivery has been very much appreciated.

The W. Kaye Lamb Committee members, including Donna Burton and Elizabeth Ridler, were thrilled to receive 13 high-quality submissions from libraries across Canada, and worked hard to narrow their selections to a single award recipient. Fortunately, the ELA board agreed

to recognize the outstanding work of several libraries with secondary honours and a special mention.

Brighton and Oakville public libraries shared the runner-up award for their novel seniors’ programs.

Brighton Public Library (BPL) became a Dementia-Friendly Library. CEO Heather Ratz stated, “In collaboration with the Alzheimer Society of Hastings-Prince Edward, we began a journey to increase our awareness of dementia, and implement strategies and services that we hoped would be valuable resources for those living with dementia, and their caregivers. We introduced a series of Cognitive Readers that include features such as large print, reading cues, single-page printing, and contrasting colours and layouts. Like other libraries before us, we created Cognitive Care Kits that we hope will connect people living with dementia to activities they enjoy, thus enriching their lives and inspiring engagement. We are thrilled to be part of a bigger initiative to help build a dementia-friendly Brighton community.”

In its strategic plan, Oakville Public Library (OPL) committed to connecting seniors to technology, developing OPL Connection Kits. CEO Tara Wong explained, “The kits provide a vital service for OPL’s most vulnerable and isolated residents. By including a bundle of tablets and/or WiFi hotspots that can be borrowed from the library, the kits provided accessible library resources, communication tools, and Internet access, and closed a key gap in the continually growing digital divide; especially access to technology for those most in need. For many, the library is their only outlet for learning and socialization. When libraries were closed due to the COVID-19 pandemic, many people were unable to regularly access the library collections and public spaces, and, as such, were without the tools that they needed to support their social connections and lifelong learning. The Connection Kits are an innovative example of how OPL made an immediate and meaningful difference in people’s lives, ensuring that those in the community were able to stay connected and engaged.”

Toronto Public Library (TPL) was awarded an honourable mention for its outstanding work in supporting seniors during the pandemic, and for sharing their experiences widely in mainstream media. North York Central Library Manager Kim Huntley and Learning and Community Engagement Manager Alex Carruthers summarized TPL’s efforts as follows: “TPL recognized the isolating effect the pandemic was having on our most vulnerable senior customers, many of whom are often socially isolated and have no access to the Internet. Staff provided support to seniors by making thousands of wellness-check telephone calls, calling to provide vaccination information, establishing a seniors’ tech helpline for low-income seniors, and offering programs online to help seniors stay engaged. The heartwarming nature of these services attracted media attention and wonderful feedback from the seniors themselves, and was a truly rewarding experience for staff. As an added benefit, we gained valuable insight about how best to deliver services to this particular age group. It was our goal to do what public libraries do best — connecting customers with trusted information sources while providing an exceptional customer experience — even during a public health crisis.”

ELA invites applications for the W. Kaye Lamb Award, which is co-sponsored with the Canadian Federation of Library Associations/ Fédération canadienne des associations de bibliothèques. With this award — named to commemorate Canada’s first National Librarian, William Kaye Lamb, OC, FRSC — the two national library associations recognize outstanding library service to seniors. ELA provides a \$500 cash prize and a commemorative plaque, and CFLA-FCAB uses its network of library associations to encourage applicants from all Canadian library sectors. *For more information regarding the W. Kaye Lamb Award for Service to Seniors, please contact Christina Wilson at chriswilson@shaw.ca. Christina Wilson, recently retired as CEO, Red Deer PL, has worked for public and post-secondary libraries in Ontario and Alberta. ■*

President's Report

By Deb Thomas



I'd like to begin by thanking Tom Eadie for his past leadership of ELA. Early in 2019, I was able to meet Tom in person briefly before the world closed down, and he was as genial and knowledgeable in person as he has proved to be virtually. Tom has been very supportive of the new presidency with his advice on next directions.

We have a good strong board. Bob Henderson has continued to handle finances and memberships, and generally hold the association together behind the scenes. Donna Burton has continued a lively presence on Facebook. Christina Wilson has taken the lead with Community Webs, the Community History Web Archiving Program of the Internet Archive that will, we hope, eventually lead to ELA digitizing and storing the important documents it has produced. Rick Ficek has been our faithful minute taker (not an easy job with the wide-ranging discussions that sometimes take over our meetings). Vivienne James is looking for a likely candidate for our next virtual tour after the success of the tour of Calgary Public Library's new central branch. Suggestions are welcome!

Of course, we can't forget our ex officio members. Lorne Bruce is leading the biography project, that vital record of the achievements of those who have contributed to the health and vibrancy of the Canadian library community, now adding biographies of our colleagues who are still living, beginning with Nancy Williamson. Lorne also maintains our website. Frances Davidson-Arnott manages to put out a newsletter twice a year that's packed with interesting and informative stories. And special thanks to Wendy Newman for facilitating our Zoom meetings.

I'd also like to thank recently retiring board members, Matt Scholtz and Elizabeth Ridler, for their contributions. Elizabeth served as president and past president and Matt has been a regular and welcome contributor to the ELA listserv.

My thanks also go to those members who sit on the various committees that keep our association running smoothly — Trudy Bodak, Judy Dunn, Suzette Giles, Susan Ibbetson, Shirley Lewis, Leslie McGrath, Cameron Riddle,

Elizabeth Ridler, Nancy Williamson, and Jean Weihs.

We had a well-attended AGM in November, followed by an informative lecture by Peter Hajnal on International Librarianship: A Personal Journey (see the article by Bernard Katz in this issue, page 6). Having to hold both events virtually meant members did not get to mingle socially, but we were able to attract members from across Canada (including the incoming president) who could otherwise not have attended.

We were very pleased at the number and quality of the applications we received for the W. Kaye Lamb Award, administered this year by Christina and Donna. I was delighted to have the opportunity to present a plaque to the winner, West Vancouver Memorial Library, at a West Vancouver City Council meeting on February 7th (see the article by Christina Wilson in this issue, page 1).

We had a virtual presence at the OLA SuperConference this year, and will also be virtually exhibiting at the BC Library Conference in April.

At our March board meeting, we made the decision to issue a statement in solidarity with our Ukrainian professional colleagues. You can find the statement on our [Facebook page](#) or on our [website](#). We also revived our Recruitment and Member Services Committee with the intent of growing and strengthening our membership.

Other goals for the coming year — in addition to continuing the good work listed above — are to review our constitution and look at the possibility, raised by Tom in his final months as president, of establishing a bursary to assist Indigenous students engaged in library studies in library technician or master's programs.

We are open to new members joining us on this active board — particularly members interested in becoming vice president and archivist. Find more information about ELA and a link to a membership form on our [website](#).

Deb Thomas recently retired from a career of 40-plus years in libraries, 30 years of which were in public library management. She is ELA's representative on CFLA-FCAB IFC. ■

W. Kaye Lamb Award for Service to Seniors and Elders

The next award will be made in the fall of 2023. Help us find great candidates!

To apply, visit the [W. Kaye Lamb Award for Service to Seniors](#) web page.

Welcome to New ELA Members

We're proud to welcome the following new ELA members:

Norma Gibson-MacDonald,
Burlington, ON
Mary McConnell, Calgary

Canadian Federation of Library Associations/Fédération canadienne des associations de bibliothèques (CFLA-FCAB) — the National Voice of Canada's Library Associations

By Todd Kyle, reporting on behalf of the CFLA-FCAB Board of Directors



Since the fall of 2021, CFLA-FCAB has faced considerable challenges. As the former executive director ended her contract, a search was initiated for a replacement, while Office Co-ordinator Michael Rogowski continued to provide support for administrative, financial, communication, and documentation functions. However, it soon became clear the federation did not have sufficient financial resources to accommodate both paid roles. Instead, CFLA-FCAB has continued without an executive director and will expand the role of office co-ordinator as needed, continuing to use the services of a freelance bookkeeper and Impact Public Affairs as a government-relations consultant. Going forward, CFLA-FCAB is looking to explore other operational models including closer advocacy-and-administrative partnerships with its major and

national members. In addition, CFLA-FCAB is planning to revive its efforts to develop a more stable and robust revenue model, which were put on hold due to the pandemic.

Since the last report, CFLA-FCAB advocacy work has included submissions to the 2022 federal budget, as well as a parallel federal election platform. Both of these called for regulations to ensure availability of e-content to libraries, adequate funding for accessible formats (CELA and NNELS), additional funding to Library and Archives Canada to respond to access-to-information requests, and investment in libraries as “green” infrastructure. After the elections, CFLA-FCAB reached out to establish relationships with the new government ministers appointed to library-related portfolios.

Other advocacy work involved the Intellectual Freedom Committee (IFC), which released a statement regarding challenges to the book *Irreversible Damage* by Abigail Shrier.

This statement proved to be very controversial in the library community, exposing a divide over approaches to intellectual freedom as it relates to social justice. In addition, the IFC released a statement on protest and dissent to provide libraries with guidance on how to manage varying rights, when communities or users object to material or speech in libraries.

CFLA-FCAB held its virtual Annual General Meeting on February 11, 2022, when new directors were elected to the board to represent the Canadian Association of Research Libraries, Alberta, the Prairie provinces, and Ontario. The new board elected Lorisia MacLeod as its new chair.

— For more information visit cfla-fcab.ca.

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

CFLA-FCAB Intellectual Freedom Committee (IFC)

By Deb Thomas

The Intellectual Freedom Committee (IFC) has been focused chiefly on several fronts: responding to censorship issues as they arise; continuing the gathering of reports on challenges to material, events and services; and, revising its terms of reference and clarifying its relationship to CFLA-FCAB.

Censorship issues: There is a significant rise in challenges to materials in school-library collections in the U.S., and some of the concerns raised south of the border are moving northward. The topics of particular concern in the U.S. are LGBTQ+ issues and issues related to racism (critical race theory, police brutality, systemic racism). At the same time, school districts in Canada are increasingly looking at removing

books they consider containing content harmful to vulnerable groups — especially people of colour and Indigenous people. Books of concern have included *To Kill a Mockingbird*, *Lord of the Flies*, and *Huckleberry Finn*.

Challenge Survey: IFC continues to build the database by adding historical survey results and new reports. A reminder was recently sent out about adding reports to the challenge survey, and the committee hopes to be able to produce a final report for 2021 by early April. A list of challenges from September 2019 to September 2021, submitted by IFC members, appeared on the [Freedom to Read pages](#) in late February.

Terms of Reference: IFC is currently revising and clarifying its

members' roles and its mandate. It has been unclear, for example, if IFC representatives are meant to represent the associations that nominated them or if they can act independently as experts in IF, and, additionally, what IFC can make public without board approval and what must the board approve. It approved a new mandate to replace the terms of reference at its February committee meeting.

For more information, go to cfla-fcab.ca/en/about/committees/intellectual-freedom-committee/.

Deb Thomas recently retired from a career of 40-plus years in libraries, 30 years of which were in public library management. She is ELA's representative on CFLA-FCAB IFC. ■

ELA-Community Webs Project: Crawling and Seeding Internet Archives

By Christina Wilson



On August 11, 2021, ELA received the exciting news that we were accepted into Community Webs, a special project of the Internet Archives (IA) aimed at helping community-based, local-history initiatives to learn web archiving. After it recently expanded to include Canadian projects, ELA President Deb Thomas and I attended a virtual kick-off event in September, and began learning to “crawl” and “seed” when web archiving — more on that later!

About Community Webs (IA-CWP)

With many records now published online, the ability to preserve collections of online newspapers, blogs, social media, and other locally-produced online resources is an increasingly important skill for library and cultural heritage workers and volunteers in their roles as information custodians and community anchors. Locally focused web archiving can also diversify the historical record and preserve the voices of those often excluded from the archive. ELA's rich online collections are an example of locally developed resources that could benefit researchers worldwide.

As a participant, ELA gains access to archiving technology, training, and peer assistance through a membership network of more than 100 participating U.S. and Canadian public and academic libraries, archives, museums, and cultural heritage organizations. Hamilton and Milton public libraries are two participants, possibly opening up opportunities for future collaboration. [View the full list of Canadian projects here.](#)

Participants receive a multi-year, free subscription to Archive-It and half a terabyte of online space on the Internet Archive to house ELA's collection, sufficient to store *ELAN* issues, the biographies, and more.

Archive-It is an online archiving tool that also includes training, technical support, a public-collections page, and the ability to download archives.

ELA's Project Overview

ELA's active work in collecting historical documents and sharing current issues about Canada's information institutions and their workers, past and present, parallels the goals of IA-CWP. The project will help ELA share the association's rich collections more widely. Members interested in digital archiving can help build collections and learn using the training modules. The first collection will be the un-indexed, online versions of *ELAN* issues, enabling the discovery of articles, pictures, and other content via web search engines.

Come “crawl” with us to spread ELA's rich collection of archival “seeds,” by volunteering to build ELA's Community Webs Project (ELA-CWP) collections.

Contact Christina Wilson at chriswilson@shaw.ca or Deb Thomas at Thomas.deb51@gmail.com. Visit the ELA page at archive-it.org/explore?q=Ex+Libris+Association. View the Internet Archive at archive.org.

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

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.

ELA Biography Project Report

By Lorne Bruce

Since the last report in *ELAN* (No. 70/Fall 2021, page 5), biographies have been added for William R. Castell, Mary Donaldson, Peter Grossman, Robert Morris Hamilton, Anne Hume, Amy Hutcheson, Williard Ireland, Kathleen Jenkins, and Ruby Wallace.

We have begun adding living members to the database and the biography of Nancy J. Williamson, the originator of the biography project, is our first in this category. To access these biographies, go to [Biographies of Librarians and Information Professionals in Canada](#) web page.

We welcome contributions to this project. For details on contributing, please contact Lorne Bruce, Ex Libris Biography Project Committee chair, at lbruce@uoguelph.ca.

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

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.

The names of potential new members may also be sent to Bob Henderson at the same address. And please submit any outstanding membership dues.

It's a Pandemic — What's an Association To Do?

By Shelagh Paterson

In an admittedly cursory archival search for how the Ontario Library Association (OLA) survived the Spanish Flu pandemic a century ago, not much was found. Reports of that era make some reference to questioning the need to sanitize books, intermittent library closures, and lots of advice on how public libraries can support men returning from war, but it seemed like OLA and libraries just 'got on with it.' Meetings, idea sharing, showcasing excellence, and paper publishing all just continued.

Today, two years into the pandemic, OLA is the same as it never was. The association continues to foster connections, and develop and deliver programs and services, but OLA has a lot more infrastructure — a staff, office space, IT, advocacy and government relations, and a year-round education program — which means we have a much wider range of budget demands and revenue sources than we did in 1919. How did OLA survive? Not without some scars and some serious angst, but here are the key elements: Membership and volunteers

- The library profession has a distinct digital advantage. While going virtual still presents a learning curve for some, the profession was quickly willing and able to meet online. This was critical for the extensive meeting schedule and professional-development programming offered by OLA. Remarkably, the 2021 OLA Super Conference had the highest delegate registration in the association's history, because geography was no longer a barrier.
- OLA board and councils (representing approximately 60 members) agreed to pause the association's election cycle for a year (2021) and stay in place to provide OLA with much-needed stability, which also helped reduce staff workload. OLA has approximately 300 members (of the more than 4,000 members), who volunteer on the board, councils, and committees annually, and who continued contributing, despite deeply challenging times at their own workplaces. Extreme cost-reduction measures and financial support — the

pandemic had an almost-immediate \$1 million hit to OLA's budget

- OLA has an incredible staff team who made serious concessions to help keep the association afloat.
- OLA staff worked effectively from home and, for 13 months, worked a reduced workweek.
- OLA sublet its office in November 2021.
- The federal government provided critical rent relief and wage subsidies.

We have all been in — and are still going through — a crisis. People in our profession suffered, library users suffered; people were exhausted in their jobs, some left their jobs, budgets tightened. We reaffirmed that people need their libraries, we learned new ways of doing things, and we all look forward to a time when it is safe and we can *choose* to gather in person or virtually.

Shelagh Paterson, MLIS (University of Western Ontario), is the executive director, Ontario Library Association and, before this role, was the director, advocacy, sales and marketing, at the CNIB Library. ■

A Remarkable Journey Through Librarianship

By Bernard Katz



On November 1, 2021, following our Annual General Meeting, Peter Hajnal spoke on Zoom to ELA's membership. In his presentation, International Librarianship: A

Personal Journey, Peter shared many experiences as a librarian, first at UN's Dag Hammarskjöld Library, NY, then, for 25 years, at U of T, where he was head of Government Documents at the John Robarts Library for 10 years, and also taught courses on Canadian and international government documents at the Faculty of Information. Peter retired from U of T Library in 1997, and from teaching in 2000. His experiences in the field of international affairs and its intersection with librarianship made fascinating listening.

He attended the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA) Conference, in Moscow in 1991, following the attempted coup against Mikhail

Gorbachev, and negotiated his way through the barricades — in Russian. The conference reception was held in the Lenin Library, where, he noted, all the books on Marxism were removed! Apart from interesting international conferences, Peter has also participated in special projects and consultancies, including consulting for the National Library of Albania at the request of the national librarian, two years after their meeting at the 1989 Paris IFLA Conference, following Albania's first multi-party elections since 1923. Peter also wrote a report for the Malala Fund (founded by Nobel laureate Malala Yousafzai) on education for girls and young women.

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Peter became a specialist, with great insight into the functioning and publications of the G7/G8 and G20; as a result, from 2000 to 2018 he was involved in several projects, each of which presented special and interesting challenges, ranging from creating and developing the South East European University Library, in Tetovo, North Macedonia, to being an assessor at Royal Institute of International Affairs Chatham House, in London, to lecturing at various conferences and universities in Moscow, Shanghai, and Beijing.

A founding fellow of the Senior College, and a Munk School of Global Affairs research associate, Peter has authored or edited 11 books on G7/G8 and G20 organizations (translated into Russian and Chinese) and on civil society. He has received several honours, including the American

Library Association's prestigious lifetime achievement, James Bennett Childs Award in 1997. Born in Budapest, Peter fled Hungary to Austria in 1956, then came to Canada, where he attended Sir George Williams University. Subsequently, he worked at the UN and took his BA at the New School for Social Research in New York, followed by his MLS at Columbia University's School of Library Service. One truly could say international librarianship is in his blood.

Bernard Katz was a librarian at the University of Guelph for more than 30 years. He held several senior positions, including Head, Humanities and Social Sciences Division, and retired, in 2000, as Head, Archival and Special Collections. ■

Write for ELAN

The Newsletter Committee welcomes contributions from our members. We encourage 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.

Technology Unmasked: Electronic-Material Use in the Time of COVID-19

By Stan Orlov



When COVID-19 forced the world into isolation, preventing us from walking into a library of our choice to pick up a hard copy of a book we wanted, it was logical to expect that the use of electronic materials would increase significantly. According to the American Library Association, in 2020 American public libraries loaned more than 289 million e-books, a 40 percent increase over 2019. Overdrive, the world's leading e-materials lending platform, that also makes the Libby library lending app reported an over 50 percent increase in checkouts during the early months of the pandemic. Hoopla, another prominent lending platform, saw its membership increase by 20 percent. The trend continued in 2021, with more than 500 million e-books and e-audiobooks borrowed from libraries and schools worldwide.

Libraries offer a panoply of platforms to access their materials. On

mobile devices, the top platforms are Libby or Overdrive for e-books and e-audiobooks; Flipster, Overdrive, and PressReader for e-magazines; Kanopy, Hoopla and Naxos Music Library for movies and music (also available on Smart TVs). With most libraries offering online registration, you can start using their digital collections without leaving the comfort of your home.

The pandemic has also returned the fight for fair prices for e-books back into the spotlight, however. With the spike in the use of electronic resources, it became much costlier for libraries to purchase e-books and e-audiobooks. In October 2019 one of the "Big Five," Macmillan Publishers, announced an embargo precluding libraries from buying more than one copy of their e-books per library for the first eight weeks from the publishing date, which they rolled back in March 2020 after a huge public outcry. Since then the publishers have relaxed their e-book license terms and lowered their prices, but these were viewed by the public as temporary measures. A handful of U.S.

states have introduced laws forcing the publishers to sell digital content "on reasonable terms," which the publishing industry is fighting tooth and nail in the courts, a fight we will watch very closely.

For more information, visit [The New Yorker](#) and [Author Alliance](#) websites.

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

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

ELAN in Electronic Format

For members who wish to receive future *ELAN* issues in an electronic format only, please contact Bob Henderson at bob.exlibris@gmail.com.

How and Why I Became a Librarian

By Jane Beaumont

Serendipity, opportunity, and being in the right place at the right time have all played a part in my career. As I was about to leave school and not being offered much except secretarial college, my grandmother's friend, who worked at Hertfordshire County Library in the U.K., asked if I had thought of becoming a librarian. In short order, I was one of six school leavers selected for that library's trainee program; it gave us short work assignments in a public library branch, in a college library, and at headquarters, followed by two years on salary at Brighton Library School. There were some strings attached; we had to return to Hertfordshire for two years, where I became the branch librarian in Stevenage Old Town, but worked mostly at the Stevenage New Town regional library. After that I was ready to spread my wings, preferably as far as Canada — childhood images of snowplows on trains and logs on rivers always intrigued me! When I applied for a visa at the Canadian High Commission, I was informed Saskatchewan's Red River region needed librarians; however, I was short of money and had a school friend who had just emigrated to Ottawa, so that's where I went.

In 1968 Ottawa was a quiet town with many new British immigrants. I quickly fell in with them and started a job cataloguing at the National Harbours Board, planning to work for six months then travel with a friend and return to England. I did the travelling, but returned to Ottawa as the National Gallery of Canada's serials librarian. In 1971 I settled in at Carleton University, initially as science cataloguer and then as a librarian "embedded" in the Norman Paterson School of International Affairs. This turned out to be a career-opening move. One thing was going to limit my career — the lack of a university undergraduate degree — but now I was in the right place at the right time. As a part-time and mature student, I embarked on a BSc with an emphasis in computer science. It took 10 years but,

at the same time, I joined the Canadian library community, CLA and CASLIS in particular, and built a network in the federal libraries for the students, as I was actually a librarian without a library. My last year at Carleton was at McOdrum Library, as systems librarian and designing the online catalogue, CUBE. In 1983, wanting to move to Toronto, I heard that UTLAS was developing a new system from scratch, and would welcome a librarian with experience on its legacy Xerox Sigma computer, to keep the old system going. A golden opportunity for me, with library and computing experience that few others had in our field. At UTLAS, I was database manager until UTLAS II was launched, and then managed programmers developing InfoQuest, a microcomputer-based library system for schools, and another product, ReQuest, to support clients' retrospective catalogue conversion, in preparation for in-house automation and OPACs. Life at UTLAS was never dull and working in the private sector gave me a new perspective of libraries as paying clients.

Another golden opportunity appeared, as libraries of all shapes and sizes moved ahead with automation and networked resource-sharing. In 1984 Ontario launched the Automation Program for Small Libraries (APSL) to support libraries with a population of 10,000 or less. A condition of receiving funding was the library having a consultant to guide the project and provide necessary automation knowledge. I left UTLAS and started Beaumont and Associates Inc. Library and Automation Consultants. Through APSL, I worked with Ontario libraries, from Timmins in the north to Leamington in the south and all points east! A series of CLA-sponsored workshops across the country gave me national exposure and there was no shortage of work. Sometimes I worked alone and at other times the team would involve other librarians and consulting firms. I criss-crossed the country, working with libraries in all sectors, and loved every moment of it!

By the late 1990s, most work involved provincial networks and resource-sharing and, along the way, I worked with the Canadian National Institute for the Blind (CNIB) Library at the start of its efforts to digitize its analogue audio collection, opening the door to alternate formats and services for people with print disabilities. My appointment to the CNIB Library Board coincided with a concerted effort to move the charity-funded library into the public sector, so that clients could benefit from the same publicly-funded services as the general population. We advocated on Parliament Hill and in provincial offices and eventually achieved the creation of CELA — supported by the federal government, large public libraries, and provincial libraries. Its success has exceeded my wildest dreams.

Moving to the National Board of Directors, I was its chair for three years, but CNIB's centenary, in 2018, took me back to libraries and archives. LAC holds the CNIB archives and, also using photographs and artifacts from CNIB, we created *That All May Read* to celebrate CNIB's unwavering support for literacy, reading, and access to information. Being volunteer archivist for the CNIB connects me to a remarkable community, and I am forever grateful to my grandmother's friend. ■

Laughing in the Library

Trying to be clear and unequivocal when calling patrons about their reserve books is sometimes difficult. That's the problem we had when we called a patron to tell him that his reserve was available: *Sooner or Later*. (It was a bit like the classic Abbott and Costello "Who's On First" sketch.) *If you have a humorous personal story or anecdote to share about your library career, send it to mattscholtz@rogers.com.*

Librarian on Board: Is This for You?

By Donna Burton

After I retired in 2012, I began to spend more time in my hometown and was encouraged to join the local library board. Having spent my career in a legislative library, my knowledge of public library activities and priorities was limited. However, in 2014 I served on a fundraising committee to raise funds for a new local library branch, which helped pique my interest in contributing more to the town library. Knowing I had a solid roster of management skills to contribute, I decided to apply for the Lincoln Public Library Board, as a way to keep my hand in libraries. I was appointed for the 2015–2018 term, then for 2019–2022, and currently serve as chair.

Public libraries in Ontario are established under the *Public Libraries Act*. Library board members are publicly appointed by the local council for a four-year term, concurrent with the council's term. Boards are

responsible for library governance. They set direction for the library, approve strategic plans and policies, and set the library budget. They play an important advocacy role in the community on behalf of the library. Boards may be involved in fundraising initiatives and in providing high-level direction to large projects such as library expansion and renovation.

A key role for the board is the hiring of the library CEO, who is responsible for library operations. During my first board term, I participated in the selection of a new CEO, which was a very challenging and rewarding experience.

What have I gained from being on a library board?

- a chance to contribute my library skills and expertise to the governance of an important community institution and a chance to advocate on its behalf (Librarians understand the library environment

and can be an asset to the CEO in helping to persuade the council on important issues. Librarians are already committed to libraries; a library board is a great fit.),

- an increased awareness of local issues and broader community needs,
- the opportunity to make connections and new friends in the community — and maintain them through long months of pandemic isolation, and
- have fun. (Our board members have been invited to take part in library special events and outreach activities, such as Canada Day and the town's Christmas-tree lighting.)

When recruitment time comes for your local library board, consider donating your time and expertise to your community. It can be a very rewarding experience.

Donna Burton retired in 2012 as Director of the Ontario Legislative Library. She is also a member of the ELA board. ■

Hidden Stories: Books Along the Silk Road, an exhibition at the Aga Khan Museum, Toronto

By Bernard Katz

This spectacular exhibition was held from October 2021 through February 2022 at the Aga Khan Museum (AKM). Many diverse and original artifacts illustrated the movement of goods and knowledge from the Far East to Western Europe, by way of the Middle East, especially handmade and printed books, including different materials from paper (originally made from papyrus, hence its name) and vellum to bindings. Added to this were spectacularly beautiful and complex garments of woven silk and brocade, which were unknown as fabrics in Europe before being brought from China, where silk had been woven into simple cloth and complex brocades since the third millennium BCE.

Curated by Dr. Filiz Çakir Phillip (AKM) and Dr. Suzanne Conklin Akbari (Princeton Institute for Advanced



The Five Protectoresses (tantra), handwritten and illustrated with colour on palm leaves, Kathmandu, Nepal, 1780
Photo credits: Bernard Katz

Study), displayed works came from the AKM's permanent collection, the Royal Ontario Museum, the Thomas Fisher Rare Book Library, Western

University, and the private Marshall and Marilyn R. Wolf Collection. Per the guide, "Considered on their

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Jewish marriage contract (ketubah), handwritten ink, watercolour, and gold on paper and parchment, Greece, 1797

own, each of these works sheds light onto a time and place in history. Assembled together, they tell vivid, soaring stories about the intercultural exchange of technology, art, and ideas, the ingenuity of human beings, and a millennia-old worldwide love affair with books that continues today."

Displayed in thematic relationship to each other (with excellent notes), artifacts ranged from a 1,000-year-old prayer sheet from northwestern China, to a five metre-long Iranian scroll of the Qur'an, to a richly coloured Jewish marriage contract from 18th-century Greece, to an impressive number of books and individual leaves from the 12th to the 19th centuries (handmade and printed), made from a variety

of materials. Even papermaking originated in China, coming to Europe via the Silk Road in the 11th century. Included in the exhibit were tools and devices used in book making over the centuries, from a silver-inlaid bronze inkwell (12th-century Iran), to pens and quill-cutting tools, to wooden printing plates, to metal and wooden movable type — the latter from 18th-century Korea. Everything related to the Silk Road — the 1,500-year-old trade routes that brought rare goods and so much knowledge to the West.

What's the point of a review now that it has closed? Answer: the virtual world has made this splendid assemblage and its notes available to all through the [Hidden Stories companion site](#) and an excellent [3-D virtual tour](#) (including notes) of the exhibition.

Enjoy!

Bernard Katz was a librarian at the University of Guelph for more than 30 years. He held several senior positions, including Head, Humanities and Social Sciences Division, and retired in 2000 as Head, Archival and Special Collections. ■



Antiphoner (choir book), handwritten black ink and colours on parchment, Granada, Spain, 16th century

To Save Space

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

Look for these in the news sections.

A Canadian awards page is now available on ELA's website at exlibris.ca/doku.php?id=award:list_of_canadian_library_awards.

Library Memories of Long Ago Days

By Jean Weihs, B.A., B.L.S., O.C.

In the early 1950s, U of T offered a Library Science degree in a one-year program, which allowed the graduates to add "B.L.S." (Bachelor of Library Science) to their names, in addition to their primary degree (usually a BA). I graduated with a B.L.S., in May 1953, and was hired as a librarian in U of T's main library. At that time, this library was housed in a building on the east side of the campus. Most of the collection was easily available, but seldom-used items were housed in the basement. My memories of this building include the necessity, from time to time, of going down a set of metal stairs to the basement to retrieve a less-requested book. After a few visits to this underworld, startling at first, I became used to the sound of water as I descended the stairs. A river that ran through the Toronto area down to Lake Ontario had been redirected underground and passed under a section of the library basement's floor, where it was possible to see this river moving under a grate in a particular section.

The library and the library department were moved the next year to the building next door and, in the following year, to a "permanent" library, all on the same campus. I worked in the order department, involved in obtaining books in the subject fields which I had studied for my BA degree. This was a truly interesting job, because it involved developing contacts with booksellers in many parts of the world. (Each Christmas the bookseller in Paris sent our department a box of chocolates — which never contained enough chocolates for all the department's librarians, so this treat was enjoyed by me only in alternate years.)

I worked in the department until September, 1959, when I left because I was expecting a baby. During the exit interview with the chief librarian, I stated I planned to return to work when the child was of school age. The

Continued on page 11

...continued from page 10

chief librarian expressed horror at this statement, because he believed a mother should not leave a child in someone else's care unless she was unable to look after it properly. And it turned out this was the problem I had to face, because my young husband died a few years later. If my son and I were going to eat and have shelter, I had to work.

And that work led to many wonderful opportunities for both me and my son, who I took with me to various library-associated conferences. For example, at a conference in Texas, my son helped the hotel's housemaids with their work, such as making beds and emptying wastebaskets. With my permission, they took my son to many tourist sites and he never appeared to notice the housemaids had black skins. He had a very special education not available to all children. ■

Books of Interest by Members

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

Twice Upon a Time

By Barbara Clubb

Twice Upon a Time (Twice) is a registered Canadian charity serving Ottawa and area. It was created in 2014 by a group of librarians and people passionate about children's literacy. Board-operated and run entirely by board members and additional volunteers, Twice provides free new and nearly new books to children of up to 12 years of age, to support literacy and foster a love of reading in the home. Books are carefully curated and selected by Twice in consultation with partner organizations. During COVID-19, Twice had to suspend regular activity at its seven locations; however, it teamed with community health centres, literacy organizations, community associations, schools, and two First Nation communities — Kitigan Zibi First Nation and the Algonquins of Pikwàkanagàn First Nation — that provide Twice books directly to their young readers. During the pandemic, these new service-delivery partners distributed more than 10,000 books.

Twice has received support from such funders as RTOERO (Retired Teachers of Ontario/Les Enseignantes et les Enseignants Retraités de l'Ontario), the Government of Canada Emergency Community Support Fund, the Ottawa



Community Foundation, the Order of the Eastern Star, and many individuals. It is a member of Volunteer Ottawa and CanadaHelps and recently contracted to use its new Donor Management System. Every one to two years, a new theme is created for development and fundraising. The current fundraising theme is ReconciliAction: Best Indigenous Kids' Books, with the goal of purchasing new books by First Nation, Métis, and Inuit authors, as well as books about Indigenous culture, history, and characters, to enrich the inventory of children's books.

For more information go to: twiceuponatime.ca/.

Barbara Clubb is a Twice Upon a Time board member. ■

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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.

Libraries Named after Librarians: Flora Blizzard Francis Memorial Library

By Suzette Giles

This is the 17th in a series of articles about outstanding librarians and the libraries named after them.



The grand opening on September 25, 2021, of Heritage Hall — part of a multi-faceted Freedom Project of the Guelph Black

Heritage Society (GBHS) — was held. Prominent among its resources is the Flora Blizzard Francis Memorial Library. Originally the British Episcopal Methodist Church in Guelph, the hall was built in 1880 by formerly enslaved Black individuals and their descendants, who arrived in the area via the Underground Railroad. Francis was a founding member and archivist of the GBHS, which formed to purchase the building in 2012, to develop it into a centre for Black history, culture, and community activities.

A selection from her personal library forms the core of the GBHS library which has written, audio, and video items relating to the Black history of this area. The library's vision and mission are to find, preserve, organize, and make available this important historical material, and educate the local and wider community about its history.

Flora Helena (née Blizzard) Francis was born in September 1932, in Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, and qualified as an Associate of the Library Association (U.K.), before coming to Canada in 1959. Settling in Guelph, she worked at the Ontario Agricultural College's Massey Library (a founding University of Guelph college). She earned a BA from Waterloo Lutheran University (now Wilfred Laurier University) through part-time study, and her BLS (1969) and MLS (1978) from the University of Toronto. She remained at the University of Guelph Library until 1995, when she retired after 35 years of service.

From her arrival in Canada, Flora was a quiet but efficient advocate of the Black community in Guelph and Canada. As a Black librarian at the University of Guelph, she was a natural mentor for minority students, especially for those from the Caribbean. She was a collector of articles and literature about and by the Black community at all levels, and published *West Indians in Canada: A Selective Annotated Bibliography*, University of Guelph Library Bibliographic Series, No 1. 1970, followed in 2000 by *Black Canadian Bibliography*, Ottawa: Pan-African Publications, 2000, which also included musical, spoken and video materials.

Francis was actively involved in other community groups and professional associations. These included the Soroptimist International of Guelph club, where she was a member and treasurer for more than 40 years and received a number of awards. She was renowned for her photography and, as the Eastern Canada Region archivist, left a legacy of 1,435,765 pictures.



Photo credits: Guelph Black Heritage Society

With responsibility for the map collection at the University of Guelph, she was also a member of the Association of Canadian Map Libraries and Archives (ACMLA). She chaired the membership committee from 1983 to 1987, and hosted the annual conference in 1994. At ACMLA meetings, she was also renowned for her camera(s) and photos.

Her entry in *Who's Who in Black Canada 2* also notes that Flora received the Ontario Volunteer Service Award for 35 years (1965–2001) of volunteer work with the Guelph Spring Festival, as well as being a member of the American Library Association and the Canadian Library Association, and having published in a number of journals.

After retirement, she was also involved with Guelph's River Run Centre for the performing arts and the University of Guelph Alumni Association. She remained active in many of these areas until her death in 2016.

At the University of Guelph, she worked closely with ELA members Bernard Katz and Lorne Bruce, who provided background information for this article. Joan Winearls, also a member, knew Flora via ACMLA and the Ontario Council of University Libraries Map Group.

Nearly 150 community members came for the renovated building's grand opening and to celebrate the Flora Blizzard Francis Memorial Library's opening, in a fitting recognition of all that Flora contributed to both the Black and wider communities of Guelph and Canada.

Suzette Giles held a number of different positions at Ryerson University Library (1975–2010), and was the Data Librarian at retirement. ■

Buried Library Treasures of Britain: Charles Babbage and Anthony Panizzi in London Cemeteries

By Guy Robertson

Resource sharing has become a major trend in the library world. Many libraries would struggle to survive without it. But how, where, and when did it begin? The answers are inconclusive, but one thing is certain: the British provided an early and singular example when the brain of the deceased Charles Babbage (1791–1871), inventor of computational technology, was sliced in two and shared between London's Science Museum and the Hunterian Museum in Lincoln's Inn Fields.



Photo credit: Guy Robertson

The division of human remains has been common for millennia. Ancient Egyptian embalmers removed the viscera of pharaohs and other important persons and

stored them in canopic jars, which were entombed near their respective mummies. Closer to our time, the bodies of Austro-Hungarian kaisers were buried in a Viennese Capuchin church, while their hearts ended up in the Herzgruft, or Crypt of the Hearts at the Augustine Church of the Imperial Palace. Their remaining organs were deposited in St. Stephen's Cathedral's Ducal Crypt.

As for the body *sans cerveau* of Babbage, it rests in London's Kensal Green Cemetery. His plot is shady and quiet, and visited occasionally by computer-science, mathematics, and information-studies students who come to pay their respects. Visitors take photos — frequently selfies that include Babbage's gravestone — and appreciate the cemetery's respectful atmosphere. Ed, a retired lecturer on library topics at University College London, has become a regular visitor to Kensal Green.

"It's a lovely place to walk," he says, "and I like to escape the bustle of my local neighbourhood. I always make



Photo credit: Guy Robertson

my way to Babbage's grave. He was one of the founders of computer science and designed the Difference Engine and the Analytical Engine, forerunners of modern computers, both of which featured rudimentary data storage. My students used to say that he contributed to our notions of steampunk, which is a popular style of science fiction and visual design. But my interests lie with his mathematics and his conceptions of computing technology."

Jill, a librarian at an investments firm in the City of London, notes it is appropriate that Sir Anthony Panizzi (1797–1879), one of Britain's more important librarians, is buried in the adjacent St. Mary's Roman Catholic Cemetery.

"Librarianship and computer science are now closely related fields," she says. "It's fitting that you can stroll from Babbage's grave to that of the chap who played such a significant role in British librarianship. In fact, both contributed to global culture, and now their influence is felt more strongly than ever. They were fascinating people, but I think that Panizzi led a more interesting life."

Panizzi left Italy to avoid arrest for revolutionary activities in the interests of Italian liberty and unification. His career as a patriot and conspirator against tyranny deserves a lengthy treatment on its own, but it is as a librarian at the British Museum that he is most often remembered. Settling in England in 1823, he became the museum's Assistant Librarian in 1831, Keeper of the Printed Books in 1837, and Chief Librarian in 1856. Ambitious and energetic, in 1841, he issued 91 *Rules for Compilation of the Catalogue*,

the first attempt to standardize the museum's catalogue. He was acquainted with many Victorian luminaries including politicians, artists, and writers. He corresponded with Babbage and feuded with Thomas Carlyle. He was successful in increasing the British Museum's public image, and attracted substantial parliamentary support.

"More than anything else, he's remembered for championing the concept and design of the Great Round Reading Room in the museum's quadrangle," says Kenneth, a bookseller in East London. "The design was revolutionary — of course — and created a lot of storage space along with seating for library users. Among many other famous people, those users included Darwin, Marx, and Dickens. All of them should have been grateful to Panizzi."

A walk through Kensal Green and St. Mary's will take you past the graves of writers including Thackeray, Wilkie Collins, Leigh Hunt, and Thomas Hood. Harold Pinter's grave slab lies off the main path; every spring it disappears behind a wall of new greenery. Reaching Anthony Trollope's grave requires a hike past collapsed headstones and across soft ground. Grey squirrels dart between gravestones and up trees to escape the foxes that lurk in the undergrowth. Eventually you will reach the graves of Charles Babbage and Anthony Panizzi, and each should give you pause. If they had not lived and dedicated themselves to their careers, how would our profession have developed? Would librarianship or any of the other information professions be similar to what they are today? Probably not, although, undoubtedly, resource sharing would be as common as ever.

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 Susan Ibbetson



The Look of the Book: Jackets, Covers and Art at the Edges of Literature

By Peter Mendelsund and David J Alworth

Ten Speed, 2020

ISBN-13:

978-0399581021, \$49.08

Reviewed by J. A. Forrester

This book explores the graphic design of the most successful books in English-language publishing history. Curiously, this book's cover is a collage of torn sample titles bonded onto the hard cover and raised from the

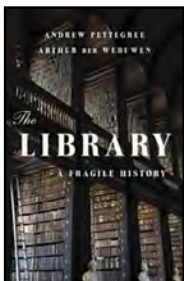
surface. The illustrations throughout are extensive and you'll recognize most, if not all, of classic works such as *Portnoy's Complaint*, *The Tin Drum*, *Lolita*, *Jaws*, *Ulysses*, *Moby Dick*, and *On the Road*.

The authors — a creative director at *The Atlantic*, and an academic — explore the subject visually rather than using large blocks of text. It's a novel approach that does not work completely unless the reader has an extensive graphic-arts background, in which case it reads more like visual shorthand. I think there's an assumption that the publishing industry and art-college libraries will be the book's market.

The section, *The Future of the Book Cover*, is revealing, in that it examines

the shift from the physical book cover to the digital realm of e-books. The authors cite Pew Research Center surveys, which indicate "print books are still the most popular reading platform in the United States." They conclude that the cover, "whether physical or digital, will continue to visualize and communicate information, and it will provide edges around the text, thereby framing the reading experience as bounded and discrete."

James Forrester was Head, *Library Systems & Technical Services*, *Dorothy H. Hoover library, OCADU* (1991–2016). ■



The Library: A Fragile History

By Andrew Pettegree and Arthur der Weduwen

Basic, 2021

ISBN: 978-

1541600775, \$43.56

Reviewed by Guy Robertson

Inevitably, general histories of libraries will contain accounts of disasters and the loss of collections. Since the invention of writing, risks such as warfare, vandalism, fire, flooding, and other calamities have threatened written materials, the buildings that house them, and the people who oversee their acquisition and use. Many histories begin with the story of the Great Library of Alexandria, which — depending on the research and biases of the authors — was destroyed by the Romans, or the Christians, or the Arabs, during various years between the first and 8th centuries AD.

In *The Library: A Fragile History*,

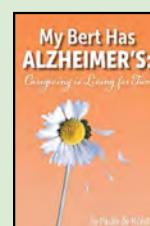
University of St. Andrews scholars Andrew Pettegree and Arthur der Weduwen offer a well-considered and balanced explanation of the probable causes of the Library of Alexandria's destruction, with references to the better-known destroyers. Their approach is notable for its even-handedness and clarity. In a straightforward and readable style, they impart substantial amounts of information regarding libraries, from the pre-Alexandrian clay-tablet collections of Babylon to our present-day electronic organizations. Their research is comprehensive and well-documented in a first-class bibliography. Also included is a selection of brilliant colour illustrations, many of which readers will not have seen before, and all of which are clearly captioned with essential details.

The overarching theme of this book harkens back to the pre-Socratic philosopher Heraclitus, who is often quoted as saying that change is the only constant. The history of libraries — and everything else — is

bound to include events that will force people to accept new and often disturbing circumstances, from the outbreak of war to the rise of new technologies that make us work, play, and think in ways we could never have predicted. In measured tones, Pettegree and der Weduwen discuss change in the library world and offer hope it will survive its mutability.

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. ■

Books by Members



My Bert Has Alzheimer's: Caregiving and Living for Two
By Paula de Ronde
FriesenPress, 2022
ISBN: 978-103-9129214 \$33.32

Good Reads

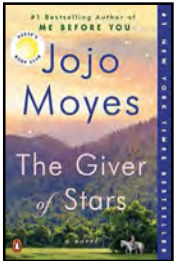
Compiled by Judy Dunn



The Bookseller's Secret

By Michelle Gable
Atlantic Monthly
Graydon House, 2021
ISBN: 978-1525811593, \$16.62

This thrilling novel centres on real-life author Nancy Mitford, her infamous sisters, and the Second World War.



The Giver of Stars

By Jojo Moyes
Penguin, 2021
ISBN-10: 0399562494,
\$22.77

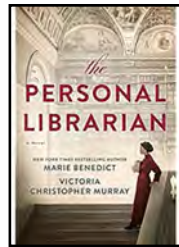
A team of five extraordinary women delivers books by horseback, as part of Eleanor Roosevelt's new travelling library in Depression-era America.



The Lions of Fifth Avenue

By Fiona Davis
Dutton, 2020
ISBN-10:
15247446611, \$23

This historical mystery unfolds inside the New York Public Library with two storylines — one set in 1914 and the other in 1992.



The Personal Librarian

By Marie Benedict and Victoria Christopher Murray
Berkley, 2022
ISBN-13:
978-0593101544, \$23

In a fictionalized story, Belle da Costa Greene, J. P. Morgan's personal librarian, hides her heritage as she becomes one of the most powerful people in New York's art and book world.



The Department of Rare Books and Special Collections: A Novel

By Eva Jurczyk
Poisoned Pen, 2022
ISBN-13: 978-1728238593, \$24.74

Set loosely in the Thomas Fisher Rare Book Library, this fictional mystery centres on an extremely valuable missing manuscript, written by a University of Toronto librarian.

Judy Dunn retired in 2011 after six years as Assistant Dean Academic, Faculty of Information, U of T, and 15 years as Program Coordinator, School of Information Management, Dalhousie University. ■

British Columbia News

By Guy Robertson



In January, the **University of British Columbia (UBC) Library** announced the acquisition of a copy of the First Folio of *William Shakespeare's*

Comedies, Histories, & Tragedies, published in 1623. This volume contains 36 of his 38 known plays, and serves as a foundation for studies in Shakespearian textual criticism. Previously owned by a private American collector, it was purchased through Christie's New York, with funding from Canadian Heritage and North American donors. Only 235 copies of the First Folio survive; UBC's is the second in Canada. The other is held by U of T's **Thomas Fisher Rare Book Library**. From January to March, the Vancouver Art Gallery exhibited UBC's

copy. The exhibition, *For All Time: The Shakespeare FIRST FOLIO*, also included three later 17-century Folio editions. This was the first time all four editions have been on display in B.C. The audio mobile guide featured the enthusiastic voice of Christopher Gaze, the founding artistic director of the Bard on the Beach Shakespeare Festival.

Vancouver Public Library (VPL) announced the city's new Poet Laureate, Fiona Tinwei Lam, who will hold the title until 2024. She has four published books, including three poetry collections and a children's book, and her work appears in more than 40 anthologies. She has won *The New Quarterly's* Nick Blatchford Occasional Verse Contest, and appeared on the shortlist for the City of Vancouver Book Award. She has also been selected three times for B.C.'s Poetry in Transit program.

VPL reduced its fines in early February. Late charges on all items dropped to 20 cents per day for adults and 10 cents for children. Renewals

for most items have increased from two to three per item, but no renewals will be permitted for Fast Read books, Book Club Sets, DVD Quick Views, and magazines.

In January, the **Greater Victoria Public Library** released the **list of its most-borrowed books of 2021**. The 1.8 million borrowed books fell into several categories.

In February, the **Vancouver Island Regional Library** opened its new branch in Sooke. The circular design has attracted much local attention. The collection of approximately 35,000 items is twice the size of that of the old branch. A larger staff will work with the new branch's 13,500 square feet of surface area, and Sooke residents will benefit from its increased hours of operation and new programs. Study space, bookable rooms, and a laptop bar are available, and the fireplace lounge has quickly become popular.

In February, **TRU Libraries Thompson Rivers University**, in Kamloops, invited students and

faculty to meet the Student Library Ambassador team. Based at the information desk in the **House of Learning Library**, team members offer directions to study spaces, printers, and other amenities. Their overarching purpose is to dispel confusion regarding the library's services and make patrons comfortable. This spring, a Student Library Ambassador Instagram Takeover will offer patrons an opportunity to become better acquainted with Team members.

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

Prairies News

By Alvin M. Schrader



The Manitoba Library Association conducted a study of 55 Manitoba public libraries about their responses to COVID-19, which was **published in a special issue of Partnership (Vol.16, No.1, 2021).**

The Manitoba Government announced \$769,000 funding for rural public libraries to support long-term stability and sustainability across the sector, as well as to ensure library systems' access to resources and services for people with print disabilities, through the non-profit Centre for Equitable Library Access.

The City of Winnipeg has authorized an engineering feasibility study of future options for the **Winnipeg Public Library's** 45-year-old **Millennium Library** parkade, estimated to need \$54 million in structural repairs and other upgrades, over the next 10 years. The study will be completed in 2022.

The University of Manitoba Faculty Association, representing professors and librarians, accepted a compensation deal to end a 35-day strike for higher salaries, improved maternity and parental leave benefits, and equitable course assignments.

Saskatoon Public Libraries released a concept design for the proposed new four-storey central library building, on May 31, 2021, after extensive community consultation. The concept was inspired by traditional First Nation and Métis architecture. A final design will be selected in early 2022, and construction will begin later in the year, with occupancy slated for 2026.

The Saskatchewan Library Association has begun preliminary exploration for the creation of a Prison Library Literacy Committee. The committee will collaborate with The Book Project, an initiative of Saskatchewan's Chief Justice and colleagues to provide paperbacks to provincial jail inmates, to make their time in custody more tolerable and encourage and improve literacy.

The Alberta Library Conference Planning Committee was dissolved effective July 27, 2021, and the 2022 Alberta Library Conference was cancelled. Historically, a joint conference between the Library Association of Alberta (LAA) and the Alberta Library Trustees Association, its review identified several factors for the decisions — principally fiscal restructuring, impacts of the pandemic, feedback from members via the LAA Advisory Committee, and "changes in the entire library community."

Camille Carol Radford-Grant was appointed Provincial Archivist, **Provincial Archives of Saskatchewan**, effective September 20, 2021. She served as city archivist for the **City of Toronto Archives** since 2012 and, before that, she specialized in regulatory records in various positions for the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario, the **Archives of Ontario**, and the Ontario College of Teachers. She earned her master's degree in Information Studies (archives stream) at U of T in 2007.

St. Albert Public Library in Alberta created an original learning series, Indigenous Canada Learning Circle, in 2018, in partnership with the **Musée Héritage Museum**. Based on the University of Alberta's popular MOOC, Indigenous Canada, the series explores Indigenous histories and contemporary issues in Canada. It was developed

and implemented with the generosity and wisdom of local Elder, Tom Ghostkeeper, who died before a major revision could be completed last year, following pandemic barriers. The series was relaunched in September 2021, to conclude by the end of February 2022.

Sarah Meilleur was appointed Chief Executive Officer, **Calgary Public Library (CPL)**, effective October 2021. She had served as **CPL's** interim CEO from April 2021. Prior to that, she was **CPL's** Director of Service Delivery, responsible for achievements such as an innovation-development plan, the successful launch of the new **Central Library** in 2018, and the adaptation of the library's public service during the pandemic. She was also responsible for the launch of the Community Heritage and Family History Digital Library, **an online bank of more than 5,000 photographs and postcards documenting Calgary's history and growth.** She is considered a North American leader in urban library development and city building, having presented workshops at Harvard University and many international conferences on urban libraries, and has been acknowledged for her extensive volunteer work, including as vice-chair, with the Calgary Heritage Authority. In 2011 she was selected as one of the Top 40 Under 40 Calgarians. Sarah is the first female CEO in **CPL's** 109-year history.

Amanda Wakaruk (U of A) and Sam-chin Li (U of T) were awarded the 2021 Margaret T. Lane/Virginia F. Saunders Memorial Research Award by the Government Documents Round Table (GODORT), American Library Association (ALA), for their co-editorship of *Government Information in Canada: Access and Stewardship*, published in 2019. Before that, the most recent book on the subject was 40 years old.

Edmonton Public Library (EPL) received major awards for the dramatic revitalization and public reopening, after almost four years, of the **Stanley A. Milner Library**, **EPL's** central facility (*ELAN* No. 69/Spring 2021, page 13). One was the 2021 John Cotton Dana Award, managed by the ALA, for

outstanding public relations for **EPL's** Virtual Milner Library Open House, on September 13, 2020, in recognition of this virtual public event celebrating the reopening — with a day of new virtual programming, available every hour, featuring key spaces and services, and ending with a live spelling bee. The event garnered more than 61,000 views, 10,000 unique page views of the Hello Milner page, and 145 media mentions, with a total readership of 112 million. The award provides a \$10,000 grant from the H. W. Wilson Foundation. For the same virtual event, **EPL** was further recognized by Canadian Event Awards as the 2021 Best Event Produced for a Community-Based Non-Profit. **EPL** received the International Federation of Library Associations' Green Library Award 2021 for the **Stanley A. Milner Library** revitalization.

EPL received the 2021 Canadian Podcast Award for Outstanding Artwork for a Series, for its *Overdue Finds* podcast.

In May 2021, **Grande Prairie Public Library** in Alberta was awarded the Community Engagement Award by the city's Youth Advisory Council for its Full Stop Program, launched later in 2019 to offer free menstrual products in all library washrooms.

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

Ontario News

By Vivienne James



The ever-changing story of COVID-19 seems to be one of hope and healing. Ontarians enjoyed many innovative and interesting programs, mostly online.

The Hospital for Sick Kids report, *Moving Forward while Running in Place: Children's Mental Health & Covid*, shared findings about the impact of COVID-19 on children's mental health, and support and coping strategies; *Happy parents, Happy Kids* did the same for parents and caregivers.

Toronto Public Library (TPL)

briefly closed 44 branches, but reopened most of them with no in-person programs, yet. **TPL's** Our Fragile Planet series of 37 virtual programs featured Indigenous presenters, community leaders, and the environmentalist-in-residence on accessing urban native spaces. **TPL** received nearly \$1.5 million to deliver Digital Archive Ontario, which offers library users free online resources in Toronto and across the province, including remote areas and the First Nation communities. A Study in Sherlock Holmes & His Creator: 50 years of the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection opened in the **Toronto Reference Library's TD Gallery**, and runs until April 16, 2022. **A virtual tour is also available on TPL's website.**

At their 2nd Annual Innovation Symposium, participating staff from different countries found libraries around the world are all thinking about and addressing issues like digital equality, workplace development and seniors. International Day of Persons with Disabilities featured stories and experiences in literature and the arts, booklists, blogs, and COVID-19 resources for organizations serving them. The Canadian Government recently recognized their monthly online seniors series in collaboration with **TPL**. **CanAge, Aging Your Way** promotes opportunities for seniors to learn, contribute, and build age-inclusive communities.

Grief and Loss in the Era of COVID-19 was part of **Hamilton Public Library's** Psychology Month Series in February.

A "pepper pot" of programs for Black History Month, most via Zoom, was enjoyed throughout the province and included author readings, book discussions, book displays and lists, films, music, and art exhibits. Many libraries posted Black Canadian content and blogs on social media.

Guelph Public Library is now a FamilySearch Affiliate Library, providing access to genealogical resources through FamilySearch, the world's largest genealogical organization.

Edit-a-thon, a joint effort by **library and archives staff and students at York University, U**

of T, X University (Ryerson) and **TPL** aims to consciously, and with care, improve the digital coverage of Black histories and experiences. Through training in editing and writing Wikipedia articles, people are empowered to write their own stories.

McMaster University Library acquired Altmetric Explorer for Institutions, a resource which monitors how publications are picked up in media outlets and cited in other publications, in patents, and in government policy documents. This library also celebrated a love story: Former librarians Carol and Victor Nunn bequeathed \$1.1 million to the place they met and fell in love. With a zest for life and literature, they worked together for more than 30 years, and were recognized by students and faculty as being as central to the library as the books. When they died, within a year of each other, their legacy passed to the library.

Another donation story comes from **Queen's University Library**. Dr.s Thomas and Gwendolyn (Wendy) Garrett established the Helen Garrett Memorial Fund for his first wife, Helen, who worked in **Douglas Library** and had a passion for English literature. The fund supports 17th- and 18th-century English literature purchases and the conservation of rare materials held in special collections. This library also marked International Day of Women and Girls in Science with selected research guides, resources, and exhibits.

In March **Waterloo University Library** began a bi-monthly Indigenous-led reading group — in-person and virtual — with a sharing circle of experiences, ideas, and intentions, based on Dr. Jo-ann (Q'um Q'um Xi'em) Archibald's *Indigenous Storywork: Educating the Heart, Mind, Body, and Spirit*.

Vivienne James worked at TPL for more than 25 years, was Branch Head of Queen Saulters, 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



Building the new **Gabrielle-Roy Library** in Quebec City began in 2021, with a planned opening in spring 2023. The cost, initially estimated at \$40 million, it is now expected to reach \$52 million, if not a little more. The original design, developed in 2017, has been modified due to the increased expenditure.



Attendance at the former public library had decreased in recent years, with an annual average of 450,000. After the renovation, one million visitors and loans per year are expected.

The Centre des livres rares des bibliothèques de l'Université du Québec à Montréal (UQAM) has acquired a collection of 700 rare and ancient books published between the 15th and 18th centuries — a gift from the Franciscans that is an addition to the old books preserved at **UQAM** (See "Quebec News" in *ELAN*, No. 68, Fall 2020, page 13). This new collection focuses on the founder of the order, Francis of Assisi, and great figures such as Nicholas of Lyra, Duns Scotus, Clare of Assisi, and Angela of Foligno. It includes books in Latin, Italian, French, and Spanish. The community of Franciscan Fathers was founded in the 13th century and was established in Canada in 1615.

L'Association des bibliothécaires du Québec – Quebec Library Association (ABQLA) held three virtual events in the fall of 2021. The Youth & School Libraries sessions included Hosting a Human Library, in October, and Subject Headings and Truth & Reconciliation, or Decolonizing the Catalogue, in November. The Public Libraries Section held Digital Literacy and Older Adults in December.

On December 6, 2021, multiple gunshots were fired through the window of the **Philippe-Panneton Public**

Library in Laval, injuring an 18-year-old man, who was known to police. Struck in the lower body, he was taken to hospital, but was expected to survive.

On January 4, **McGill University Libraries** — including stack areas, and in-person reference and circulation services — became accessible to library users again. As a result, the HathiTrust Emergency Temporary Access Service, Pickup Service, and Study Hubs were discontinued. Vaccine passports, McGill ID cards, and procedural masks continue to be required at the time of writing.

Maritimes News

By Tanja Harrison



Maritimes libraries continue to navigate the pandemic, with varying stages of reopening plans in effect across the three provinces.

The Omicron wave prompted the distribution of COVID-19 rapid testing kits by all public library systems. In New Brunswick, some staff were deployed to other government departments and helped support library vaccination clinics. As reported via the *Atlantic Provinces Library Association (APLA) Bulletin*, "library workers have been highly sought-after throughout the pandemic for their customer service and organizational skills."

The **Kennebecasis Public Library**, in Quispamsis, N.B., was forced to close temporarily during an icy January, due to flooding from a sprinkler system. Significant water damage to the building prompted public library branches across the Greater Saint John area to rally in support of the Kennebecasis patron-service needs.

The River Hebert/Joggins Area Development Association, N.S., worked diligently on a new community centre. Formerly a curling club, the renovated building opened in February, as the home of **Cumberland Public Libraries'** newest library branch.

Pivoting between restrictions, the **Prince Edward Island Public Library Service** offered programing

that ranged from in-person events for teens painting terracotta pots to virtual community connectors such as Dungeons & Dragons and crafter clubs. The popular P.E.I. snowshoes-for-loan program made news in a recent story on CBC. Prompted by an idea from a co-worker, a dedicated registered nurse braved a winter storm, using her library-borrowed snowshoes, to make the hour-long snowy trek to the Prince County Hospital to relieve a previous shift.

Academic libraries across the region embraced African Heritage Month celebrations. **Saint Mary's University**, for example, promoted its significant holdings documenting Black life via the **The Lynn Jones African Canadian & Diaspora Heritage Collection**.

Mount Saint Vincent University (MSVU) Library & Archives acquired the papers and musical journals of Laura Smith, a renowned Canadian folksinger and songwriter, who died on March 7, 2020. Raised in Ontario, Smith moved to Cape Breton in 1984 and was honoured by MSVU in 2003 with a Doctor of Humane Letters, *honoris causa*.

In library-security news, the **Université de Moncton** recently installed an automatic-locking mechanism to its main doors, plus approximately 30 cameras outside and throughout the **Champlain Library** building, to ensure the safety of its students.

Tracy Lenfesty has been appointed University Librarian at the **University of King's College Library**, in Halifax. Sarah Stevenson is the new Associate Dean Archives, Records Management, and Special Collections at **Dalhousie University Libraries**, while maintaining her role as Head, **Killam Memorial Library**. Christine LeBlanc has joined the **Nova Scotia Community College Libraries**, in a term role as Lunenburg Campus Librarian within the province-wide college library system. Laura Landon is Interim University Librarian at **Mount Allison University**.

The 2022 Atlantic Provinces Library Association Conference will be held virtually, June 7 to 10. Bridging the Gap: Inclusion and Diversity in Libraries

/ Réduire les barrières: l'inclusion et la diversité dans les bibliothèques is the theme (see apla.ca for updates).

Tanja Harrison is University Librarian, Mount Saint Vincent University, Halifax.

Newfoundland & Labrador News

By Dick Ellis



There are two major library systems in Newfoundland and Labrador: **Newfoundland & Labrador Public Libraries** and **Memorial University Libraries**.

The public library system comprises 94 branches — about the same number as the Toronto Public Library — spread from the Quebec border in Labrador to Pouch Cove, northeast of St. John's on the Avalon Peninsula.

Memorial's library system includes three branches in St. John's, a branch in Corner Brook at the Grenfell Campus, and a small branch at the Harlow Campus of Memorial University in the U.K.

Getting the word out about current events and services is a serious task for both systems, as Memorial has always opened its libraries to the public, being the only research library in the province. Both systems have found willing partners in the local media, in particular CBC Radio.

Going well beyond public-service announcements, CBC Radio participates in efforts such as *NL Reads*, modeled on *Canada Reads*, supplying both publicity and panelists to the public library system. It also draws on Memorial's librarians for interviews on matters of topical interest (such as coping with misinformation on the web), making sense of COVID information, and the role of maps in history.

Other media, notably the SaltWire newspaper group, call on the libraries for book reviews and readers' advisory functions.

While the province covers a large

area, regional media outlets are a constant source of information about or from libraries in their areas. These links go back decades and reflect the popular appeal of libraries, not always translated into financial support, but always on tap to avert absolute disaster.

Dick Ellis is Librarian Emeritus, Memorial University.

News from the North

By Julie Ourom



Northern libraries continue to adapt to changing circumstances resulting from the pandemic. Patrons and staff exhibit flexibility, ingenuity and patience, while adjusting to service changes, sometimes with little notice.

Ever-expanding electronic resources ensure libraries remain accessible. Patrons of **NWT Public Libraries** now have access to the interactive World Book Online. Questions to Santa event hosted by **Yukon Public Libraries** on YouTube was popular with families at Christmas and **Yukon Public Libraries** now offer **TikTok**.

Pigiarniq fonts are downloadable through **Nunavut Public Library Services** to create documents. Online activities include themed storytimes, book clubs, and special programs.

Yellowknife Public Library's Raging Raven Meditation sessions and digital-literacy workshops spark interest. The library also offered take-home "escape" packages, featuring Nahanni National Park, for those tiring of winter. Sadly, in Yellowknife, community members are reviewing options after vandalism in the fall to Inclusion NWT's **Little Library in Abe Miller Garden**.

Regular programs range from bookbags and craft kits (for pickup and/or home delivery) to promotions of all types. Libraries lend everything from Xbox and other games to SAD light-therapy lamps.

In February, **Whitehorse Public Library** presented Blind Date with a

Book, while **Hay River Public Library** held a Valentine-themed seniors' tea. For teens, **Hay River Public Library** promoted a board-game café, and **Yellowknife Public Library** offered a make-your-own-comic-book session. A successful annual holiday-season fundraiser for the **Hay River Public Library** raised funds for new and requested materials to augment the collection. Donations and discards find new homes in regular Friends of the Library sales in many locations.

Libraries continue to participate in community events. In Whitehorse, an Indigenous book club is co-sponsored with the **Kwanlin Dün Cultural Centre**. The **Whitehorse Public Library** participates in the Yukon Anti-Poverty Coalition's outreach to people in need and co-sponsors activities with the Yukon Literacy Coalition.

Dolly Parton's Imagination Library, Canada sends **free books to kids across the North**.

Through a new Council of Yukon First Nations initiative, Yukon First Nations Books will be available to Yukon Imagination Library kids.

Please send news items about library matters in Canada's North to me at crocuscats@gmail.com.

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

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

This winter as part of its Technology in the Core program, SLAIS offered a

series of interactive and hands-on IT literacy workshops to introduce students to HTML, databases, CSS (a language used to develop HTML displays), and electronic portfolios. Available on Zoom, these workshops ensured students acquired basic IT skills for their graduate studies and future professional endeavours. From January through March, the school invited faculty, staff, and students to attend the First Nations Curriculum Concentration (FNCC) Bi-weekly Virtual Tea, on Zoom. InterPARES Trust AI, managed by Professors **Luciana Duranti**, **Muhammad Abdul-Mageed**, and **Corinne Rogers**, is a new multinational interdisciplinary project that identifies and investigates artificial-intelligence technology applicable to records and archives. Partners in the project include the City of Vancouver Archives, the National Archives of Brazil, and the University of Florence's Department of History, Archeology, Geography, Art, and Entertainment. The project will continue until 2026.

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

By Kathleen DeLong

Restructuring continues at the University of Alberta and the Faculty of Education (where SLIS resides); a non-departmentalized model has been adopted. SLIS will continue as a school and is currently recruiting a new director. It plans to have a decision by mid-April, at the latest, and a new director in place when Interim Chair **Dr. Kathleen De Long** finishes her term on June 30, 2022. With public-health orders easing in Alberta, remote instruction ended February 28, and staff and students returned to campus. **Dr. Dinesh Rathi** has been promoted to full professor and **Dr. Danielle Allard** to associate professor with tenure, both effective July 2022. Congratulations are due to **Dr. Ali Shiri**, winner of the J. Gordon Kaplan Award for Excellence in Research, the university's most prestigious award for research. It is the first time someone in the Faculty of Education has won the award in nearly 20 years, and it is a first for the school!

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

By Becky Blue

The FIMS and LIS communities mourned the loss of one of the faculty's founders this fall, when Professor **Catherine Sheldrick Ross** passed away on September 11, 2021. Professor Ross was a well-known and respected scholar in library and information science, working at Western's Graduate School of Library & Information Science (GSLIS), before she accepted the challenge of leading the creation of a brand-new Faculty of Information and Media Studies in the late 1990s. Under her guidance as a transitional dean, GSLIS came together with the Graduate School of Journalism in 1996/1997, and FIMS emerged as a new faculty focused on library and information science, journalism, and media studies. Interdisciplinarity and collaboration were hallmarks of FIMS' early days, and they continue to be so today. Professor Ross went on to lead the faculty as acting dean and dean, between 2000 and 2007. She retired from teaching in 2010, but leaves behind a legacy of seminal LIS scholarship and a flourishing faculty.

University of Toronto, Faculty of Information (iSchool)

By Ann Brocklehurst

At the time of writing, the Faculty of Information is preparing to return to in-person classes on February 28. While the faculty offered in-person elements for many courses in the fall of 2021, after more than a year of 100 percent remote learning, the end-of-February return marks by far the biggest shift, as the transition to post-pandemic education begins. The faculty is also involved in a strategic planning process, its first since new concentrations, including Human-Centred Data Science and User Experience Design, and new programs – the Bachelor of Information degree – have been introduced. As work-integrated learning options, including co-op, continue to gain in popularity, the faculty is looking to forge new and stronger ties with potential and existing

partners. Associate Professor **Irina Mihalache** has taken over from **Cara Krmpotich** as head of the Museum Studies program, while Associate Professor **Scott Richmond** has been named director of the McLuhan Centre.

University of Ottawa, School of Information Studies

By Mary Cavanagh

We are delighted to report that the School of Information Studies MIS program has received continued accreditation from the American Library Association's Committee on Accreditation and the next review will be in the fall of 2028. We are grateful to the professional colleagues who gave their time to this process. We recently completed interviews for a tenured faculty member with specialization in digital humanities, and look forward to a new colleague joining us next year. Our anticipated return to campus for this winter term has been severely disrupted, first by Omicron, and then an extended city-centre protester occupation. The campus remained secure and open, but travel to and from the campus was seriously disrupted, and the situation impacted our students. We are anticipating a full return to campus for the next academic year and look forward to welcoming back students, staff, and faculty.

McGill University, School of Information Studies

By Peter F. McNally

In the fall of 2022, the School of Information Studies will launch an online graduate-certificate program in cyber security. The certificate will require 24 credits (eight courses) for successful completion. The McGill Association for Information Science and Technology student chapter has organized events for the 2022 winter term: a four-session Writing Retreat; Skills to Conduct a Productive Interview; and the Scientific Publishing Process. On April 28, the 14th EBSI-SIS Symposium will be held in partnership with the Université de Montréal. It provides an opportunity for Master's Université de Montreal. It provides an opportunity

for master's and doctoral students to present research and meet peers. The symposium will be a hybrid of in-person and virtual. The chapter also holds informal monthly lunches to facilitate meeting colleagues and sharing interests. Current enrolment in the school is 147 master's, 14 graduate-certificate, and 25 doctoral students.

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

By Isabelle Bourgey and Martin Bélanger

To support students in isolation and encourage motivation to continue their studies, EBSI has set up a student-led wellness committee, supported by staff. **The initiatives include a virtual mosaic where students posted an image documenting their experience of confinement.** The annual student-award ceremony was held on November 17, 2021. Fourteen scholarships were awarded for a total of

\$30,000. Professor **Vincent Larivière** is on the 2021 list of scientists most-frequently cited internationally by their peers, according to the *Web of Science* ranking. **Annaëlle Winand** has successfully completed the PhD program in Information Science. The jury awarded her thesis an outstanding mention and recommended her for the President's Honour Roll, in recognition of both the quality of her thesis and her outstanding results during her doctoral studies. Her research was co-supervised by Professor **Yvon Lemay**.

Dalhousie University, School of Information Management (SIM)

By Sandra Toze

This fall, we welcomed **Cabot Yu**, as our inaugural SIM professional-in-residence. His role is to ensure that our students have opportunities to build and practice the professional skills they will need in the workplace. Our new series, Antiracism in the Information Professions, has included

the following lectures: *Raising Our Hands: Indigenous Data Sovereignty and Relationality in LIS* (**Kayla Larson**) and *Hidden Voices — The Plurality of Provenance & the Deconstruction of Colonial 'Truth'* (**Jesse Boiteau**). As these lectures are ongoing, please check **our website** to confirm dates and times. We were delighted to host **Dr. Carla Hayden, Librarian of Congress**, for a well-attended Dalhousie-Horrocks National Leadership Lecture, Library Engagement in a Pandemic & Post Pandemic World, on February 1. We recognized this year's recipients of the Dalhousie-Horrocks National Leadership Fund scholarship: MI students **Vinson Li** and **McKenzie Young**. SIM Associated Alumni celebrated **Tanja Harrison** (MLIS '96) with the 2021 Outstanding Alumni Award. **Dr. Bertrum MacDonald** was awarded the 2021 Faculty of Management Research Impact Award.

Milestones

Obituaries

Compiled by Frances Davidson-Arnott

Dennis Abblitt died June 25, 2021, age 80, in Willow Grove, NB. In 1967 he moved to Canada from England, where he had studied philosophy, law, and library sciences, and embarked on a lifelong career as librarian at UNB-SJ, where he helped create one of North America's best science-fiction collections.

Patrick Joseph Adams died January 25, 2021, age 54, in Montreal. With an MLIS (Western), he had a rewarding career in IT that took him to England and India, working for Thomson-Reuters, Essar Algoma Steel, U of O Health Institute, and others.

Lenora Aedy died July 21, 2021, age 89, in Thunder Bay, ON. She was a faculty member at Lakehead University School of Library Technology, retiring in 1987.

Marilyn Aldworth died March 30, 2021, age 68, in Burnaby, BC. Following a brief teaching career, she earned an MLIS (Western) and worked as District Librarian for North Vancouver School.

William Scott Allison died January 3, 2021, age 77, in Edmonton. He earned a BA in French and the gold medal in arts (U of A), then spent a year in Paris at the Institut des Professeurs de Français à l'Étranger, returning to U of A for a B.Ed. After a year of teaching, Scott returned to Paris to work on his MA from Middlebury College, then earned his MLS (U of Maryland). In Edmonton, Scott worked as a U of A librarian for 30 years, retiring in 1999.

Ruth Lillian Archer died January 6, 2021, age 87, in Vancouver. Ruth graduated from UBC (1955) with a BA in home economics and a minor

in art history. She earned a library sciences degree (UBC '78), taught elementary school in Vancouver, then in France. In 1969 she returned to BC and was the librarian in four Burnaby elementary schools.

Andrew Armitage died November 18, 2021, age 82, in Leith, ON. Owen Sound PL's Chief Librarian (1973–2000), Andrew earned a master's degree in library science (Drexel U), and was a doctoral candidate (U of Pittsburgh).

Roberta Barlow died October 2, 2021, age 83, in Kamloops, BC. She graduated in library science (McGill), then became a librarian at Upper Canada College.

Maynard Joseph Bates died April 2, 2021, age 76, in Halifax. After graduating with an education degree (SFX), Maynard had a 34-year career,

teaching in the Western Arctic communities of Inuvik and Fort Smith. A keen interest in research led Maynard to U of A, where he pursued an MLIS.

Claude Beaudry died January 21, 2022, age 80, in Quebec City. After completing studies in music and library science, he was a music librarian at the Université Laval Library and wrote *Guide de rédaction des travaux de recherche en musique*.

Marie-Luise Berryman died December 16, 2021, in Fort Langley, BC. She graduated with a master's degree in librarianship (UBC '86), retiring as a librarian in North Vancouver in 2009.

Marjorie "Marj" Virginia Bilar died January 26, 2021, age 84, in Leduc, AB. After earning a teaching certificate (U of A), she taught in Thorsby, also serving as a school board trustee for the Black Gold School Division for 22 years. Disturbed by deficiencies in many local public libraries, she lobbied the Alberta Department of Education and the Alberta Department of Culture, resulting in the formation of the Yellowhead Regional Library System.

Maatje "Marsha" Blok died September 29, 2021, age 92, in Guelph, ON. In 1948 Marsha came to Canada with her family on the first post-Second World War immigrant ship from the Netherlands. After marriage and two children, Marsha attended high school, earned a BA (U of Waterloo) and an MLS (Western), then worked at U of Waterloo as an academic librarian until retiring in 1994.

Fay Blostein died January 24, 2022, age 94, in Toronto. A teacher-librarian in Etobicoke and Toronto, she joined U of T's Faculty of Education, retiring as an associate professor. She was the winner of OLA's Larry Moore Distinguished Service Award in 1989. She was the author and coauthor of books and teachers guides, and edited OLA's *Reviewing Librarian*.

Grant Bracewell died October 31, 2021, age 93, in Surrey, BC. After

working as a United Church minister in BC, he became the first theological librarian at U of T's Emmanuel College and co-ordinator of the Toronto Schools of Theology Libraries.

Marilyn Ruth Brooke (née Mackey) died March 8, 2021, age 76, in Ste. Anne, MB. She studied piano at the Royal Conservatory of Music, later earning a Bachelor of Music (U of Windsor) and a master's degree in library sciences (Western). Moving to Manitoba, she worked at Red River College, then, as Head Librarian, for Health Sciences, Government of Manitoba, until retirement.

Sheila Cardone died February 9, 2022, age 77, in Halifax. Born in Los Angeles, raised in New York City, she earned a BA at MSVU, in Halifax, then a BLS (U of T). For 30 years, Sheila was a librarian in Halifax Regional Library branches, retiring in 1997.

Doreen Carpenter died March 26, 2021, age 90, in Lethbridge, AB. She set up the new Picture Butte Library, and, as Head Librarian, she organized many activities and art shows.

Gayle Ardith Chambers died January 25, 2021, age 78, in Comox, BC. Ardith was a librarian at Burnaby PL and Douglas College.

Hélène Charbonneau died November 7, 2021, age 92, in Montreal. After studying at l'École de bibliothécaires de l'Université de Montréal (1952), she worked in children's libraries, eventually becoming responsible for the Montreal's children's libraries until her retirement in 1992. She is the author of *Pour que vive la lecture: littérature et bibliothèques pour la jeunesse*.

Agnes Helen Chayer died April 7, 2021, age 81, in Quebec. She returned to school after her children were grown, studying library sciences. After retiring, she was a volunteer librarian.

Ruth Hulbert Clark died April 10, 2021, age 95, in Ottawa. After graduating from McMaster University

and earning an MLS (Drexel U), Ruth worked at the Central Experimental Farm (1947–1949) and the Department of Health and Welfare's Food and Drug library, and the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada library, retiring in 1991.

Judith Colson died March 7, 2021, age 84, in Fredericton. Judy was a librarian at the Harriet Irving Library at UNB from 1967 until retirement and served on the Fredericton Public Library Board and Friends of the Library. In retirement, she became a quilter and was librarian for the Cotton Mill Quilt Guild.

Ann Crompton died December 15, 2021, age 90. With a library sciences degree from Concordia, she became a school librarian for the Protestant School Board of Greater Montreal until the early 1990s.

Edward Gerald Devine died January 29, 2021, age 77, in Sechelt, BC. After university, he had a 40-plus year career at Baker and Taylor Publisher Services. Ed's curiosity and gift of the gab facilitated his success. His clients were universities, high schools, elementary schools, and bookstores across Canada and the Western U.S.

Maria (Mary) Filomena Disipio died November 2, 2021, age 69, in Ottawa. She was a cataloguer at LAC.

Edith Eleanor Doyle died February 12, 2022, age 83, in Winnipeg. Born in Australia, she earned a BA and a diploma of education (U of New England), then her MLS in Nashville, TN, and her B.Ed. (U of Manitoba). Involved with the International Association of School Librarianship, she worked as a librarian at several Winnipeg schools.

Dorothy Jean Goodier died August 2021, age 95, in Toronto. A Western graduate, Dorothy worked for many years at TPL's Swansea branch.

Barbara Grabowski died September 9, 2021, age 99, in Ottawa. She earned

a BLS and an MLS (U of O) and also completed the coursework for an MA in Slavistics, then became Head Librarian at McArthur High School.

Andrew Gregorovich died February 26, 2022, age 86, in Toronto. U of T Librarian Emeritus, he was a department head for 30 years. He served as chairman of the Toronto Historical Board, OLA President, President of the Canadian Multilingual Press Federation, and as a board member of the U of T Governing Council, Executive Director of the Ukrainian Canadian Research & Documentation Centre, and President of the Taras Shevchenko Museum. He was honoured with a City of Toronto Medal, a Shevchenko Medal by the Ukrainian Canadian Congress, and a Ukraine government-awarded medal. He was also the author of *Forum: A Ukrainian Review*, *Ukraine in World War II*, *Roxelana*, *Anna Yaroslavna*, *Holodomor*, among other publications.

Helen Margaret "Margot" Hall died February 5, 2022, age 99, in Ottawa. After obtaining her BA (McGill), Margot established Miss Hall's Personnel Service in Ottawa in 1972, retiring in 1997. Many Ottawa-area librarians used her agency to hire library staff and some librarians got their start working for her.

Louise Hall died February 10, 2022, age 97, in Cowansville, QC. An educator-teacher, principal, visiting teacher with the Department of Protestant Education and specialist in educational sciences with the Ministère de l'éducation, she co-founded the Farnham Library more than 60 years ago, and was honoured when it was renamed Bibliothèque municipale Louise-Hall, in 2018.

Nancy Jane Halpern died July 8, 2021, age 89, in Vancouver. Nancy completed her BA and MLS at UBC, then worked as a librarian for Burnaby PL, where she met David Conn, her partner of 36 years.

Margaret Hawthorn (née Currie) died September 22, 2021, age 85, in Toronto. A librarian at U of T

Mississauga, she volunteered extensively for senior women's causes, social-justice issues, literacy, politics, and the environment after retirement.

Barbara Jane Holmes died March 14, 2021, age 77, Hamilton, ON. She was a research librarian at Brock University.

Anne Howlett died November 20, 2021, age 88, in Toronto. A Western graduate, she launched a distinguished career of 40-plus years, managing school libraries in Sarnia, ON, Edmonton, Manchester, England, and Toronto. Anne graduated with a McGill library science degree and was awarded the library school prize for the highest average. Anne was lauded for her contributions, notably the *Independent Study Booklet*, an innovative and essential student learning tool, now titled *Research Success @ Your Library: A Guide to Inquiry and Research for Intermediate and Secondary Students*.

Neil Rutherford Hughes died December 30, 2021, age 66, in Edmonton. He earned his B.Mus. in viola performance (U of A '77), and played professionally in the Edmonton Symphony Orchestra. In 1981 he began a career in music information, receiving his AMLS (U of Michigan '84); he later also earned a second master's degree in music history (U of Georgia). Neil was Assistant Librarian at the Curtis Institute of Music, in Philadelphia (1984–1986), then head of music cataloguing at U of Georgia's library for 30 years, retiring in 2016.

Ada Hazen "Stit" Inches died August 29, 2021, age 101, in Saint John, NB. After earning a BLS (McGill, 42), she joined the Women's Royal Canadian Naval Service (WRCNS) and served overseas, in Newfoundland and the U.K. She was discharged with the rank of lieutenant in 1946.

Lance Laverne Irvine died April 8, 2021, age 88, in Yorkton, SK. He earned teaching and library science degrees (UBC), and a master's degree in philosophy (U of Washington). In 1967 he became the first librarian

at the new Yorkton Regional High School. Ahead of his time, Lance used audio-visual resources to build English and history courses for students who struggled in a conventional classroom.

Louise Irwin died January 6, 2022, age 94, in Vancouver. She attended UBC for a BSc in Agriculture ('48) and a BLS ('67). Louise worked abroad in research labs, taught at University Hill Secondary School, and retired as a librarian at Vancouver PL.

Colleen Keizer died November 9, 2021, age 74, in Dunnville, ON. She was a librarian in West Lincoln Township for more than 30 years.

Margaret Eileen Vera Irwin Kobes died December 23, 2021, age 83, in London, ON. After training as a nurse, she earned a BLS (U of T '68). She was staff nurse, instructor, and librarian at London's Victoria Hospital; part-time medical librarian at Windsor's Grace Hospital; and, part-time staff librarian at Windsor's Metropolitan Hospital. She was an active member of the Canadian Bookbinders and Book Artists Guild.

Jean Elizabeth Laundy died in 2021, age 93, in Toronto. With an MLS (U of T), Jean was a business and law librarian, working at Imperial Oil, Tilley Carson Finley, and Sun Life. She authored a definitive monograph on Stevengraph bookmarks, which she collected. She endowed a theatre-arts collection to the Osborne Collection of Early Children's Books at Toronto PL's Lillian H. Smith Branch.

Virginia Leach died November 17, 2021, age 97, in Toronto. A graduate of McGill and U of T's Wycliffe (Theological) College, Virginia was a respected theological librarian.

Mary Diana Lie died December 23, 2021, age 98, in Toronto. She attended U of T library school and worked as a librarian.

Linda Macleod died September 29, 2021, age 73, in Halifax. She attended Dalhousie and was a librarian

there for more than 30 years.

Audrey MacLellan died February 13, 2022, age 93, in Brampton, ON. Born in Iowa, she grew up on a family farm during the Great Depression. With an MLS from Boston, she worked as a librarian at the Detroit PL. She moved to Canada in 1953. When the government established community colleges in 1965, Audrey applied as Chief Librarian at Humber College, and became the first employee Humber hired, despite being a married woman with young children.

Mary-Eileen McClear died April 10, 2021, age 72, in Baden, ON. With a master's degree in library science (Western Michigan U '71), Mary began her career in children's services in St. Catharines, ON, then moved to the Midwestern Library System in Kitchener-Waterloo, ON. Later, she became a professional storyteller.

Thomas Gregory McCool died March 4, 2021, age 82, in Victoria, BC. A history teacher in Sudbury, Tom continued his education with a degree in library science (Arizona State U), becoming a head librarian, until his retirement.

Dora Craig McPherson died March 11, 2021, age 95, in London, ON. She was the medical reference librarian at University Hospital from the day it opened. After retiring, she continued to volunteer there for more than 15 years.

Mary McTavish died January 26, 2022, age 89, in Toronto. She graduated from U of T with a BA in historical and modern languages, then a library science degree in London, England. She worked as a librarian at Robarts Library.

Donald Frederick Meadows died January 21, 2021, age 84, in Nanaimo, BC. With a BLS (UBC '67), he began a lifelong career in library management, building and overseeing the development of many regional library systems in Saskatchewan. From 1981 to 1986, he was Toronto PL's Chief Librarian and Secretary to the Board of

Directors, Toronto Reference Library, when 12 new branches were opened. Five years later, he went to Nanaimo, BC, where he led further inter-regional development of the Vancouver Island Regional Library System (VIRL).

Claude D. Moïse died November 17, 2021, age 79, in Ottawa. Claude was a reference librarian at the Fisheries and Oceans Canada library, the Supreme Court of Canada library, and the Library of Parliament.

Elizabeth Mullens died November 19, 2021, age 95, in Owen Sound, ON. Awarded a scholarship to Western, she studied sciences. Liz worked at Western's Collip Lab and U of T's Banting Institute and Academy of Medicine Library.

Nora Murchison died June 15, 2021, age 92, in Ottawa. With a BLS and master's degree in geography (McGill '52 and '61), she was librarian at the Arctic Institute of North America (1954–1972) in Montreal. She single-handedly catalogued and cross-indexed its collection, while expanding and completing its coverage. Nora contributed entries for the *Dictionary of Canadian Biography*, and wrote three books: *Polar and Cold Regions Library Resources: A Directory* (1975), *Travel in Canada: a guide to information sources* (1983), and *Resources for Native People Studies* (1984).

Tony Neal died December 4, 2021, age 55, in Regina. A UBC library science grad, he was the community librarian at Regina PL for 25 years.

Denise A. Ostiguy (née Côté) died February 2, 2022, age 90, in Gatineau, QC. After her librarianship studies, she worked at the National Library of Canada (1972–1992).

Terry Paris died September 13, 2021, age 72, in Halifax. An MLS grad (Western '72), he began a 42-year career at MSVU Library & Archives, retiring as head of academic and reference services in 2014. His legacies include the early development

of MSVU's library collection in the areas of women, gender, and queer studies, now the strongest in the region. Terry's forward-thinking article, *Breaking the mould: How re-examining the allocation formula led to the creation of a dynamic role for the university's librarians*, is highly cited and, over the years, academic librarians near and far have reached out to seek further insight into changing historical collection–funding models.

Lorna Peaker died January 31, 2022, age 88, in Oakville, ON. She studied librarianship while working at libraries at the U of Manchester and ICI (AstraZeneca). Lorna later completed a degree in anthropology (U of T).

Anne Pennylegion died October 8, 2021, in Earl Grey, SK. She worked in book purchasing and selling in bookstores in Toronto and Regina. Anne was the retreat co-ordinator for the Saskatchewan Writers' Guild (2006–2008 and 2009–2013). In recent years, she worked for the Saskatchewan Library Association, coordinating programs such as the guild-partnered One Book One Province.

Howard Clement Perron died September 25, 2021, age 93, in Ottawa. After serving in the RCAF, he obtained a BPH (St. Paul's U), BA and BLS (U of O), and an MLS (McGill). After a 28-year career as an academic librarian at Loyola College (now Concordia), he was granted the honour of Professor Emeritus by Concordia.

William Edward Parker died May 25, 2021, age 86, in Vancouver. With an MLS (UBC), he spent almost his entire career at the UBC Woodward Biomedical Library.

Margaret Peel died December 25, 2021, age 103, in Edmonton. Margaret taught all grades in one-room schools in Saskatchewan, then became a librarian at the Connaught Branch Regina PL. Margaret painstakingly edited her husband Bruce Peel's books, including the monumental *A Bibliography of the Prairie Provinces*

to 1953. In the late 1960s, she was the one-person jury for the Governor General's Award for Fiction.

Sylvia Piggott died June 7, 2021, age 82, in Montreal. She earned an MLS (McGill '79), became Senior Manager, Information Resource Centre, Bank of Montreal, then Deputy Division Chief of Information Services, Joint World Bank and IMF Fund Library (Washington, DC), retiring from this position in 2002. A long-standing member of the Special Library Association, she served as President (1996–1997). She was active in the International Federation of Library Associations and received several awards for her service to her profession.

Phyllis Eva Price died April 11, 2021, age 96, in London, ON. She taught English, library, and geography. After earning her MLS (Kalamazoo, Michigan), she served as a school librarian.

Ruth Prowse died March 10, 2021, age 97, in Aylmer, ON. She retired as Deputy Chief Librarian with the Elgin County PL.

Idalia Helena "Ida/Lila" Rappé died November 8, 2021, age 97, in Windsor, ON. Idalia took part in the 1944 Warsaw Uprising as a member of the Polish Home Army, then was sent to a POW camp. In 1949 she arrived in Canada. While raising her family, Ida earned a bachelor degree (U of Windsor) and an MLS (U of Michigan), and then worked as a U of Windsor librarian until retirement.

Sharon Reeves died December 21, 2021, in Nanaimo, BC. Sharon was a career librarian with Library and Archives Canada (LAC). She was a member of the Networked Digital Library of Theses and Dissertations Board of Directors (2002–2012), retiring as Manager of Theses Canada, at LAC. She then acted as the board's secretary and served on committees, including as Chair, Conference Standing Committee (2006–2012). She also co-chaired the 9th International Symposium on

Electronic Theses and Dissertations.

Marge Roberts died July 9, 2021, age 79, in Thunder Bay, ON. She began teaching in 1962, left to raise her family, then returned to school for degrees in anthropology, sociology, and library science. Her lengthy career as a librarian at Confederation College ended with her retirement in 2006.

Catherine Sheldrick Ross died September 11, 2021, in London, ON. (See the article by Becky Blue in this issue, page 20.).

Carolynne Elizabeth Scott died September 26, 2021, age 73, in Winnipeg. After graduating in library science at U of A, she managed several Calgary PL branches.

Edward Trivett Sharp died February 11, 2022, age 67, in Toronto. He earned an MLS (U of T). While a Queen's student, Ted was the federal Rhino Party nominee for Kingston. Running against Flora McDonald, Ted 'not so' Sharp's slogan was "Vote Fauna, not Flora." Ted was a librarian at the Mississauga Central Library in many departments for 36 years, becoming the Manager of Collections Management (2007–2020).

John Smart died August 29, 2021, age 82, in Ottawa. John worked for 18 years as an archivist at the Public Archives of Canada and, in 1992, founded the Archives Technician Program at Algonquin College where he taught until retiring in 2000. He was an NDP candidate three times and an Ottawa school board trustee. In 2004 he completed the history PhD (Queen's University) that he had abandoned during his Waffle political years.

Shirley Smith died April 5, 2021, age 88, in Ottawa. She earned her MLS (U of O) and worked as a librarian for the RCMP, then for CN, before retiring.

Joyce Sowby died January 5, 2022, age 94, in Toronto. She was a librarian at Annapolis Valley Regional Library then at U of T Scarborough for many years. Joyce enjoyed art, travelled extensively,

studied French, read voraciously, and attended lectures on history, art, and religion into her 90s. She devoted herself to the Trinity College Book Sale. Two of her books were *Quality printing: a history of Rous and Mann Limited, 1909–1954* (about her father's printing company) and a history of the Cathedral Church of St. James, Toronto. Joyce was an active longtime member of ELA.

Richard Spafford died October 6, 2021, age 82, in Regina. He graduated from the University of Saskatchewan. In the late 1960s, he opened the Book Cellar (later renamed Spafford Books) in Regina. In the early 1980s, he served as an appraiser for the National Archives, then for other libraries and archival departments. He amassed one of the largest Canadian collections of Indigenous, Prairie, and Canadian history materials, which were sought-after by North American academic libraries. In 2005 Richard was awarded the Lieutenant Governor's Arts Award for Leadership, for his contributions to arts and culture in Saskatchewan.

Josephine Mary Stackhouse died May 21, 2021, age 93, in Saint John, NB. After graduating from UBC, she earned a library-science degree (U of T), then an education degree (UNB). Until retirement, Jo was the Coordinator of Library Services for Saint John and southwest New Brunswick schools.

Eunice Lulu (Chen) Stringer died August 26, 2021, age 75, in Halifax. She earned an MLS (Western '72), worked at UNB's Harriet Irving Library, then the New Brunswick PL Service.

Wasył Sydorenko died January 13, 2022, age 61, in Toronto. At U of T, he earned a BA (musicology specialist, geology major) and an MIS. Starting his career in vertebrate palaeontology at the ROM, Wasył moved to U of T. From 1994 he was East European Reference Specialist, Petro Jacyk Resource Centre. He was also a composer and, in 1991, organized a concert to promote the 100th year of Ukrainians in Canada, conducting a 10 grand piano–ensemble, at Massey Hall. He wrote numerous articles and music reviews.

William “Paul” Swan died October 28, 2021, in London, ON. He attended Western, earning teaching and MLIS degrees. Paul taught for Middlesex County and Thames Valley District School Boards.

Constance Adrienne Taylor died July 18, 2021, age 93, in Toronto. Having returned to university at age 40 to complete her BA, she then earned her MA in English and MLS at U of T. She worked in a public library system, then as a librarian at Wycliffe College, U of T, until retirement.

Anne Louise Taylor-Vaisey died February 8, 2022, age 74, in Toronto. After earning a master’s degree in library science (Western), she became map librarian at Trent, then circulation and reference librarian until 1984. In 1991 she joined U of T’s Office for Continuing Medical Education, as library-services consultant and co-authored articles cited by thousands of researchers. She served as president of the Toronto Health Libraries Association and the Indexing and Abstracting Society of Canada. She was architect of the Society for Academic Continuing Medical Education website. In 2001 she became the Canadian Memorial Chiropractic College’s (CMCC) reference librarian. In 2012 Anne joined a multidisciplinary and international team of health-care professionals at the Institute for Disability and Rehabilitation Research, where she displayed her rigorous approach to scientific research. She was named adjunct professor at CMCC, in 2016, and chief editor of the Index to Chiropractic Literature the next year.

Marlene Joyce Turkington died November 14, 2021, age 75, in Woodstock, ON. She was a teacher and teacher-librarian with Oxford County and Thames Valley District school boards. Marlene was also a private consultant and worked with GoodMinds. Through various organizations — OLA, OSLA, TALCO, and CASL — she advocated for libraries by encouraging the purchase of memberships, organizing bus trips to conferences, writing articles,

and guest-editing publications.

Blair Garfield Thompson died November 28, 2021, age 85, in Vancouver. After attending SFU and UBC, he was a librarian in Coquitlam and North Vancouver District.

Bonnie Ruth Waddell died October 21, 2021, age 76, in Truro, NS. She graduated in library science (Dalhousie). She worked at South Shore Regional Library, Colchester East Hants PL, then became Chief Librarian, Nova Scotia Agricultural College.

Darlene Charlotte Warren died February 7, 2022, age 62, in Calgary. She earned an MLS (Dalhousie) and, after working briefly at the Biological Station Library in St. Andrews, NB, worked at U of Calgary as an associate university librarian for more than 25 years.

Margaret (Maggie) Weaver died January 12, 2022, age 71, in Toronto. She graduated in mathematics from U of Exeter. Maggie worked in many areas, including management-consulting firms, information-search organizations, a large chemical company, as a trainer for online searching, and two years with the UN, in Vienna. She developed unique and much sought-after expertise that she used to assist small businesses and entrepreneurs, and was active in organizations such as the SLA and Ontario Association of Library Technicians.

Ronald Welwood died November 21, 2021, age 81, in Nelson, BC. He joined the NLC in 1966, as a member of the library trainee program. After graduating from UBC Library School in 1967, he worked in the public services branch, at Notre Dame University library, in Nelson, at David Thompson University Centre, and at Selkirk College, Castlegar, BC, retiring in 2000.

Heather Lynne West died October 1, 2020, age 77, in Belle River, PEI. With an MLS from McGill, she was a librarian in Sudbury, ON, and Yarmouth, NS, before becoming City Librarian, Corner Brook, NL, retiring in 2008.

William Kenneth Whiteway died May 11, 2021, age 72, in Saskatoon. With an MLS (Western ’72), he worked at the NLC before completing a law degree (Queen’s ’77), and later a Juris Doctor. He worked at the U of Saskatchewan Law Library for 35 years as the reference librarian and then as head of the law library until his retirement in 2012.

Christie Ann Whitman died September 29, 2021, age 78, in Orillia, ON. With a BA (McMaster University), BFA (York University), and a master’s degree in psychology (Adler Institute in Chicago), she was librarian at the Huronia Regional Centre, opened and ran the Health Sciences Library at Soldiers’ Memorial Hospital, was President of the Ontario Association of Hospital Librarians, and Orillia PL board chair.

Robyn Willis died March 29, 2021, age 75, in Parksville, BC. She became a librarian in New Zealand before coming to Canada. In Prince Rupert, BC, Robyn was head librarian. She later ran a bookmobile.

Muriel Lorraine Wright died March 15, 2021, age 99, in Ottawa. In the early 1940s, Muriel moved from Toronto to Ottawa to work as a librarian. After raising her family, she returned to work at the Ottawa PL.

Victoria Geraldine Young died December 10, 2021, age 83, in Toronto. Born in Tobago, West Indies, she worked as a librarian at U of Windsor, U of the West Indies, St. Augustine Campus, and was Head, Tobago Children’s Library for many 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, provides more information celebrating the lives of our members.

Retirements

Compiled by Suzette Giles



Ann Barrett, Associate Dean, Scholarly Communications, and Head, W. K. Kellogg Health Sciences Library, Dalhousie University, retired at the end of June 2021. She obtained her M.L.I.S (Dalhousie '81), after which she worked in the United Arab Emirates and Saint John, NB, before returning to the university in 1986. During her 35-year career at Dalhousie Libraries, she held various positions and, for many years, was the liaison librarian for the School of Nursing and the Divisions of Pediatrics, Oncology/Hematology, and Obstetrics & Gynecology. Following several leaves from Dalhousie, she became Head of Public Services in the W. H. Kellogg Library and, in 2017, was appointed Associate Dean Scholarly Communications and Head of the W. K. Kellogg Health Sciences Library. Melissa Helwig is the new Associate Dean, Research and Scholarly Communications, and Head of the W. K. Kellogg Health Sciences Library.

Heather King retired at the end of 2021, after eight years as CEO of the Norfolk County Public Library, Ont. Prior to her appointment as CEO in 2013, Heather held various positions, over 20 years in the Town of Simcoe and Norfolk County's recreation department. Over the last eight years, the library has greatly increased the number of card holders, and established programs and partnerships with more than 20 organizations and agencies. All five branches have makerspace equipment, literacy-based programs, and current collections, and the Delhi branch has had a major renovation. The Interim CEO is Richard Anderson.

Carol MacDonald, Head, Systems Development and Implementation, retired from the University of Regina Library, after more than 40 years. During her career, Carol launched numerous automation projects including the CANPLAINS database for the Canadian Plains Research Center, as a nationally accessible resource of

Prairie research; the university's first major automation project and formation of the RegLIN consortium consisting of URL, the Saskatchewan Legislative Library, the Gabriel Dumont Institute, the Regina General Hospital Library, Pasqua and Wascana hospital libraries, and the Saskatchewan Department of Health Library; and state-of-the-art integrated library discovery systems. In 2016, she served as project manager for the Alma/Primo Discovery system implementation by the Consortium of Academic and Special Libraries (formerly RegLIN). She also developed and managed the library's first website, the Relais interlibrary loan system, CONTENTdm for the first digital project, EZproxy authentication, and the Springshare suite of services (LibGuides, LibApps, mLibCal) for enhanced research assistance.

Mary Ann Mavrinac, Vice Provost and Andrew H. and Janet Dayton Neilly Dean, River Campus Libraries, University of Rochester, Rochester, NY, retired on October 31, 2021. She initiated the Rush Rhees Library Revitalization Project, a 10-year facilities and master plan, and a five-year strategic plan to transform the River Campus Libraries into a collaborative hub for innovation. In 2007, selected as one of the 23 fellows for the Association of Research Libraries (ARL) leadership program, she served on ARL's board from 2013 to 2019, becoming president in 2018. Prior to joining the University of Rochester in 2012, Mary Ann was chief librarian at U of T Mississauga for 11 years, where she was responsible for planning and building the Hazel McCallion Academic Learning Centre. She served as president of the Ontario Library Association in 2010, and received a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Ontario College and University Library Association in 2014. Mavrinac has BA and B.Ed. degrees from U of T, an MLS from Western University, and a doctorate in educational leadership and

change from the Fielding Graduate University.

Linda B. McIntyre retired as Provincial Archivist of Saskatchewan in 2021, after more than 12 years in the position. She joined the Provincial Archives of Saskatchewan in 1987, holding several specializations during 22 years as archivist and chief archivist, including government records, private records, maps and architectural drawings, and records-processing and descriptive-standards officer. She also managed several projects during her career including backlog reduction, ministerial records, and MINISIS implementation. The new provincial archivist is Carol Radford-Grant, effective September 20, 2021.

Michael Moosberger, Associate Dean Archives, Records Management, and Special Collections and University Archivist, retired at the end of January 2022, after 21 years at Dalhousie University Libraries. Highlights of Michael's tenure include significant growth in collection holdings and accessions, the transition from print to digital records, publicly accessible, web-based finding aids and images, as well as successfully advocating for increased staffing to match the support for new and varied archival initiatives. Sarah Stevenson is the new associate dean of Archives, Records Management, and Special Collections. She will also continue as Head, Killam Memorial Library.

Lisa-Jane Watson retired from EBSCO Canada at the end of December 2021, after 32 years as an EBSCO vendor. She earned a B.Ed. from Red Deer College in 1985 and an MLIS from the University of Alberta in 1989.

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

Ādisōke: a bold experiment in co-operation

By Barbara Clubb, with Aynsley Morris, Communications, Ottawa Public Library

This is the third in a series of combination ELAN newsletter/Ex Libris Association feature articles highlighting exciting and inspiring new and renovated branch-library spaces — which began in ELAN No 61/Spring 2017).

Adisōke (phonetic spelling: ădisō:kə), the joint facility between the Ottawa Public Library (OPL) and Library and Archives Canada (LAC), is set to open its doors in 2026. A ground-breaking venture, Ādisōke is designed to be a landmark destination built on the shared values of the two partner institutions.

The OPL-LAC Joint Facility Project Team worked in partnership with the Anishinābe Algonquin Nation, via the work of Elders and members of Kitigan Zibi Anishinābeg First Nation and the Algonquins of Pikwākanagān First Nation, to name the facility and develop a unique and creative facility that is welcoming to all.

The total project cost, \$326 million, is divided among the City of Ottawa, OPL, LAC, and Ottawa's parking authority. A fundraising campaign, Unlock Potential, aims to raise \$10 million of the total cost. The award-winning team of Diamond Schmitt and KWC Architects was selected to design the facility.

Facing the Ottawa River and the Gatineau Hills, and just minutes from downtown Ottawa, the building will comprise 216,000 square feet (OPL 61 percent and LAC 39 percent). The facility is on the LRT line and will welcome 5,000 people a day, 1.7 million people a year.

Special OPL features include The Children's Discovery Centre, with a Children's Wigwam Room for Storytime and a collection of more than 20,000 items, and the Teen's Centre, with makerspaces, and areas for performances, group gatherings, and quiet study.

For more information, go to exlibris.ca/doku.php?id=occasional_papers:adisoke:a_bold_experiment_in_cooperation.

[papers:adisoke:a_bold_experiment_in_cooperation](http://exlibris.ca/doku.php?id=occasional_papers:adisoke:a_bold_experiment_in_cooperation).

Barbara Clubb, now retired, was Ottawa City Librarian, (1995–2022).



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Ex Libris Association Newsletter

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The Library at Night Spring Tour

By Julia Schneider

This spring's ELA library tour, The Library at Night, was like no other. It took place in just two rooms at Lighthouse ArtSpace Toronto, and did not involve walking, yet took participants to 10 libraries, a personal library, and a forest, in just an hour. It was special in other ways, too. Some members of the group were able to meet for lunch beforehand, on April 20, for the first time in two years. As one participant said, "It was great to be able to get together with friends in person again!" The show itself started in a space modelled on the library of Alberto Manguel, whose 2006 book avant-garde director and writer Robert Lepage used as inspiration for his eponymous 2016 virtual-reality show in Montreal. Manguel's work is a true bibliophile's feast and full of reflection, while Lepage's show proved an immersive and more sensory experience. How does one absorb 10 iconic libraries in such a short time? The answer lies in Lepage's technology. Equipped

with goggles and earphones, library tourists were virtually transported from the ArtSpace's second room — a forest complete with papier mâché trees — to a realm of their choosing. Through focusing on their goggles' index screen, participants could choose the libraries they wanted to tour, from those of Alexandria to Copenhagen to Mexico City. No doubt everyone had favourite destinations. Mine was Ottawa's Library of Parliament, where I watched as a noncommittal librarian turned the pages of a life-sized copy of Audubon's *Birds of America* to release those depicted within. In an imaginative delight, a woodpecker hammered a bookshelf, a blue jay strutted, and an immense snowy owl emerged — until a late-night visitor to the library sent them all hurrying back into the book from which they came. The mummified library in Copenhagen, the twirling prayer wheel in Japan, the cellist playing while the library

Continued on page 2



...continued from page 1



burned in Sarajevo, Captain Nemo's fictional library from Jules Verne's classic, Alexandria then and now — you can choose it. There was much to lament, and much to impress and astonish, but the importance of libraries emerged intact and was heightened through Manguel's and Lepage's combined magic. ■

Ex Libris Association Annual General Meeting and Annual Conference

Monday, November 7, 2022, via Zoom!

Conference Speakers:

Archivist **Lisa Glandt** will speak about how British Columbia archives are working toward the Truth and Reconciliation Commission calls to action, in relation to archival practice.

Teacher-librarian **Richard Beaudry** will discuss contemporary challenges and censorship in Canadian school libraries and learning commons.

ELA Tours

Stay tuned for details of our **in-person fall tour** and a **virtual winter tour** now being planned. Information will be posted on the ELA website and the ELA listserv. For more information, please contact vivienne.g.james@gmail.com.

President's Report

By Deb Thomas



As we move toward the fall on the crest of yet another Omicron wave, we all need to keep our connections strong and our minds active. I am thankful

for my engaged ELA colleagues, who keep me informed and thinking about issues related to libraries, archives, and information science — and thankful we have the tools in 2022 to connect virtually with members across Canada.

In 2022 to date, we have:

- had lively discussions on the ELA listserv,
- begun negotiations with **Indspire** on setting up a bursary to support an Indigenous student in a library technician or master's program (to learn more, see my article, page 5, in this issue),
- hosted virtual exhibits at the Ontario Library Association

and British Columbia Library Association conferences and attracted new members,

- continued with our work in establishing a digital archive of our newsletter and other association documents (see article by Donna Burton, page 4 in this issue),
- planned our AGM and conference for November 7, 2022, (Richard Beaudry, nationally respected teacher-librarian, will talk about recent censorship in school libraries and Lisa Glandt, archivist, will explore how BC archives are working toward the Truth and Reconciliation Commission calls to action, in relation to archival practice),
- begun planning for virtual and in-person tours of library and archival facilities in the coming months,
- continued to have an online presence with our **website** and **Facebook page**, and
- extended free memberships to anyone over 90 years old (if you would like to take advantage of this, please contact Bob Henderson

at bob.exlibris@gmail.com).

I am grateful to be part of such an active board and thank everyone for their excellent work in the past six months. If you want to know more about our board members, their work experience, interests, and so on, go to exlibris.ca/doku.php?id=aboutus:executive_board_and_committees.

We are currently in need of a few new board members: someone to lead our archives committee — archival training and experience would, of course, be an asset (we have both digital and paper files that need archiving), and a vice-president/president-elect, who can take over ELA's helm when my three-year term ends in November 2024. If you are interested, please contact me at thomasde424@gmail.com.

Deb Thomas recently retired from a 40-plus year career in libraries, 30 years of which were in public library management. She is ELA's representative on CFLA-FCAB IFC. ■

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

By Todd Kyle, reporting on behalf of the CFLA-FCAB Board of Directors



Since its AGM in February 2022, CFLA-FCAB has continued its advocacy at the federal level for issues of importance to Canadian libraries.

The 2022 federal budget included two investments related to this advocacy:

- \$25 million over three years, starting in 2022/23, to Library and Archives Canada to support the digitization of millions of documents related to the federal Indian Day School System, which will ensure that survivors and all Canadians have meaningful access to them;
- \$25 million over five years, proposed for Employment and Social Development Canada to support the Centre for Equitable Library Access and the National Network for Equitable Library Service—production and distribution of alternative-format materials.

The effort to bring this about was a national campaign to push back against declining budgets for these two organizations that provide materials for print-disabled public library users.

CFLA-FCAB continues to work closely with government officials on a number of other important issues. In April it wrote open letters to the ministers of Canadian Heritage, Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada, expressing concerns that the proposed revisions to the *Copyright Act*, as announced in the Government of Canada's Budget 2022, would not be given the formal legislative process that fully represents the importance of this legislation to public interest, and the benefit of full stakeholder review.

February's AGM brought four new members to the CFLA-FCAB board, replacing retiring representatives from Alberta, the Prairie provinces, Ontario, and the Canadian Association of Research Libraries. Lorisia MacLeod

is the new board chair and Hélène Carrier is the new vice chair. Board-liaison officers have been selected to act as communication conduits between the board and CFLA-FCAB's four strategic committees.

A task force has been struck for policy review and the updating of all existing policies (finance, committee, etc.), and drafting new policies — for areas such as communication and external partnerships — as required. In addition, a strategic-plan task force has been established to review and assess some of the key accomplishments of CFLA-FCAB's first strategic plan (2019–2022), during these exceptional times, and to develop a new plan (2023–2027). The major components of the task force's mandate will be to scan the CFLA-FCAB environment for issues and trends, survey member associations, and produce a draft strategic plan to be tabled at CFLA-FCAB's 2023 AGM.

CFLA-FCAB's copyright committee prepared two substantive responses to government consultations, one for online intermediaries and another for AI and the Internet of Things. Committee working groups prepared a paper on controlled digital lending and wrote a Crown copyright op-ed that generated immediate followup from MPs and officials, drafted a position paper on AI, and created Canadian guidelines for conducting a reasonable search for accessible works. The committee continues to work with Impact Public Affairs to advance CFLA-FCAB information-policy positions with government officials on a regular basis.

Following a call for nominations, CFLA-FCAB announced that the Indigenous matters committee has a new chair, Kirk MacLeod. The first several months of this position will be spent reviewing, adding, and rewriting foundational committee documents (for example terms of reference) for IMC before aiding CFLA-FCAB in drafting

a call for members. Finally, the CFLA-FCAB board continues discussions with potential partner associations, with the goal of a possible 2023 national forum, if public-health requirements allow.

For more information visit cfla-fcab.ca.

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

W. Kaye Lamb Award for Service to Seniors and Elders

The call for awards applicants will be made in the spring of 2023.

Help us find great candidates so we can announce the next award winner by the fall of 2023.

To apply, visit the [W. Kaye Lamb Award for Service to Seniors](#) web page.

Welcome to New ELA Members

We're proud to welcome the following new ELA members:

Virginia Gillham, Guelph, ON
Don McLeod, Toronto
Paul Merriam, Chelsea, QC
Pamela Mountain, Toronto
Janet Mumford, Brentwood Bay, BC
Lori Nick, Port Coquitlam, BC
Lindsay Ross, Victoria
Anita Thompson, Abbotsford, BC

CFLA-FCAB Intellectual Freedom Committee (IFC)

By Deb Thomas

The CFLA-FCAB Intellectual Freedom Committee continues to monitor hot issues related to freedom of expression.

The rise of censorship incidents in school libraries has been a recent focus. The IFC chair, Richard Beaudry, is a teacher-librarian who has been active in consulting on and advocating for intellectual freedom in school libraries. While materials with content concerning race and LGBTQ+ issues are being most commonly removed in US school libraries, in Canada items are more often being removed due to sensitivities on these issues and the desire not to do harm to equity-seeking communities. Unfortunately, in some cases, this has meant removals are being done in reaction to a single parent expressing concerns and without careful consideration. This has meant a book by award-winning, Indigenous author David A. Robertson was swept up in a recent removal of a number of books by Ontario's Durham District School Board. His book has since been reinstated.

Related to this issue, small public libraries in British Columbia and Ontario have been receiving Notices of Liability from the group **Action4Canada**. The notice quotes Canadian law on child pornography and is aimed at removing Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity (SOGI) 123 curriculum from schools, as well as

books promoting acceptance of, or telling the real stories of, LGBTQ+ people from both school and public libraries. The notice also asks for the names of everyone who has selected the materials. At present the advice is that, unless the sender makes a formal Freedom of Information request or a formal written challenge to one or all of the 62 books on their list, there is legal requirement for the library to respond. IFC has drafted a **general statement about the notices**, including links to relevant legislation.

IFC has further clarified the relationship between the board — the newly elected CFLA-FCAB board — and the committee, in particular, when the committee can act independently without board approval and when board approval of an action or statement is required. A revised terms of reference was submitted to the board this spring. The board responded with some suggested revisions. Additionally, committee members no longer need to be representatives of a member association; rather, they should be interested in and knowledgeable about intellectual freedom. A call has gone out to all CFLA-FCAB member associations for new members, and several excellent candidates have submitted applications.

The IFC is also currently negotiating a budget for document translation that would ensure fully bilingual content on our web pages.

Finally, the CFLA-FCAB website is currently being updated. Go to **CFLA-FCAB's Intellectual Freedom Committee webpage** to find newly posted content of interest such as:

- an intellectual-freedom tool kit full of links to resources for those facing intellectual-freedom (IF) challenges or for those wanting more information on IF,
- the IFC Annual Report for 2021,
- statements contributed by the IFC and approved by the board, and
- ... soon ... reports on challenge survey results, from 2020 and 2021.

A final note: This will be my last report as ELA's representative on the CFLA-FCAB IFC. After three years on the committee I am stepping down in the fall to focus my energies on my roles as ELA president and as the BC Library Association IFC co-chair.

Deb Thomas recently retired from a 40-plus year career in libraries, 30 years of which were in public library management. She is ELA's representative on CFLA-FCAB IFC.

For more information, go to **CFLA-FCAB's Intellectual Freedom Committee webpage**. ■

Keep up with Ex Libris!

By Donna Burton

Via **exlibris.ca**:

- This features information about Ex Libris Association, issues of *ELAN*, historical material, biographies, news about the W. Kaye Lamb Award, and more. *To access more information on subjects in articles in your printed copy of ELAN, find the electronic issue on the website and click on the names, words or phrases shown in green to open the URL links.*

Via the **exlibrisca@listserv.uoguelph.ca**:

- Read about current and topical issues, ELA events, and news.
- This is for ELA members only. Upon joining ELA, members are automatically added to the listserv to receive postings and enable us to post on the listserv.
- It's all delivered via email.

Via **facebook.com/ExLibrisAssociation**:

- See library and ELA news and current events.
- You'll need a personal Facebook account for access.

For more information, contact **Donna Burton** at **burtond@interlog.com**. ■

Indigenous Student Bursary Proposal

By Deb Thomas, ELA President

In 2021 Tom Eadie, then ELA president, floated the idea of establishing a bursary for an Indigenous student engaged in library studies — technician or master's. When I became president, I further investigated the idea. I approached **Indspire** — an organization that provides financial and other supports to Indigenous students — about partnering with it to administer the bursary. After an interview with a very helpful staff person, I was able to present the following to the ELA board and membership for comment:

What we can provide:

- knowledge of the library field and programs of library study;
- funds from fundraising, possibly augmented with funds from reserves (to partner with Indspire for a named bursary, we would need to commit to a total of \$25,000 in funding over a period of time; the funds can be contributed annually, for example we would provide Indspire with \$2,500 a year over 10 years, for an annual bursary); and,
- mentoring of successful applicants.

What Indspire can provide help in:

- identifying students who qualify regarding Indigenous status, program of study, and financial need;
- leveraging additional funds (from government and other sources) to add to our bursary; and,

- maintaining an ongoing relationship with bursary recipients.

Comments from the membership were generally positive. "This is an excellent initiative. I say let's go for it!" "This sounds like a great idea for Ex Libris to do... I would be happy to contribute." "I am very heartened by your move to encourage Indigenous students in our field in co-operation with this organization." "Count me in as a supporter of this initiative!" "The idea is a good one and I, too, am ready to support it on a continuing basis."

Members also expressed legitimate concerns about the extent of the financial obligation and the setting of a precedent with regard to charitable giving. I was assured by Indspire that, should the association run into financial difficulties or fold, there are ways that we can negotiate an end to our financial responsibilities. The board is committed to ensuring whatever agreement we reach does not leave us in a financially risky situation.

We will pursue further discussions with Indspire with the intent of beginning to award the bursary in 2023. We welcome any further comments from ELA members.

Please send them to me at thomasde424@gmail.com.

A final report on member feedback will be submitted for the AGM on November 7, 2022 — followed by a motion presented for formal approval by ELA members. ■

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. ■

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.

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. The names of potential new members may also be sent to Bob Henderson at the same address. And please submit any outstanding membership dues.

Technology Unmasked: Text and Data Mining

By Stan Orlov



Today we are going to talk about **text mining** and **data mining**. There are more than 100 million books in the world,

1.17 billion websites, and billions of posts appear on social media platforms every day. Newspapers, magazines, reports, and white papers keep being published. It seems impossible to know what's going on and make sense of all this data, but text mining (also known as text analytics) enables that.

It is important to point out the difference between data mining and text mining. The former has been around since the 1950s, and consists of the collection and statistical analysis of mostly numerical structural data to uncover hidden patterns in various databases. In 2012 *The New York Times Magazine* wrote about **Target's marketing analytics department being able to predict when shoppers were likely to get pregnant**, based on purchases they made, and showing

them ads for baby products before the customers realized (or made public) they were expecting.

Text mining, on the other hand, started to gain popularity just about 20 years ago, because the text was in print form and hard to analyze, although it represents 80 percent of all data. Today it is a powerful tool that is rapidly gaining popularity by finding insights in the ocean of unstructured text. To get started, companies and researchers need access to text sources such as chats, emails, social media, mass media, surveys, and review websites. Text must be pre-processed, by using the natural-language processing (NLP) technology that involves expansion (for example, "don't" becomes "do not"), breaking down sentences into individual words ("good morning" becomes "good" "morning"), removing stop words such as "a," "an," and "the," transforming words into a base form ("studies" and "studying" become "study"), etc. The resulting text is analyzed for named entity recognition, theme extraction, and sentiment

analysis, among other things.

These results allow companies to gauge public opinion about their performance; law enforcement can detect signs of fraud or human trafficking; health professionals can look for evidence of vaccine efficacy or early signs of new outbreaks. The global text-mining market is expected to grow at 18 percent annually, and the advances in AI will solidify its role as an important research tool.

For more information, go to:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Text_mining
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Data_mining
<https://www.nytimes.com/2012/02/19/magazine/shopping-habits.html?pagewanted=9&r->

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

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

Marshall McLuhan Speaks to Ontario Librarians, 1954–56

By Lorne Bruce

By the mid-1950s, prominent speakers had become a fixture at Ontario Library Association (OLA) annual conferences. Such was the case in mid-May 1956, when the OLA met at Oshawa's new McLaughlin Public Library, which had opened in 1954. This OLA conference was shortened to two days, because the Canadian Library Association (CLA) would meet at Niagara Falls in June. Nevertheless, 425 persons registered, making it one of the best OLA-attended conferences to that date. One notable attraction was a U of T St. Michael's College professor, Herbert Marshall McLuhan. He addressed delegates about *The Future of the Book* at a luncheon organized by the Trustees Section, on May 16, at the St. Andrew's United Church in downtown Oshawa.

Why was McLuhan invited to speak? At the time he was emerging as a communication theorist. He had founded an American firm, Vanguard Press, to publish *The Mechanical Bride: Folklore of Industrial Man*, in 1951. In this book, McLuhan analyzed popular printed resources, such as comic strips or visual images in magazine/newspaper advertisements, as agents of social communication and public persuasion rather than content transmitters. He theorized that readers typically perceived messaging so casually that they failed to notice how it influenced their thinking about lifestyles and social norms. McLuhan believed communication form was a significant force shaping public awareness, because it merged technology and themes, such as sex, in persuasive, albeit

recurring, ways; hence, the title of his book. *The Mechanical Bride's* short chapters could be read in any order — a method that allowed McLuhan's readers to concentrate on one topic or skip to another section, much like tuning a radio to find a good program.

The St. Michael's professor spoke to librarians about his interpretations on the effect of movies and radio on books. Now television had become another challenge. These electronic media engaged the public in new, different ways; for example, the outcome of elections became predictable. But McLuhan felt the future of the book was assured; in fact, every type of media enriched books. All media, including books, are the means of translating one kind of experience into another. Books were an early stage of the mechanization

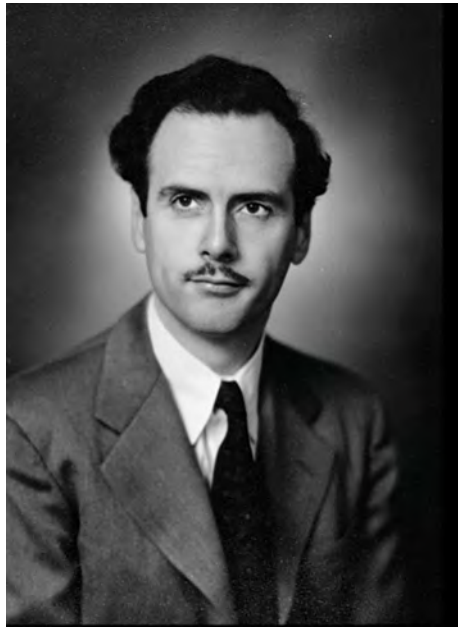
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of the written word. Television and radio offered an electronic operation mode or word production. Books allowed readers, in a linear fashion, to delve deeper into knowledge and presented a greater diversity of subjects. Nonetheless, McLuhan believed the public's perception of information electronification was equally important in knowledge, news, and information transmission.

McLuhan's message was well received at a time when libraries and educators were grappling with the growth of mass media, primarily television and radio, which reached into homes across the nation. In their own right, libraries also were important sources of print medium that conveyed detailed information. Librarians did this on a daily basis, thus the interest in communication. Indeed, 1956 was the second time the theorist spoke to Ontario librarians. The School and Intermediate Libraries Section of OLA invited him to its meeting at the R. H. King Collegiate Institute, in Scarborough, on Saturday afternoon October 30, 1954. Margaret Scott was Head Librarian at the institute's library, which was considered a comfortable, modern setting for secondary school students. She would later become an associate professor of school librarianship at the University of Toronto Library School. Scott was an active member of the School and Intermediate Libraries Section, which dated back to the 1920s to annual OLA round tables of librarians and teachers interested in book reading and use by young adults. In 1935 the OLA had formalized this section to represent librarians in secondary schools and public librarians interested in young-adult reading. In the 1950s, of course, librarians believed libraries to be places where 'good' books could be found to counter the effect of mass-produced, 'bad' paperbacks that teens could purchase at local retailers or exchange among themselves.

The Hazards of Reading formed the theme of McLuhan's afternoon session at R. H. King. He remained an advocate for book culture, despite the spread of electronic mass media in the 20th



Marshall McLuhan, 1945
Photo Credit: Josephine Smith/Library and Archives Canada/PA-172791

century. When he asked, "What is the essential core of book culture that is worth preserving?" he was suggesting a 'core library' could be assembled to preserve and make accessible humankind's knowledge. An informed personal perspective was necessary to remedy the ill effects of standardized advertising and messaging presented in various mass media. Book reading had an effect quite different from the competing media. He made the interesting observation that students come to the classroom "loaded with facts." The need was not to supply more facts, but to help them articulate what they already knew — to help them orient themselves in the midst of the conflicting cultural media surrounding them. McLuhan emphasized the need to study the impact of the new communication media on the older book culture. His post-presentation comments raised many interesting points, but questions had to be cut short before the closing school hour.

McLuhan's *Mechanical Bride* did not reach the bestseller lists or sweep the halls of academia. Nor did libraries undertake to assemble 'core' collections to represent humankind's knowledge for their clientele. Later, especially in the 1960s, McLuhan achieved celebrity status with a series of popular books: his popular phrase "the medium is the message" became the source for many

programs, discussions, and articles. He proclaimed television to be a 'cool' medium requiring attentive listeners/viewers. He claimed electronic media were supplanting print culture, that the book as just a package might become 'obsolete' unless it adapted to the new media. His communication theories often seemed at odds with the promotion of library service through books. Many, such as Canada's National Librarian, W. K. Lamb, refused to believe the book was obsolete. Yet, McLuhan's use of hot-button obsolescence pointed more to an outmoded technology, rather than decay and non-usage. Some public librarians especially wondered whether the media prophet's proclamation that books were 'hot' (there was less engagement by the viewer/reader with books than with 'cool' TV) helped promote the community services they were offering. Being regarded as just a book provider was not so hot to many librarians who pointed to the importance of other library formats, such as films and recordings, that they provided.

All the same, McLuhan was never a foe of public libraries or print culture. The library was a primary print resource for Canadians, and librarians were reliable mediators in selecting, organizing, and storing information. In fact, he composed a manuscript with co-author Robert Logan in the late 1970s. It eventually was published in 2016, many years after his untimely death at age 69: Robert K. Logan and Marshall McLuhan, *The Future of the Library: From Electric Media to Digital Media*. Before the virtual or digital library existed, McLuhan hoped libraries would better engage their clientele with new electronic media. His message was hopeful, because he believed the book would become an information service rather than a mere package on library shelves. Library resources and the range of services also could change in the same fashion. With the establishment of the 'digital library' by the first decades of the 2000s, McLuhan's optimism about books and libraries, expressed many years before beforehand at his two OLA sessions, appears well-founded.

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Today The McLuhan Centre for Culture and Technology continues its research in close collaboration with the Faculty of Information (iSchool) at the University of Toronto.

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

How and Why I Became a Librarian

By Paula de Ronde

I was born to be a librarian, though — as most librarians will tell you — it all begins with a love of books. It was a love fostered by my grandmother and mother.

My early reading was formed by the *Bible* and *Bullfinch's Mythology*, as those were part of my daily bedtime routine. Years later, Northrop Frye's *The Educated Imagination* would remind me of that most pleasant ritual.

Christmases and birthdays were special. I got books as presents and renewal of the subscription to *Children's Own*, a monthly publication that was full of moralistic stories and 'worthwhile' activities. I waited in anticipation for them, as these were books for ME.

Then came the day I went to the library for my first library card. I gazed in wonder at the many books in the children's section. I was a child let loose in the candy store. The limit was two books, which became three as the sympathetic librarian watched as I read two or more, and begged for still more, while waiting to be picked up. Love of books and love of the storehouse of books became my twin passions. They still are.

My first job was as Bookmobile Librarian, Region 5, in the Schools Division of the Jamaica Library Service. It was a pleasant interlude in my librarian journey. Who wouldn't love stopping for lunch at a beautiful white-sand beach, under a palm tree, with the Caribbean Sea lapping at your toes, before going on to the next school for the afternoon book-exchange visit? Or, alternatively, hitching up your skirt and forming a human chain with the bookmobile driver/assistant, as children shuttled the used books across

a flooded fording and collected the new batch. There would be singing and the teacher expressing the hope that the next visit would see better weather, so they could have a proper school visit with a puppet show. The one-person puppet show was a specialty, though I must confess sometimes the various voices got out of hand and the old Billy Goat Gruff sounded too much like the Little Billy Goat Gruff.

It was not enough. I wanted to be a real librarian and I still yearned to study literature.

Fate intervened and, soon, I was applying to emigrate to Canada. With a wonderful reference letter from the late Joyce Robinson, Director, Jamaica Library Service, to the late Harry Campbell, Chief Librarian, Toronto Public Library — which included a reminder of having met a young girl in Jamaica who wanted to be a librarian — I applied to Toronto Public Library and was hired. I was the first full-time clerical assistant in the Boys and Girls Department at the Runnymede Branch and the last person to receive the TPL Bursary to study at University of Toronto's Faculty of Library and Information Science, as it was then called.

I could say the rest is history, but that would be an unfinished story. I am a librarian because I love what librarians do and where we work. I love that we are not only the keepers of knowledge, but the dispensers of knowledge. I like that there is something for everyone at the library, no matter the silo you find yourself using as a customer. Parents, children, young people, academics, entrepreneurs, scholars, researchers, young, old, and in between will find a place in a

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bob.exlibris@gmail.com.

library. I love that we are purveyors of credible factual information, because our training endows us with the capability to separate the wheat from the chaff in this age of rampant disinformation. Our customers can depend on that, plus have confidence in an impartial, inclusive service delivery.

In reaching my goal of being a librarian, I also was giving back an infinitesimal part of what books and the library gave to me. The library is a non-judgmental oasis of encouragement to foster and feed the need to know about any subject. The library nourishes my curiosity and is the best therapy to take me away from the sturm and drang of the stresses of daily life. The library feeds my travel bug. I go to far-flung lands, real and imagined, and lose myself in the magic spun by words.

Wherever I go, the library is home and I seem to have an uncanny gift of recognizing a library in any language anywhere.

Like Dr. Seuss, I believe "The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you'll go."

And it is all at your library. How could I not become a librarian when I was born to be one? ■

ELAN in Electronic Format

For members who wish to receive future *ELAN* issues in an electronic format only, please contact Bob Henderson at
bob.exlibris@gmail.com.

Children's Services at Toronto Public Library

By Leslie McGrath

The Early Years (1912–1952)



Children waiting in line for storytime at Boys and Girls House ca. 1940
Photo credit: TPL archives

At the beginning of the 20th century, Toronto thronged with children, but there were few amenities and social services geared to their needs. James Bain, TPL's distinguished first Chief Librarian (est. 1884) wanted his branches to be quiet and orderly. While paying lip service to including children in the population served, he left it to branches to decide what efforts to make, dismissing the popularity of children's services in American libraries, and deriding these as "kindergarten schools." Bain was followed by progressive young Chief Librarian George Locke, in 1908. Locke hastened to modernize TPL, in 1912 recruiting Lillian H. Smith, a charismatic young London, Ont.-born librarian then working in New York, to organize formal children's library services in Toronto.

Locke and Smith had a lot of catching up to do at the library, and enjoyed the support of their boards and the public to do it. Locke opened

up the adult collections for browsing and broadened their content, while Smith would quickly turn a patchwork of informal, scattered children's collections into a formidable service. The city was growing exponentially, especially through migration from rural areas and immigration; schooling was technically required only until age 14.

A dearth of wholesome recreation, coupled with limited employment opportunities, was linked to rising levels of delinquency. Library children's departments offered a solution: high-quality books to instruct and delight, free programs to engage young children with stories, and a clean, safe space in which youngsters could spend hours, a respite — for many — from cramped, noisy quarters. With parental consent, young borrowers could obtain a library card for a few cents, which was manageable for most families. Children's librarians helped young readers to improve reading skills, enhancing educational and

employment opportunities, as well as providing cultural enrichment.

Small wonder that Smith and her staff of dedicated children's librarians, carefully trained along principles Smith had absorbed from her mentor, Anne Carroll Moore of NYPL, successfully helped TPL lobby for ever-greater numbers of branches, including larger children's departments, as well as their own headquarters: Boys and Girls House. Opened in 1922, this renovated mansion would boast puppet theatres, an actual theatre stage for children to stage plays, a flagship children's collection, and elegantly decorated rooms for storytelling.

Smith built her services on the rallying cry "only the best is good enough for children," and no book on the circulating shelves failed to meet her rigorous standards. In the first 40 years of children's services, such narrow guidelines were applauded and seldom questioned, even as adult

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collections enlarged their appeal with “popular materials.” Secretly, Smith kept a “horrible examples” shelf of children’s books that, though written by influential people, did not meet her standards, but could tactfully be produced if their authors should happen to visit. The shelf also contained “series” books (such as Horatio Alger poor-boy-makes-good books, *Elsie Dinsmore* tearjerkers, *Tarzan*, the *Bobbsey Twins*, and other forbidden syndicated series), the justification for these being that the children’s librarians would not have read any, and needed to know their enemy.

The two world wars brought an even stronger sense of purpose to the children’s departments. The Great War kept parents away for long hours in factories, and children needed as much comfort and security as the library could offer. During the Second World War, librarians saw an even greater increase in latchkey children and, not infrequently, escorted the last stragglers home. Postwar immigration booms meant large numbers of children to welcome and help learn about their new country. The



Children with books ca. 1930
Photo credit: TPL archives

“cultural mosaic” was underway, but efforts here were made to assimilate, though tales from many lands were celebrated in library story hours.

The 1950s and 1960s ushered in widespread social changes to which the children’s department was not immune. Parents were becoming more engaged in their children’s education.

They joined their children in library visits (and very long gone were the days when parents would park prams, with babies in them, *outside* the library while nipping in to borrow books), occasionally voicing concerns about the choice of books available. Libraries now competed with cinemas and the ever-increasing supply of comics and series books many children devoured. While the tremendous accomplishments of her 50 years as head of children’s services were unquestioned, Smith’s retirement in 1952 — crowned in 1949 by the gift of the Osborne Collection of Early Children’s Books, made partly in her honour — marked the end of an era. Striking new developments in children’s library services, including whole collections devoted to multiculturalism, a wider selection of popular materials, and renewed enthusiasm for Canadian content lay ahead, as well as the automation of catalogues and cards, but these would rest on the strong foundation of public trust and appreciation built by Smith and her colleagues.

Modern Times

In 1949 British librarian Edgar Osborne presented his collection of 2,000 early children’s books to Toronto Public Library. His gift was intended to strengthen the ties between Britain and Canada, by providing a reference collection that would remind Canadian librarians and teachers of their literary heritage. The gift itself was in recognition of the excellence of the children’s services Lillian Smith and her colleagues had established, and it was to grow into a collection of international importance. Its focus on Britain, however, inevitably broadened as modern reference collections of English-language materials and Canadiana — including English, some French and Indigenous-language materials — took their place. Threads of multicultural stories found in the early materials could thus be traced from colonial and pre-Confederation days to

post-colonial interpretations; and other social movements could be examined from their beginnings onward.

The circulating children’s materials collections similarly reflected an increasingly diverse and sophisticated public. In the 1950s and 1960s, talented librarians arrived from abroad to work at Toronto Public Library. Rita Cox was among them; she and her colleagues helped to introduce new themes and styles of storytelling. Children’s collections expanded to offer multilingual materials, while the ongoing discussion about the suitability of “popular materials” included more flexibility on both sides. The previously disdained “series” books were added to collections, but were judiciously balanced with a greater choice of homegrown literature. Librarians were often heard tactfully suggesting that the borrowing series books be limited

to two or three titles (even when rationing loans was not necessary), but here were some other books the reader might enjoy... I recall hearing children’s librarians taking this approach with “Sweet Valley Twins” and other series. To the question of whether this limited reading choices, one answer is that book selection already does that, and librarians tried to preserve the balance in actual consumption. Many of the “old favourites” of Lillian Smith’s day had migrated to the Osborne Collection, as changing social contexts showed their content in new light. The benefits of being able to examine the evolution of ideas, using these authentic examples, cannot be overstated — no one would believe a description of what used to be offered as wholesome reading fare without examining the originals. Yet, in their day, some of these were

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considered enlightened or amusing... just as our contemporary children's books will inevitably strike wrong notes when read in the future.

Other developments included the expansion of ages served, of multilingual, LGBTQ+ and Indigenous materials in collections, and of new audio-visual materials, all with an increased emphasis on "Canadiana." The introduction of books for babies — literal "board books" and concept books — together with the expansion of programs, brought new patrons into the library. Storytelling and puppet shows had been popular from the start of children's services, generating long lineups outside Boys and Girls House, in particular. Classes had also been brought from schools for children to hear a story or two and, perhaps, some excerpts from exciting books. In 1926 TPL opened a library in Queen Victoria

School, expanding to 30 schools by 1952 (a service eventually taken over by school boards); bookmobile service became a major tool for outreach to children in Toronto suburbs and on Toronto Island. Multilingual "Dial-a-Story" service, begun in 1989, grew to offer stories-on-demand in 16 languages, and now receives more than 250,000 calls each year. In recent years, programming has emphasized STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics), particularly for girls. Corporate sponsorship became increasingly influential in augmenting programs and services; from 1996, TPL's TD Summer Reading Club, sponsored by the Toronto Dominion Bank, has grown to extend across the country.

Perhaps one of the biggest changes was library-service automation in the 1980s. Borrowers were issued plastic red-and-white cards with barcodes, with which they could easily look up

and request books from other branches. Generations of children raised with computers have been comfortable with each new development, but the ability to look up holdings across the city and order a free delivery to their local branch brought new independence and power to young borrowers. As books were barcoded, they were also reorganized, reverting from the Lillian H. Smith classification system for children's books, instituted in 1930, to the Dewey Decimal System. This offered advantages of uniformity, especially after the six library systems of Metropolitan Toronto amalgamated into "Toronto Public Library," in 1998. Kidspac, an interactive website for children, was launched in 1998; by 2012, the library's e-book and e-video collections added a new dimension to children's services.

In looking over these years, a

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Rita Cox, 1972
Photo credit: TPL Digital Archives

...continued from page 11

perennial concern has been what a children's and teens' collection should include, as writers for young people create increasingly explicit materials dealing with such topics as sexuality, drugs, conflict, and abuse. Librarians continue to perform a balancing act of including a widely divergent range of materials, based on relevance and literary merit. Imagine sighing for the days when some considered Judy Blume problematic! But, with such a long history, it is easy to demonstrate how radically interests, ideas, and attitudes change, and how nimbly children's library collections and services change along with them. If Lillian Smith dropped by a branch today, she might be shocked at some current titles on the children's shelves and, possibly, appalled that some of her favourites are gone, but she would certainly be proud of the librarians who currently champion children's books and reading. A brief look out of the library door would also, probably, convince her to defer to their judgement in meeting the needs of contemporary young readers, in their brave new world.

The opinions expressed in this two-part article are solely those of the author and do not represent those of the Toronto Public Library.

Leslie McGrath worked at TPL as a children's librarian and a branch head for 10 years and Senior Department Head of the Osborne Collection of Early Children's Books for 23 years. Her PhD thesis was *Service to Children in the Toronto Public Library: A Case Study, 1912–1949*. ■

Odds and Bookends: In the News

By Matt Scholtz



This new column will always be somehow library related, hopefully conveying information that you may have missed in your own readings. These will be items found by serendipity, but not contained in a neat link that can simply be fired off to the membership in the usual way. I was asked to consider writing something about the recent censorship battles hitting public libraries, especially in the United States (what happens in the Excited States doesn't always stay in the Excited States).

All I can opine is that these are battles I never faced at the public library in Tillsonburg, Ont., which had a population of 10,000 when I retired. I did have a parent upset with

a graphic children's book showing what Santa Claus does in the off-season — and that is to sit by the pool at a sunny resort, nurse a gin and tonic, and ogle the passing ladies.

But irate-patron scenarios really started when I retired, and my successor hosted an art display showing two embracing males. All hell broke loose, because they were seen as homosexuals — but they could have been brothers, or father and son. The artist loved the publicity (even managed a news spot on the CBC), and people poured into the library to see what they were supposed to be offended by. There were no burning crosses on the lawn, however, and life went on.

But, looking across the southern border, one wonders, if indeed, this too shall pass. Honestly, it's tough to be optimistic for my American cousins. ■

Laughing in the Library

By Matt Scholtz

"It's strange, isn't it? You stand in the middle of a library and go arrrrgh and everyone just stares at you. But you do the same thing on an airplane, and everyone joins in." — Tommy Cooper

Weeding materials is a constant in any library. Nevertheless, when faced with the challenge in deciding the fate of this particular book, I had to pause: *Author Bites the Dust* by Arthur Upfield. Sadly, Arthur had to bite the dust.

If you have a humorous personal story or anecdote to share about your library career, send it to mattscholtz@rogers.com.

Library Treasures of Britain: The Library of Ashurbanipal in the British Museum

By Guy Robertson

Replete with accounts of destruction and loss, library history can seem grim. Happily, however, the British Museum holds an ancient Mesopotamian collection remarkable not only for its survival over 27 centuries, but also for its variety, depth, and — literally — hard copy.

Ashurbanipal, the last and most powerful king of Assyria, reigned from 669 to approximately 631 BC. He is famous for his military campaigns and notorious for his cruelty toward the peoples he conquered. His empire spanned the territory between Iran and Cyprus, and for a period it included Egypt. The major source of information regarding his exploits is his collection of clay tablets, more than 30,000 of which were discovered from 1849 to 1852 by

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Austin Henry Layard and his assistant, the Turkish Assyriologist Hormuzd Rassam, at the site of ancient Nineveh, near modern Mosul in northern Iraq.

Ashurbanipal was literate. He is reputed to have been proficient in the Akkadian and Sumerian languages, a remarkable accomplishment for a military leader of that time. Determined to increase his collection, he forced cities throughout his empire to provide him with texts, particularly any concerning sacred rituals and incantations. Eventually his collection grew to include material created for other purposes such as legislation, diplomatic relations, official declarations, and financial management. His scientific texts covered aspects of medicine and astronomy. A small number contain poetry and mythical narratives.

Scribes produced the clay tablets in different shapes to indicate specific purposes. For example, four-sided tablets contained information concerning financial transactions and accounting. Round tablets covered agricultural topics, of interest to historians who have referred to the area of Ashurbanipal's kingdom as the Fertile Crescent. Akkadian is the main language of the tablets; the script is cuneiform (or "wedge-shaped writing").

"The languages of Mesopotamia take a long time to master," says Edith, a graduate student in Middle Eastern history at the University of London. "They can be as challenging as Latin and Greek, and you need dedication to get used to the ways in which different scribes recorded data. Once you start studying cuneiform, you don't have time for much else." Edith avers, however, that Ashurbanipal's collection is worth the effort. She mentions the *Epic of Gilgamesh*, the text of which has been derived from a dozen fragments discovered by Hormuzd Rassam. A rousing story of heroic exploits, it enthralled audiences 1,500 years before Homer.

"You'll find copies of *Gilgamesh* in modern libraries all over the world," says Colin, an American professor of comparative literature. "It has been translated many times. In college and

public libraries, you'll find the N. K. Sandars version in English [1972], which is a little out of date, and Stephanie Dalley's translation in the Oxford World's Classics series, in the volume entitled *Myths from Mesopotamia* [revised edition 2000]. It's exciting, and an essential starting point for considerations of Western literature."

Visitors to the British Museum are astonished when they come across the Deluge (of Flood) tablet mounted in its display case. A part of *Gilgamesh*, it describes a great flood that wiped out humanity, with the exception of Utnapishtim and his family. The god Enki told him to build an ark big enough to hold them and various animals. The ark landed on a mountain when the flood receded.

The biblical parallels are obvious, and have fascinated scholars since George Smith, an assistant in the British Museum, translated the tablet in 1872. When Smith realized what the tablet contained, he became so excited that he started to undress himself. His Victorian colleagues were not amused.

Much work on the Library of Ashurbanipal remains to be completed. Since 2002 the museum has collaborated with the University of Mosul to develop a catalogue of the collection. Recently, as a part of the **Ashurbanipal Library Project**, technicians have made high-resolution digitized images of the tablets, which can now be studied remotely and in detail and by scholars worldwide.

As well, new archeological digs could uncover more tablets related to Ashurbanipal's collection: copies of various tablets, earlier and later editions of texts, and versions in different languages. Clay tablets are more durable than papyri, and more likely to survive conditions that involve high temperatures and moisture. Many archeologists believe



Flood Tablet
Photo credit: Guy Robertson

that discoveries of other collections of Mesopotamian tablets are inevitable.

For librarians and other information specialists, however, one question will inspire further investigation and discussion. We refer to the collection as a "library," but was it, in our sense of the term? Considering the nature of the collection and the contents of the tablets, one could also call it an archive or a record centre. Perhaps Ashurbanipal, who was also known as King of the Universe, would have an opinion on the matter. If so, we should be wise to agree with him.

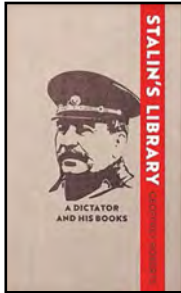
For more information, go to: britishmuseum.org/research/projects/what-was-ashurbanipals-library#about and <https://blog.britishmuseum.org/a-library-fit-for-a-king/>.

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 Susan Ibbetson



***Stalin's Library:
A Dictator and
his Books***
By Geoffrey Roberts
Yale University
Press, 2022
ISBN: 978-
0300179040

Reviewed by Peter F. McNally

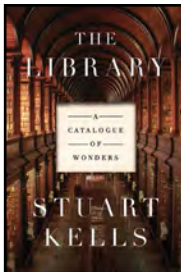
The post-World War II Cold War era carries with it the inescapable image of Soviet dictator Joseph Stalin (1878/79–1953) — a brutal despot who destroyed lives and communities in pursuit of power, while attempting to impose

a Utopian ideology upon the world. Given that he is widely considered one of the bloodiest tyrants of the 20th century, it is intriguing to encounter a book placing Stalin squarely within the field of book-and-library history.

Geoffrey Roberts, a distinguished and much-published British/Irish historian of the Soviet Union, employs a wide range of primary and secondary sources, portraying Stalin as a bookish man who read quickly and widely and amassed a personal library of more than 20,000 volumes, for which he devised a classification scheme — reminiscent of Dewey — and retained the service of librarians, several of whom were executed. Although most

of the library was dispersed after his death, a core of annotated books was retained to reveal, along with other evidence, the intellectual sources of his ideology and thinking. Although never wavering in his confidence in brute force, Stalin appreciated that power is ultimately based upon winning and holding people's minds and hearts. His reading intersected with an effective writing style and endless editing of other people's writing.

This well-written, well-documented, illustrated, and indexed book is recommended to anyone curious about books, libraries, and one of the 20th century's most significant figures. ■



***The Library: A
Catalogue of
Wonders***
By Stuart Kells
Counterpoint, 2018
ISBN: 978-
1640090200

Reviewed by Julia Schneider

There are two catalogues of wonders in Kells's *The Library*.

One of them rolls out a veritable parade of idiosyncratic facts, amazing stories, and highly eccentric/interesting characters from the long history of book collecting and libraries. These evidence “the anxiety, avarice, envy, fastidiousness, obsession, lust, pride, pretension, narcissism, and agoraphobia — indeed every biblical sin and most of the pathologies from the American Psychiatric Association

manual,” that collectors have displayed in their quest for dominance.

In the other, Kells tells us about his own introduction to the bibliophile's world. Like many book-related events, it came about serendipitously, in the form of a lunchtime book sale at his university. There, he purchased a catalogue by the mysterious “NY” — which led to research to find NY's identity, a degree in “holistic bookmanship,” and his life's calling.

Lacking the fantastic wealth of many of those in the book, Kells managed to preserve his bibliophile status and detachment, without becoming one of the bibliomaniacs who abound in his pages. Through his eyes, we see Harry Elkins Widener go down on the *Titanic*, with a recently-purchased second edition of Francis Bacon's *Essays* in his pocket, Harry Clay Folger navigating the New York subway grasping Shakespeare's False

Folio, worth \$100,000, wrapped in newspaper, and the infection of the youthful 18th-century heir Richard Heber with “a virulent strain of bibliomania,” before the age of eight.

The book begins and ends with Jorge Luis Borges and Alberto Manguel, both natives of Buenos Aires. Borges envisioned an infinite library, while a youthful Manguel watched; nowadays Manguel worries about the transient technology that jeopardizes bibliographic research and human memory itself, after having survived the many hazards described in the book.

Though erudite, this book is not scholarly: one wishes Kells had provided footnotes and an index. Without their help, one eagerly turns the pages and then searches choice passages, to enjoy again their wonders.

It's a compulsive read. ■



Libraries, Digital Information, and COVID: Practical Applications and Approaches to Challenge and Change
Editors David Baker and Lucy Ellis

Elsevier, 2021
ISBN 978-0323884938

Reviewed by Guy Robertson

Future information historians could consider this book to be an important source on the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on libraries, the measures librarians took to address the problem, and the ways in which digital technologies influenced librarianship when libraries shut down for extended periods.

Editors David Baker and Lucy Ellis

have compiled a substantial collection of materials by worldwide academics and organized them into sections on Immediate Challenges, Analysis and Opportunities for New Behaviours, and Reshaping Society and the Future. The descriptions of the ways COVID-19 has affected library operations are of current interest, and library managers will find the experience of librarians in different jurisdictions instructive. Despite lockdowns and a serious economic downturn, librarians have done their best to provide service by making a major shift toward digital resources. In many cases, the transition has been bumpy, and key questions regarding access to resources remain to be answered. Despite ongoing challenges, library leaders believe the use of digital resources will grow and provide benefits for all patrons.

The course of the pandemic continues to be hard to predict,

as new variants and waves appear, but it is possible that, in the near future, the morbidity of COVID-19 will decrease and we will be able to concentrate on other matters. In any case, on the strength of the claims made in this book, we can conclude that digital technology will force change in most information organizations, and patron satisfaction will depend on practitioners' ability to work with digitized resources.

This book is well designed and easy to read, despite its heft. Included are excellent bibliographies and helpful diagrams. A century from now, historians will appreciate Baker's and Ellis's plethora of observations and analyses, and commentaries with broad perspectives — such as Rick Rylance's delightful chapter, "Something Old, Something New." The latter is worth the book's price, and future information historians should be happy to pay it. ■

Good Reads

Compiled by Judy Dunn

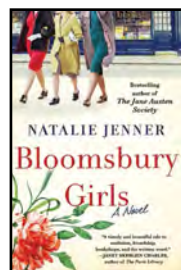


The Paris Bookseller

By Kerri Maher
Berkley, 2022
ISBN: 9781432896867

This fictional retelling of the life of American Sylvia Beach focuses on the 1919 opening

of her bookstore, Shakespeare and Company, in Paris, and her struggles to publish James Joyce's *Ulysses*.

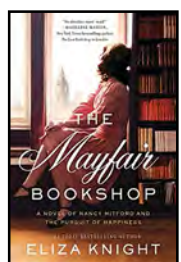


Bloomsbury Girls: A Novel

By Natalie Jenner
St. Martin's, 2022
ISBN: 978-1250276698

A sequel to *The Jane Austen Society*, this

novel is a charming look at postwar London, presented through the lives of three young women who meet while working at the old-fashioned male-dominated Bloomsbury Bookstore.

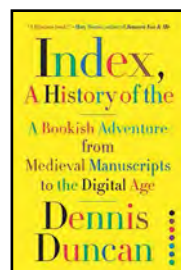


The Mayfair Bookshop

By Eliza Knight
Morrow, 2022
ISBN: 978-006-3226162

The dual narratives in this story about the real

Nancy Mitford, in 1930's London, and the fictional Lucy St. Clair, a present-day American book curator, are linked together by Nancy's writings and Mayfair's Heywood Hill Bookshop.



Index, A History of the: A Bookish Adventure from Medieval Manuscripts to the Digital Age

By Dennis Duncan
W. W. Norton, 2022

ISBN: 978-1-324002543

This witty and informative romp — through the creation, use, and politics of the index, from scrolls and manuscripts to the digital age — is compelling reading for the cataloguers, indexers, and organizers among us.

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. ■

Books of Interest by Members

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

British Columbia News

By Guy Robertson



Vancouver Public Library (VPL) announced its appointment of Cree musician, artist, and author Eden Fine Day as this year's

Indigenous Storyteller in Residence, offering workshops and programs, while working on a variety of creative projects. Raised in East Vancouver, she reconnected at the age of 14 with her family in Saskatchewan's Sweetgrass First Nation. Her father taught her the ways of "giving and receiving from the earth."

In April **VPL** asked its youngest patrons to open the **Britannia Branch's** early learning space, which supports learning and other forms of development through various activities. Children up to age five will benefit through inclusion and inspiration. **VPL** Chief Librarian Christina de Castell led the opening ceremony for an enthusiastic group of young patrons and their caregivers.

In June **Greater Victoria Public Library (GVPL)** started its BC Summer Reading Club by inviting children aged 12 and under (or their caregivers) to pick up a club package at any branch. The club was designed to build confidence in young readers, while developing their relationship with their public library. **GVPL** also offered online and in-person children's programs, including comic camp workshops and visits to the Royal BC Museum, to participate in Digging Around in Ancient Egypt, which featured storytelling and other activities.

In June **University of British Columbia (UBC) Library** announced the 2022 Employee Award Winners. Program Services Assistant Kristen Wong won the **UBC Library** Employee Excellence Award. The library commended her for her kindness, compassion, and respect for co-workers. Collection Management Assistant David Van and Archives Clerk Candice Bjur each won an Unsung Hero Award,

for leadership and dedication in providing service beyond expectations.

On June 30, 2021, a wildfire destroyed the **Thompson-Nicola Regional Library's Lytton Branch**.

More than a year later, the branch has yet to be rebuilt, and, in July of 2022, another wildfire spread quickly and burned other properties. The rebuilding of the branch and the rest of the village was put on hold until the authorities are able to assess new risks and plan for a safer future.

Burnaby Public Library's Bob Prettie Metrotown Library (BPML) sadly sustained serious damage, on June 7, 2022, when fire erupted outside the southeast corner of the building. Repairs entailed the temporary removal of collections and furniture from the first floor while the ceiling was restored. As well as all other surfaces, collections needed cleaning, owing to smoke damage. **BPML** has been scheduled to reopen in early September 2022.

The **Terrace Public Library's (TPL)** pet is a leopard gecko named **K'oom** (pronounced "Goom"), acquired in September 2017. In Sm'algayx (the Tsimshian language), "K'oom" is the word for "wish," a name that guarantees the pet's popularity with patrons. Administrators take note: geckos are easier to deal with than the cats that sometimes make libraries their homes.

In July the **Okanagan Regional Library's Downtown Kelowna Branch** welcomed the magnificent and mysterious Leif David, who put on a magic show for all ages. This featured not only extraordinary sleight-of-hand, but also comedy, music, and audience participation. Happily, Mr. David did not attempt to saw anyone in half. Another popular summer event for all ages was Online Japanese Calligraphy, led by Eiko Uehara.

Richmond Public Library (RPL) **Brighthouse Branch** announced the opening of a Community Art Wall, a display space that gives patrons an opportunity to collaborate in the creation of artistic projects and share cross-cultural experiences. Artworks will be mounted on an eight-week rotation, and new works will appear regularly. During this year's Pride celebrations, the wall featured works by

young LGBTQ2IA+ artists. **RPL** was grateful to local organizations including AllWays, GLITTER, PAINT, and B.C. School District 38 for connections to the season's wall contributors.

Prairies News

By Alvin M. Schrader



University of Winnipeg Library is engaged in a major space redesign to incorporate more efficient energy use, more seating, expanded workshop

and collections space, better physical access, and wayfinding tools that weave Indigenous ways of knowing throughout the library. A schematic design report was finalized in early 2022. The project budget is \$65 million.

Winnipeg Public Library has been forced to cut hours and delay programming over the past year because of persistent staff shortages, with 82 positions currently unfilled, and a staff vacancy rate of 28 percent up from 10 percent two years before.

During March the Saskatchewan Library Association and several other provincial organizations once again partnered with the Saskatchewan Government to sponsor the shared story celebration of **One Book, One Province 2022**. The goals of this annual, province-wide reading initiative are to increase literacy and create a reading culture for greater social engagement in local communities. Events this year — guest-author readings, cooking demonstrations, book clubs, panel discussions, and Syrian-film screenings — celebrated the selected work, *Arab Cooking on a Prairie Homestead* by Habeeb Salloum, who died in 2019. During his career, Salloum wrote 14 books and 20 book articles about culture, food, travel, history, and homesteading in Western Canada. **Calgary's Glenbow Museum** now offers free general admission permanently, thanks to a \$25-million endowment from the Shaw Family Foundation. Another \$10-million donation will establish the JR Shaw Institute for Canadian Art. The donations honour the legacy of J. R.

Shaw, founder of Shaw Communications and Corus Entertainment, who had a passion for Canadian art and artists. The Glenbow Museum, which opened in 1966, is currently undergoing a major renovation, with a fundraising goal of \$175 million, of which \$152 million has been raised already. The museum is expected to reopen in 2024, and will become the JR Shaw Centre for Arts and Culture.

Innisfail PL hosted Alberta's Historic Rural Broadband Investment announcement in March 2022. The provincial government will invest \$390 million over four years to improve Internet speed in rural, remote, and Indigenous communities. Almost half a million Albertans in 201,000 households lack access to high-speed Internet that meets the federal target speeds.

Edmonton PL has created an interactive space at the **Stanley A. Milner Library**, for teaching food literacy, nutrition, and sustainability to Edmontonians. Opened in March 2022, the kitchen is a 2,100-square-foot hybrid commercial and home kitchen offering entry-level, hands-on cooking classes, both in person and online for children and adults.

Lynne Price was appointed CEO of the **Marigold Library System** effective July 1, 2022. She joined the system in 2010 and became director of service delivery in 2016. Recently, she led **Marigold** through the construction of a new facility in Strathmore, Alta. She has been a jury member for the Amelia Frances Howard-Gibbon Illustrator's Award. Lynne holds an MLIS from Western University.

Jan Smith is the recipient of the 2022 Frances Morrison Award for outstanding service by an exceptional Saskatchewan librarian. Jan has been director of **Palliser Regional Library** for 21 years, after serving as systems librarian from 1999 to 2001. A strong supporter of co-operation among libraries, stakeholders, and other community organizations, Jan has led many fruitful partnerships and initiatives. Recently, she helped to bring in nearly \$1 million in extra funding to develop new programs and educational opportunities.

Nicolle DeGagne was awarded

the 2022 Maureen Woods Education Bursary to support her online MLIS program at the University of Alberta School of Library and Information Studies. A member of the CUMFI Métis local in Saskatoon, she is the library resource facilitator for the **Gabriel Dumont Institute** in its Prince Albert location, and strives to keep the library's collection reflective of Prairie Métis experience. She is a graduate of the Library and Information Technology Program at Saskatchewan Polytechnic and holds a BA in English from the University of Saskatchewan.

The Library Association of Alberta awarded Michelle Toombs the 2022 President's Award, which recognizes the efforts of an individual who has made a major impact, on a province-wide basis, in the library field in Alberta (see *Retirements*, p. 23).

Edmonton PL was named an Honourable Mention winner for Mâdawô Ayâwin, which celebrates Indigenous cultures, while facilitating a dialogue about the Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

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

Ontario News

By Vivienne James



Ontario Libraries, both public and academic, are part of the evolving movement to accommodate creators, inventors, the tech-savvy, and entrepreneurs, thus emphasizing learning through doing in a social environment. **Cambridge Public Library's Idea Exchange** includes six such locations, offering library services, learning and art programs, and community events. The award-winning **Idea Exchange Old Post Office**, Canada's first all-digital library, contains creative studios, Discovery Centre and Heritage Reading Room.

Hamilton Public Library (HPL) invites users to visit any of their

collaborative **Makerspaces** to explore, learn, and make something great with high-tech tools, or to start their small business.

University of Toronto's Robarts Common, scheduled to officially open this fall, was opened in the spring to accommodate exams with more physically-distanced space in COVID-19 times. Flooded with natural light, this signature building was designed to restore, vitalize, and expand **Robarts Library** as a centre for research and learning.

The Scholars Portal Dataverse used by Ontario Libraries, has become **Borealis**, the Canadian Dataverse Repository/le dépôt Dataverse canadien. The new name reflects Borealis's identity as a national service connecting Canadian researchers, and comes after consultation with research data-management librarians and specialists across the country. A bilingual, multidisciplinary, secure, Canadian research-data repository, supported by academic libraries and research institutions, Borealis also supports open discovery, management, sharing, and preservation of Canadian research data. After the new website was launched, Ontario University Libraries data repositories converted as of June 23, 2022.

Toronto Public Library (TPL), in partnership with the City of Toronto and Toronto Seniors Housing, has started a new program to help boost seniors' digital-literacy skills. Community librarians provide regularly scheduled on-site training and digital-literacy programs to residents in the Toronto Seniors Housing buildings' community rooms, to help increase digital confidence, while reducing loneliness and increasing independence and social connectedness.

The **TPL Foundation** celebrates its 25th anniversary in 2022, and begins implementing an ambitious three-year strategic plan with its new CEO, William "Will" Scott, a former urban public school teacher and history professor, who is highly committed to literacy and education.

TPL's Albert Campbell Branch reopened in July, after more than two years of renovations. Interior

public spaces were revitalized with more natural light, an outdoor reading terrace, a mural highlighting Indigenous culture, and a front-entrance green space featuring native plants and a medicine garden.

Richmond Hill Public Library's Oak Ridges Branch is the latest recipient of the Ontario Library Association's (OLA) New Building Award. Designed with a strong commitment to modern, sustainable building practices, as well as functional design features that support the growing Richmond Hill community, it received the award at OLA's Annual Institute on the Library as Place conference in July 2022.

Waterloo University Library's Digital Library, an online repository for selected items from **Special Collections & Archives (SCA)** and the **University of Waterloo Archives (UWA)**, is officially five years old.

The Andrew Telegdi fonds were recently added to the **SCA**. Telegdi served as an MP, a City of Waterloo City councillor, and a Federation of Students (now WUSA) president.

Pasha Malla, author of poetry and fiction, concluded his stint as the Mabel Pugh Taylor Writer in Residence, following a year of workshops, consultations with writers, and teaching. A partnership among the Faculty of Humanities Department of English and Cultural Studies at McMaster University, the **McMaster University Library**, and **HPL**, this annual residency invites a Canadian author to work at the library and university, mentoring creative writers from the community.

Vivienne James worked at TPL for more than 25 years, was head of Queen/Saulter, St. Lawrence and Spadina Road branches, 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



L'Association des bibliothécaires du Québec – Quebec Library Association (ABQLA) held its 86th-annual conference, *Through the Looking Glass/À travers le miroir*, virtually. Keynote speaker David A. Robertson spoke about his books being removed from the Durham (Ontario)

District School Board. Closing speaker was Marie Grégoire, Director, **Bibliothèque et archives nationale du Québec**. In recognition of her career achievements and support for ABQLA, Melissa Tomecz — currently at **John Abbott College Library** — received the Anne Galler Award for outstanding library service. The Student Scholarship Award was received by Sara Wood-Gagnon, who is enrolled in McGill's Master of Information Studies program. Maria Resinna and Barbara Whiston will continue as joint presidents through 2022/23.

Dr. Guylaine Beaudry is now McGill's Trenholme Dean of Libraries, after Dr. Colleen Cook's retirement as of August 31. Currently, University Librarian, Concordia University, Dr. Beaudry holds a master's from EBSI, Université de Montréal and a PhD in the History of the Book from the École pratique des hautes études (Paris). Pat Riva will serve as Concordia's Interim University Librarian.

Two Montreal libraries mounted Platinum Jubilee summer exhibitions: **Atwater Library** offered Queen Elizabeth II and Her Platinum Jubilee and **McGill University Rare Books and Special Collections** hosted Jubilees: Queen Victoria and Queen Elizabeth II.

John Abbott College Library, formerly the Macdonald College (McGill) Library, has been extensively renovated and expanded.

In June **Bibliothèque et Archives Nationales du Québec** was the

target of a cyberattack, but it does not appear to have resulted in a data leak involving library users, catalogue access was not affected, and security work restored services. The origin of the attack, Canadian or foreign, has not been determined.

The Marie-Victorin Library at l'Ancienne-Lorette in Quebec City will undergo renovations to repair the roof and redevelop the building's interior to accommodate work-and-entertainment rooms, as well as an exhibition space. Users will have stations adapted to their needs and new technologies. Valued at just over \$4 million, this project will be carried out with contributions from the governments of Canada, Quebec, and the city of L'Ancienne-Lorette.

Pierre Guilmette is a retired librarian, Université Laval.

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

Maritimes News

By Tanja Harrison



As students return to academic institutions, to mask or not to mask is the question, although the trend currently appears to be a return to mandatory masks (with exceptions) for all teaching spaces, with masks strongly recommended in most public spaces such as campus libraries.

The **Prince Edward Island PL Service** announced the opening of the new **Charlottetown Library Learning Centre**. Opened on July 18, 2022, the new accessible library offers 40,000 square feet, with a café, auditorium, audio studio, children's programming room, community kitchen, and makerspace (complete with craft supplies, sewing machines, 3-D printers, to name a few of the supplies and services).

Extreme heat in late summer prompted the **Halifax Central Library** to provide some comfort to its patrons by opening a new outdoor space, offering shade and water, and summer programming.

Depending on supplies, children were treated to bubble blowing or treats, such as freezies, to beat the heat.

The New Brunswick PL is exploring a pilot program that will see the hiring of a bilingual social worker based out of one of the city centres — such as Fredericton, Moncton, or Saint John — with the hope that all 63 provincial branches will be able to access some support.

Developed by librarians at the University of Prince Edward Island, the website booklives.ca offers a database for matching books in the library's **Provenance Collection** with the people who once owned the titles. Histoire Source Story recently chose the resource for a storytelling video on using books from the collection, as a primary source of information for historians.

A new partnership is underway in the Atlantic area to bring together public and academic libraries, archives, and community groups and activists, to create capacity and better serve the 2SLGBTQQIA+ community through preservation of, and access to, information. The group recently hosted an online panel, Visibility Matters: Representation of Lesbian Communities in Archives and Beyond, with speakers from the **New Brunswick Archives, Halifax PL, Dalhousie and MSVU libraries**, and a representative from the Elderberries social group for 50+ LGBT community members. More planning is being done to elevate and celebrate this historically marginalized community, through engaged programming, oral-history collection (for example, the, Lesbian Oral History Project), digital library archive projects (for example, NS LGBT Seniors Archive, **MSVU Lesbian Pulp Fiction Collection**), publications, and support for Atlantic academic queer-studies programs.

April Sampson has moved from her position as the Strait Area Campus Librarian to the Manager, Libraries and Learning Commons, for the **Nova Scotia Community College library system**. Dr. Rachel Ruben has been appointed Dean of **Libraries and Archives, Mount Allison University**. Previously, she was Associate University Librarian for research and learning

with the University of Pittsburgh. Michael Vandenburg is the new Dean of Libraries, at Dalhousie University, most recently working as the Ontario Council of University Libraries' (OCUL) Interim Executive Director and, before this, as Interim Vice-Provost and University Librarian, at Queen's University.

Anne Matthewman, Associate Dean Learning & Teaching and Chief Law Librarian, is a 2022 recipient of the American Association of Law Libraries Hall of Fame Award, established in 2009 to recognize contributions to the profession and service to the association.

Donna Bourne-Tyson was honoured with the Canadian Association of Research Libraries Award for Distinguished Service to Research Librarianship. This recognition is awarded annually to a Canadian who has served the profession with distinction and made significant national and international contributions through leadership and engagement.

Tanja Harrison is University Librarian at Mount Saint Vincent University.

Newfoundland & Labrador News

By Dick Ellis



Since the **Newfoundland and Labrador Public Library (NLPL)** service retired its last bookmobile in 1983, the idea of a wheeled library presence, while

dormant, did not die. This year in collaboration with its Friends of the Library group and the City Council, **St. John's Public Library** has launched a **mobile outreach van**. If you call it a bookmobile, eyes will roll, and the patience generally reserved for those approaching senility will be exhibited. The purpose of this van is to spread the word, as well as books, promoting library programming and appearing where people gather.

While the St. John's region is on the go, **NLPL's Western Region** is reaching for the stars. This region

(including Labrador) now has an Orion StarBlast 4.5 Astro Reflector Telescope to lend. The acquisition follows increased public interest in astronomy and the development of a stellar astronomy program at Memorial University's Grenfell Campus, in Corner Brook. The telescope, including an operating manual, will be on seven-day loan, and is backed up by the **Corner Brook Public Library's** collection of stargazing works.

Meanwhile, **Memorial University Queen Elizabeth II Library** celebrated the 40th anniversary of its opening. The building's official opening occurred during the 1982 spring convocation and was marked by the conferring of an honorary doctorate on Guy Sylvestre, then National Librarian. *ELAN* readers will recognize the late Louis Vagos, the project's consultant. A highlight of the anniversary was an address by Robert Mellin, a junior partner in the local firm Architects Guild during the design process. Two firsts were accomplished: those who had used the library for 40 years got a glimpse of its gestation and the architect got a first-hand account of what it was like to live in his building. Enlightenment all around.

Dick Ellis is Librarian Emeritus at Memorial University.

News from the North

By Julie Ourom



Library services returned to normal across the North, with accommodations as circumstances evolved. At **Hay River Public Library**, patrons were delighted

when in-person services, including seating for relaxed visits, resumed.

Whitehorse Public Library announced modified hours and programs, and **Iqaluit Public Library** reopened after contactless service.

Northern kids once again enjoyed summer programs themed around the TD Summer Reading Club and Story

Walk°. In **Nunavut Public Library**, each participating child took home a free book, and a Comic Book Club for ages 8 to 14 was offered at **Iqaluit Public Library**. Teen programs at **Whitehorse Public Library** included Artist Adventures with local guests, and Page to Plate stories and baking at the **Kwanlin Dün Cultural Centre**.

Programs for all ages included **Hay River Public Library's** Dandelion Harvest and Story Time, the Dog Days of Summer Photo Contest at **Fort Smith Public Library**, and additions to the **Yellowknife Public Library** quilt. A variety of book launches, guest artists, and musical programs were offered, including at **Whitehorse Public Library**. Noon meditation took place at **Yellowknife Public Library**, and workshops on mental wellness, substance use, and the rental housing market were offered at **Whitehorse Public Library**.

Seasonal activities included the library tent at National Indigenous Peoples Day in Whitehorse, muffins on the library lawn in Hay River on Canada Day, and the Canadian Children's Book Week touring program in May.

To mark 75 years of diplomatic relations between Canada and Iceland, a **book exchange** took place during the Arctic Arts Summit, held in Whitehorse in June. The Canadian Ambassador to Iceland provided Icelandic books to **Yukon Public Library**; an equivalent donation of books by Canadian authors was given to Icelandic libraries. Similar exchanges were scheduled for NWT and Nunavut later in the summer.

Northern libraries continue to plan for the future, with two exciting projects underway in Nunavut. The **Rankin Inlet Ilitaqsiniq Library** is moving to a learning commons model, and Cambridge Bay's **May Hakongak Community Library and Cultural Centre** is expanding to promote cultural programs and services in the Inuinnaqtun language.

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.

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

Dr. Julia Bullard,

a graduate of McMaster, UBC, and the University of Texas at Austin, teaches courses in information systems, knowledge organization, and classification theory. This year she has continued work on Our Own Labels: LGBT2QIA+ Representation in Catalogue Records, a project carried out with an SSHRC Partnership Engage Grant. Dr. Bullard is identifying terminology that is appropriate to describe works by and about LGBT2QIA+ people. **Dr. Kavita Philip** holds the President's Excellence Chair in Network Culture in UBC's Department of English Language and Literatures. In March, she held a colloquium at the school, entitled The Pirate Function, during which she discussed unauthorized reproduction, property law, and interdisciplinary knowledge production. In June students attended a seminar led by **Dr. Patricia Anderson**, a member of the Tunica Language Project and the head lexicographer of the *New Tunica Dictionary*. Dr. Anderson described revitalization lexicography and discussed the ways in which it changes the goals of dictionary-making to serve different communities.

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

By Kenneth Gariepy and Alvin M. Schrader

Dr. Kenneth D. Gariepy was appointed Director, effective July 1, 2022. He succeeds **Dr. Kathleen DeLong**, who served as Interim Chair for two years (2020/22). Prior to his appointment with UAlberta, Kenneth held a faculty appointment in the Department of Information

Studies, University of the Fraser Valley, Abbotsford, B.C. Kenneth holds a PhD in Theoretical, Cultural, and International Studies in Education and an MLIS degree, both from the University of Alberta. SLIS faculty, staff, and administration extend their warmest congratulations to the 46 MLIS students, who graduated during the on-campus spring convocation. We wish Associate Professor **Dr. Adam Worrall** well, as he leaves to explore other opportunities, and we congratulate Associate Professor **Dr. Tami Oliphant**, who will be appointed Graduate Coordinator for the 2022/23 academic year. Congratulations also to **Jessie Loyer**, Academic Teaching Staff, who has been named a member of the 2022 class of *Library Journal's* Movers & Shakers. UAlberta has officially launched Braiding Past, Present, and Future: the Indigenous Strategic Plan, which "reflects an important step in our institution's commitment to reconciliation in postsecondary education, research, and addressing the historical legacy of the residential school system and Canada's colonial history in a meaningful and lasting way."

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

By Becky Blue

On June 30th, **Marni Harrington**, MLIS '07, retired after 12 years as Graduate Library Director. Marni worked tirelessly alongside LIS faculty and students, in support of the recent launch of the Smoke Signals Archive. The archive includes 30 years of the iconic Indigenous affairs radio program, *Smoke Signals*, hosted by **Elders Dan and Mary Lou Smoke**. **Melanie Mills**, MLIS '03, was appointed effective August 1 as our new Graduate Library Director. Melanie's previous role was the Director of Library and Learning Services at Huron University College. She will oversee our library's latest evolution, as it remains a critical teaching resource for our students. Finally, FIMS said goodbye to longtime faculty member **Carole Farber**, who died in January. Carole was instrumental in the Graduate School of Library and Information Science

and the Graduate School of Journalism merger in 1997. Her early influence on the faculty continues to resonate today.

University of Toronto, Faculty of Information (iSchool)

By Ann Brocklehurst

In June the Faculty of Information held its first in-person spring convocation in three years. Librarian and Archivist of Canada **Leslie Weir** gave an inspirational speech at the formal ceremony, which was followed by lunch and an awards presentation at the Bissell Building. Professor **Marsha Checkik** became Acting Dean for a six-month period, starting July 1, 2022, while the current Dean, **Wendy Duff**, is on administrative leave. Professor Checkik previously served as Chair and Graduate Chair of the Department of Computer Science at the Faculty of Arts and Science. Associate Professor **Matt Ratto** was appointed to a two-year term as Associate Dean, Research, taking over from Professor **Tony Tang** who is on leave. Assistant Professors **Safwat Hassan** and **SA Smythe** joined the faculty this summer. The fall term is slated to return to full in-person learning, after more than two years of predominantly online courses.

McGill University, School of Information Studies

By Peter F. McNally

As part of McGill's bicentennial celebrations, an Unsung Heroes program was launched, recognizing individuals whose impact on the McGill

community and beyond has been overlooked. To accompany the program, **Gordon Burr**, Adjunct Professor, School of Information Studies, assisted by three of the school's Archival Outreach practicum students, created an exhibit. In 2020 **Dr. Benjamin Fung** was promoted to professor and renewed as Canada Research Chair in Data Mining for Cybersecurity. In 2017 **Dr. Catherine Guastavino** was renewed as a William Dawson Scholar and promoted to professor, in 2022. The school is currently inviting applications for a tenure-stream appointment as assistant professor in the general area of Human Information Interaction (HII).

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

By Isabelle Bourgey and Martin Bélanger

Last spring the school was active in preparing for its American Library Association re-accreditation. All teachers and professionals got involved to gather information and write our program presentation, which was submitted in June. The school will be welcoming the external review panel in early October. A great continuous team effort! We are very pleased to welcome **Anton Boudreau Ninkov** as an adjunct professor, effective June 1, 2022. His current research interests include information-visualization systems, human interaction with information, and bibliometrics and webometrics. Also, congratulations

are due to Professor **Marie D. Martel**, who was awarded tenure and promoted to associate professor on June 1, 2022. Professor **Yvon Lemay** will retire from teaching as of September 2022. He started his career at EBSI in 2007. He specialized in archives studies and in artistic usage of archives. We all wish him well in his retirement.

Dalhousie University, School of Information Management (SIM)

By Sandra Toze

SIM is excited to announce that **Dr. Stacy Allison-Cassin** joined us in a tenure-stream position as of July 1, 2022. We also congratulate **Dr. Jamila Ghaddar**, who will be shifting to a tenure-stream position as of January 1, 2023. With these two new positions the school moves forward with our programming and research around equity, inclusion, diversity, accessibility, and decolonization. Congratulations to **Dr. Louise Spiteri**, who has been appointed Dalhousie's Chair of Senate. SIM wishes **Dr. Keith Lawson** well in his retirement. Keith has been with SIM since 2005 and contributed significantly to our programs and research. Thank you to **Dr. Vivian Howard**, who added Acting Chair of SIM to her many titles last year. Vivian has completed her term as Associate Vice President Academic, and is currently enjoying a well-deserved leave. SIM is continuing to expand, as we work on our proposal for a PhD in Information, and are launching new courses related to digital skills and citizenship at the undergraduate level.

Milestones

Obituaries

Compiled by Frances Davidson-Arnott

Madge Aalto died August 3, 2021, age 79, in Vancouver. She was Vancouver PL's director for 14 years and also worked in library systems in many Canadian communities.

Shirley Allen (née Home) died July 17, 2022, age 97, in Ottawa. BLS '70 U of T. She worked for the National Film Board.

Margaret "Ruth" Bennett died December 13, 2021, age 90. MLS '75 U of T. She became a children's librarian

at North York Central Library.

Richard Keith Chamberlin Crouch died March 31, 2022, age 96, in Kingston, Ont. MLS, McGill; PhD, U of T. He was an ELA member.

Sylvia Anne Crooks died May 26, 2022, age 85, in Vancouver. MLS, UBC '83. After working as a librarian at Vancouver and Burnaby PLs, she joined UBC's School of Library, Archival and Information Studies,

teaching until her retirement in 2002.

She was an active ELA member.

Hugh Dempsey died May 24, 2022, age 92, in Calgary. He became Alberta's first professional archivist when he joined the newly-formed Glenbow Foundation as archivist in the mid-1960s.

Marie DeYoung died April 20, 2022, age 69, in Halifax. MLS, Dalhousie '80. CLA president, from 2014 to 2015, she had a distinguished career

managing libraries, including at the N.S. departments of Justice and Labour, and held senior library leadership roles with the Nova Scotia Community College and Saint Mary's University. She was honoured with numerous awards.

Esther Louise Sleep Dishke (née Farrar) died August 5, 2022, age 85, in Hamilton, Ont. BLS, McGill '65. She worked in Dar es Salaam, at McMaster University, and at the James A. Gibson Library, Brock University, in St. Catharines, Ont. She volunteered at the International Baptist Theology Seminary Library in Prague.

Kathleen Draper died May 7, 2022, age 97, in Oshawa, Ont. BA, U of A; BSW, U of T; MLS, U of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. She worked as a school and university librarian.

Caroline Freibauer died July 31, 2022, age 61, in Hamilton, Ont. A teacher-librarian, she was active on the Brantford PL board, the Ontario School Library Association (for which she wrote and edited *The Teaching Librarian* magazine), the Association of Library Consultants and Coordinators of Ontario, and the Canadian School Library Association.

Barbara Judith Habib died July 19, 2022, age 90, in Mississauga, Ont. She worked as a librarian and archivist at McMaster University.

Ronald Hagler died May 20, 2022, age 88, in Vancouver. Professor Emeritus of the UBC School of Information, he retired in 1999.

Beryl Alison Hall died June 3, 2022, age 87, in Brampton, Ont. She was a manager with Vaughan PL.

Frances Elaine Hoag died July 26, 2022, age 67, in Ottawa. She worked in the Rare Book Division, National Library of Canada.

Alan John Horne died June 28, 2022, age 92, in Toronto. He was a senior librarian at U of T until his retirement in 1994.

Jean Lawrence L'Esperance died July 8, 2022, age 88, in Ottawa. A librarian and archivist with Library and Archives of Canada, she was instrumental in the 1980 *Canadian Human Rights Act* ruling, which granted librarians wage parity with historians, citing discriminatory practice between male

and female employees. See Wendy Scott's tribute on the [ELA website](#).

Joan Lawrence died April 21, 2022, age 92, in Victoria. She worked at the Victoria PL and Victoria College/University of Victoria Libraries.

Amédée LeBlanc died May 5, 2022, age 92, in Moncton. A librarian, he was acquisitions head at Bibliothèque Champlain at the Université de Moncton.

Marilyn Frances Milnes died May 7, 2022, age 78, in Toronto. BLS, McGill '66. She was a librarian at Toronto PL.

Gerda Anne Molson died August 26, 2022, age 82, in Niagara Falls, Ont. She was Chief Librarian, Niagara-on-the-Lake PL, for 35 years and was a president of the Ontario Library Association.

Ella Margaret Newel died May 4, 2022, age 101, in Hamilton, Ont. A graduate of library school in Toronto, she had a library career at Western.

Audrey Margaret Ruscica died August 14, 2022, age 89, in Toronto. She studied Home Economics at the Macdonald Institute, Ontario Agricultural College, and earned a Library Techniques diploma at Seneca College. She worked for TPL at several branches.

Denis Savage died April 23, 2022, age 80, in Brockville, Ont. He was a cataloguer at the National Library of Canada.

Margot Schenk died April 19, 2022, age 85, in Halifax. MLS, Dalhousie. She worked in libraries including Fisheries and Oceans in Halifax, then at St Mary's University Patrick Power Library from 1980 to 1997, where she was public services head from 1985.

Alina Schweitzer died April 28, 2022, age 92, in Toronto. She was a librarian at the National Library of Canada, where she devised the 2nd and 3rd editions of *Canadian subject headings*.

Murray C. Shepherd died April 5, 2022, age 83, in Waterloo, Ont. MLS, U of Denver. He spent 40 years in library administration, including as University Librarian at U of Waterloo (1973–2003). He was very active in library professional associations.

Agnes Simo died May 1, 2022, age 98, in Toronto. She worked at Toronto PL for 32 years, mostly

at the City Hall Branch.

Marion Joyce Smith died April 6, 2022, age 87, in North Bay, Ont. With a BSc from U of Waterloo, and a library technician diploma from Georgian College, she worked for Clearview PL, playing an integral part in establishing the newly-built library in New Lowell, Ont. She was awarded the Province of Ontario Senior of the Year and the OPLA James Bain Medallion.

Christina Duff Stewart died June 2022, age 96, in Toronto. A British-trained librarian, she worked at TPL and U of T. See Leslie McGrath's tribute on the [ELA website](#).

Margery Ruby Stewart died July 15, 2022, age 96. MLS, U of T. She worked at the Toronto Reference Library and was a freelance writer.

Shaopan "Chopin" Tsai died May 27, 2022, age 96, in Victoria. He worked in the office of the Council of Federal Libraries, which coordinated the activities of federal libraries.

Gary David Tynski, died August 19, 2022, age 72, in Montreal. He was Print Curator in Rare Books and Special Collections, McLennan Library, McGill University, for approximately 30 years.

Joanie Doreen White died June 28, 2022, age 66 in St. John's. She was town librarian for Portugal Cove – St. Philip's, Nfld., for more than 25 years.

Gwyneth Anne Williams died February 13, 2022, age 89, in Victoria. BLS, UBC '70. She worked for Statistics Canada for many years.

John G. Wright died June 18, 2022, age 93, in Edmonton. He was a professor and, eventually Dean, Faculty of Library and Information Studies, U of A. John was an ELA member.

Kathleen "Kaye" Jones died August 27, 2022, age 100, in Port Colborne, Ont. Graduate of Mount Allison University and U of T, Kaye was the retired Chief Librarian, Port Colborne PL, and a former member of the Ontario Library Association and the Canadian Library Association.

Leonard St. John died August 20, 2022, age 84, in Ottawa. Master's in Library Science, Western, PhD British Literature, U of A. Leonard was a subject analyst, National Library, before entering the priesthood.

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, provides more information celebrating the lives of our members.



Retirements

Compiled by
Suzette Giles

Ivan Basar, retired as Serials Team Leader from Library and Archives Canada (LAC), in July 2022. His 40-year career at the National Library of Canada/LAC included being a cataloguer/reviser in the serials team, before becoming the team leader.

Donna Bourne-Tyson, Dean of Libraries at Dalhousie University since 2011, retired in August 2022. Over the course of her career, she has made significant contributions regionally, nationally, and internationally, and has been honoured with numerous awards. In 2022, The Canadian Association of Research Libraries (CARL) awarded her the annual **CARL Award for Distinguished Service to Research Librarianship**, given to a Canadian who has served the profession with marked distinction, and has made significant national and international contributions to research librarianship through leadership and engagement. Michael Vandenburg became the new Dean of Libraries on August 15.

Daniel Boyer, Head Librarian, Nahum Gelber Law Library and Wainwright Librarian, McGill University, retired in April 2022. Holding degrees in law,

history, and library sciences, he joined the library as Wainwright librarian in 1998, and also served three terms as head of the law library. He was awarded the Advocatus Emeritus distinction, in 2018, and the Barreau du Québec stated the Gelber Law Library “had an exemplary standing among comparative law libraries around the world.” He served at McGill as associate dean, user services, and chaired the library search committee, as well as the librarians’ section of the McGill Association of University Teachers. Sonia Smith is now Acting Head of the library.

Anita Cannon retired on May 30, 2022 after 27 years at Mount Allison University Libraries & Archives. Public Services Librarian, she served as the government-information librarian and specialist librarian for a wide range of subjects.

Laurie Clarke retired in June 2022, after 12 years as CEO of the Waterloo PL, Ont. She obtained her MLS from Western University in 1983, and worked at Kitchener PL, Dynix and Library Services Centre, prior to moving to Waterloo PL. Kelly Kipfer is the new CEO, starting August 29, 2022.

Colleen Cook, Trenholme Dean of Libraries, McGill University, retired at the end of August 2022. Following seven years as the dean of the library at Texas A&M University, she joined McGill in 2011. She is succeeded by Dr. Guylaine Beaudry, who was University Librarian, Concordia University.

Debbie Costelo, Manager, Libraries and Learning Commons, retired in May 2022 from the Nova Scotia Community College (NSCC), after 31 years with the institution. In 1991 she joined NSCC as the campus librarian and bookstore manager, at the former Halifax Campus, transitioning in 1999 to regional librarian responsible for Metro Halifax Campus Libraries. From 2001 to 2017, she was public services librarian with Central Library Services, before becoming manager. April Sampson is now Manager, Libraries and Learning Commons.

Janice Fralic-Brown, Circulation Supervisor since 2010 at the Nova Scotia College of Art and Design University Library, retired in July 2022 after 31 years with the library.

Gail Fraser, Manager of Acquisitions, Metadata and eResources, Dalhousie University Libraries, retired in June 2022. She started as a library assistant in Serials in 1980 and, in 2001, was appointed Head of Serials and Acquisitions at the W. K. Kellogg Health Sciences Library. She was manager, eResources Access & Subscriptions (2013–2019) and then manager, Acquisitions, Metadata & eResources from 2019 to retirement.

John Pateman, retired in September 2022 after nine years as CEO and chief librarian of Thunder Bay PL, Ont. He led the library through restructuring, and the development and execution of two strategic plans. Prior to joining Thunder Bay PL, his positions in the U.K. included Head of Libraries for the London Borough of Merton, the London Borough of Hackney, and Lincolnshire County Council. Richard Togman is the new CEO.

Michelle Toombs retired June 30, 2022, after 13 years as CEO and Director of the Marigold Library System, Strathmore, Alta. She oversaw the construction of a new 35,000-square-foot shared facility, represented Marigold on The Alberta Library executive for four years, and chaired The Regional Automation Consortium for seven years. Previously she was with Calgary Public Library for 33 years, including 11 years as Sector Manager, and was awarded the Library Association of Alberta 2022 President’s Award, which recognizes an individual who has made a major impact, on an Alberta-wide basis, in the library field. Lynne Price, former Director of Services Delivery, is the new CEO.

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

A Paean to the Humble Library Book Card

By Matt Scholtz

At a recent library book sale, I was startled to find a book card still tucked into the book pocket. Exactly the kind in use when I began my career in the Tillsonburg Public Library. Perhaps, in this present day, anyone of the current generation would be horrified at such a blatant violation of a library user's privacy. Of course, a patron would need to know who belonged to #St393. But, "It's the principle of the thing," today's patron would exclaim.

Well, back in the day, we weren't that stuffy about privacy, especially because patrons who might have known #St393 would have been glad to recognize the number. That's because they trusted #St393's literary taste and were glad to find a book with his/her imprimatur. And they welcomed the chance to put their own library-card number on a book card to draw their friends' attention to the book.

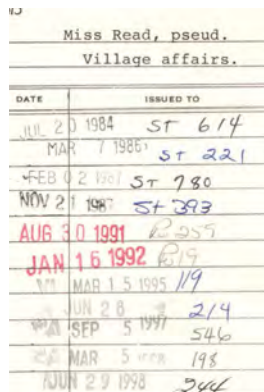
One tries to imagine what lively discussions ensued when #214 called

#St393 to share his/her comments on the book, and asked have they read anything else by this author?

A detective might find there were no renewals on this card.

Was it an easy and quick read or was it rather disappointing, and abandoned before the due date?

Then there's the branch librarian who checked this book out for her patron. Did the two chat briefly about the weather or share some village gossip making the rounds? Is a family member recovering well from a recent operation? Was the minister's sermon on Sunday a tad too long? Was it true that Jennifer was suddenly



DATE	ISSUED TO
JUL 20 1984	ST 614
MAR 7 1985	ST 221
FEB 02 1987	ST 780
NOV 21 1987	ST 393
AUG 30 1991	2259
JAN 16 1992	6219
MAR 15 1995	119
JUN 28	214
SEP 5 1997	546
MAR 5 1998	198
JUN 29 1998	244

Photo credit: Matt Scholtz

flashing an engagement ring?

This book was published in 1978, so the readers identified on this card may no longer be with us — but they have left their mark on this book by virtue of the card. Their fingers opened the book, turned the pages, and closed it at the end of the day.

By now these readers may have been forgotten by others, but, for a few brief moments, they have been called to my mind because of this card. They will vanish into the mists of time when I discard it, so I think I will keep it for just a little while longer. ■

To save space, *ELAN* will include only awards and appointments of national importance and high relevance to our members. Look for these in the news sections. A Canadian awards page is now available on ELA's website at exlibris.ca/doku.php?id=award:list_of_canadian_library_awards.

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ELA Fall Tour: The Monkey's Paw and the Bloor Gladstone Branch of Toronto Public Library

By Doreen London

On October 10, 2022, 10 ELA members were treated to a double tour brilliantly organized by Vivienne James. The Monkey's Paw, an antiquarian bookstore, was opened in 2006 by Stephen Fowler, who moved to Toronto from California in 2002.

The **Monkey's Paw** (from the book by W. W. Jacobs, "be careful what you wish for") moved to its current location in 2019, and Stephen describes it as a bookstore for "old and unusual printed matter, with special emphasis on visual culture, obsolete opinions and technologies, earnest works on highly specific topics, books as artifacts,

and pop detritus." In his bookstore, he is saving the book's artifact, not the information. Most of the books are non-fiction and from the 20th century or the non-digital age. The browser enters this unique bookstore for the experience of discovering a book or old printed artifact.

A unique feature of the store is its book vending machine. For a token (currently \$5), you try your luck to receive a random book from the Biblio-Mat, a popular concept Stephen devised. Several of our tour members tried it and were not disappointed. He is always searching for material for his bookstore, and is happy to take donations that meet his criteria. The Monkey's Paw is worth a visit, and I fully recommend it to all our members.

Our next stop was the **Bloor Gladstone Library**. ELA member Barbara Myrvold, who began her career there in 1968, provided the tour, along with Raymond Lam, acting branch head, who joined us later.

The library is a beautiful and historically remarkable Toronto building with a striking modern addition. It is one of Toronto's oldest operating libraries, a designated heritage building, and the recipient of multiple design and architecture awards. It rates second or third for circulation among the city's 100 library branches. Inspired by the **classical architectural tradition**, the library opened in 1913, incorporating round arches supported by pilasters with extruding head stones on the facade, and ornamentation on the interior, including



Stephen Fowler at The Monkey's Paw
Photo credit: Doreen London

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two fireplaces with sculpted angel faces on both sides of each. It went through two major renovations (1976 and 2009), and multiple name changes, starting with the original Dovercourt Branch, then the Bloor and Gladstone Library, then the Bloor/Gladstone Library, and, finally, the Bloor Gladstone Library, as we know it today.

Nature has been an important branch element since the beginning. The library originally featured an outdoor courtyard at the back of the main floor. This was filled in for a reading room in the 1976 renovation, but a small, landscaped terrace was built at the back in the 2009 renovation. Several trees had to be removed to accommodate the larger branch, but they were photographed before removal, and the photographs were installed in the new addition. The

branch is Toronto PL's first building to feature an environmental green roof.

The 2009 renovation — dramatically blending the architecture of the early 20th century with the modernism of the 21st century — has won numerous awards. A blend of old and new, the branch is spacious and inviting to children and adults and is truly a community library.

Vivienne James adds, "Following our tour of The Monkey's Paw and Bloor Gladstone Library, seven of us went to lunch at the Country Style Hungarian Restaurant on Bloor Street and enjoyed good food and conversation — a fitting end to a wonderful tour."

It was a great day. Thank you, Vivienne.

To see more photos from this event go

to <https://www.exlibris.ca/doku.php?id=activities:tours>

Doreen London retired after working as a reference librarian, manager/assistant director, Seneca College 1977 to 2004. ■



Outside the Bloor Gladstone Branch
Photo credit: Doreen London

President's Report

By Deb Thomas



With the start of a new year and spring on the horizon, we look forward to growing things. One initiative that is growing

for ELA is our Indigenous Student Bursary. We have already managed to raise half of what we need for the award (\$2,500) in 2023 and are looking to the membership to raise the rest by July. Any additional funds will be held in reserve for future awards. See the back page of this issue for more details about the bursary criteria and our partnership with **Indspire**.

Another area of potential ELA growth is the offering of webinars on topics of potential interest to members. We are considering offering the first one this June and will be polling members on possible topics.

Continuing activities include Vivienne James's able co-ordination of in-person and virtual library tours (see the front page of this issue), Frances Davidson-Arnott's leadership in providing this information-packed newsletter twice

a year, the administration of our web and Facebook pages by Lorne Bruce and Donna Burton, and Christina Wilson's shepherding of the W. Kaye Lamb Award (to be issued this year). Special thanks to Bob Henderson for his solid management of our finances and membership records and to our thoroughly competent new secretary, Cynthea Penman, for her accurate minutes and survey skills. And thanks to past-president Tom Eadie for always lending an ear when I need to sound out an idea or work through a problem. Finally, thanks to everyone who responded to our evaluation survey for the 2022 AGM & Conference.

We continue to look for new board recruits, particularly for the vice-president and archivist positions. We're looking forward to another busy year, and we can always use more minds to help with our activities and initiatives. Happy growing, everyone!

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

Corrections

ELAN (No. 71) Spring 2022

In "Hidden Stories," by Bernie Katz, on pages 9–10, the captions for the first two photos were reversed. On page 10, "19th-century Greece" the text should read "18th-century Greece."

In "Libraries Named after Librarians," by Suzette Giles, on page 12, "Waterloo University (a founding University of Guelph college)" should read "Waterloo University (now Wilfred Laurier University)."

In the last paragraph of "News from Canadian Library/Information Studies Schools," compiled by Judy Dunn on pages 19–21, the name should read "Bertrum MacDonald."

ELAN (No. 72) Fall 2022

In "How and Why I Became a Librarian," by Paula de Ronde, on page 8, the name should read "Northrop Frye."

The online versions on the ELA website have been corrected.

ELA's Annual Conference

By Tom Eadie

On November 7, 2022, two impressive information professionals, Lisa Glandt and Richard Beaudry, spoke to a virtual audience at the ELA Annual Conference.

Lisa Glandt, the first speaker, presented on BC Archives and the Canadian Truth and Reconciliation Commission Calls to Action. Lisa is the Education and Advisory Services Coordinator of the **Archives Association of British Columbia**.



Lisa Glandt



In 2015, the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada made a wide-ranging set of recommendations to address the Indian Residential Schools—system legacy. Its Call to Action No. 70 requested funding for the Canadian Association of Archivists to collaborate with Aboriginal peoples in reviewing archival policies and best practices and developing a “reconciliation framework for Canadian archives.”

Lisa outlined the issues involved in creating such a framework and the considerable task of identifying Indigenous materials in processed and unprocessed holdings, addressing such technical and professional matters as identifying appropriate naming protocols and terms to be used in indexing records, engaging

with Indigenous communities, and addressing the repatriating items issue.

Guided by the Indigenous Advocacy Committee, the Archives Association of British Columbia has taken a number of initiatives as part of its response to the challenge of reconciliation in B.C. These include developing an archivist's tool kit, establishing an anti-racism bursary, and sponsoring workshops, other training sessions, and events. The key to success in these endeavours is seen as close collaboration with Indigenous partners, and the process is understood as organic, evolving over time. At the time of Lisa's talk there was the upcoming BC Archives Awareness Week (I'm Still Standing: Archives 2022, November 13–19), which was to include a screening of *Unarchived*, the Indigenous Archives Forum, a Networking and Updates Roundtea, and an engagement session with the Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation.

Richard Beaudry, the second speaker, discussed Contemporary Challenges and Censorship in Canadian School Libraries and Learning Commons. Richard was chair of the CFLA–FCAB Intellectual Freedom Committee at the time of our conference and is a recent recipient of the Val Hamilton Lifetime Achievement Award. He reported that school libraries and teacher-librarians are increasingly being pressured to remove or not acquire certain materials. These demands come from many sides — parents, community groups, and organizations (such as the ‘American-style’ Action4Canada). And, indeed, sometimes the pressure to censor comes from within the school system — from teachers, school administrators, or school boards. Materials seen as problematic fall into a number of categories. Perhaps unsurprisingly, books with LGBTQ+ and gender content are well-represented in complaints, as are certain genres such as magic (e.g., Harry Potter), horror, and romance. But the concept of levelling as a form of censorship may be new to some. Identifying materials as being aimed at particular ages or grade levels is one thing, but to prevent those of advanced reading skills or interests from

using materials ‘above their grade level’ is a constraint on intellectual growth. The BC Teacher-Librarians' Association has a policy statement that bears on this issue: “Freedom to read and to choose what to read is at the heart of our library learning commons programs.”



Richard identified some supportive allies for the teacher-librarian, school administrator, or board members brought under pressure: library associations and teacher unions (BCLA, BCTLA, and CFLA–FCAB, to name a few) have policies and are ready to assist. He stressed the power of the press. Boards that might be tempted to yield to pressure are highly sensitive to publicity! And, ultimately, there are the courts. A school-board's refusal to permit the use of books about primary grade children with same-sex parents ultimately came before the Supreme Court of Canada. And on December 20, 2002, Chief Justice Beverley McLachlin ruled a board could not impose its religious values through the exclusion of books that embodied alternate values. “Tolerance is always age-appropriate, children cannot learn unless they are exposed to views that differ from those they are taught at home.” [*Chamberlain v. Surrey School District No. 36*]

We were privileged to have such excellent speakers on topics of such relevance.

To see Lisa Glandt's presentation slides and the video of Richard Beaudry's presentation, go to https://www.exlibris.ca/doku.php?id=meetings:previous_agm_speakers and follow the links.

Tom Eadie, past-president of ELA, Former University Librarian/Director of Libraries at Mount Allison, Calgary and Trent, and sessional lecturer at Western's FIMS, is currently between engagements. ■

Upcoming Events

Hold This Date

The **2023 Ex Libris Association AGM** will take place on Monday, November 6, via Zoom. Watch for more information on the AGM and fall conference in your email, our [website](#) and our [Facebook page](#).

ELA Spring 2023 Virtual Library Tour

Stanley L. Milner Central Library, Edmonton Public Library, will be the location of the next ELA virtual library tour, on May 16, 2023.

Please watch for emails from our listserv for further details about these events.

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

By Todd Kyle



Since the fall of 2022, CFLA-FCAB has continued its library-related advocacy activities with the federal government. This includes a submission to the 2023 budget consultations calling for legislation to improve access to e-content on reasonable terms, investments in green infrastructure for local libraries, funding for Library and Archives Canada to digitize records related to the Indian Day School System, and increased support for Indigenous libraries and library workers. In addition, an open letter was sent to federal ministers calling for the release of church and government agency records related to residential schools. Work on national guidelines and standards included an update to the Guidelines for the Education of Library Technicians, the formation of a committee to review the draft Cataloguing Code of Ethics, and the release of an updated Intellectual Freedom Toolkit to assist libraries undergoing challenges. Other guidelines and position statements include ones on challenges to LGBTQIA2S+-themed programs and collections, protests and disagreements related to

collections and speakers, Controlled Digital Lending, Right to Repair, and Technical Protection Measures.

On the copyright front, work continues on CFLA-FCAB's position on copyright-term extension and public-interest limitations and exceptions in the World Intellectual Property Organization discussions of the Broadcast Treaty, as well as draft statements on the copyright implications of artificial intelligence and text-and-data mining research. Work is also ongoing on communicating to the government the importance of the right to repair and fair e-content access, which also includes investigating whether provincial consumer-protection legislation is another pathway to fair e-book terms. As related to the Marrakesh Treaty, a guide on accessible content is also being prepared for libraries.

At the CFLA-FCAB AGM on February 9, 2023, the following **board** was elected for the coming year: Lorisia MacLeod (Indigenous ancestry representative, appointed chair), Jessica Knoch (Alberta, appointed vice-chair), Andrea Cecchetto (Ontario, appointed treasurer), Ann Smith (Atlantic Provinces), Denis Chouinard (Quebec), Brad Doerksen (Prairie

Welcome to New ELA Members

We're proud to welcome these new ELA members:

Jeannie An, Oakville, ON
Jaye Bannon, Belleville, ON
Jasmin Baron, Toronto
Kaelen Bennett, Toronto
Samantha Bibby, Oshawa, ON
Sarah Bradley, Toronto
Priscilla Chan, Mississauga, ON
Arlene Danyleyko, Thunder Bay, ON
Myanna Hansen, Toronto
David Harvie, Stratford, ON
Lynne Howarth, Toronto
Sarah Hughes, Georgetown, ON
Carole Joling, Brockville, ON
Carly Klassen, Guelph, ON
Pamela Medland, Calgary
Donna Millard, Burlington, ON
Barbara Myrvold, Toronto
Amanda Ross-White, Kingston, ON
Thomas Sandor, Cambridge, ON
Tracey Sinclair, Atikokan, ON
Dina Stevens, Maple, ON
Sumiye Sugawara, Nipigon, ON
Elisa Sze, Toronto
Frank van Kalmthout, Toronto
Stacey Zip, Mississauga, ON
Wendy Zwaal, Cookstown, ON

Provinces), Tracey Therrien (British Columbia), Brett Waytuck (Canadian Association of Research Libraries), and Mary Chevreau (Canadian Urban Libraries Council). The positions of Northern Territories and Francophone Association representative, as well as secretary, remain vacant.

*ELA is a **CFLA-FCAB** member.*

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

CFLA-FCAB Intellectual Freedom Committee (IFC)

By Dick Ellis

Loyal readers of this column will recall Deb Thomas indicating that, after her ascension to the ELA presidency, she would no longer be writing reports on the CFLA-FCAB IFC. More than that, 2022 marked the last year of her membership in the IFC. Her contribution will be greatly missed.

At the same time, the IFC has lost its founding chair, as Richard Beaudry has also resigned to concentrate on co-ordinating the Teacher Librarianship Diploma and Certificate Program at the University of British Columbia. As if one program were not sufficient, Richard is also managing, and delivering most of the classes, in a French education elementary and middle-school cohort. Richard has made outstanding contributions to intellectual freedom in Canada and to school libraries, which are coming under increasing pressure from groups such as Action4Canada and their followers.

Following Richard's resignation, the IFC has appointed Wendy Wright, director of the Smithers Public Library in B.C., as its new chair.

A quick followup to the last column: The 2020 and 2021 reports from the Challenges Survey database have been posted. For the first time, all three reports in both years, including the comments, appear in French

versions. ELA members should expect the 2022 reports to have been posted in late April, allowing for reports of incidents that occurred in the last months of the year and the translation process. In the interim, there is an article on the [Freedom to Read](#) website that includes incidents from as late as August 31, 2022.

The committee also issued Challenges Faced by Libraries: Programming and Collections Supporting LGBTQIA2S+ Communities: Guidance from the CFLA-FCAB Intellectual Freedom Committee in response to reports from the library community. This initiative reflects both the committee's concern and its ability to act on its own, following from the Terms of Reference revisions that Deb noted in her last column.

Readers will have seen a call for new members, and if the experience of the recent past call is a guide, the committee will be awash in new blood (not excluding new old blood, see below) and renewed commitment. The IFC is in discussions with the [Centre for Free Expression](#) (CFE) at Toronto Metropolitan University, concerning collaboration on data gathering relating to intellectual-freedom challenges in Canadian

libraries. The creation of a joint CFLA-FCFE database and other supports for the Canadian library community was made in February, in conjunction with 2023 Freedom to Read Week.

Collaboration between the IFC and the Association des bibliothèques publiques du Québec (ABPQ) is ramping up, with the goal of gathering better data on intellectual-freedom issues in Quebec public libraries.

Readers of *Partnership* will find an article by Michael Nyby in the coming issue. Mr. Nyby is the first to explore the comprehensive database created from the Challenges Survey, and his article, "The Demography of Censorship: Examining correlations between community demographics and challenges in Canadian libraries," is expected in Vol 18, No. 1.

Exciting times.

A final note: This is my first report out of the IFC. With Deb's resignation, I remain the only ELA member on the committee. I am at the mid-point of my membership's second and final term, so I cordially encourage ELA members with an interest in intellectual freedom to watch for postings and consider joining the effort. It is a privilege.

Dick Ellis is Librarian Emeritus at Memorial University. ■

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.

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

And please submit any outstanding membership dues.

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, L3P 1H8.

If you prefer to donate through e-transfer, please email Bob at bob.exlibris@gmail.com.

Techology Unmasked! Sunsetting

By Stan Orlov



All good things must come to an end, and that includes technology. Usually, it is supplanted by something new, as sailing ships were

replaced by steamships that, in turn, were replaced by motor ships. In the world of libraries, there are myriad examples: the card catalogue replaced by OPAC, microfilm/microfiche superseded by floppy disks, then CDs/DVDs, and now cloud storage. The process of retiring hardware and software is called sunsetting.

The 2000s witnessed the appearance of many Library 2.0 solutions that included browser plug-ins, widgets, online services, etc. In the 2010s, many of them — such as Pubget, a public search engine for researchers, or LibX Toolbar, a browser extension

that provided direct access to research resources — ceased to exist. Most recent examples of sunsetting include the cloudLibrary Desktop App being replaced by Adobe Digital Editions in 2020 and the OverDrive app for iOS, Android, and Windows giving way to Libby in 2022.

Business consultants for technology companies encourage them to make the process of sunsetting as graceful and painless for clients as possible, which includes announcing the end of support for a product well in advance and offering alternative solutions to give clients a chance to adjust. When it comes to libraries, which are not driven by the bottom line, they often handle this process in a much gentler way, ensuring a smooth transition to new products and services. And they are not in a hurry to close the chapter for good on discontinued

formats, such as microform or VHS tapes, so a surprising number of libraries still let patrons access content that is not available in any other format. It is heartwarming to know that some technology is not about to ride into the sunset just yet.

For more information, check out: *Sunsetting: What Libraries Can Learn from Tech Companies*

Librarians and Technology #13: Considering Obsolete Formats and Technologies

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

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

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A Long and Winding Path

By Wendy Scott

I was in my thirties, recently divorced with four young children, and from a family of journalists. Through that connection, I landed a part-time job in the *Globe and Mail's* Montreal office, where I maintained its files, and translated articles and editorials from the French-language press for the Toronto editors. This was the period when the Quiet Revolution was transforming Quebec society, and often-violent events in Quebec were front-page news of great interest to the *Globe's* Toronto editors.

It became clear I needed a different career, as child care and working cost more than the salary I was making; I also knew a BA in French and English literature did not qualify me for anything else. Prospects for women in journalism were not promising; few could hope to move beyond the social page and obituaries, and those who managed to do so were much more courageous and self-confident than I was. This was the mid-60s, and opportunities for women seemed to be confined to work as secretaries,

salesladies, nurses, or teachers.

One day I learned the woman who had held my position before me had gone to library school and was now working for the federal government. I telephoned the Faculty of Librarianship at McGill University, was told to send in my university records, and was promptly admitted as a student.

My first year at McGill coincided with a change in policy, as the bachelor's degree in library science was replaced with the two-year master's program.

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Being back at school after 13 years of domesticity was an interesting and welcome change. Our classes were held in what had been a fine manor on Pine Avenue, a short distance from Montreal's so-called mountain, Mount Royal. On some nights, I would take some of my uncompleted assignments home and work on them, surrounded by my children doing their homework at the dining room table. A kind friend and neighbour often took care of them when I was running late at school and the babysitter had left.

In the summer between my first and second years, I worked in the Royal Bank of Canada's library in its 1847 building in Old Montreal. The babysitter took my children to the exhibits at Expo '67, and I spent my lunch breaks exploring my favourite part of the city. The librarian at the bank was Georgia Phelan (later Ellis), a wonderful teacher who became a friend I encountered later, when both of us worked in Ottawa.

In 1968, my graduation year, information became a desirable commodity. Libraries were springing up and expanding everywhere, and librarians were in strong demand. I began my first professional position at the Université de Montréal under Marie Zielinska, a classmate upgrading her degree. She was the university's head of library services for the biological sciences until she moved to Ottawa to be the National Library's Multilingual Service director. The botany collections ("specimenes") were located on the second floor of a building at the Jardin botanique, where its founder, Frère Marie-Victorin, had established a library under his sister's direction. It was curious to find that during the Second World War, articles on botanical research were still being written and published. My assistant, Mme. Florica Dragomir, was from Romania. She spoke no English, while my French was still far from fluent, but we agreed we would "débrouillions" just fine, and we did. In fact, I was really her assistant, as she knew far more than I, a newcomer, could know. Lunch breaks were two hours long. Mme. Dragomir would eat her sandwich, then

spread out fabrics and patterns, as she cut and basted dresses to be sewed for her daughters. I would go outside and join the small group of faculty members, who would stroll about the greenhouses and outdoor beds and hold discussions on botanical matters. My time there could not have been more agreeable, but I worried that my duties were not very challenging. When an opportunity arose at the library of Sir George Williams University (SGWU) — later Concordia University — I moved to its Science and Engineering Library, despite my ignorance of most of that field's subjects. The administration under Helen Howard was very liberated; librarians were given responsibility for challenging assignments, and I found every workday a stimulating learning experience.

But this was a period of great unrest in Montreal, and both of my first positions had been affected. Shortly before I went to the Université de Montréal, there were constant demonstrations and violent episodes throughout the city. Students broke into the card catalogues and scattered their contents everywhere, and there were police on campus. What became known as the Great Computer Riot occurred at SGWU just before I began working there, and staff at the circulation counters were being harassed. Although I felt the tension in the city and throughout the university, I left Montreal for personal, not political, reasons, as I hated to be characterized as one of the "leavers."

I moved to Nova Scotia in 1970, where I worked as a reference librarian at Mount Saint Vincent University, located on a beautiful site outside Halifax. Its president, Sister Frances Dolores, was a gifted administrator, and this once totally female, strictly Catholic college was now admitting male students and several young, liberal faculty members, some of whom came from the United States because of their opposition to the war in Vietnam. My move to Dalhousie University came about when Medical Librarian Doreen Fraser, who was filling a position vacated by its dental librarian, contacted me. Like all of

my positions, this one proved to be a fascinating learning experience. The only faculty members involved in research were three professionals from Budapest, Athens, and Glasgow, so we created a library committee.

Family concerns took me back to Montreal and Concordia University, where I worked as an orientation librarian, an attempt to encourage and help students use the library. I returned to Halifax for three years, to the Nova Scotia Provincial Library, under Maud Godfrey, who soon recognized my inability to edit cataloguing records, and allowed me to handle reference instead, for which I was much better suited. From Nova Scotia public and other libraries, we accepted questions they could not handle themselves. As a result, I soon learned to use other resources in Halifax, such as its central public library, Nova Scotia Tech, and Dalhousie and St. Mary's Universities.

When another personal event caused me to leave Nova Scotia in 1977, I faced a situation very different from the one a decade earlier. As the government made budgetary cuts to social services, libraries were often the first to be hit, and librarians were no longer in demand. Two opportunities opened up in Ottawa, however, and, helped by my ability to speak French, I was offered a position at the National Library of Canada.

At first, I worked in Interlibrary Loans, where, in those pre-computer days, several weeks of training were required to learn how to check citations in the vast reference collection of printed catalogues and other resources in the reference room and stacks. Two years later, I was made librarian at the Museum of Science and Technology, until another opportunity, in computer information, opened up back at the National Library of Canada (NLC). This morphed into a position in the reference division, where I spent most of my years until I retired. I was given several additional projects during that period — writing speeches, reports, bibliographies, and an information directory for library services for disabled persons.

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When we think back about our careers, of course, we often remember them for the people with whom we worked. I remember with pleasure the talks I had with many of the staff at NLC — the expatriate European intellectuals, exiled by wars both hot and cold, and the gifted specialists in music, the literature of Canada's immigrant populations, the management of special libraries, children's literature, and history (as we shared the building with Public Archives). We also got to know where to find information for our answers from staff in the many government libraries in Ottawa — sadly, no longer in existence. I also remember the associates I grew to know in my other jobs: the gentle botanists at l'Université de Montréal (and a separatist M.Sc. student who became a friend); and the curators at the Museum of Science and Technology, who travelled to Afghanistan to look for parts to repair obsolete technologies and who could fix anything. I also remember some of the people who asked for information and the pleasure of finding it when I could.

Even after I retired, I found the skills I had acquired as a librarian could be applied to many other projects. I was kept busy with part-time contracts and assignments in the Ottawa region and Montreal. My profession provided me with a wealth of opportunities and memories I did not anticipate when I fell into it, almost by accident, so many years ago. ■

How and Why I Became a Librarian

By Todd Kyle

“You need to get your master's degree.”

Those words were spoken to me in about 1994 by a librarian colleague who I respected and admired. In high school, I'd started as a page with the Mississauga Library System in Ontario, and, after graduating with my BA in French Literature in 1991, I had two job offers: a contract teaching English in Japan and a full-time paraprofessional library role.

Seeking a measure of stability, I chose the library. Over the next few years, I learned the ropes of public service, developing a passion for children's literature and earning a reputation as a bit of a ham in storytime. But after a few years, and failed attempts at a library marketing role and applying to teacher's college, I realized I'd hit a “glass ceiling” and needed to go to library school.

When my trusted colleague pronounced those words, they initially stung. I'd worked hard to learn on the job, and I was not interested in going back to school. There was something about *doing* that motivated me more than *studying*. I was 26, engaged, and independent. With the arrival of pay equity, I could even move from a basement to a real apartment. Why would I want to go backwards?

I'm not sure what changed my mind. Certainly, part of it was that the library offered tuition reimbursement, and I had Mondays off. This would

allow me to enrol at the University of Toronto part-time and continue to work full-time. I was even living right at the Islington subway station, allowing me to get downtown easily, and my wife was finished school and urged me to go. *There's no better time than now*, I thought, and I enrolled at the iSchool in 1996.

Over the next four years, I would juggle work and school, moving twice and changing branches once to maximise efficiency. As I progressed, I witnessed the birth of the World Wide Web and how it changed libraries and the iSchool, where I suddenly went from working offline in the “computer lab” to online in the newly refurbished library. In those days, I didn't even have a home computer, so I travelled to school to complete assignments! I also recall stubbornly resisting buying the Dewey classification manual, instead borrowing the four-volume version from work to save money (the cataloguing instructor let me use his copy for the exam so I wouldn't go to more decimal places). I even wrote an electronic rap song about Finland being the most online country in the world for a class on representing information!

I raced to complete the program in four years, graduating in 2000. I was now a real librarian! But, much to my chagrin, there were no professional-level openings in Mississauga at the time. I thought I was stuck, but

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Laughing in the Library

In public libraries, it is not unusual for patrons to return books chewed up by the family dog. While most readers like to sink their teeth, figuratively, into a good book, dogs seem to like to do so, literally.

One such mangled book clearly was needed by our dog-owning patron. It was entitled *Know How To Select Your Dog*. Presumably, the family dog knew that his days were numbered and wanted to sabotage the chances of his replacement.

If you have a humorous personal story or anecdote to share about your library career, send it to mattscholtz@rogers.com.

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the position of youth specialist, coordinating programs for children and teens, opened up. It seemed made for me, and it took me into a role reporting directly to the CEO. As with most work I'd done to that point, I realized that doing what needs to be done sometimes creates conflicts, but that flexibility, creativity, and a little good humour hopefully lead to many more friends than enemies.

I'd be remiss here if I didn't also add that my first two big breaks were an indirect result of a colleague's passing. The youth-specialist job opened up because a previous incumbent left to fill in for a manager who'd died of

cancer, and in the next job, children's manager, I replaced a retiring colleague who'd taken over after the previous manager suffered a sudden embolism. Despite this macabre backstory, I'm forever grateful for the privilege of these opportunities.

My career has progressed since then, from managing the opening of a new branch in Mississauga to becoming CEO in Newmarket for a decade and to starting as CEO in Brampton in the middle of the worst week of the pandemic. There are days now when I feel less like a librarian and more like a political administrator, juggling the right strategies, the right messages, and the right policies to

guide a large organization. But the values I learned in library school — of community service, equity of access, and intellectual freedom — still guide me, whether it's considering how to build partnerships, how to fill the community gaps, or how to balance inclusion with diversity of thought.

I still wonder what would have happened if my colleague hadn't spoken those insistent words. Would I have stayed where I was until it became a rut? Would I have taken bigger risks in the hopes of taking a different path? It's hard to say. All I know is this: The path I've taken has brought more challenges and more success than I ever imagined. It's still a wild ride. ■

Library Treasures of Britain: The Library at the Wellcome Collection

By Guy Robertson

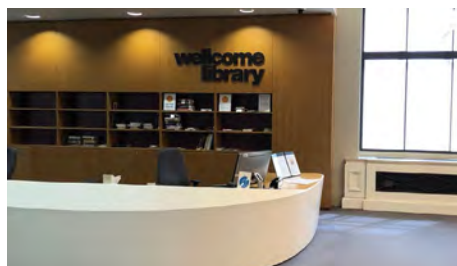
“It pays,” says the London cardiologist, “to learn as much as you can about syphilis. That’s why I use the library at the Wellcome Collection, which has a first-rate collection about the history of syphilis and related inconveniences.”

Could there be a more memorable testimonial? No. The library serves as the cornerstone of what, since 2017, is called the Wellcome Collection: Museum and Library. Sir Henry Wellcome (1853–1936) established this multi-faceted organization in the early 20th century as a private museum dedicated to the history of medical science and health care. Over time, the museum collected books, manuscripts, and paintings that concerned European medical traditions. Eventually, the organization became the Wellcome Collection, located in a handsome building on London’s bustling Euston Road.

“What many researchers find fascinating,” says the cardiologist, “are the ways in which people considered various diseases in the past, and the ways they were diagnosed and treated.” He points to a woman in a lab coat seated at a nearby table in a reference area and mentions that

she is an authority on smallpox and bubonic plague. “Those diseases are very uncommon now, of course, and our approach to their study relies on historical materials such as those which you’ll find in this library.”

Many researchers — including authors searching for material to illustrate their publications — take advantage of the visual culture collections, comprising more than 250,000 digital images, photographs, prints, paintings, and drawings from the 1300s to the present. Also popular are the ephemera, which include advertisements, stamps, and information leaflets.



Wellcome Library
Photo credit: Guy Robertson

“The leaflet collection will grow substantially because of COVID,” says Janis, a medical student at

a London hospital. “With those bits and scraps, we can trace the ways that COVID has affected communities, and understand how public-health authorities responded. Future historians could derive a lot of valuable information from what other people might toss in the skip.”

Aside from pandemic-related brochures and posters, Janis is interested in publications on obstetrics, gynecology, and pediatrics. She delves into old manuals and handbooks, some from the 1500s.



Wellcome Library
Photo credit: Guy Robertson

“I’m particularly interested in herbal remedies for childhood ailments,” says Janis, “but I am often distracted by antique surgical procedures described

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in the library's printed resources. Distraction is a risk at the Wellcome." She appreciates the large collection of current periodicals concerning medical history and notes that the library is her first choice to visit when she needs information on the use of herbs to treat childhood allergies and infections. But, sometimes, she finds herself reading an article on early appendectomies or the removal of gallstones.

Researchers who use the library's collection of archives and manuscripts are sometimes surprised by what they find in letters, notebooks, and miscellaneous personal papers.

"It's a myth that the handwriting of physicians has always been illegible," says the cardiologist. "Some of the pen-and-ink materials are beautiful as well

as readable. And, while 18th-century doctors did not have our technology, they could describe aspects of diseases as fluently and clearly as we can. In fact, they could have been more literate than some of our current medical students."

Students from different fields need access to the library's unpublished manuscripts in languages such as Sanskrit, Persian, Arabic, and Latin. International researchers brave Euston Road traffic to spend days poring over ancient descriptions of medical treatments. It is not unusual to hear muffled cries of astonishment and delight, as professors from Japan and Kenya discover antique commentaries on kidney disease.

Tourists arriving at the Wellcome Collection often begin their visits in museum areas that feature displays on

medical history in worldwide cultures. Most of the objects on display are on loan from London's Science Museum. Do not miss the opportunity to view Napoleon's horsehair toothbrush, which he used with toothpaste that contained opium. It is safe to assume he brushed regularly with pleasure, and while he lost his empire, he appeared to have avoided dental problems and related inconveniences.

*Find the **Wellcome Collection** at 183 Euston Road, London, NW1 2BE, U.K.*

***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. ■*

Librarian on Board: Back on Board

By Donna Burton

It's spring 2023, and some ELA members may be new appointees to a public-library board, perhaps for the first time. In Ontario, local councils appoint library-board members for a four-year term, concurrent with each council's term. Since Ontario's municipal election was held in October 2022, under the *Ontario Public Libraries Act*, councils must appoint library-board members at their first meeting or within 60 days of their first meeting.

If you are a new library-board member, congratulations! Serving on a library board is a great way to continue to contribute your library skills and experience to an important community institution's governance and a chance to advocate on its behalf.

I am starting my third board term and have served four years as chair. Being a board trustee has been a very rewarding and stimulating experience. Aside from the opportunity to contribute my library-management skills, serving has greatly increased my awareness of local issues and community needs. This past term was an exciting time to be part of our library board. The Lincoln and Pelham Public

Libraries amalgamated to form the new Lincoln Pelham Public Library under one unified board, which has allowed for increased services, programming, and resource access for both municipalities. During this next four-year term, our board will be actively involved in planning major renovations for two of our four branches.

As a new library-board appointee, what happens now? Your library CEO/head librarian will likely have provided you with orientation materials outlining your role and obligations as a board member. You may also be invited to attend a regional library-board orientation, such as we have in Niagara, or access the Ontario Library Service (OLS) training, available both virtually and in person at 16 locations throughout the province.

Published by OLS, the **Governance Hub** is a valuable online resource and covers many topics of concern to library boards. Perhaps start with **10 Things to Know as a New Library Board Member** and you'll be well on your way!

I would highly recommend taking advantage of whatever training is offered to you to become fully equipped

to understand your role in public library governance. Good luck to everyone on your new board journey! You will be making an important contribution to your community.

***Donna Burton**, retired in 2012 as Director of the Ontario Legislative Library, is a member of the Lincoln Pelham Public Library board and an ELA board member. ■*

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.



Book Reviews

Edited by Susan Ibbetson



The Librarian of Auschwitz
By Antonio Iturbe,
translated by Lilit Zekulin Thwaites
Godwin Books
– Henry Holt
and Co., 2017



A Delayed Life: The True Story of the Librarian of Auschwitz
By Dita Kraus
Feiwei and
Friends, 2020

Reviewed by Bernard Katz

These two books are intimately intertwined. Iturbe's 2012 Spanish novel is based on Edita 'Dita' Kraus's life, first brought to his attention by a passage in Alberto Manguel's *The Library at Night*, describing the existence of a secret children's library in Auschwitz-Birkenau. Kraus even provides a brief preface with a 1942 photo of

her 14-year-old self. This same photo illustrates her memoir's dust jacket.

Iturbe relates how "Block 31" in the "family camp" part of Auschwitz-Birkenau remarkably contained a "barrack school for children" and how his main character, Edita 'Dita' Adler, came to be in it and was appointed "librarian" of eight precious and totally illegal books. Her tasks — to clandestinely circulate them daily to teachers, keep them in as good repair as possible, and, above all, keep them safe and hidden from the SS guards — are dauntingly described. The price of failure was certain death, most likely from Dr. Josef Mengele, Auschwitz's infamous *Todesengel* (Angel of Death), an SS physician experimenting on prisoners and making deadly "selections" about who would go to the gas chambers, whose presence is explicit throughout the novel.

Edita Kraus, now 93, wrote a series of reminiscences recalling her life and those of her family and friends: childhood in Prague before the Second World War; internment in the Theresien Ghetto, where she (aged 13) and her parents were deported after her lawyer father Dr. Hans Polach lost his state job; their lives in Auschwitz-Birkenau, where her father died; forced labour in Germany with her mother, Elizabeth Polach (née Adler); postwar married life in Prague until 1949; and, then, in Israel, where the Krauses were teachers and where her husband died in 2000. After

Iturbe's book was published, a "gifted editor" merged them into a memoir, enhancing and extending the novel, clarifying why "Adler" is Dita's surname, and explaining that half of the children in Block 31 were eventually gassed.

The novel describes detailed daily lives in the camp, with a thread about a shocking suicide that runs through it, which Dita Kraus's memoir directly addresses as murder. With an epilogue, postscript, further note, and bibliography of primary sources at the end of his book, Iturbe ties together all his characters postwar: how they relate to reality; and how he found and interviewed Dita, and how he did significant research on what camp life was like, including reading a book about Block 31 by Ota Kraus, Edita's husband (another novel character). Iturbe writes: "The bricks used to construct this story are facts, and they are held together in these pages with a mortar of fiction."

I don't know of any other books that have such a remarkable relationship with each other as do these two. I recommend them both, but be aware — they are not easy reads.

Bernard Katz was a librarian at the University of Guelph for more than 30 years. He held several senior positions, including Head, Humanities and Social Sciences Division, and retired in 2000 as Head, Archival and Special Collections. ■

Good Reads

Compiled by Judy Dunn



The Book of Lost Names

By Kristin Harmel
Gallery Books, 2020

Inspired by a true story from the Second World War, this book imagines the life of a young woman with a talent for forgery, who helps hundreds of Jewish children flee the Nazis.



The Librarian Spy

By Madeline Martin
Hanover Square Press, 2022

This fictional but well-researched story features a Library of Congress librarian working undercover as an intelligence gatherer in Lisbon in 1941, and her connection with a young woman working for the French Resistance in Lyon.

...continued from page 11



The Woman in the Library

By Sulari Gentill
Poisoned Pen Press, 2022

This clever book-within-a-book

mystery opens in the Boston Public Library's Reading Room.



The Reading List

By Sara Nisha Adams
William Morrow, 2022

An exquisite debut details how a chance encounter with a list of library books

helps forge a friendship between two lonely people in a London suburb.



The Diamond Eye

By Kate Quinn
William Morrow, 2022

Another Second World War tale, this one's based on the real-life story of a quiet history student/library worker who becomes history's deadliest female sniper.

Judy Dunn retired in 2011 after six years as Assistant Dean Academic, Faculty of Information at U of T and 15 years as Program Co-ordinator, School of Information Management at Dalhousie University. ■

Awards and Recognition: Congratulations to our Members!

Larry Alford

2022 Ron MacDonald Distinguished Service Award, Canadian Research Knowledge Network

Alvin M. Schrader

2022 Queen Elizabeth II Platinum Jubilee Medal, Government of Alberta

More About Awards

Guy Berthiaume, C.M., Librarian and Archivist of Canada Emeritus

Guy was made a Member of the Order of Canada, as he “has contributed to the preservation of our collective heritage and has helped make it more accessible to all Canadians. He is credited with reinvigorating Library and Archives Canada by enhancing its alignment with the cultural sector, as well as by creating the National Heritage Digitization Strategy. As the former CEO of the Bibliothèque et Archives nationales du Québec, he played an integral part in making the organization a hub in Montréal’s cultural sphere.”

In honour of the Queen Elizabeth II Platinum Jubilee,

the Government of Canada created a provincial medal for participating provinces: Alberta, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Manitoba, Prince Edward Island, and Saskatchewan. Ontario chose to award pins instead.

For additional information on the honoured library-related recipients, see the [ELA website Awards](#) section.

These and other awards honoured many library-related people in 2022.

See Librarianship.ca.

British Columbia News

By Guy Robertson



Vancouver Public Library (VPL) has the highest number of per capita visits of any major urban library in Canada. **VPL's annual lists of its most borrowed books**

are of interest to critics, publishers, and other libraries, since listed authors and titles can indicate important trends in reading interests and patterns. In 2022 Robin Wall Kimmerer's *Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge and the Teachings of Plants* occupied first place on the list of the top-10 borrowed adult books. Responding to the popularity of a 2021 film adaptation, borrowers placed Frank Herbert's *Dune* — which first appeared in print in 1965 — at sixth place. The most-borrowed young adult book was Sarah J. Maas's *A Court of Thorns and Roses*, the first title in the series. Jeff Kinney's *Big Shot: Diary of a Wimpy Kid* topped the list of borrowed children's books, but three of J. K. Rowling's Harry Potter titles appeared on the list and demonstrated an ongoing trend among devoted Muggles.

In January, the **Vancouver Island Regional Library** announced it had teamed up with Vancouver Island University and the Vancouver Island Economic Alliance to establish **The Community Reading Circle**, a reading

club where anyone on Vancouver Island can read about and discuss business and related topics. The first book participants considered is Ipsos Public Affairs CEO Darrell Bricker's *Next: Where to Live, What to Buy, and Who Will Lead Canada's Future*. Unlimited e-book copies and digital audiobook copies were available via the Libby app.

In January, the **BC Electronic Library Network (BCELN)** released its Strategic Framework 2023–2027, which includes two-year goals of BCELN's updated licensing principles to reflect the current needs of partner libraries and securing a new resource bundle that can support undergraduate students and provide substantial discounts. Other goals include revisions to orientation-and-training programs for library directors and staff, and their increased understanding of BCELN's purpose and operations.

During Valentine's Day week, the **libraries at Simon Fraser University, University of British Columbia, University of Northern British Columbia, and University of Victoria** celebrated **Love Data Week 2023**, which included Zoom talks and workshops, and in-person programs offered by the Inter-University Consortium for Political and Social Research, which maintains a data

archive of more than 250,000 social-sciences research files. Popular on Valentine's Day was Elizabeth Nash, a McGill graduate of Information Studies and librarian at **Statistics Canada Library**, who gave a presentation, *Accessing Modern and Historical Census Data*. Other presenters included cognitive psychologist Stephen Lindsay, science librarian Monique Grenier, Canadian Research Data Network representative Grant Gibson, and data archivist Kelsey Poloney.

In February, **Burnaby Public Library (BPL)** responded to public demand and announced its system-wide printer and scanner upgrades. **BPL** plans to install the new hardware, branch by branch, over two months. Patrons will be able to print wirelessly from their own devices and in colour.

As a break from the February doldrums, people enjoyed the **Prince George Public Library's** Family Play Day, at the Bob Harkins Branch. Families played board and video games, and enjoyed family films and storytime. Particularly popular was the drive-in movie, before which participants turned cardboard boxes into their personal hot rods, in which they could arrive at the drive-in. No collisions were reported, and everyone had a splendid time.

Prairies News

By Alvin M. Schrader



Last November **University of Calgary Libraries and Cultural Resources** announced a **project to create 3-D models** of some Alberta residential schools to

preserve them as witnesses to history and sites of conscience in a dark part of Canada's history. In partnership with local Indigenous communities, accurate virtual and physical models of three former residential schools have so far been completed. Stories from residential school survivors

will be embedded into each virtual replica. In the project's second phase, the original grounds surrounding the three residential schools — a landscape that included hockey rinks, athletic grounds, gardens, and barns — will be digitally documented to provide a more complete account of daily school life there. These will be archived at each former school and the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation.

Edmonton Public Library is the only library in Alberta participating in **Alberta Health Service's pilot Community-Based Naloxone Program**, providing naloxone kits to anyone in need and training on distributing the kits; library staff do not administer the drug

but defer to AHS, health-care providers, and first responders.

In September 2022, the **Regina Public Library** board of trustees voted to build a **new library** to replace the downtown branch at an estimated cost of \$50 million instead of refurbishing the existing structure. Extensive community consultation has been promised, and city council will have the final say.

In October 2022, **Saskatoon Public Libraries** released the final design of a new four-storey central library with an estimated \$134 million construction cost and an expected opening date of 2026. **Inspired by traditional First Nations and Métis architecture**, the design brings

reconciliation and sustainability to the forefront. An example is the exterior facade, designed to resemble the welcoming entrance of a teepee.

In June 2022, **University of Saskatchewan Archives and Special Collections Library** announced the production of a series of short videos promoting its Neil Richards Collection of Sexual and Gender Diversity. The videos highlight the print and archival collections named after Neil Richards, who tirelessly collected materials about the LGBTQIA2S+ community throughout his professional career, and describe how the collection is being used for research and to identify current collection gaps. The videos are available on **YouTube**. For more information, go to https://www.exlibris.ca/doku.php?id=history:memories_and_tributes.

As of April 30, 2023, **WASSAIL**, created in 2002 by **Augustana University Library** and once used worldwide, will no longer be available. University of Alberta Libraries Chief Librarian Nancy Goebel noted the great pleasure of having WASSAIL recognized through awards such as a 2007 Canadian Technical and College Libraries Innovation Achievement Award, a 2010 Association of College and Research Libraries Innovation Award, and a 2010 University of Alberta IT Award.

In August 2022, **University of Manitoba Libraries, Archives and Special Collections** announced the purchase of a rare first edition of Ole Worm's *Runir seu, Danica literatura antiqvissima (Runes, or, the ancient literature of the Norse people)*, with support from endowment funds managed by the Valuing Icelandic Presence Committee. More commonly referred to as *Literatura Runica*, the 17th-century book is one of the most significant early scholarly texts on medieval Scandinavia.

In July 2022, the **Council of Prairie and Pacific University Libraries (COPPUL)** announced a partnership with Indspire through its Building Brighter Futures Program to create a **COPPUL Indigenous Student Award** to build capacity for aspiring Western Canadian Indigenous librarians and

archivists who enroll in their first or second year of an ALA-accredited master's program or equivalent in Library and Information or Archival Studies at a post-secondary institution in Canada or abroad via an online program. COPPUL is a Western Canadian academic library consortium that leverages its members' collective expertise, resources, and influence to enhance learning, teaching, student experiences, and research at Western Canadian academic libraries.

Tina Thomas was appointed CEO of the **Edmonton Community Foundation**, effective August 2022. The foundation works to strengthen the community by connecting donors to charities and causes through stewardship of more than \$747 million in endowments. Tina has experience in a broad base of business disciplines, and holds an executive MBA (Queen's), a B.Com. (U of A), a CPA – CMA professional accounting designation, and an MLIS (U of Alabama). A passionate champion of library intellectual freedom, Tina joined **Edmonton Public Library (EPL)**, in spring 2009 and held several leadership positions with EPL during the following 13 years, most recently as executive director of Customer Experience. Tina was a leading champion behind EPL's award-winning rebranding project.

The 2022 Queen Elizabeth II Platinum Jubilee Medal commemorates the 70th anniversary of Her Majesty's accession to the throne. To celebrate, the program recognized outstanding community service by Alberta and Saskatchewan residents, including several librarians, technicians, and public-library trustees (find the names in the **Awards** section of the ELA website).

Heather Coulter received a Lifetime Achievement Award at Brandon University Convocation in May 2022, for her 35 years of devotion to information literacy, supporting her colleagues, equipping others for meaningful research, scholarly inquiry, and civic engagement, and helping to build the library as a campus community-service hub.

Norene Erickson received The Partnership Certificate of Recognition

in January 2023 for her long service as editor-in-chief (2020–2023) of *Partnership: The Canadian Journal of Library and Information Practice and Research*. Norene was also Library Association of Alberta President (2018–2019) and a Canadian Federation of Library Associations board member (2018–2020). She has taught in MacEwan University's Library and Information Technology program since 2004.

EPL CEO Pilar Martinez was awarded the **2023 Edifier Award** by *Edify* magazine for her trailblazing efforts to adopt a community-led library service framework, find innovative ways to improve people's lives, and build community relationships, including initiatives such as Makerspaces, the Robert Tegler Trust Outreach Service, Elder in Residence program, and the Milner Library revitalization project, which houses many library firsts. *Alvin M. Schrader is Professor Emeritus at the University of Alberta, School of Library & Information Studies.*

Ontario News

By Vivienne James



Ontario libraries and archives continue to fulfill their role as the lifeblood of the communities they serve. Providing equal access to information,

education, literacy, and lifelong learning, plus the protection and promotion of communities' histories, are just some of the valuable work they do every day, responding to the changing times and current issues in creative and effective ways. "It's never been more important to stand up and speak out for intellectual freedom and to ensure voices, especially those of marginalized and equity-deserving communities, are not shut down," said **Toronto Public Library (TPL)** CEO Vickery Bowles to **CTV**. The activities of TPL and other Ontario libraries — public and university — bear that out.

At a time when many classic, well-known books are being banned from shelves globally, TPL has responded

by featuring new sections called **The Book Sanctuary Collection**, containing entirely previously banned books — adult, teen, and children's books removed from a public or school library in North America.

Among the newly renovated TPL branches is **Wychwood Branch**, an original Carnegie library, now enlarged with a fascinating blend of old and new.

Ottawa Public Library received a five-year BMO **donation of \$100,000** for Indigenous programming at the new Central Library that is being built together with **Library and Archives Canada**.

A fascinating collaboration among librarians, medieval-studies researchers, Sanskrit scholars, imaging scientists, conservators, and the like, is unfolding as U of T researchers uncover 'hidden' stories in centuries-old books at **U of T Libraries**. At the Mississauga campus, **Old Books New Science Lab** has launched a four-year project, **Hidden Stories: New Approaches to the Local and Global History of the Book**. Important collaborators in this project are Indigenous communities, including the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation and the Munsee Delaware Nation. From January to April 2023 at the U of T **Thomas Fisher Rare Book Library**, **The Sister Arts Exhibition**: Fashioning the Victorian Luxury Book uses stunning illustrations to reveal how roles for women opened up in the book arts, initiating a sisterhood of illustrators, engravers, designers, and composers, as well as publishers.

As part of **U of T Libraries'** ongoing strategy to support and facilitate free access to research, an open-access agreement was signed with Wiley, enabling researchers to publish their work immediately without having to pay article-processing charges.

McMaster University is partnering in a pilot project with the **Public Library of Science** to enable freely published research. **McMaster University Library** and alumni presented a virtual talk on the importance of digital access to archival records when studying Indigenous histories, as part of the popular **Archives Alive** series.

For Black History Month, the University of Guelph Black Students

Association and the university's cultural diversity team organized a digital library display celebrating **Black Achievement**.

The Weldon Library, Western University Libraries, recently celebrated the completion of its Revitalization Project with the opening of its stunning new two-storey **Student Learning Commons**, which features increased seating and a family room.

A leaf from **Chaucer's Knight's Tale**, now housed at **Western Libraries, Archives and Special Collections**, will enable scholars to examine incunabula at Western, instead of having to travel to the U.K. or U.S.

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



McGill University's **McLennan-Redpath will close** in the fall of 2023 for reconstruction. Faculty, students, and staff are "strongly encouraged" to visit the **McLennan-Redpath Library** to borrow the books needed for the coming year before September. The inaugural symposium **The future is open: Building an open research community**



at McGill, held April 4, 2023, brought together researchers interested in open research. McGill's **Faculty of Agriculture Library** closed temporarily in February, due to asbestos being discovered in the building.

The Alfie Roberts and Patricia Cambridge collection in Black History, Concordia University, Special Collections, is now available for **consultation**. This is the latest addition to the library's archival holdings in the area of Black History and community. **Concordia University's 21st Library Research Forum** (April 25–26, 2023)

has both virtual and in-person sessions.

In October 2022, **L'Association des bibliothèques publiques du Québec** painted a picture of Quebec public libraries. It discussed several main areas: the network, acquisitions, opening hours, space, seats, and human resources. Overall, the report gives a score of 66 percent to the public library system, which has 1,042 establishments. The situation is better in Montreal than elsewhere, as it earned a score of 91 percent. The presence of the **Grande Bibliothèque** is no stranger to this score. In Quebec, 96.4 percent of the population has access to library service, but there are still 283 municipalities, scattered mainly in rural areas, which do not offer any library service. This portrait of public libraries is available on the Association of Public Libraries of Quebec **website**.

The **Bibliothèque et Archives nationales du Québec (BAnQ)** services were paralyzed by 350 striking employees from February 13 to 18, 2023. With no collective agreement for three years, the employees are demanding a salary increase. The conditions of employment at **BAnQ** led several staff members to find work elsewhere. **BAnQ's** budgets are not indexed, and this situation imposes constant pressure on the institution, affecting its operations.

Pierre Guilmette is a retired librarian, Université Laval.

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

Maritimes News

By Tanja Harrison



In January 2023, **Mount Allison University** received a whopping \$36 million in federal and provincial government funding to transform its aging **Ralph Pickard Bell**

Library and Archives. Estimated to cost \$65 million when complete, the project will renovate the library space and add more community space, an Indigenous-knowledge space, audio-visual labs, and upgraded digital

teaching and learning resources.

In partnership with the **L. M. Montgomery Institute** and in conjunction with the **Kindred Spaces** project, the **University of Prince Edward Island (UPEI) Robertson Library** launched The L. M. Montgomery Bookshelf: Highlighting a Favourite Writer's Favourite Reading on November 30 — Montgomery's birthday — to celebrate her passion for reading. Also of note is the institute's partnership with the Confederation Central Art Gallery, which recently launched a digital exhibition that explores the original *Anne of Green Gables* manuscript.

The **PEI Public Library Service** and **UPEI's Robertson Library** continue Pop-Up Pub leisure-reading services, offering a selection of public library books at the academic library, and available for loan on a rotating basis for the campus community to enjoy.

Nova Scotia's new **Pugwash Public Library** opened its doors, on February 6, 2023. The Municipality of Cumberland County's new 3,900-square-foot community building replaces the former location in the Pugwash train station. Improvements to accessibility and a new programming room have made all the difference in what has quickly become a town hub for residents and visitors. A grand opening will take place during the village Harbourfest this summer.

Just before the holidays, **St. Francis Xavier (St. FX) University's Angus L. MacDonald Library** hosted the public lecture, *Vanished Voices? Virtual Resources, Language Revitalization, and Nova Scotia Gaelic* — presented by Heather Sparling, Canada Research Chair in Musical Traditions and professor of Ethnomusicology at Cape Breton University, and Susan Cameron, Special Collections Librarian at St. FX — with an open house in the **Father Charles Brewer Celtic Collection**.

Mount Saint Vincent University has received \$600,000 from the estate of former ELA member, Collections Librarian and Librarian Emeritus Terry Paris, to preserve and protect the library's **MacDonald Special Collection**. The funds will be directed towards upgrading and designing a new

archival and special collections space.

This year's Atlantic Provinces Library Association conference planning committee has decided to offer a virtual event once again, with dates set for June 6 to 9, 2023. The theme is Community, Connecting, Caring/Communauté, Connectivité, Compassion. The countdown is on! Check out the **preliminary events schedule and growing program development**.

Marthe Brideau left her position at **Bibliothèque Champlain, Université de Moncton**, with Jeanne-Mance Cormier being appointed Interim Library Director.

In January, the **Annapolis Valley Regional Library** announced the appointment of CEO Julia Merritt, a Western University graduate, with leadership experience in Stratford, Ont. *Tanja Harrison is University Librarian at Mount Saint Vincent University.*

Newfoundland & Labrador News

By Dick Ellis



The good news from the library community in Newfoundland and Labrador is that provincial funding was made available for the **Conception Bay South Public Library's** new

and expanded branch. This fast-growing suburb of St. John's, stretched along the eastern side of the bay, has received the first new facility in the system in a decade. **CBC** covered the opening.

Librarians at Memorial University are back to work after a strike by their bargaining agent, the university's faculty union. Memorial has long had a small facility, the Labrador Institute, in Happy Valley-Goose Bay, but the recent elevation of the facility to the status of a **formal campus** has been followed by, among other developments, the search for a full-time librarian.

Dick Ellis is Librarian Emeritus at Memorial University. He is ELA's representative on the CFLA-FCAB IFC.

News from the North

By Julie Ourom



Libraries across the North continued to offer community-relevant programs and services, although some libraries faced challenges. After staffing problems closed **Iqaluit**

Centennial Library in the fall, patrons were delighted with service resumption in January. Rankin Inlet's **Ilitaqsiniq Library** faced two temporary closures due to building problems. More positively, the **Nunavut Bilingual Education Society's** pilot project to promote children's learning of Inuktitut and Inuinnaqtun was enthusiastically received.

Library collections were enhanced in **Yukon Public Libraries**, with kids' Bundle Bags, and in N.W.T., through the **Réseau TNO Santé**, which placed health-related resources in **Yellowknife Public Library**.

Yukon Archives expanded its Indigenous Archival Photo Project to Dawson City's Berton House Writers' Residency, locally operated by the **Dawson City Community Library**.

In 2022, **Yukon Archives** commemorated its 50th anniversary with numerous events, including the launch of an artist-in-residence program.

Whitehorse Public Library's programs included storytimes for various age groups, the ever-popular Blind Date with a Book, and book launches with local authors. **Whitehorse Public Library's** role-playing group resumed with the Coyote & Crow Indigenous tabletop game, and the Indigenous Book Club, co-sponsored with **Kwanlin Dün Cultural Centre**, continued to be popular. In Hay River's **NWT Centennial Library**, the Lego contest Wind Racers challenge was so popular that a 'Second Wind' was offered.

Libraries also participated in national initiatives, and summer reading programs were offered for children and adults. During Canadian

Library Month, the online Yukon Tech Talk series was co-sponsored with local literacy initiative Yukon Learn. Family Literacy Day included Hay River's annual Literacy Chili Lunch. **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.

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 November 2022, UBC's iSchool held a reception for the 24 graduating students. These included two PhDs, 18 MLIS graduates, one new holder of a master's of Archival Studies (MAS) degree, and three dual MLIS/MAS graduates. In December, the iSchool congratulated doctoral student **Bri Watson** for winning the 2022 **Vanier Canada Graduate Scholarship Award**. Aside from working on doctoral requirements, Bri manages the history of sexuality project, (histsex.org) and contributes material to **Homosaurus** a linked-data vocabulary of queer terminology. **Dr. Olivier St-Cyr** is the iSchool's current Visiting Associate Professor Teaching, as well as a cross-appointed professor at U of T's Department of Mechanical and Industrial Engineering. With degrees in computer science, systems-design engineering, and industrial engineering, Olivier's broad interest concerns human-computer interaction. The iSchool welcomes his enriched perspective on a variety of topics. **University of Alberta, School of Library and Information Studies (SLIS)**

By Kenneth Gariepy

SLIS leadership, faculty, and staff extend their warmest congratulations

to the 18 MLIS students who graduated during fall convocation, held at the Northern Alberta Jubilee Auditorium on November 22, 2022. The convocation address by Elder **Dr. Elmer Ghostkeeper** highlighted the moving and energetic ceremony. We also extend congratulations to the 10 Queen Elizabeth II Platinum Jubilee Medal recipients, including SLIS Professor **Dr. Toni Samek**, SLIS Professor Emeritus **Dr. Alvin M. Schrader**, and SLIS sessional instructors **Dr. Margaret Law** and **Karla Palichuk**. SLIS welcomes our new program co-ordinator, **Gian Marco Visconti**, who joins us from the Centre for Teaching and Learning and who is also an SLIS alumnus. **Western University, Faculty of Information and Media Studies (FIMS)**

By Becky Blue

The FIMS LIS community was excited to host an in-person alumni reception on February 2, 2023, during the Ontario Library Association's Super Conference in Toronto. Dean **Lisa Henderson**, MLIS Program Chair **Heather Hill**, and current Ontario Library Association President **Melanie Mills** (also the new FIMS graduate library director), welcomed MLIS alumni to Vegabondo Restobar, and had a fantastic time catching up with old friends and colleagues. FIMS associate professor **Sam Trosow**, who teaches courses that reside at the intersection of information and communications law and policy, was elected as a London, Ont., city councillor in October 2022. Subsequently, Professor Trosow was appointed to the London Public Library Board of Trustees, a position he will hold until November 2026. **University of Toronto, Faculty of Information (iSchool)**

By Ann Brocklehurst

Dean **Wendy Duff** returned January 1 from her administrative leave, taking back the leadership reins from professor **Marsha Chechik** of Computer Science, who served as acting dean for the six-month period ending December 31, 2022. The search for a new permanent dean is actively underway. The faculty is also hiring professors in tenure-stream, teaching stream, and contract roles. Some of the hiring is designed to fill

positions vacated by recent retirees, while in other cases, the new professors will teach in the faculty's newer and increasingly popular concentrations, including User Experience Design and Human-Centred Data Science.

In January, the faculty held a retirement celebration for professors **Costis Dallas**, **Lynne Howarth**, and **Eric Yu**. Professor and Dean Emerita Howarth delivered the **Bertha Bassam Lecture** on March 30.

McGill University, School of Information Studies

By Peter F. McNally

The school's online graduate certificate in Cybersecurity was successfully launched in the fall of 2022. Graduates are prepared for professional careers with courses on potential cyber threats, threat-and-risk assessment, cybersecurity-incident management, and security-and-privacy policies/guidelines evaluations. A new faculty member is being hired for the Cybersecurity program. Preparation has begun for the school's 2024 MIST program ALA re-accreditation. The school is also upgrading its building to improve accessibility.

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

By Isabelle Bourgey and Martin Bélanger

During the second half of 2022, EBSI was renewing the master's program in information science American Library Association (ALA) accreditation. This culminated in the external review panel's visit in early October. We are pleased to announce that ALA has confirmed the accreditation renewal, valid until 2029. The Université de Montréal is the only fully francophone institution to meet ALA's standards of excellence. EBSI warmly thanks the many people who were involved in the renewal-application process throughout the year (faculty, staff, students, and alumni). The annual student-award ceremony was held on November 9, 2022. Ten scholarships were awarded, for a total of \$24,000. On the faculty level, we were happy to learn that, once again, Professor **Vincent Larivière** is on the **2022 Web of Science list** of the scientists most frequently

cited internationally by their peers. **Dalhousie University, School of Information Management (SIM)**
By Sandra Toze

SIM is excited to announce that **Drs. Fiona Black and Bertrum MacDonald** have been appointed as Professors Emerti in recognition of their impact on the school, faculty, university, and professional community. Congratulations to them

both. In February, our MI students held a successful Information Without Borders conference. Also in February, we presented a virtual 2023 Dalhousie-Horrocks' National Leadership lecture to a large international audience. **Rita Tjien Foooh**, Director, National Archives Suriname, spoke on Perspectives from the Global South (Suriname) on Archival Repatriations: Challenges and Opportunities. At this event,

MI student, **Maddie Hare**, was honoured as our 2022 Dalhousie-Horrocks National Leadership Fund recipient. Fellow MI student **Mansi Nishit Trivedi** was awarded the 2022 Stephanie Downs Memorial Award this past fall. As part of our faculty reorganization, SIM will become the Department of Information Science on July 1, 2023. Stay tuned for more details.

Milestones

Obituaries

Compiled by Frances Davidson-Arnott and Bob Henderson

Christine Edna Backhaus died October 12, 2022, age 75, in Calgary. She specialized in research, was celebrated at the Alberta Legislature, and was head librarian in Camrose, AB. She was the author of *Royal commissions and commissions of inquiry in Alberta, 1905–1976*.

Beverly Ann Bard died June 23, 2022, age 65, in Carleton Place, ON. She worked at the Canadian Library Association until she retired in 2014.

Joanne Leslie "Joan" Barnes died January 3, 2023, in Meaford, ON. She returned to college in her forties to become a library technician, her career until retirement.

Dorene Barron died February 3, 2022, age 99, in Windsor, ON. Dorene was a librarian at University of Windsor for almost 20 years.

Janice Bick died July 21 2022, age 76, in Lindsay, ON. BA, Mount Allison; library science degree, UBC. Her career as a public and children's librarian (1969–2000) took her to Thunder Bay. She authored a children's book, *Belinda Lee*.

David Bissell died April 30, 2022, age 81, in Burlington, ON. He retired from a long career with Coutts Library Services Ltd.

James George Blanchard died September 23, 2022, age 74, in Winnipeg. He worked at the Winnipeg PL, the Canadian Grain Commission, as Director of Public Library Services for Manitoba, and as head of Reference Services

at U of M Elizabeth Dafoe Library. Librarian Emeritus, U of M, he received the Lieutenant Governor's Award for Historical Preservation and Promotion.

Zdena "Helen" Branny died March 7, 2022, age 95, in Halifax. Helen spent her entire career as a medical librarian at Dalhousie.

Glenn Brown died February 23, 2023, age 71, in Montreal. McGill MLIS, Archival Studies ('98). He worked at McGill Archives (1998–2004). From 2004 until his death, he was assistant curator, Phyllis Lambert Fonds, Canadian Centre for Architecture.

Madge Bruce died September 8, 2022, age 98, in Toronto. Madge was a lifelong learner, completing her BA in English, U of T, at 55. She then trained as a librarian and worked at U of T, Seneca College, and Scarborough Grace Hospital. She volunteered for more than 10 years at the Toronto Botanical Gardens library.

Sheila Eileen Brueggemann died January 10, 2023, age 90, in Toronto. Her first work experience was at the Guildhall Library, London, U.K., in Miniature Books. Later, with a BA and B.Ed, York, she worked in the elementary school system as a teacher-librarian.

Joanne Bucklee died February 12, 2022, age 74, in Calgary. MLS, U of T. Joanne enjoyed a career as an educator, working at Grand Prairie Regional College, Mount Royal College, and, finally, as the registrar and dean of Trades and Technology at Red Deer College.

Holly Marie Bureaux died May 10, 2022, age 70, in Halifax. A graduate of Dalhousie and UBC, she worked as an educator at Kings-Edgell school, before her career as a research librarian at the Halifax Memorial Library.

Irene Jean Caine died February 20, 2022, age 96, in Edmonton. A widow with six children, she worked full time and studied library science. She was a librarian in schools, at an engineering firm, and with the City of Edmonton.

Irene Cameron died January 28, 2023, age 82, in Toronto. Taking evening courses while raising children, she earned her BA, York ('82), and MLS, U of T ('84). She established Scarborough Grace Hospital's medical library.

Anne Campbell (née King) died October 20, 2022, age 84, in Regina. An award-winning writer of poetry and prose, she co-authored *Biblio Files: A History of the Regina Public Library*, and worked at the Regina PL, where she managed community services.

Faith Anne Campbell died September 23, 2022, age 90, in Timmins, ON. She worked at St. Mary's School of Nursing and at Northern College where she became chief librarian.

Jytte Cherrie died April 18, 2022, in Niagara Falls, ON. Born in Denmark, Jytte came to Canada in 1951. For more than 30 years, she was the children's librarian at Niagara Falls PL's Chippawa Branch.

Margaret “Margot” Morley Broddy Clarke died October 18, 2022, age 93, in Ottawa. After teaching and raising her children, she returned to Western for an MLIS. She worked at the Health and Welfare Canada departmental library, then at Legal Deposits, and was responsible for ensuring the National Library of Canada had copies of every book published in Canada.

Linda Clendenning died May 19, 2022, age 78. BLS, UBC. After working in Edmonton for two years, Linda returned to Vancouver and worked at the College of Physicians and Surgeons of BC library until her retirement.

Maureen Clish died July 26, 2022, age 78, in Burnaby, BC. With a library sciences degree, UBC, Maureen worked as a librarian in Saskatchewan, Minnesota and, then, as assistant to the chief librarian at Richmond PL until her retirement.

Morton Coburn died July 19, 2022, age 100, in Chicago. MLS, U of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. While director of Edmonton PL (1956–1972), he collaborated with Bruce Peel, U of A chief librarian, to create a U of A school of library science. He then served for more than 38 years as Chicago PL’s director of library building programs, until he retired at 91. He was an ELA member.

Julia Ann Cockshutt died October 24, 2022, age 90, in Ottawa. After a library science degree, Simmons College, she worked for the Canadian Periodical Index.

Gerald “Jerry” Cohen died December 6, 2022, in Montreal. MLS, McGill (’79). He taught for 34 years.

Sister Madeline Connolly, formerly Sister Regina Clare, died November 6, 2022, age 105, in Antigonish, NS. BLS, U of T (’42). She did further studies at U of T (’56) and U of Edinburgh (’72), and received an honorary doctorate from St. Francis Xavier University (’86). She was librarian at St. Francis Xavier (1942–1980) and assistant librarian at St. Augustine’s Seminary in Scarborough, ON (1980–1988).

Carol Ruth Dempsey died August 20,

2022, age 75, in Cobourg, ON. She was a teacher and secondary school principal, and Alnwick/Haldimand PL CEO.

Maria “Mary” deReus died September 24, 2022, age 68, in Bridgetown, Barbados. MLIS, U of T (’83). She worked for Toronto Board of Trade, then Médecins sans Frontières Canada in its early years. The Special Libraries Association recognized her achievements in library management.

Leah Dockrill died September 8, 2022, in Toronto. BA, B.Ed., and LL.B, Dalhousie; MLS, U of A. She taught high school, worked as a reference librarian, and practiced law.

Virginia Mairi Doig (née Gill) died November 24, 2022, age 83, in Toronto. She studied library science at U of the Witwatersrand, and had a long career as a newspaper librarian in Johannesburg, then at the *Toronto Star* for more than 25 years.

Martin Dowding died December 12, 2022, age 70, in Kitchener, ON. BA, Trent; MLS, U of T; MA, York; PhD, U of T. He taught Information Studies at UBC, then Communication Studies at WLU.

Marju Drynan died February 19, 2022, age 80, in Dundas, ON. She served her entire professional career at McMaster University, retiring as associate university librarian (2001).

Rosemary Elliott died January 17, 2023, age 85, in White Rock, BC. BSc in Microbiology and Library Science, UBC. She worked in the USA — in Palo Alto, Hartford, Baltimore, and Pennsylvania — and later joined Vancouver PL Britannia Branch.

Sandra Fraser died August 17, 2022, age 75, in Ottawa. She taught high school, became a teacher-librarian, and completed an MLIS degree. After retiring, she spent 16 years working casual shifts at Ottawa PL branches.

Patricia Louise Gibson (née Howe) died October 7, 2022, age 75, in Ottawa. MLIS, Western (’70). Pat worked in Ottawa as a librarian, library manager, and information management specialist for the Public Service of Canada (1974–2012).

Sarah Gibson (née Satterthwaite) died December 20, 2022, age 76, in Toronto. MLS and PhD in Urban Geography, U of T. She was a distinguished author of books on Toronto history.

Holly Findlea Glendenning died March 18, 2022, age 76, in Ottawa. BA, MLIS, MA (English), Western. She worked at SLIS and D. B. Weldon Library at Western, U of Saskatchewan, Ontario Library Consortium, Lambton County Library, and U of Huron College.

Janet Goldack died May 16, 2022, age 82, in Winnipeg. BA, B.Ed, MLIS. A teacher, she was very active in the Canadian Federation of University Women.

George Edward Grant died November 15, 2022, age 86, in Toronto. Library science degree U of T. He worked at the Toronto Reference Library, Fine Arts Department (1965–2001).

Nadene Isabel Grattan died February 15, 2022, age 75, in Ottawa. MLS, Western (’69). She served as manager of records-systems co-ordination for the RCMP, leading the development of agency policy, and working in Haiti to train law enforcement officers in evidence management.

Robyn Emily Gray died January 29, 2022, age 31, in Calgary. MLIS, Dalhousie (’16). She ended her short career as director, Camrose PL in Alberta. She had been an active volunteer for the Greater Edmonton Library Association’s Prison Library Project.

Jeannine Marie Green (née LaFrance) died October 20, 2022, age 80, in Edmonton. MLS, U of A (’80). She retired as the head of Bruce Peel Special Collections in 2010. She was a sessional instructor for many years at SLIS, where she taught history of the book.

Marguerite “Grete” Ann Hale died Oct 28, 2022, age 93, in Ottawa. A businessperson, she served on many corporate and community boards and was the founder of the Friends of the National Library of Canada.

Sister Kathleen Harrigan (Sr. Mary Winifred), CSJ, died July 18, 2022, age 98, in Peterborough, ON. BLS, U of Ottawa (’70). After teaching elementary

and high school, she earned her library degree and became a school librarian.

Albert Kevin Harrington died February 19, 2023, age 88, en route to Toronto. MLIS; MA (T), U of T. He was head of the Agincourt Collegiate library department and was a leading figure in the field of vexillology and a longtime Canadian Flag Association president.

Muriel Henri (née Bergeron) died December 5, 2022, age 90, in Ottawa. She earned a BA in Library Studies, Concordia, at age 50, then was a technical librarian at Ogilvie Flour Mills.

William Griffith “Grif” Hodge died September 8, 2022, age 87, in Lachute, QC. BLS, McGill ('59). In 1972 he created a school library system for Thompson, MB. He established a professional library for educators and a studio for educational films, and served as a leader, at the provincial level, in the introduction of new technology in schools.

Lesley Hoermann died March 1, 2023, age 64, in Ottawa. MLS, Ottawa ('88). One of the first women to join the 30th Field Artillery Regiment in 1975, she worked as a recruiting NCO and recruiting officer. She was a reference librarian, then manager of the reference department at Ottawa PL. After that she worked for National Defence. She was awarded the Canadian Forces Medallion for Distinguished Service, 2014, for establishing DND Open-Source Intelligence Capability in support of CAF operations.

Helen Arlene Howard died September 6, 2022, age 94, in Kingston, ON. MLS, McGill; PhD, Rutgers. She was university librarian at Sir George William (Concordia), taught at U of T and McGill, and was director of the McGill Graduate SLIS.

Marie Eliane Marina “Elaine” Hutchinson (née Duperreault) died May 23, 2022, age 78, in Edmonton. MLS, U of Alberta ('75). She loved her librarian career.

Louise Irwin died January 6, 2022, age 94, in Vancouver. BSc Agriculture ('48), BLS, UBC ('67). She worked abroad in research labs, taught secondary school,

and retired as a librarian at Vancouver PL.

Evangeline Louise Januska (née Kostynyk) died January 4, 2023, age 74, in Winnipeg. She studied Arts and Interior Design (U of Manitoba) and Library Sciences (U of Michigan). She worked as a teacher-librarian in Winnipeg, Cranberry Portage, Norway House, Cross Lake, and Fisher River.

Noella Jessop died July 7, 2022, age 75, in Timmins, ON. After attending the Inuvik residential school as a teenager, she studied Library Science at University of Alberta. She enjoyed being a librarian before becoming a homemaker.

Judith Anne Johnston died October 2, 2022, age 85, in Montreal. BA, McGill; teaching diploma, MacDonald College; and, after her children had grown, a certification in library technology, Concordia. She worked in the Junior Library at Montreal's Lower Canada College. At Montreal Children's Library, she catalogued thousands of books, and assisted with the archiving of more than a century's worth of Mountainside United Church documents.

Olive Kanat died April 28, 2022, age 89, in Stayner, ON. She worked for the Wasaga Beach PL until 1996, becoming chief librarian and overseeing the library's move to its current location.

Douglas Kehoe died January 2, 2023, age 80, in Toronto. MLS, U of T ('74). He worked at the former North York PL's Fairview, Don Mills, and Central Libraries. Later he was library sales manager at McClelland Stewart Publishing. For more information, visit https://www.exlibris.ca/doku.php?id=history:memories_and_tributes.

Ann Keller died February 24, 2022, age 89, in Toronto. BLS, U of T ('54). In Ontario, she was a children's librarian in Chatham, Kitchener, and Sudbury PLs, and was co-ordinator of children's Services, North York PL, retiring in 1993.

Donna Kennerley (née Mylroie) died January 31, 2022, age 78, in Vancouver. She was a teacher and librarian and returned to UBC for a library science degree. She ended her professional

career at Vancouver PL, as head of the business section.

Robert Edward “Bob” Krieg died November 25, 2022, age 80 in Ottawa. PhD (English), Western; Library Science, U of T. He was director of the Southeast Regional Library system, Weyburn, SK, and, later, Lambton County Director of Libraries, Museums and Cultural Services.

Sheila Kunst died November 5, 2022, age 75, in Montreal. MLS, McGill ('84). She worked at the National Film Board for most of her professional career.

Mary Louise Lamont died February 21, 2023, age 94, in Toronto. Bachelor of Nursing, MLS, U of T. She was a librarian at Centennial College for many years.

Francine Lanouette died August 2, 2022, age 71, in Quebec City. She worked at l'Université du Québec and at l'École Nationale d'Administration Publique (ÉNAP), where she was library director for several years, until 2006.

Jean Lemaire died August 6, 2022, age 73, in Montreal. He collected Quebec literary works and monographs by Quebec artists to “preserve the memory of Quebec.” He was librarian at Collège Ahuntsic.

Robert Alan “Bob” Logan died March 14, 2023, age 97, in Guelph. BLS, U of T. Bob was a postwar flight sergeant in the RCAF. He was a librarian at the U of Guelph for 22 years, retiring in 1990.

Doris Hilda Low died February 4, 2023, age 99, in Toronto. B. Com, Dalhousie ('43); Library Science, U of T. After many years in bookkeeping, she concluded that “accounting was a dull profession.” After teaching at Toronto's Danforth Tech, she earned a library degree, then worked at Danforth Tech as a teacher-librarian until 1985. She was a braille transcriber for more than 40 years, who read books on tape in the CNIB recording studio and proofread print/braille books. CNIB formally recognized her as a dedicated volunteer in 2014.

Irena Maria Lowry (née Kowalski) died March 24, 2022, age 71, in Hamilton, ON. BA and MLIS, Western; B.Ed., Althouse College. She worked as a corporate librarian in Toronto. In her

thirties, she transitioned to a fulfilling career as a researcher in the executive-recruitment field.

Kathleen Makepeace died February 26, 2023, age 94, in Kingston, ON.

U of Manitoba, Home Economics and Library Science. She worked in libraries in Winnipeg, Toronto, and the U.K. Returning to Ontario, she worked part-time at Queen's Douglas Library reference desk and Kingston PL.

Jean Elizabeth Malach died October 31, 2022, age 98, in Kingston, ON. BA in politics, philosophy, and English, Queen's, MLS, U of T. As a reference/catalogue librarian for more than 30 years, she worked at Queen's Douglas Library, Kingston PL, Royal Military College, and National Defence College.

Remigio Mariano died November 5, 2022, age 78, in Montreal. MLS, McGill ('81). He worked for McGill Library Services (Medical, Life Sciences) until retirement in 2009.

Heather McCallum died October 9, 2022, age 94, in Toronto. BLS, U of T ('57). Head of the Theatre Department at the Toronto Reference Library (1961–1987), she was an archivist and collector, keeping records of Canadian theatre, and the editor of many publications. Her *Directory of Canadian Theatre Archives* is considered definitive.

Kimberley Ester McDonald died January 28, 2022, age 45, in Regina. MLIS, UBC. In 2013 Kim began as Regina PL's Central children's branch manager, later becoming Central Library's branch manager.

Linda McKay died November 11, 2022, age 81, in Burlington, ON. With a UBC library degree, Linda worked at TPL's Boys and Girls House and, later for 20 years, at Burlington PL's Information Services. After retiring, Linda volunteered with the Visiting Library Service for 10 years.

Helen Isabella McNeil died January 6, 2022, age 96, in Waterdown, ON. She retired as branch head of TPL's George H. Locke Memorial Branch in 1985.

Carolyn Miland died November 8, 2022, age 64, in Newmarket, ON. BA and B.Ed., Carleton; later completing an

MLS. After a decade of teaching across southern Ontario, she returned to York Region, where she taught and was a teacher-librarian.

Robert Edward "Ted" George Monkhouse died March 3, 2023, age 84, in Guelph, ON. MLS, Western. A teacher and library consultant with the Wellington County Board of Education, he taught school librarianship in Canada and Africa, published in several journals, and was a former Canadian School Library Association president.

Valerie Monkhouse (née Sanger) died March 25, 2022, age 91, in Toronto. Coming from abroad, she started her library career, first at the Collegiate Institute Board, then Health and Welfare Canada. Later, she was National Museums of Canada's libraries director and International Development Research Centre head librarian.

Lillian Grace Montour (née Burnham) died July 2, 2022, age 91, in Brantford, ON. She was a founding member of and the first Six Nations PL librarian, while working in tobacco and attending Mohawk College in the evenings. She later became the Woodland Cultural Centre head librarian.

Mae Lorraine Morley died December 9, 2022, age 96, in Kingston, ON. BLS, U of T ('53). She was a librarian, classmate, and first wife of the late ELA member, Bill Morley.

Diane Mulholland died September 21, 2022, age 91, in Ottawa. Graduating from U of T, she began her career as a librarian.

Andrew Martin Oates died December 26, 2022, age 68, in Toronto. A graduate of Western in Computer Science, he worked at Geac, and as an independent computer consultant. He was a project manager for CNIB and worked for the French National Library system.

Margaret May Pahr died July 14, 2022, age 92, in Vancouver. She moved to Vancouver with a degree from Sydney U (Australia). After further education in library science, she became UBC librarian (1966–1987).

Maureen Elizabeth Pelensky (née Grant) died in 2022, age 68, in

Edmonton. MLIS gold medalist, U of A ('96). After graduation, she worked in Edmonton Public Schools as a learning-resources consultant advising library staff, then as a teacher-librarian.

Theodore D. Phillips died January 6, 2023, age 94, in Kingston, ON. After a stint in the U.S. Navy, he obtained his MLS degree. Starting at Queen's, he worked in university libraries in various Canadian cities.

Anne Brearley Piternick died January 20, 2023, age 96, in Vancouver. She taught at UBC School of Librarianship (now the School of Information) until her retirement in 1991 and worked on a wide range of research topics. Her final project, using the development of the *Historical Atlas of Canada*, investigated the representation of cartographic information visually in the transition from print to computer. She was an ELA member. For more information, visit https://www.exlibris.ca/doku.php?id=elan:memories_and_tributes.

William "Bill" Poluha died August 20, 2022, age 60, in Winnipeg. MLIS, Western ('94). With an MSc, McMaster ('86) in Health and Radiation Physics, he worked in nuclear-waste management, before becoming a librarian and working at U of Manitoba.

Cynthia Margot Jane Price died February 6, 2022, age 77, in Duncan, BC. MLS, UBC. She was a medical librarian, first at the UBC Medical Library, then as the Nanaimo Regional Hospital librarian.

Peter Pridmore died February 6, 2022, age 89, in Saskatoon. He was a librarian at the U of Saskatchewan and active in the university's faculty association.

Denise Prince died October 30, 2022, age 68, in Montreal. With a bachelor's degree in music and a master's in library science, she was a librarian at the Conservatoire de musique de Québec and Montréal.

Allan Quan died January 2, 2023, age 89, in London, ON. Library Science degree, UBC ('70). Allan was a librarian at Western University for 30 years.

Joan Druce Read died January 4, 2023, age 97, in Port Hope, ON. She attended teacher's college and taught in England.

BA, York; MA, Queen's. She worked for the Northumberland County Board of Education, in Cobourg, ON, introducing computers into school libraries. She taught library science summer classes at Western and was a long-standing OLA member.

Joan Elizabeth Roberts (née Marshall) died December 16, 2022, age 81, in St. John's. She studied at the Sorbonne and Oxford, where she read for a doctorate in medieval French. With an MLS, Dalhousie, she worked at Memorial's Centre for Newfoundland Studies. For several years, she served on the Newfoundland Rhodes Scholarship Selection Committee.

Aleta Josephine Sherrieff (née Vikse) died January 21, 2022, age 104, in Edmonton. MLS, U of Washington (Seattle). She worked at Edmonton PL until 1972, resigning as an associate director.

Diana Jean Sherwin died August 31, 2022, age 72, in Toronto. MLS, Western. She was a researcher and librarian before raising her family.

Steven Blake Shubert died September 12, 2022, age 68, in Toronto. PhDs in Library Science, Egyptology, and Greek Classics. He was a librarian at the Toronto Reference Library.

Margaret Sylvia Sinkey died January 7, 2022, aged 90, in Calgary. MLS, U of Illinois ('62). She moved to Canada in 1974 and retired as U of Calgary's assistant director of libraries in 1996.

Joan Slamen died November 9, 2022, age 90, in Toronto. During her career she was a library technician.

Olga Slatcha died January 8, 2023, age 91, in Thorold, ON. Olga retired as map librarian at Brock U, after working in the Geography Department for 18 years. She was an Association of Canadian Map Libraries and Archives member.

Margaret Lynn Sloan (née Prendergast) died age 59, in London. MLIS, Western. Margaret was an academic librarian, working for many years at Western.

Hugh Lummis Smith died April 13, 2022, age 96, in Horseshoe Valley,

ON. He was a U of T librarian at both the Robarts and Mississauga-campus libraries.

Sharron Louise Smith died January 3, 2022, age 68, in Kitchener, ON. A Waterloo and Western graduate, she worked at Guelph PL, later moving to Kitchener PL, where she held several management positions. She was a reader's advisory pioneer, and was an author and frequent Western lecturer on the subject.

Margaret Eleanor Szücs died September 29, 2022, age 89, in Toronto. MLS, U of T. She was a law librarian.

Barbara Jean Thompson died August 4, 2022, age 75, in Bridgewater, NS. MLIS, Western. She was a librarian at the School of Nursing in Stratford, ON, then Cambridge PL's Preston Branch head. In 1989 she became Erin Township Regional Library's Hillsburgh Branch head.

Kate Toews (née Wood) died July 29, 2022, age 91, in Saskatoon. With her library science degree, U of T, she briefly worked in the Windsor area, before returning to Saskatchewan where she had a full career in Prince Albert libraries.

Liana Van der Bellen died December 14, 2022, age 97, in Estonia. BLS, McGill ('53). She worked as a cataloguer at McGill. From 1961 to 1973, she was a librarian, lecturer, and associate professor at the Université de Montréal library school, while continuing her studies in rare-book librarianship at Columbia U (1970–1971). In 1973 she was appointed NLC's Rare Books and Manuscripts division chief, retiring in 1991. She was a former ELA member.

Kim Elisabeth Van Vliet died March 9, 2023, age 61, in Winnipeg. She became a librarian in her forties. She was branch librarian, South Central Regional Library, Morden, MB.

Ilse Von Hausen died January 26, 2022, age 88, in St. Mary's, ON. MLS, Western ('77). She was a teacher-librarian at David and Mary Thomson CI and Preston High School until retirement in 1994.

William Dale Ward died December 20, 2022, age 82, in Ottawa. He was a librarian at Laval, St. Lawrence College,

and U of Ottawa. After early retirement (1996), he worked in library development at the South Asia Institute of Advanced Christian Studies in India, then Africa International University in Kenya, for the following 15 years. Afterward, he was a Library and Archives Canada reference librarian, for several years.

Gerald Michael Weeks died June 15, 2022 age 87, in Burnaby, BC. After a library science degree from UBC, he worked at the U of T Library. Five years later, he moved to business librarian at BCIT, Burnaby, where he worked for 29 years. Later, he was a part-time reference librarian at Burnaby PL.

Nancy Elizabeth Wells died September 4, 2022, age 85, in Toronto. Library science degree, UBC. In Toronto, she worked for many years as a librarian with PricewaterhouseCoopers.

Herman "Wes" Joseph Westelaken died November 9, 2022, age 91, in Uxbridge, ON. After 19 years in the military, he received his BLS, U of Alberta, became a librarian at the U of Manitoba, and retired 19 years later as head of its Science Library.

Alane Wilson died February 12, 2023, age 66, in Powell River, BC. MLIS, UBC ('67). She was appointed reference librarian at U of Calgary (1986–1996), head of reference and instructional services at U of Alaska (1996–1997) and worked at OCLC (1997–2007). She became **BCLA Executive Director** in 2008.

Dorothy Wilson (née Robinson) died February 14, 2023, age 89, in Winnipeg. BLS, U of T. She was a McMaster University science librarian before returning to Winnipeg, where she served as the reference librarian in the former Carnegie Library on William Avenue.

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, provides more information celebrating the lives of our members.



Retirements

Compiled by
Suzette Giles

Diane Collyer retired in August 2022 after 14 years with the Calling Lake PL in Alberta. Diane was library manager, with responsibility for the Wabasca and Calling Lake libraries, Peace Library System.

David Harvie, CEO of Ontario's Woodstock PL, retired in September 2022. After joining the library in May 2019, he dealt with the aftermath of the city's computer network cyberattack and COVID-19. David graduated from U of T Scarborough with a BA ('87), followed by an MLIS, U of T ('91).

His career, spanning more than 27 years, included positions at the Southern Ontario Library Service, and Stratford, Brantford, Kawartha Lakes, and Georgina PLs. Lindsay Harris, Woodstock PL's manager of operations for the past three years, is the new CEO.

Karen Filipkowski — after 11 years as CEO, head librarian of Madawaska Valley PL, Barry's Bay, ON — retired on November 25, 2022. Karen oversaw a library renovation and headed a committee to consider a new library building. She collaborated with other local librarians to organize the Little Branches Rural Roots Library Conference, for staff in small rural libraries. Previous positions were at the Houston PL, BC, and the North Coast Library Federation. Natalie Barrington has been appointed as the new CEO/Secretary Treasurer.

Lynda Gamble retired on June 24, 2022, after a career spanning 33 years as a librarian at Health Canada, Health Protection Branch Library, Ottawa.

University Librarian **Sandy Iverson** retired from the Angus L. MacDonald Library, St. Francis Xavier University, NS, in December 2022 after more than three years. She was previously at St Michael's Hospital, Toronto, for nearly 10 years, the last four as manager, Health Information and Knowledge Mobilization. Sandy has had a wide-ranging career, supported by qualifications including a BA (Concordia), M. Ed. (OISE/U of T), MLIS (UBC), and Dip TIRP in **Psychotherapy**

(Toronto Institute for Relational Psychotherapy). Carolyn DeLorey has been appointed Acting University Librarian.

After eight years as Dean of Libraries, York U, **Joy Kirchner** will retire on June 30, 2023. Prior to joining York, her positions included associate university librarian for content and collections at U of Minnesota Libraries, Minneapolis, head of the UBC Scholarly Communications and Copyright Office, and a stint at Columbia U, NYC. At York she has been a president's advisory council member on Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) and served on the university's Affirmative Action committee. Internationally, she facilitated York hosting the 2018 OpenCon conference for the first time in Canada. Other achievements include being elected to serve on the Scholarly Publishing and Academic Resources Coalition advocacy body, chairing the Canadian Association of Research Libraries Advancing Research Committee, and being elected Ontario Council of University Libraries chair.

Danielle McDonald, who retired in October 2022, worked for more than 35 years with the City of Ottawa and Ottawa PL. With a master's in Public Administration ('87), she joined the library in 2009 as division manager, Facilities and Business Services, becoming CEO in 2012. In 2015 the OPL board approved a new central library, with city council designating this a strategic priority shortly afterwards. In 2021 construction started on *Àdisòke*, a joint OPL and Library and Archives Canada landmark facility, planned to open in 2026. Danielle represented OPL on several national committees, including Canadian Urban Libraries Council, Urban Libraries Council, and Chief Executives of Large Public Libraries of Ontario. She received the 2022 Bissett Alumni Award for Distinctive Contributions to the Public Sector, presented annually by Carleton's School of Public Policy and Administration. Sonia Bebbington (BA, MA, MLIS) was appointed CEO, effective October 31, 2022.

Don Nettleton retired September 1, 2022, after 28 years with the Okanagan Regional Library, BC, the last four as

CEO. During his time as CEO, the focus was developing digital resources, Makerspaces, and the Library of Things, as well as COVID-19 challenges. Prior to becoming CEO, Nettleton (a CPA-CA) was the library's financial manager and was involved in the planning and building of four libraries. Danielle Hubbard became the new CEO, on November 1, 2022.

Associate Dean Resources and Head of the Sexton Design & Technology Library, **Michelle Paon**, retired from Dalhousie Libraries, in December 2022, after a career of more than 21 years. After working in Dal Libraries as a graduate student in the Master of Information Studies program and three years of evening and weekend work, Michelle was appointed as a science librarian in 2002. In 2018 she became interim associate university librarian Resources and head of Sexton Library and, later, associate dean Resources. In this role, she successfully oversaw the development of a streaming video acquisitions process and a system-wide budget of more than \$7 million.

Debbie Robinson retired on September 1, 2022, from the Assiginack PL, Manitowaning, ON, after nearly 38 years. She notes one of the biggest challenges was keeping up with technology changes. She worked closely with the Friends of the Library and the library board to ensure the library played a significant community role, providing a wide selection of books and magazines, activities for children, and a meeting space for community groups.

Melanie Southern, CEO and chief librarian, Halton Hills PL, took early retirement at the end of September 2022, after two years in the position. During her tenure, Sunday opening became year-round and she was involved in fundraising, capital infrastructure projects, and the development of the new library strategic plan. Melanie has nearly 20 years of experience in Ontario PLs, including Mississauga, Hamilton, Milton, and Brampton. Beverley King, manager of community engagement, became acting CEO, October 1, 2022.

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

ELA Indigenous-Student Bursary

By Deb Thomas



ELA has created a bursary for Indigenous students in library studies! With approval from our membership to create the bursary, along with our partner,

Indspire, we have an agreed-upon set of criteria and processes. Indspire is listed among the top-ten impact charities in 2022 by **Charity Intelligence**.

The award:

- an annual award to an Indigenous student in library or archival studies programs
- \$2,500 annually for 10 years

Criteria:

- financial need
- academic achievement (as identified by Indspire)
- entry-level award for first-year studies, with the possibility of

awarding the same student in their second year, if there are no other candidates

- alternate award to a student in a technician program one year, with a graduate program the next year (If there are no qualifying candidates for the program assigned in a particular year, Indspire may recommend awarding a student in one of the other programs.)
- If no candidates in any of the identified programs come forward in a given year, two awards may be given in the following year, at the ELA Board's discretion.

Funding:

- ELA will receive donations and transfer them to Indspire when our annual goal has been reached, by or before August 1st each year.
- Indspire will make a candidate selection and distribute funds, as it has more experience in identifying suitable candidates and navigating any problems that may arise (such as an award winner withdrawing from a program).

Fundraising and promotion:

- Indspire and ELA will jointly promote the bursary, each organization leveraging its own networks and skill sets.
- We are pleased to acknowledge Library Bound Inc.'s generous one-time \$500 gift toward the bursary.
- Members and non-members are invited to donate! If you are interested in donating to the bursary, go to the **ELA website**. Both ELA and Indspire are registered charities, and donors will receive a charitable receipt. If you have questions about any aspects of the bursary, you can contact our President, Deb Thomas, at thomasde424@gmail.com.

Applying for the bursary:

- The application process will open in May 2023. A link will be shared with ELA members when available.
- The bursary will be featured on the **Indspire** website, scholarship section.

Watch the ELA website for additional and future information. ■

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Visit ELA's Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/ExLibrisAssociation>) for ELA news and current activities and library news.

ELAN Indexing

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ELAN

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Ex Libris Association Newsletter

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Welcome to the New Wychwood Branch, Toronto Public Library

By Doreen London



On a beautiful, sunny day in April 2023, nine ELA members met for a tour of the recently renovated Wychwood Library. Vivienne James brilliantly organized the tour, which was wonderfully led by Librarian in Charge Isobel Lang.

A grant from the Carnegie Corporation in New York saw the Wychwood Branch open in 1916, along with two identical TPL branches — Beaches and High Park. The architects, Eden Smith and Sons, created the library in the Tudor Gothic style, giving the branch's patrons, largely working-class immigrants, a connection to their Scottish and English roots. In 1976 the Wychwood Branch was designated a Toronto Heritage building. It underwent a renovation addition in 1978, and a retrofit in 1995. In June 2018 the branch closed for a major renovation, undertaken by SZA, Shoalts and Zaback Architects Ltd., and reopened in October 2022.

The key features of the recent



renovation are a doubling in size and new spaces for adults, children, teens, and seniors that offer technology stations or laptop bars, quiet study areas, lounge seating, and flexible spaces for collaboration. Most impressive is the inviting Beaver Lodge children's

Photo credit: Doreen London

Continued on page 2

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area, introducing nature and early-literacy activities to young children. Accessibility was key in the design, so the furnishings include an elevator, a circulation desk that can be raised or lowered, and barrier-free washrooms.

The architects preserved and incorporated the old with the new, hence the original exterior stone walls throughout the interior, original fireplace, high ceilings, original roof and windows, and preservation of the “look” of the 1916 library. An immense, gorgeous spiral staircase joins the first and second levels.

A tribute to the Arts and Crafts movement is highlighted by large maple work tables crafted from the large maple cut down for the reno, by William Morris wallpaper and by the portrait of Marmaduke Matthews by George A. Reid (Matthews is affectionately remembered as the creator of Wychwood Park as an art colony, where he once lived, in 1874).

Lunch followed the tour and seven fortunate diners met at Ferro Bar Café for great food and conversation. As Vivienne so aptly put it, they “really did enjoy sharing the wide range of experiences that we had in our journey as librarians, and ELA represents the extreme richness in and of our profession.”

To see more photos from this event go to <https://www.exlibris.ca/doku.php?id=activities:tours>.

Doreen London retired after working as a reference librarian, manager/assistant director, Seneca College 1977 to 2004. ■

President's Report

By Deb Thomas



The year 2023 is just months away from moving on to 2024. What has been its legacy for ELA?

- We launched the Indigenous Student Bursary (see back page of this issue).
- Christina Wilson and her committee announced the application deadline for the biennial W. Kaye Lamb award, for which we received so

many excellent applications in 2021 (see this issue, page 4).

- Two fascinating tours — one in person and one virtual — of Canadian libraries were organized by Vivienne James for members (see this issue, front page and page 14).
- The board surveyed members on their preferences for our AGM and annual conference — and on topics of interest for webinars (see more details in Upcoming Events at right).
- Lorne Bruce and his committee continue to update the **Biographies of Librarians and Information Professionals** and Lorne maintains the **remembrance page** (where members can post memories and tributes of deceased colleagues) on our website.
- Frances Davidson-Arnott and her committee continue to produce information-packed issues of *ELAN*, like this one — available in print and **online**.
- We planned for our AGM and educational webinars for members (see more details in Upcoming Events at right).
- Members exchanged links and commentary on our listserv on issues in the library world, including threats to intellectual freedom and library budgets on both sides of the U.S. and Canada border.
- Sadly, we lost a former ELA board member this year, as Matt Scholtz died in June. Matt was a thoughtful and very funny man who gave very good hugs. We will miss him.

We continue to look for new recruits to the board, in particular for vice-president (president-elect) and archivist positions. We're looking forward to another busy year and we can always use more minds to help with our activities and initiatives. Join us!

Go to our website for a list of **Board members**.

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

Upcoming Events

Annual General Meeting: Save the date!

The 2023 ELA virtual AGM will be held on Monday, November 6, at 10 a.m. Pacific Time/11 a.m. Mountain/Noon Central/1 p.m. Eastern/2 p.m. Atlantic/2:30 p.m. Newfoundland.

An agenda will be distributed closer to the date.

Webinar:

The ELA 2023 Annual Conference will be online in the form of an hour-long webinar, Tuesday, October 24 at 10 a.m. Pacific Time/11 a.m. Mountain/Noon Central/1 p.m. Eastern/2 p.m. Atlantic/2:30 p.m. Newfoundland.

The presenter will be **Kayla Lar-Son**, Indigenous Programs and Services Librarian for the Xwi7xwa Library in UBC's First Nations House of Learning. In this session we will explore the concept of Indigenous data, knowledge, and cultural sovereignty and how this relates to libraries. Information, with links, will be sent to you via the listserv in advance.

In-Person Gathering:

We are also planning an in-person presentation, with Fiona Smith, senior services specialist – Local History in the Special Collections Department at the Toronto Reference Library, on the history and present state of Carnegie libraries in Ontario. The place, date, and time are yet to be determined, but it is hoped that the presentation can be accompanied by a lunch or dinner that offers members an opportunity to socialize. More details will be shared on the listserv.

Tours:

Information about ELA fall tours will appear on the listserv, once they're arranged. Suggestions for future tours are always welcome from members. Please contact Vivienne James at: vivienne.g.james@gmail.com with your ideas for future tours.

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

By Todd Kyle



CFLA has been very active on the intellectual-freedom front, lending support to many libraries facing challenges to controversial materials, programs, and policies through its *CFLA Intellectual Freedom Toolkit*. Most importantly, it has struck an agreement in principle with the Centre for Free Expression (CFE) at Toronto Metropolitan University, to partner on a joint-challenges database. CFLA, and Canadian Library Association before it, have run a library material-challenges survey for many years, compiling annual reports and lists. The CFE recently began working with several large urban public libraries to enter their challenges into a public, searchable database that includes related documents such as response letters. Going forward, the two will be combined and include other library sectors.

In May CFLA also presented its

second national forum, as part of the all-virtual Manitoba Libraries Conference and to inform future CFLA actions on the topic. The guest speaker was Lucy Santos Green; the discussion centered around the “moral panic” of the co-ordinated attempts to challenge and ban materials and programs that centre on marginalized groups such as the LGBTQ2S+ community.

On the copyright front, CFLA produced two submissions to government consultations. The first addressed the copyright framework for online intermediaries, otherwise known as large web-based streaming and sharing platforms. This consultation urged the government to ensure that libraries and related organizations are not subject to potentially onerous restrictions and can continue to serve their communities. The second was on a framework for AI and the Internet of Things, which addressed the topics of data mining, AI authorship, and the right to repair. CFLA also contributed to a paper on Controlled Digital Lending for the *Partnership* journal and an op-ed on Crown copyright for *The Hill Times*.

Work continues on the introduction of a new cataloguing code of ethics that was drafted as a joint project of the American Library Association, Chartered Institute of Information and Library Professionals, and CFLA. A survey has recently been sent to Canadian library community members to help the Cataloguing Code of Ethics Review Working Group to determine if the CFLA board should adopt the code.

After the new board of directors was appointed earlier this year, Ann Smith (Atlantic Provinces representative) was appointed secretary. The Indigenous Matters Committee was reformed with new members and Kirk MacLeod as its chair. A Climate Action Committee has been created; its members and a chair being recruited. Finally, CFLA has begun updating the strategic plan to present at its next AGM.

ELA is a CFLA-FCAB member.

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

CFLA-FCAB Intellectual Freedom Committee (IFC)

By Dick Ellis

This is my second column, and I find it difficult to report on processes that will have concluded, but are now in progress, so let us get that aspect out of the way at the outset.

As of late July, discussions between the IFC and the Centre for Free Expression continue; the CFLA-FCAB board has been informed of the progress. Both organizations are dedicated to serving the Canadian library community. Likely a resolution will be achieved by late September when this issue of *ELAN* is published.

Joined by Heather Hill of Western University, the IFC's working group on the CFLA-FCAB Intellectual Freedom

Challenges Survey created a survey of Canadian public libraries, to gauge familiarity with the survey and determine participation impediments. It was chastening to learn that a substantial number of libraries were unaware of the survey, in place since 2007. It appears the usual communication channel from the centre to the periphery is not working very well, and the committee is developing a more robust communication system.

On that note, in case ELA members have not noticed, the 2022 report challenges — including a list of challenged titles — is now on the *CFLA-FCAB website*. The 2022 survey was a banner year for responses that surpassed previous

years, and 2023 seems likely to eclipse it.

Where communication is working well is between the IFC and Association des bibliothèques publiques du Québec. The 2022 data includes more entries from Quebec than any annual report in the past, and submissions of 2023 incidents seem likely to exceed the 2022 reported number.

Survey working-group members supplied an article concerning challenges to the 2023 Freedom to Read Week campaign and graphic material on the most-challenged titles. This group is committed to supplying further material for the 2024 Freedom to Read Week,

Continued on page 4

...continued from page 3

following our former colleague Deb Thomas's precedent.

Some of the IFC's work is drafting statements for the CFLA-FCAB board. While the ultimate statement is, of course, the board's responsibility, the IFC identifies the issues and provides a draft. Recently the board acted on two issues the IFC identified — the Chilliwack RCMP finding that works in the Chilliwack Public Library did not constitute child pornography as Action4Canada had alleged and, in the wake of events in southern Manitoba and New Brunswick, a statement to the Canadian Federation of Municipalities urging preparation for additional actions against libraries that use demonstrably false information in an attempt to convince councils to defund local libraries.

As noted in the last column, Michael Nyby's article, "**The Demography of Censorship**," has been published in *The Partnership* v. 18 #1.

In that column, I noted that the IFC was advertising for new members. Since then, Marc Saunders of Port Moody PL, Martin Bonnard of ABPQ, Dina Stevens of the Federation of Ontario Public Libraries, and Sharon Day of Edmonton PL have joined us, and Michael Nyby has been elected vice-chair.

We are up to strength, but more vacancies will occur in 2024 as terms expire. ELA members are excellent candidates for membership and, who knows, one may have the opportunity to write an article for *ELAN*.

Dick Ellis is Librarian Emeritus at Memorial University. ■

2023 W. Kaye Lamb Award for Service to Seniors

By Christina Wilson

ELA and the Canadian Federation of Library Associations/Fédération canadienne des associations de bibliothèques (CFLA-FCAB) sent out the call for applications in June.

Open to any library across Canada — private, public, governmental, special, or post-secondary — the W. Kaye Lamb Award is named for Canada's first National Librarian. The award committee especially invites libraries serving First Nations' communities to consider applying. The committee comprises ELA's Christina Wilson (chair), Donna Burton, Todd Kyle, and CFLA-FCAB board liaison, Ann Smith, past-president, Atlantic Provinces Library Association and currently a liaison librarian with Vaughan Memorial Library, Acadia University — connecting us to CFLA-FCAB and the post-secondary sector. Michael/Michelle Rogowski, CFLA-FCAB office co-ordinator, provides support to this committee.

By co-sponsoring the award, Canada's two national library associations recognize outstanding library service to seniors and Elders, with a cash prize of \$500 and a plaque. Awarded biennially when merited, the award was last presented in 2021 to West Vancouver Memorial Library, which won out over 13 other libraries serving senior communities in Nova

Scotia, Ontario, Alberta, and British Columbia.

Reading the applications, the committee learned about the innovative ways Canada's library community served library users, especially seniors and Elders, during a national pandemic. Libraries retooled their services and spaces to comply with COVID-19 protocols to keep people safe, informed, and connected to their communities. As libraries in all sectors continue to adapt, the W. Kaye Lamb Award for Service to Seniors seeks to reward and highlight these efforts by sharing our colleagues' expertise, responsiveness, and resilience in serving seniors and Elders. With your assistance in spreading the word about the award, we hope to attract a wide-ranging group of exceptional applications.

Please do your part to talk up this award! If your library or alumni institution is providing outstanding service to seniors, suggest they apply or contact a committee member.

Visit the [ELA website](#) for details of the application process.

The deadline is **Monday, October 2, 2023**. Send your application to [CFLA-FCAB](#).

For more information, contact me at: chriswilson@shaw.ca.

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

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.

ELAN in Electronic Format

For members who wish to receive future *ELAN* issues in an electronic format, please contact

Bob Henderson at
bob.exlibris@gmail.com.

ELA Website Update

By Lorne D. Bruce

2023 has been a busy year in terms of adding content and reviewing the technical details of our website, <http://www.exlibris.ca>. Our Memoriam and Tributes section continues to grow. We have added a News section, which can also serve as an archive for important statements, and a new page for our Indigenous bursary. Older pages have been updated for the W. Kaye Lamb Award. A page for Zoom usage was also added to help ELA members connect at the annual meeting. Most new updates are announced through our listserv that currently has almost 200 members.

For the most part, however, our work has focused on correcting broken links, fixing URLs for Google to pick up more efficiently, updating our plug-ins (programs that allow us to do things and use better editing syntax) and, especially, a new-look template with a pale yellow background

replacing the older “green look.” The new template allows us to add pictures more easily and is actually more like a standard wiki look, such as the well-known Wikipedia, which uses a more hi-tech version of wiki software than our smaller site. A number of pictures have been added throughout the site, such as a graduation portrait of Winifred Barnstead in 1906, especially in the big biography section.

Along with our listserv, the wiki format for our site makes it easier to contact our membership and keep people updated. We will continue to make technical changes that make the site more available to people across the Internet and, hopefully, get more linkages with other sites.

Lorne D. Bruce was a librarian at the University of Guelph, retiring in 2012. He previously worked in two public libraries. ■

Welcome to New ELA Members

We're proud to welcome these new ELA members:

Michelle Arbuckle, Toronto
 Mariella Bertelli, Toronto
 Brian Bertrand, Toronto
 Mary Butterill, Ottawa
 Elizabeth Deavy, Ottawa
 Muriel Hart, Toronto
 Brenda Livingston, Toronto
 Christine Mosser, Toronto
 Julia O'Hara, Toronto
 Terry Palmer, Waterloo, ON
 Margaret Raven, Black Rock, NS
 Joanne Schwartz, Toronto
 Laura M. Snyder, Sackville NB
 Mirela Turcan, Toronto

Technology Unmasked! Book Bans

By Stan Orlov



Books have been banned around the world for centuries. Recently, technology has made it easier than ever to censor and restrict access, especially for

young readers, to banned books and other content. Schools and libraries can use **Internet filtering** software to block websites and materials including books deemed inappropriate or offensive. For instance, **LearnSafe**, used by many public schools in the U.S., analyzes school computer screens for digital behaviour that is not compliant with school policies and guidelines, and creates a detailed incident report for administrators, who then can work with the student who used a computer inappropriately. While helpful to fight bullying and prevent criminal activities, such software programs are only as good as the policies and guidelines they

are using. Guided by the Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA), enacted in 2000, and a recent spate of bills at all government levels aimed at restricting access to various materials, schools and public libraries in some states have no choice but to remove such materials from circulation. Those who read postings on the ELA listserv know this process has started affecting Canada.

So, what can one do to circumvent the restrictions?

- A **virtual private network** (VPN) program that hides one's activity from prying eyes might be difficult or impossible to install and use on a public computer. Having it on one's personal computer or smartphone allows access to materials schools or libraries block.
- A SmartDNS (Domain Name System) that allows access to content, otherwise inaccessible in one's region due to geoblocking, is another option.
- Tor Browser prevents someone watching your connection from knowing what websites you visit. It ensures users' anonymity by using so-called “pluggable

transports” that make web surfing look like a video-conference or email traffic, for instance.

- Torrents are a method of distributing files over the Internet that allow sharing files through a decentralized, peer-to-peer network (P2P), usually for free. While torrenting is illegal, if downloading and sharing unsanctioned copyrighted material, it is another tool in the fight against censorship.

As to banned books and other materials, **Books Unbanned**, an initiative launched by Brooklyn PL and joined by Seattle PL, provides teens nationwide with a free eCard, giving access to their full e-book collections, as well as the learning databases. While attempts to limit youth access to information multiply, often with help of technology, existing and emerging technological solutions are also available to counterbalance these attempts.

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

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

How and Why I Became a Librarian

By Ralph W. Manning

My first experience with libraries was in the 1950s at Toronto Public Library's Main Street Branch. The children's section was on the second floor, in a very tight space with a low ceiling — perfect for children, but certain to concuss any adult who ventured up there.

When my family moved to Scarborough, I attended Agincourt Collegiate Institute, and Scarborough Public Library's Agincourt Branch was directly across Midland Avenue, in a small bungalow. The building was far too small for the collection, and books were piled everywhere on the floor and stacked on top of the tightly packed shelves. The librarian, Mrs. Hunt, was a grumpy, corpulent lady who always sat at the front desk with a cigarette dangling from her mouth, dropping ashes onto the surface in front of her. Her two assistants were Mrs. Gooderham and Mrs. Goddard, who were known as Good God.

I asked for a job and was hired. Shortly afterward, the library moved to more spacious quarters just down the street. Neither building was suited for use as a library. With lots of space in several rooms, the second building was still a repurposed house, located on Sheppard Avenue, exactly where Midland Avenue took a jog across Sheppard. Some years later, after I had left the area, Agincourt village was swallowed up by Toronto's expansion and became a busy suburb. The library at the corner of Midland

and Sheppard was demolished to make room for the widening of both Sheppard and Midland avenues — I believe it would have sat squarely in the middle of the new intersection. I never visited Agincourt Branch's next location, which found its new home in a mall farther east on Sheppard.

Mrs. Hunt and Good God continued to be fixtures at the library until my family left the area in 1966. One of my recollections about working in that library was the summer I was assigned to wash the books, which were all in plastic book covers. The exercise made the plastic quite sticky, and I can still remember the frequent avalanches when one book was pulled from the shelf and all of its neighbours came with it.

Another special memory was the summer when Reverend Robert Bonis asked me to help him with his research on Scarborough's history. I will never forget crawling around in the attic of an old library on Markham Road, searching through badly crumbling newspapers. Rev. Bonis was a member of the committee that selected street names and I remember he told me he hoped to find a suitable candidate for a street that could be named Bonis Bank. I see that the current building of the Agincourt Branch is a beautiful modern structure, situated on Bonis Avenue. I wonder if that is a coincidence, but either way it is a fitting tribute.

When I enrolled at the University of Toronto, I immediately got a job at

University College's Laidlaw Library, a spacious undergraduate library that occupied the north side of the quadrangle. I shelved books, read the shelves, checked out books, and, eventually, was trusted enough with a key, so I could close the library on Sunday nights, after a sleepy shift.

After my university years, I went on to library school at the University of Western Ontario and, right after graduation, joined the National Library of Canada, where I spent my entire career, except for six years as assistant university librarian at the University of Ottawa. At the National Library and Library and Archives Canada, I had an interesting and varied career that included Canadian and international library statistics, preservation standards, library services for people with print disabilities, national and international standards, and strategic policy.

It was quite early in my nascent career that I knew that I was destined to become a librarian. I remember telling a neighbour about my plan and she remarked that I had chosen a "very clean occupation." The fact that I have such clear memories of Mrs. Hunt, Good God, and many friends from my years at Laidlaw Library, including Frances Davidson-Arnott, a fellow student assistant, surely testifies to the influence of those individuals on my choice to become a librarian. ■

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

And please submit any outstanding membership dues.

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.

Last Chance: University of Ottawa Library School

By Betty Deavy

I had wanted to become a librarian for a quarter of a century, but the priorities of home and family postponed any steps toward that goal. In the summer of 1971 I finally applied for admission to the University of Ottawa Library School. It was not yet an accredited school but the new director, Peter Havard-Williams, was taking steps to update the program.

As a mature student, would I be accepted? Could I balance responsibilities at home? Could I pass a bilingual-selection interview with Father Morisset, the founder of the library school back in the 1930s? Would I fit in with the younger student body? I would try. From my very first lecture from Dean Peter Havard-Williams — on International Librarianship — to the foundational courses of Cataloguing and Reference as well as the more specialized subjects — such as History of the Book, Bibliography, Audio Visual Tools, and Computers — I loved and absorbed them all. Our teachers were varied and interesting. Father Morisset was often in the library

and would stop to inquire about my progress and offer pieces of advice.

I soon became absorbed in the life of the school, eating lunch with friends and working on assignments in the library most weeknights until 9 p.m. Maintaining the household and participating in the village of which I was an active part was demanding. It would not have worked without the full support of my family. That year I did have to cut back on other interests such as concerts and plays, but the professors and other students provided me with a different world of experiences and knowledge that more than compensated for my sacrifices. However, there were problems common to all the students caused by the building, some of the teachers, and the activities of some of the students, which made concentration and learning more difficult. Even so, most of the students made it through the year.

A field trip to the National Library, two weeks of practical work at a local special library, last essays and reports, and final exams led to a

graduation ceremony. More than that, it led to a wonderful career for me as Government and Law Specialist at the National Library of Canada, from which I retired more than 20 years later in 1993. Unfortunately, it was not as happy a future for the library school, as mine proved to be the final class for many years. I felt doubly grateful that I had decided to go when I did and very sorry to think of Father Morisset's lovely library unused.

This is a brief version of a longer article found at:

exlibris.ca/doku.php?id=occasional_papers:library_school_ottawa_1971-72.

For the ELAN 2020 Special Issue on the history of The School of Information Studies (ÉSIS, née School of Library and Information Science) at the University of Ottawa /Université d'Ottawa, go to:

exlibris.ca/lib/exe/fetch.php?media=newsletters:elan_issue_special_summer_2020.pdf. ■

Library Treasures of Britain: Bishop Porteus Library, Fulham Palace, London

By Guy Robertson

One expects the Bishops of London to reside in a palace and, until 1973, they did. When they left, Fulham Palace became a popular destination for visitors from all over the world. Historians and architects consider it to be as noteworthy as any of the other residences in a city that boasts some of the world's most important real estate. This includes Buckingham Palace, Clarence House, and Kensington Palace, which are larger, more famous, and more impressively furnished, but not nearly as comfortable as Fulham Palace, nor as welcoming, nor as tranquil — qualities evident in its library.

Most visitors to the palace intend to see the little museum and its interactive exhibits, or plan to stroll



Library interior
Photo credit: Guy Robertson

through the magnificent botanical garden, established by Bishop Grindal (1519–1583). In this garden, Bishop Compton (1675–1713) introduced the first American azalea and coffee tree in England. John Evelyn, the noted diarist, horticulturalist, and friend of Samuel Pepys, regarded the garden as remarkable, as does anyone else who examines its broad variety of plants. While these attractions make the palace a site of general interest, the Porteus Library serves as a lens on its practical purposes since the early 19th century.

Upon his death, Bishop Beilby Porteus (1731–1809) left a plan, his books, and a substantial sum of money for the development of the library,

Continued on page 8

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which occupies the space of a former chapel. Palace administrators have striven to ensure the library appears as it did during the late 19th and early 20th centuries. The design encourages reading and quiet conversation, and underscores the palace's reputation for comfort and relaxation.

Porteus's books have been moved to the University of London's Senate House Library, but currently on the palace library's shelves are some fine 17th-century volumes — theology, history, and "miscellaneous" — as well as volumes on loan from the family of a previous Bishop of London. Generally, the collection's condition is good, aside from the usual foxing and the occasional stain, not surprising in older volumes that have had numerous readers.

Security and conservation have long been concerns at the library. Recently conservators oversaw the security-system upgrade with new nylon wiring for each of the 168 shelves. The system was designed to support the accessibility of individual volumes as required, while remaining inconspicuous to patrons. The conservators also noted that volumes were too tightly shelved and inadequately stored beside other volumes. To prevent their warping, volumes were rearranged on their shelves to create

breathing space and ease of access.

Palace administrators hope to replace the library's old and inefficient lighting with LED lighting that will reduce electrical bills and the carbon footprint. With better lighting, the library's 11 paintings of former bishops (including Porteus) will be easier to view, along with paintings of the palace's Tudor courtyard and a local park. None of these paintings could be considered masterpieces, but all provide historical context for the palace as the bishops' residence from the early 8th century to 1973. Among those who will appreciate new lighting are volunteers, such as Susan Shocket, a member of the Fulham Palace Sewing Bee that, among other activities, mends costumes for young visitors who want to learn more about the palace and its history.

"We can set up in the library, and people can see what we're working on," says Susan. Aside from costume repair, she and her fellow volunteers recently created a colourful altar cloth for a local church. Such projects are painstaking and time-consuming, but always of interest to library visitors. Susan mentions their delight in the secret door in a corner. Was this the bishops' escape route in case of civil unrest, or perhaps a problem patron?

"It was probably nothing more than



Secret door
Photo credit: Guy Robertson

a convenience for palace people to get from one part of the building to another, but I suppose that you could make a hasty exit if the need arose."

Visitors prefer to leave by the usual door, on their way to the café or back to the garden. But, they will not forget the library, and will revisit it when the hectic London world makes them seek a quiet place for reflection and leather-bound volumes.

For more information, consult the Fulham Palace [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. ■

Odds & Bookends: Librarians are Lovers!

By Matt Scholtz

LIBRARIANS ARE LOVERS! That was the message on the t-shirt.

But was it just a bit of whimsy? Something to catch the eye?

Well, it turns out that the archetypal lover, Giacomo Casanova, (1725–1798) was in fact, for a time, a librarian, cataloguing a private collection (without benefit of Dewey tables or AA Cataloguing rules).

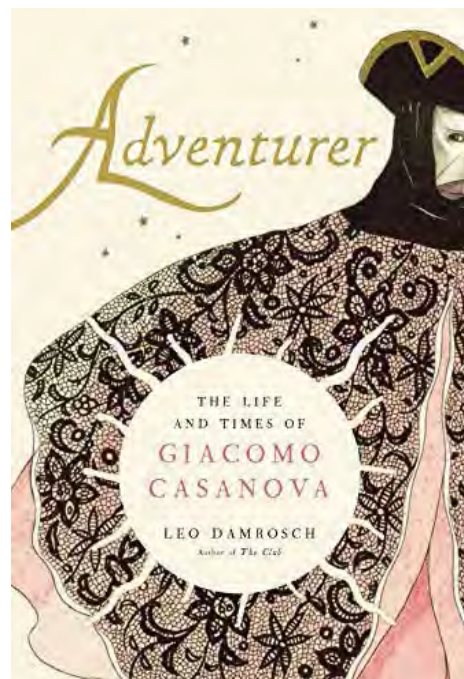
Down on his luck (and possibly going into hiding for a while to escape angry husbands he had cuckolded), Casanova was employed for 13 years by Count Waldstein in Dux, Bohemia. Over time the good count

had amassed a collection of 40,000 books, but he really didn't know what he had. (Probably he didn't know why he had bothered collecting so many books in the first place.)

Goodness knows what this dilettante was doing with joint authors and corporate authors. I don't even want to think of how accurate his spelling was, or whether his authority file had any credence.

No doubt, often the good count was heard to exclaim, "What?! I have two copies of this work? Are you sure?"

Some titles remained uncatalogued



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— because Casanova spent most of his time writing *The Complete Memoirs of Casanova: The Story of My Life*, considered one of the finest exposés of contemporary life in Italy. And was his reputation deserved? No question there.

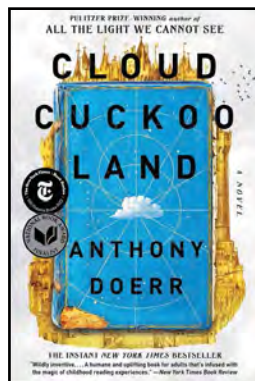
According to *Adventurer: The Life and Times of Giacomo Casanova* by Leo Damrosch (Yale University Press, 2022), that erstwhile cataloguer was an unreserved hedonist and unabashed libertine. He defied social conventions and moral hypocrisy, asserting we are (as the song goes) not here for a long time, but for a good time. In fact, he believed pleasure was a ‘gift of God,’ and penitents need not wander about the country, atoning for sins in sackcloth and ashes. In Casanova’s world, it was always party time. And, luckily for him, he lived in Venice, the most libertine-friendly spot in Europe. Well, for him, anyway. It never occurred to him that his lady friends were sometimes less amused and willing. In those cases, the ladies had powerful husbands who saw to it that Casanova spent a lot of time in dank, mouldy prisons. (No word on whether these prisons had libraries, with collections needing organization.)

Matt Scholtz was chief librarian of the Tillsonburg PL (1970–2010). He died in June 2023 (see his obituary in this issue, page 22). ■

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**.

Book Reviews



Cloud Cuckoo Land
By Anthony Doerr
Scribner, 2022

Reviewed by
Julia Schneider

Cloud Cuckoo Land is full of surprising

twists we have no problem believing. Toward the end of this epic story, based on epic stories, Marian the librarian sends prisoner Seymour three boxes of translations written by Zeno, the man whose death he caused, and her action seems justified. “Access is part of the librarian’s creed,” she tells him; we know that already, yet it seems particularly right in the context of this novel.

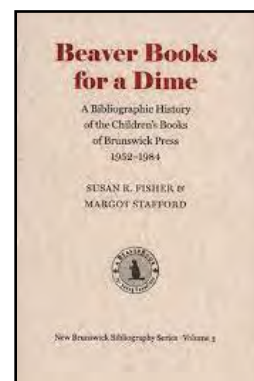
Anthony Doerr’s story spans centuries and involves people who find meaning in stories from long ago. The specific story here is Apuleius’s *The Golden Ass* and it has great meaning and redemptive power in Anna and Omeir’s struggle for survival in 15th-century Constantinople, Seymour and Zeno in contemporary Lakeport, Idaho, and Konstance, somewhere, sometime in the future. For all of them, the meaning they seek and discover through it makes their survival possible in times of great threats we ourselves know (such as wars, AI, and climate change) because they are all around us and we can’t escape them.

The paradox of *Cloud Cuckoo Land* is that reading about these threats provides an escape. In Doerr’s long but engrossing book — episodic in structure, with vivid and relatable characters and a complex but cohesive plot — the storytelling triumphs. In this book that he dedicates “for the librarians, then, now, and in the years to come,” he creates a world full of discovery and renewed hope. “The world is enough,” says one of Zeno’s youthful charges and, through this story, Doerr shows us it is more valuable than some chimerical cloud in the skies.

Some commentators have compared *Cloud Cuckoo Land* to David Mitchell’s

earlier *Cloud Atlas* — both have “Cloud” in their titles! Seriously, though, both have similar themes and complex, episodic plots, but their authors’ writing styles are quite different. Is this another misguided Ed Sheeranesque attempt to find derivation?

You should read *Cloud Cuckoo Land* — after all, how many authors have convincingly written a “paean to books” and then dedicated it to librarians?



Beaver Books for a Dime: A Bibliographic History of the Children's Books of Brunswick Press, 1952–1984. New Brunswick Bibliography Series,

Volume 3
By Susan R. Fisher and Margot Stafford
Gaspereau Press, 2022

Reviewed by Sylvia Murray

Focused on the children’s books published by the Brunswick Press, this volume is a beautifully printed paperback, with several black-and-white photographs and many pages of full-colour illustrations. There is a dust cover, but both the book’s front and back covers themselves have reproductions of many of the published books.

Part One, The Story of the Brunswick Press, is a fascinating read covering the background of the publisher, Michael Wardell — an Englishman who Lord Beaverbrook brought to New Brunswick to manage his newspaper, *The Daily Gleaner* — and the history of the Brunswick Press that Wardell founded. The press was an early adopter of full-colour offset printing, which encouraged Wardell to concentrate on the publication of children’s picture books. We learn about his first publications — the

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Beaver Books or “BeaverDime” books, introduced by Wardell with the help of a couple of talented Czech illustrators.

Part Two, *The Children's Books of Brunswick Press: Uncovering History Through Bibliography*, gives us a detailed and chronological discussion of its children's books, from 1952 to 1984, and presents an excellent look at early children's publishing. The authors did a great deal of work tracing all its children's books, many of which are very rare now and found mainly in special collections. Often the authors' main source was the OCLC database. Each book is listed, giving author, title, illustrator(s), series (if applicable), dimensions, and availability.

In the Conclusions section, the authors recount their work's difficulty and the responsibility they felt of the necessity to present a more accurate look at a little-known press.

There are three appendices. Appendix One, *Children's Books*, gives a complete list of Brunswick Press titles arranged first by author, then by collection (e.g. the *Children's Coloured Library*) and, lastly, by series, including the *BeaverDime* books. Appendix Two lists the archival materials such as newspaper articles and advertisements, secondary sources from interviews, and articles from books and histories used by the authors. Appendix Three provides colour-plate details in the book.

The volume has an excellent index.



**Presses de l'Université
du Québec, 2023**

Reviewed by Lorne D. Bruce

This festschrift celebrates **Dr. Marcel Lajeunesse's** achievements, with a collection of 15 essays (14 in French and one in English) on book history, literature, and reading. *Le livre et la bibliothèque* is particularly strong in biography, social life, and cultural history. Marcel Lajeunesse directed the Université de Montréal's School of Library and Information Science from 1987 to 1994, and has authored more than 200 publications related to the history of books and libraries, as well as the comparative and international aspects of information. The volume's first section introduces Dr. Lajeunesse, with six brief testimonials.

A second section deals with the history of books and printed matter. Six chapters discuss topics ranging from a 15th-century French devotional manuscript, *Les Heures Lindsey-Leydet*, to a popular 20th-century Quebec publisher, Éditions Marabout. The publications of François-Xavier Laire,

Le livre et la bibliothèque: la quête des savoirs et de la culture. Mélanges offerts à Marcel Lajeunesse
**Carol Couture,
Éric Leroux,
and Marcel
Lajeunesse eds.**

a French librarian and bibliographer (d. 1801), are concisely profiled and followed by three essays on Quebec's social and cultural life: (1) issues related to the legal development of literary property; (2) reprints by the Éditions Marabout, especially the inexpensive 1950's pocketbooks that popularized *Les Aventures de Tintin* and *Bob Morane*; and (3) the importance of *Le Dictionnaire de la censure au Québec* and *L'Atlas littéraire du Québec*, two authoritative reference works.

A third section focuses on the history of libraries and librarianship. It begins with a paper on fin de siècle Parisian libraries viewed by the French playwright, Ludovic Halévy (d. 1908). A chapter on Léon-Pamphile Le May (1837–1918) reviews his directorship as the first librarian of Quebec's Legislative Assembly. A biography on Jeanne-Marguerite Saint-Pierre (d. 2021) recognizes her involvement in developing children's libraries. An illustrated entry on the central library housed in the Université de Montréal's main 1940's building and its renowned architect, Ernest Cormier, follows. A chapter in English by ELA member Peter F. McNally, studies the efforts of library directors at McGill University from 1964 to 2010 to keep pace with evolving professional practices and technology.

A final section presents current library issues and future challenges. Guylaine Beaudry predicts sharing of resources and services will continue to drive decisions. Yvon-André Lacroix discusses the use of library space, with illustrations from the Brossard municipal library. Daniel Marquis describes two turbulent decades (2000–2021) at the “bibliothèques collégiales” for post-secondary students. Librarians, such as myself, may be disappointed that digital issues are not discussed with greater emphasis in this section.

There is much to interest readers in this attractive volume concerning the historical, contemporary, and futuristic aspects of libraries in Quebec and book history in general.

For photos of the April 2023 book launch, see the [ELA website](#). ■

When You Move

When you move, please remember to send your new address to

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Good Reads

By Judy Dunn



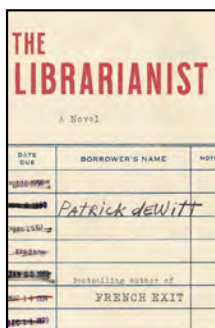
Judy Dunn retired in 2011 after six years as Assistant Dean Academic, Faculty of Information at U of T, and 15 years as Program Co-ordinator, School of Information Management at Dalhousie University.



The Librarian of Burned Books

By **Brianna Labuskes**
HarperCollins, 2023

Narrated by three women in three time periods — Berlin 1933, Paris 1936, and New York 1944 — this book was inspired by the true story of the Council on Books in Wartime.



The Librarianist: A Novel

By **Patrick deWitt**
House of Anansi Press, 2023

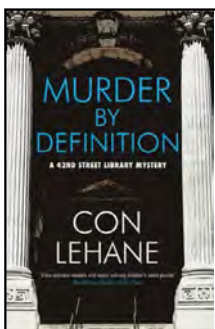
Poignant — and filled with quirky characters and dark humour, as is typical of deWitt — this is the life story of retired librarian Bob Cosmos.



The Little Wartime Library

By **Kate Thompson**
Forever, 2023

This novel is based on the true story of a librarian who turned London's Bethnal Green tube station into an underground library, as well as a refuge, during the Second World War.



Murder by Definition

By **Con Lehane**
Severn House, 2022

The fourth novel in the 42nd Street Library Mystery series features Raymond Ambler, crime-solving head of the New York Public Library crime-fiction collection.



The War Librarian

By **Addison Armstrong**
G. P. Putnam's Sons, 2022

This dual-timeline novel is based on the true history of both the first volunteer librarians working during the First World War and the first class of women to attend the United States Naval Academy in the 1960s.

Find a compilation of Good Reads on the [ELA website](#).

Books by Members

Peter F. McNally, "Administrators and Scholars: Directors of Libraries at McGill University, 1964–2010." Chapter 12, pages 247–264, Carol Couture et Éric Leroux, ed. *Le Livre et la bibliothèque: la quête des savoirs et de la culture : Mélanges offerts à Marcel Lajeunesse*. Québec, Presses de l'Université du Québec, 2023.

See page 10 in this issue for a review of this book by Lorne Bruce.

For photos of the April 2023 book launch, see the [ELA website](#).

On the Scents of Books

By Leslie McGrath

Before anyone preserved our “Olfactory Heritage,” used scratch-and-sniff-books, or developed a perfume for library aficionados, readers appreciated the distinctive smell of the vellum or paper, ink, and binding that makes up a book. Christopher de Hamel claims “there is a curious warm leathery smell to English parchment, unlike the sharper, cooler scent of Italian skins” (Armitstead). As for printed books, in a study of the subject chemist Matija Strlič and colleagues note “the aroma of an old book is familiar to every user of a traditional library. A combination of grassy notes with a tang of acids and a hint of vanilla over an underlying mustiness, this unmistakable smell is as much part of the book as its contents.” Sometimes a particular book is famous for its smell. In an advance plan

for the exhibition Sensational Books, the Bodleian Libraries showcased some classic works partly through their smells. For example, the odour of Shakespeare’s 1623 First Folio combines those of maraschino cherries and mouldy furniture. Provenance, too, can affect aroma: there is still a tang of pipe smoke in C. S. Lewis’s books; books rescued from Boston’s Great Molasses Flood of 1919 smell of sugar; and those that survived fires following San Francisco’s 1906 earthquake smell of smoke (Charlton).

The technique of adding scent to books through scratch-and-sniff panels (attaching microcapsules that contain scent to paper that break when scratched, releasing their aromas) was invented by American Gale Matson in the 1960s and originally used in children’s books from 1970; 3M

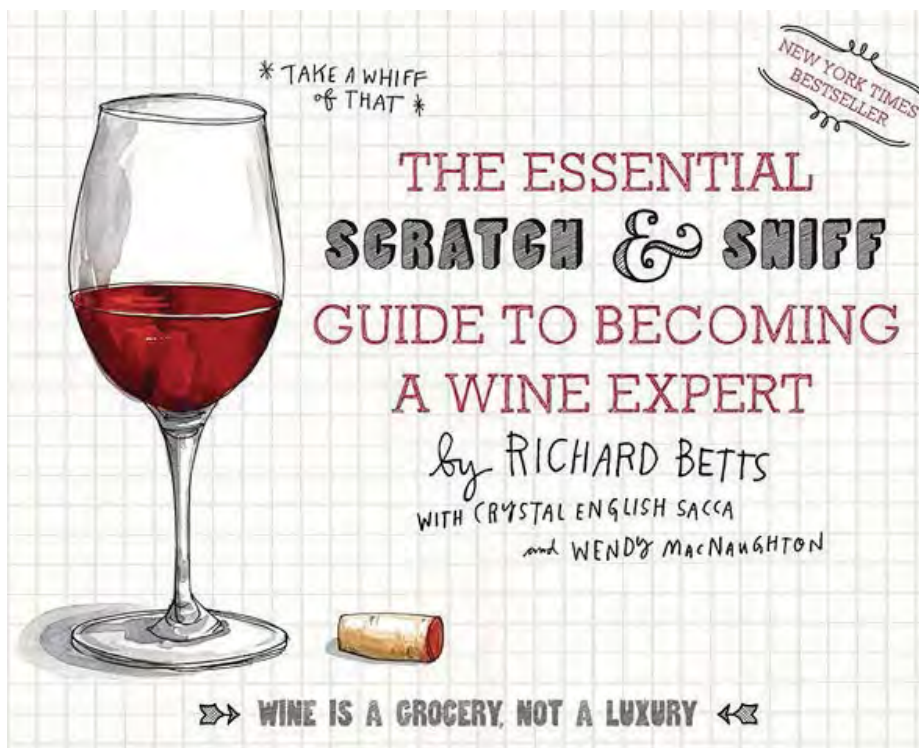
eventually patented the technique in 1985. These aromatic novelties became extraordinarily popular, from Little Golden Books to a scratch-and-sniff for pets (to see if your puppy likes the scent of new foods) from The Honest Kitchen pet food company (Champagne). Scratch-and-sniff books for older readers range over various

asserting that reliance on facsimiles and modern editions deprives the student of an important experience, while “to smell the mildly nauseating Soviet book cloth, or to inhale the centuries of rancid butter that permeate Tibetan block books is to have a bit of another age or culture rubbed off on you.”

Rigorous scientific research has been applied to the analysis of old book smells; Strlič and colleagues write “smell is as much part of the book as its contents. It is a result of the several hundred identified volatile and semivolatile organic compounds (VOCs) off-gassing from paper and the object in general” (Strlič et al, 2009). One of their initiatives is the development of an “historic book odour wheel” for general use; other more exact methods include using fans on books in sealed compartments,

from which chemists collect scent on filter pads; these are treated to create solutions that can be analyzed, described and recreated. This and other forms of collection allow smell preservation as part of the cultural heritage record — an emerging field documented by the likes of the Institute for Digital Archaeology — and guides preservation and conservation efforts, and new creative endeavours based on smells.

Norwegian Sissel Tolaas innovatively combines the science of the classification of smell components with artistry and librarianship. One of her projects is the magazine issue *Mono Kultur* 23, in which the paper is impregnated with 11 “difficult” scents reproduced chemically from those of men, as well as one of Tolaas’s own personal scent. The result is



topics and genres such as the Smelly Old History book series that reminds us of the stench of ancient cities or *The Scratch and Sniff Book of Weed*. One intriguing title, *The Essential Guide to Becoming a Wine Expert: Take a Whiff of That*, offers 16 sniffing circles, ranging from the fruits in red and white wines to a particular terroir.

The connection between olfactory sensory enrichment and enhanced learning has gained academic traction: cognitive linguist, Ralf Thiede, recommends the use of books that truly stimulate olfactory senses, ranging from Katherine Howard’s *Little Bunny Follows His Nose* to Andrew Donkin’s *The Truly Tasteless Scratch and Sniff Book*, which features “olfactory treats,” such as sweaty feet, sour milk, putrid fish, and smelly skunk. Librarian Lawrence S. Thompson went further,

Continued on page 13

A Virtual Tour of Stanley A. Milner Library, Edmonton Public Library

By Gladys Watson

On May 17, 2023, 16 ELA members gathered online for a virtual tour of the Stanley A. Milner Library, EPL's recently renewed downtown, central branch. CEO Pilar Martinez led the tour, with Lisette Lalchan, executive assistant, providing live video coverage via Zoom.

What an amazing revitalization and renewal project — and an excellent example of 21st-century public library programs, services, and facilities. This major three-and-a-half-year renovation ended with a September 17, 2020, reopening. More than \$18 million was raised for the work, far surpassing the original goal of \$10 million.

Teeple Architects led the project, transforming the original 1967 building's Brutalist architecture into an inviting, community-friendly, accessible environment, opening up the space, adding skylights and glazing, to benefit from natural light and create welcoming views into the library.

With sustainability and LEED certification as an overall goal, the library now features a new energy-efficient external building envelope, highly efficient mechanical and electrical systems, and low-emitting

materials, among other sustainability initiatives, and was recognized with the 2021 International Federation of Library Associations Green Library Award.

As Pilar explained, community engagement was central to the design process and informed each program space.

More than doubled in size, the popular Shelley Milner Children's Library — where language and literacy learning are promoted — exhibits art selected by children, a time capsule enhanced with early-literacy features to be opened in 2119, and several play areas — with collections of age-appropriate books, DVDs, and video games — for kids of different ages. There's a makerspace where emerging technologies and hands-on science, technology, engineering, art and math activities (such as coding and robotics) are offered. We were impressed with new sound studios, video and film-production lab, 3-D printers, sewing machines, fabrication tools and equipment, and robotics ... all supported by staff. A gamerspace houses gaming PCs, virtual reality, and mixed-reality gaming platforms, and EPL plans to collaborate with community

partners to facilitate learning and literacy skills through gaming.

In the atrium, a two-storey simulation wall features large-scale interactive digital exhibits that facilitate hands-on learning. EPL collaborated with Queensland University of Technology on this incredible technology that is the largest digital exhibit in North America. A favourite digital display, Dino Zoo, was on the screen during our tour.

PÎYÊSÎW WÂSKÂHIKAN / Thunderbird House is EPL's first dedicated Indigenous space, built for ceremonies and gatherings. Indigenous Elders helped develop the design and artwork in accordance with Cree philosophies. The wood paneling recognizes the significance of poplar for the Plains Cree people. The floor cushions resemble boulders. Cree-language learning, ribbon-skirt making, and smudging is offered, and the Elder-in-residence is on site three days a week.

The kitchen (from cookies to chemistry) is a new program space that EPL opened in March of 2022, in response to community requests and

Continued on page 15



...continued from page 14



Photos of Stanley A. Milner Library
Photo credits: Courtesy Andrew Latreille, TEEPLE Architects.

after consultation with other public libraries (such as the Free Library of Philadelphia which has its own kitchen). Fully equipped with the latest equipment and fitted stainless-steel stations, it creates knowledge and interest in food literacy and nutrition, and teaches skills transferable to a home kitchen. Classes are offered through collaboration with a post-secondary



institution partner and some local chefs on a cost-recovery-for-ingredients basis.

As we entered the stacks and study areas, Pilar noted that the physical library collection is still a mainstay, with adjacent study space, public computers, and computer bars. There is a designated space for local-history collections and a writer-in-residence program.

Other services include EPL's three social workers and key community partners (who deliver preventative outreach services), the innovator-in-residence (who assists budding entrepreneurs), and a seed library.

It's all designed to respond to the diversity of downtown residents. Kudos to CEO Pilar Martinez and the EPL team for leading this stunning transformation — and thanks to Vivienne James for co-ordinating this fascinating tour.

Gladys Watson retired in 2017 as Director of Libraries and Learning Resources Centres at Centennial College. ■

CEO Pilar Martinez

British Columbia News

By Guy Robertson



In June **Vancouver PL** moved its West **Point Grey Branch** to a new location, a block away on West 10th Avenue, across from a site that two large residential

towers will occupy. The old branch had inadequate space and a leaky roof. The new branch will offer more space, better lighting, and less moisture.

Over the past year, the **University of Victoria Libraries** made service changes at the **Mearns McPherson Library (MML)**. On the main floor, four enclosed Tek Booths with power outlets and wireless Internet have been installed. Intended for Zoom classes and virtual meetings, these also provide space for individual study and research. **MML** also offers a new service desk, more study space, enhanced reference services, and more access to librarians.

Vancouver Island Regional Library (VIRL) prepared for extreme summer temperatures by ensuring its branches had reliable air conditioning. **VIRL** invited patrons to visit and cool down in a comfortable space, relaxing with a book or chatting with friends. As temperatures soared and the threat of poor air quality increased, branches attracted substantial numbers who stayed longer than usual. **VIRL** administrators suspect this will become an ongoing summer trend.

In May the **University of British Columbia (UBC) David Lam Management Research Library** announced space improvements and Sauder School of Business-funded upgrades to the AV equipment in its **Digital Media Lab and Sound Recording Room**, which now provides access to four dual-screen Apple Mac workstations that contain top-notch video-, photo-, and audio-editing software, and access to a high-quality scanner and a video-capture station.

The **UBC Rare Books and Special Collections** has partnered with **The Paper Trail** project, which

commemorates the restrictive 1885 *Chinese Immigration Act* that imposed a head tax on Chinese immigrants and led to the outright exclusion of Chinese immigrants from 1923 until the act was repealed in 1947. Managed by **Catherine Clement**, an historian and curator based in Vancouver's Chinatown, the project works with the largest digitized archive of Chinese-immigration certificates issued by the Dominion of Canada. Paper Trail Archivist June Chow notes that the archive has been made possible by community members willing to share their family histories and the impact of the *Chinese Immigration Act* on their lives. In July Clement curated **The Paper Trail to the 1923 Chinese Exclusion Act** at the Chinese Canadian Museum in Vancouver, which commemorates the century following the *Chinese Immigration Act*.

The development of **Simon Fraser University's Indigenous Curriculum Resource Centre (ICRC)** began in 2020. Now open, it supports faculty-member and course-designer efforts to decolonize teaching materials. It provides resources on colonization effects, it demonstrates ways in which libraries can decolonize their offerings, and it provides tools, including audio-visual kits — such as the Salish Weave Box Sets that include recordings of Indigenous artists talking about their work. Ashley Edwards, who is the ICRC librarian, welcomes inquiries about effective ways to revise curricula and change attitudes toward Indigenous learning.

In July the **Terrace PL (TPL)** offered summer reading programs for patrons of all ages. Especially popular with families, *Journey Through Time* featured *A Mystery from History* — a search for clues to solve an intriguing historical case. **TPL** partnered with Terrace's **Heritage Park Museum** to organize the sleuthing, which entailed time travel and lots of fascinating questions.

Prairies News

By Alvin M. Schrader



City of Winnipeg Archives has been allocated \$12.6 million by the City of Winnipeg to restore its former quarters in a Carnegie library (one of Canada's most-endangered historic sites) and the return of the records, with a target of 2026. Temporary warehouse quarters were required after flooding heavily damaged the Carnegie building in 2013.

The Manitoba Library Association (MLA) released its **Public Libraries Intellectual Freedom and Anti-Censorship Toolkit** in May 2023. Created in response to censorship and defunding challenges in the South Central Regional Library System in Fall 2022 and Spring 2023, the **Toolkit** is designed to support public libraries facing similar challenges, with sources of information, resources, and recommendations. MLA has condemned attempts at censorship, the false equivalence of 2SLGBTQIA+ materials selected for school libraries with “pedophilia” and “grooming,” and the discriminatory characterization behind these calls for censorship. The MLA release stated, “We consider this an affront to our professional values of intellectual freedom and equity, diversity, and inclusion alike.”

The Saskatchewan Library Association selected *Five Little Indians* by author and lawyer Michelle Good for the 2023 **One Book One Province Saskatchewan** program. This program aims to increase literacy and create a reading culture by providing opportunities for residents to become more socially engaged through a shared story. Good, of Cree ancestry and a member of the Red Pheasant Cree Nation, wrote the book after years of frustration and outrage over Canadians' ignorance about the residential school system. Hybrid and on-site author readings were held in six communities in March and the program also included libraries, book clubs, and individuals who shared discussions about the book. *Five Little Indians* has won numerous awards,

including the Governor General's Literary Award for Fiction, the Amazon Canada First Novel Award, and the Kobo Emerging Author Prize. Released in April 2020, the book currently has almost 250,000 copies in print.

Moose Jaw PL received a grant from the Canadian Space Agency to support a space theme — *A Galactic Adventure* — for its Summer Reading Club. Its underlying goal is to build awareness around STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics). Granted funds support new equipment for loan-out technology, robotics, 3-D printing, and special programming such as an astronaut talk in September. The Summer Reading Club launched in mid-June with events including a movie, games, crafts, treats, face painting, and more.

Regina PL will move its central library services to a temporary location in the next year, in response to concerns with failing infrastructure and a risk to service delivery in the 62-year-old building that needs about \$4 million to repair roofing and mechanical and electrical systems to remain functional. The board voted last year to build a new downtown library in its present location (see **Spring 2023 ELAN**).

Calgary PL engaged Chanry Thach as its first influencer-in-residence from May 15 to July 31, 2023. Chanry is a prominent Calgary food blogger who runs her own marketing firm, Ask for Chan, that helps brands build communities, which are authentic to them as persons or businesses, through social media. She said, “If I can help a small business that might not have a budget to hire a social media manager, to hire a marketing team to strategize with the bigwigs on how to market their business: That’s me. The library has now given my skills up for free to anybody who’s willing to come and tap my brain on ‘how do I get my business to the next level?’ You pretty much get to hire a social media manager.”

Edmonton PL's Senior Advisor of Indigenous Relations, Emily Riddle, is the 2023 Canadian First Book Prize Winner — Griffin Poetry Prize. Emily is nêhiyaw and a member of the Alexander First Nation in Treaty Six Territory. Her debut poetry

collection, *The Big Melt*, showcases the power of artistic expression and the impact of poetry in our society.

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

Ontario News

By Vivienne James



How are post-secondary institutions addressing the use of AI in teaching and learning? It's an important issue for these times. McMaster

University and **Hamilton PL** hosted high school teacher-librarians for a discussion on **AI, at a working lunch** at **Mills Memorial Library**.

Ontario public and university libraries continued to highlight national celebrations with book exhibits, author readings, and creative programming. In June these included National Indigenous History Month and Pride celebrations. Summer reading programs were also in full swing, including book clubs, competitions, and much more.

In July despite objections from the community and **Brampton PL** CEO Todd Kyle, **Chinguacousy Library**, "a successful community for the last 50 years" was relocated to Chinguacousy Ski Chalet, a much smaller facility, to make way for Toronto Metropolitan U's new School of Medicine. The library is working with the city to find a better site to serve community needs.

Burlington PL highlighted the launch of a brand-new local-history platform called the **Burlington Digital Archive**, with its co-ordinator demonstrating the platform's many uses to attendees.

In June, after years of planning, **Guelph PL** broke ground for its new **Central Library**, which will support the city's efforts to revitalize the downtown and anchor the Baker District Redevelopment site. The Friends of the Guelph Public Library received this year's **Arts award** for their significant

contribution to promoting reading and community engagement.

In July, at **Markham PL's (MPL) Aaniin Library**, the Markham mayor's Black Youth Liaison Committee presented The Reading Circle, which aims to promote literacy, community trust, and Black youth representation, for ages 5 to 12. In May MPL celebrated the revitalized **Black Heritage Collection**, **Milliken Mills Library**, with items covering a range of topics for children and adults, as well as stories about the Black community's contributions to society.

Toronto PL's ongoing commitment to create community gathering spaces was realized with the official opening of the **York Woods Branch** at Jane and Finch, in July. Extensive renovations (Diamond Schmitt Architects) have resulted in a beautiful, large and modern multi-purpose library with new and innovative features, including a Youth Hub, Digital Innovation Hub, Kidstop Early Literacy Centre, and a wonderful Musical Instrument Lending Library. Housed in the **TPL Reference Library's Baldwin Collection of Canadiana**, the **Anderson Ruffin Abbott archive** has been added to the Canada Memory of the World Register, a UNESCO program showcasing the international documentary heritage's most significant elements. Abbott (1837–1913) was the first Canadian-born physician of national and international fame.

FAN, a student-led organization for studio art and art history, has partnered with **Archival and Special Collections** on the **Barbie Box Project**, in the **U of Guelph McLaughlin Library**. This new initiative showcases the program's student work.

"Emancipated, but not free" was the theme of this year's **Emancipation Day** event, organized by Western U's MLIS students and held at **London PL Central Branch**. Professor Anton Allahar gave a short, provocative, talk reflecting on Canadian Black and Indigenous people's current realities.

Vivienne James worked at TPL for more than 25 years, was Branch

Head of Queen Saulters, 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



The theme of the May 26 2023, 90th Annual Conference of l'Association des bibliothécaires du Québec – Quebec Library Association (ABQLA) was Happy Returns/Retrouvailles.



It was held at La Grande bibliothèque/ Bibliothèque et archives nationale du Québec. S. Bear Bergman gave the opening keynote address, Justice of the Imagination, and the Power of Celebration. The closing keynote was a "franglais" conversation between a drag queen, Barbada, and a local bookstore owner, Mathieu Lauzon-Dicso.

Amy Buckland, BA (Concordia, '06) and MLIS (McGill, '08), has been appointed librarian, **Concordia University Library**, for a five-year term beginning September 15. She has held positions in the libraries of McGill, U of Chicago, and U of Guelph. Most recently, she directed **Library and Archives Canada's** participation in the National Indigenous Knowledge and Language Alliance.

The ABQLA Anne Galler Award for outstanding contributions to Quebec librarianship went to Joan Harrison, Sacred Heart School of Montreal. The Professional Development Award went to Marco de Petrillo, OmnibiblioPLUS. Sabrina MacGregor, Université de Montréal, received the Anne Hébert Award for student scholarship. Ada Bierling, McGill, also received a Student Scholarship Award. Kristen Goodall and Nicholas Lobraico were

elected dual association presidents.

Pierre Guilmette is a retired librarian, Université Laval.

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

Maritimes News

By Tanja Harrison



The Nova Scotia Community College (NSCC) Libraries and Learning Commons is finalizing the adaptation of a College 101 open textbook to support students in

their academic success and transition to the post-secondary environment. The resource has been adapted from *University 101: Study, Strategize and Succeed* open textbook, originally developed by Kwantlen Polytechnic University. Despite the importance of equal access to education via open educational resources, Maritimes governments continue to pass on budget funding. Follow the growth of the library initiative at [AtlanticOER](#).

The University of King's College Archives were given Sylvia Hamilton's papers, related to her time teaching with the King's School of Journalism. Born in Nova Scotia, Hamilton is a filmmaker, writer, artist, and activist, and now Inglis Professor at King's. Known for many works including *The Little Black Schoolhouse* — her documentary about racially segregated schools in Canada — she is also a keynote speaker at the Universities Studying Slavery conference this fall. The finding aids created with fonds details will soon be uploaded to [MemoryNS](#).

The Robertson Library at University of Prince Edward Island, in partnership with the PEI Museum & Heritage Foundation, has loaded the 2008–2019 issues of *Island Magazine*, now accessible through the growing [Island Archives](#) web portal.

All Prince Edward Island Public Library branches partnered with the

Museum and Heritage Foundation this summer to offer Discover PEI: Heritage Passes, giving free admission for each family to seven different heritage sites in the province.

Once again, the PEI Public Library Service offers another innovation, with patrons now able to take home a Kobo Libra 2 eReader for browsing and downloading their growing collection of e-books.

Little-known, but growing, provincial library offerings in French are available online. Services, programming, and materials also exist at three francophone library branches — Abram-Village PL in Wellington, Dr. J. Edmond-Arsenault PL in Charlottetown, and J. Henri-Blanchard PL in Summerside.

New Brunswick's 63 PLs have joined those in sister provinces, Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island, to stock their branches with free period products. New Brunswick's Women's Equality Minister Sherry Wilson says the products will be included in the libraries' future operating budgets. The recent publication of *Universities on Fire*, by Georgetown U futurist Bryan Alexander, sparked an opinion piece by Donald Wright, University of New Brunswick (UNB) political science professor, in the June 6 issue of *University Affairs*. In the piece, he considers university-building names, including UNB's Harriet Irving Library, and writes, "in a climate crisis, can the intellectual centre of a university be named after the matriarch of an oil and gas family?" Numerous campuses and institutions have renamed their buildings when they pay tribute to controversial figures. UNB student advocates may prevail, but, regardless, there's no better place than a library to have these important conversations.

Acadia University Dean of Libraries and Archives Heather Saunders is on leave; Jennifer Richard has been appointed acting dean, until January 31, 2024. Former university librarian at Mount Saint Vincent University, Tanja Harrison, is on administrative leave, with Denyse Rodrigues appointed interim university librarian, until December 31, 2023. Allie Fulford was

appointed acting associate dean of Resources and head, **Sexton Design and Technology Library**, Dalhousie, until February 29, 2024. Mark Lewis is the new chief law librarian at the **Sir James Dunn Law Library**, Dalhousie, effective July 1, 2023. Greg Hayward is the newest Nova Scotia Community College Pictou Campus librarian, and Chris Sheehy has moved into a term position as the Lunenburg Campus librarian.

Tanja Harrison is University Librarian at Mount Saint Vincent University.

Newfoundland & Labrador News

By Dick Ellis



The Newfoundland and Labrador Public Libraries (NLPL) have implemented NLPL Connect Pass, a booking portal to a variety of cultural and recreational sites

across the province. The program is based on the ePass software in use at **New York PL**, offering users free family passes to participating partner organizations. It is also similar to a program (MAP Pass) operated by **Toronto PL**, but offers print-it-yourself passes and includes a wider variety of venues including sports teams (such as Growlers Hockey, and Newfoundland Rogues Basketball), outdoor recreation venues (such as Nordic ski clubs and provincial parks), several theatre companies, and Newfoundland Symphony Orchestra concerts, as well as museums and art galleries. In its first week of operation, the program generated 1,400 new library cards.

In addition to general access, the program offers a progressive social policy aspect, given that NLPL's Connect Pass provides larger numbers of passes and special privileges (for borrowing library materials and using library facilities) for organizations that provide services supporting newcomers, youth at risk, Indigenous communities,

and other potential participants who might be facing structural barriers to accessing the program.

Dick Ellis is Librarian Emeritus at Memorial University.

News from the North

By Julie Ourom



Whitehorse PL weathered a **challenge to a book** described by some as “blatantly transphobic;” the title remains on the shelf, but the staff selection process has

been refined. The library hosted **Eliza Robertson**, Berton House author-in-residence, to share her exploration (with Myles Dolphin) into an unresolved Yukon murder case from the early 1990s, *I Got a Name: The Murder of Kyrstal Senyk*. In July **Whitehorse PL** reduced public hours and suspended children’s programs, due to staffing challenges. Concurrently, **Yukon PLs** moved to a new ILS, offering enhanced features to library users throughout the territory. The **CBC Kids Book Club** went live at **Whitehorse PL**, in May, and featured two Yukon books: *Shëtsey (My Grandpa)* by Georgette McLeod and *The Yukon Alphabet Book* by Tedd Tucker.

In collaboration with CBC North, **Yellowknife PL** offered introductory journalism sessions to youth.

The **Iqaluit Centennial Library** assisted the community by closing one day in May to host a Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls public event. **Children’s throat-singing lessons** returned to the library.

Festivals are back! In early June the **NorthWords Writers Festival** took place in Yellowknife. Children’s Book Week was celebrated using a hybrid format to reach children across the North — in person and virtually. **The Yukon Writers’ Festival** returned in early May, with a roster of touring authors.

NWT Centennial Library in Hay River offered Beach Books Storytime, joining kids at the beach each week to enjoy summer together.

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.

News from Canadian Library/Information Studies Schools

Compiled by Judy Dunn



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

By Kenneth Gariepy
SLIS extends warmest

congratulations to the 52 MLIS graduates of 2022, who convoked on June 15, 2023. During the June 15th ceremony, in the Northern Alberta Jubilee Auditorium, Dean of Education **Dr. Jennifer Tupper** presented family entertainer **Fred Penner** with an honorary Doctor of Letters. To everyone’s delight, he performed several of his best-known songs including “The Cat Came Back.” On July 1 esteemed SLIS faculty member **Dr. Ali Shiri** was reappointed as Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research Vice-Dean for another term, and SLIS began the next chapter of its three decade-long history as one of its administrative units within the Faculty of Education. The other units are the Aboriginal Teacher Education Program, the English Language School, and the Professional Learning Unit.

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

By Guy Robertson

Three recent graduates — **Emma Metcalfe Hurst, Charlotte Leonard, and Claire Asquith**

Finnegan — have received a City of Vancouver Award for Living Heritage for their creation of an oral history and community archives project, *Coming out of Chaos: A Vancouver Dance Story*. From June to August, the UBC Workplace Sustainability department and the iSchool hosted the School of Information Great Canadian Beach & Park Cleanup, during which SLAIS and local community volunteers collected trash in public spaces, including those near the university, with prizes given to those who collected the most. Visiting Associate Professor of Teaching, **Dr. Olivier St. Cyr**, who is researching tipping trends, has noted a trend of higher tipping percentages in restaurants and other businesses when using tablets and other devices, as well as a backlash. Reasons for these trends include the COVID-19 pandemic and the Hawthorne Effect (behaviour modification when being watched).

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

By Becky Blue

FIMS was thrilled to host Western’s first Bibliometrics and Research Impact Summer School for African academic librarians. Thirteen participants from across Africa visited the campus, from June 26 to 29, to attend classes led by facilitators from Western and other universities. The librarians also toured a number of libraries within the Western Libraries and the London Public Library systems, and interacted with current MLIS students. FIMS Professor **Isola Ajiferuke** conceived and organized this faculty-funded summer school. This fall FIMS welcomed new LIS faculty member **Shengnan Yang**, who joined us after completing her doctoral studies at the Indiana University’s Luddy School of Informatics, Computing and Engineering. Yang brings expertise in ICTs, digital civil society, and (mis)information policy. Welcome Professor Yang!

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

By Ann Brocklehurst

Dr. **Javed Mostafa**, an expert in information science (particularly information-retrieval problems) has been hired as full professor and FI dean, for a five-year term starting this September. Dr. Mostafa comes to us from the University of North Carolina (UNC) at Chapel Hill where he served as a professor and the director of an interdisciplinary informatics training program called the Carolina Health Informatics Program (CHIP), that oversaw collaboration among seven UNC academic units. FI also welcomes seven new professors: **Nada Almasri**, Associate Professor, Teaching Stream (CLTA) – Information Systems; **Maher Elshakankiri**, Assistant Professor, Teaching Stream – Information Systems; **Maggie Hutcheson**, Assistant Professor, Teaching Stream – Museum Studies; **Vera Khovanskaya**, Assistant Professor – User Experience Design/Human-Computer Interaction; **Velian Pandeliev**, Assistant Professor, Teaching Stream – User Experience Design; **Silvia Vong**, Assistant Professor, Teaching Stream – Library and Information Science; and **Tao Wang**, Assistant Professor, Teaching Stream (CLTA) – Information Systems.

University of Ottawa, School of Information Studies

By André Vellino

Last fall we welcomed our largest cohort of new students on campus to in-person instruction. This fall we are again expecting a record number of incoming students. Post-pandemic, more students are inquiring about both our diploma and master's programs, as they look for educational credentials to help them effectively transition to meaningful careers and full-time employment. In one of our newest collaborative teaching partnerships with the National Arts Centre (NAC) archival staff,

students conducted original source-based research, reflecting critically on the sources collected in the archives, the productions staged, and the policy impact on decisions made over NAC's history. Professor **Mary Cavanagh** has concluded her three-year term as the school chair. Dr. **André Vellino** has been appointed as her successor, effective July 1, 2023.

McGill University, School of Information Studies

By Peter F. McNally

Following completion of a six-month sabbatical, professor **Joan Bartlett** was appointed director, with a three-year term, effective July 1, 2023. With a BSc, MLS, and PhD from U of T, she joined the school's faculty in 2004. Her research areas are bioinformatics and biomedical information, information interaction, information literacy, and information seeking and use. Funded by a Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council Insight Grant, her current project is Metaliteracy for well-being: Design criteria for information systems. Professor **Kimiz Dalkir**, who served as director from 2016 to 2023, is embarking on a one-year sabbatical.

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

By Isabelle Bourgey and Martin Bélanger

A UNESCO Chair in Open Science has been created to promote the accessibility of research results to the general public. **Vincent Larivière**, EBSI full professor, will direct this chair, which aims to extend UNESCO's efforts in favour of open science. On June 1, 2023, we were very pleased to welcome **Annaëlle Winand** as an adjunct professor. Her current research interests focus on the archival unconceived, and alternative and community archives. We are delighted to announce the reappointment of full professor **Lyne Da Sylva** as director for a four-year term, from June 1, 2023,

to May 31, 2027. Spring is also the time for the job-placement survey for master's degree in information sciences graduates. Once again this year, the figures are very good, with 91.3 percent of respondents employed at survey time.

Dalhousie University, Faculty of Management, Department of Information Science

By Sandra Toze

As of July 1, 2023, the Faculty of Management has a new structure. The programs we offer, including our Master of Information (MI), the scholarship and research of faculty and students, and the connection to our community, is not changing. Our alumni continue to be integral to who we are and what we do; many have provided support during the restructure consultations, and we thank them for their input. Instead of schools, we will be organized into eight departments to facilitate greater access for our students to courses and faculty, support interdisciplinary work, and be more collaborative in program delivery. We look forward to our next generation of students and scholarship, and will continue to celebrate the people, research, and accomplishments that have contributed to who we are now. If you have questions, please reach out to me (stoze@dal.ca). We wish to congratulate Drs. **Sandra Toze** and **Philippe Mongeon**, who have been awarded tenure and promotion.

To save space

ELAN will include only awards and appointments of national importance and high relevance to our members. Look for these in the news sections.

A Canadian awards page is now available on ELA's website at exlibris.ca/doku.php?id=award:list_of_canadian_library_awards.

Milestones



Obituaries

Compiled by Frances Davidson-Arnott and Bob Henderson

Barbara Ruth Charlotte Adams died June 19, 2023, age 49, in London, ON. MLIS (UBC, '01). She was a children's librarian at Vancouver PL then, from 2002, at Toronto PL. In 2005 she moved to London PL as a children's librarian at the Sherwood and Landon branches, becoming branch supervisor at East London branch until 2020.

Dixie Lynn Alkier died June 19, 2023, age 76, in Waterloo, ON. MLS (McGill). She worked for many years as a librarian.

Joan Elaine Andersen died Nov 9, 2022, age 73, in Vancouver. MLS (UBC). She had a career as a CBC journalist and sat on **Vancouver PL's Board** (1978–1983) and became board chair (2003–2010).

Fr. Gordon Alva Bean died May 3, 2023, age 93, in Thornhill, ON. He served the parishes of St. Brigid (Toronto) and St. Margaret (Midland), before his appointment as librarian at St. Augustine's Seminary. Later he pursued teaching and academic administration at the former Ryerson U.

Lois M. Bewley (née Crook) died August 28, age 97, in Vancouver. BLS (U of T, '49) MSLS (U of Illinois, '66). She joined the UBC library faculty in 1969, staying until retirement. She was a strong advocate of free public library service in Canada and the legislation to make it possible, and a defender of intellectual freedom. A recipient of many awards, she was president of BCLA and CLA, and was also an ELA member. For more detail about Lois, see the [ELA website](#).

Jean-Rémi Brault died April 30, 2023, age 96, in Cowansville, QC. U Montreal ('69). A leading figure in Quebec librarianship, he was director of the Bibliothèque nationale du Québec (1974–1985).

Carol Maureen Burnham-Cook died June 11, 2023, age 80, in Toronto. U of T, U of A. She was a health librarian with Willow Breast Cancer Support, retiring in 2006, and active in THLA.

Norma Elizabeth Burns died June 7, 2023, age 98, in Kingston, ON. Her employment at the university library was the start of her lifelong interest in library work. She received her degree in Library Science (U of Ottawa), while raising four children, and enjoyed a long career as a research librarian.

Margaret Cockshutt died July 9, 2023, age 96, in Toronto. BLS (U of T, '49), MLS (U of T, '64). Professor Emerita Cockshutt was librarian and cataloguing instructor at U of T, School of Library Science (1949–1964), taught full-time, and active in the faculty administration (1984–1987), including as associate dean, retiring in 1992. She was a longtime ELA member. For a personal tribute, see the [ELA website](#).

Bryan Eldon Corbett died April 1, 2023, age 75, in Edmonton. BA, history (U of Saskatchewan, '69), Certificate in Archives Administration and Practice ('70) through a joint program at Carleton U and Public Archives of Canada (PAC), MA (Carleton, '73). He began his career with PAC and finished it with U of Alberta as chief archivist, retiring in 2013. Bryan was an Association of Canadian Archivists founding member, serving as secretary and president and making many contributions to the archival community: Archives Society of Alberta, Edmonton Chapter of ARMA, Society of American Archivists Education Committee, ACA representative to the UNESCO Canadian Commission, and International Council of Archives executive member.

Barb Dean died April 28, 2023, age 76, in Prince George, BC. MLS (UBC). She was a well-known children's librarian at Prince George PL for 30-plus years.

Shirley-Ann Desrosiers died May 26, 2023, age 76, in Kelowna, BC. She began her career in the British Columbia Provincial Archives and continued as a provincial librarian in the BC Ministries of Lands, Parks and Housing; Environment; and Parks, where she built

a small collection of journals and books into a vast, well-staffed resource used by professionals, province- and Canada-wide.

Nancy Lorraine Edmonds died April 2, 2023, age 87, in Brockville, ON. MLS (McGill, '84). After working and travelling abroad, she and her husband started an antiquarian book business in Morrisburg, ON.

Susan Everall died June 2, 2023. She worked for more than 30 years at Vancouver PL, beginning as a librarian in 1980, working at various branch libraries, eventually becoming a neighbourhood service manager.

Lise Fortier died June 2, 2023, age 47, in Saskatoon. MLIS (Dalhousie). She worked at Saskatoon PL for more than 25 years.

Edward Joseph Hanus died July 7, 2022, age 97, in Charlottetown. He was a librarian at UPEI (1969–1994) until retirement.

Justin Sainte (né Taras Haraschuk) died March 29, 2023, age 74, in Michigan. MLS (U of T, '75). He was chief librarian at King City PL and, later, Midland PL. He was Ontario Library Association's Librarian of the Year in 1991.

Sheila Erin Hathorn died March 21, 2023, age 79, in Toronto. LIT (Seneca, '98). She worked at the Great Library at Osgoode Hall, then for the Provincial Legislature at Queen's Park. While working full-time, she went to college to earn a Library and Information Technician diploma.

John Brian Henley died August 14, 2023, age 75, in Hamilton, ON. He joined Hamilton PL in 1973 and later led its Special Collections for many years. An archivist, author and *Spectator* columnist, he hosted a spot on CHCH News, all focusing on Hamilton history.

Kaye Kishibe died April 28, 2023, age 85, in Toronto. He was a librarian, then head of Technical Services at Toronto PL.

Régis Lessard died May 15, 2023, age 101, in Quebec City. L'Université de Montréal, library science ('66). He retired from l'Université Laval in 1989.

Kathleen Makepeace died February 26, 2023, age 94, in Kingston, ON. Degrees in Home Economics and Library Science (U of Manitoba). She worked in private and public libraries in Winnipeg, Toronto, and Great Britain. Later, she worked part-time at the Douglas Library reference desk (Queen's) and at Kingston PL.

Helen Elizabeth McCuaig died April 30, 2023, age 100, in Ottawa. MLIS (Western). She first worked as a secretary in Vancouver for ICAO and Douglas Paper and, then, at External Affairs, with postings in Caracas, Dublin, Stockholm, and Saigon. In 1965 she left External Affairs, earned a BA (Carleton) and an MLS. Her last job was librarian at Environment Canada.

Mary "Katherine" McKenney died May 3, 2023, age 83, in Calgary. BA (McMaster). Katherine was a homemaker before going back to school to become a librarian, becoming a legal librarian at Bishop & McKenzie LLP, until retirement.

Dallas Mclean-Lowe died May 10, 2023, age 75, in Mississauga, ON. BA, MLS (U of T). She worked at U of T Erindale College for 27 years, as the librarian archivist.

Elizabeth Mitchell died July 17, 2023, age 77, in Belleville, ON. Elizabeth spent her working life as an information services librarian at the Belleville PL.

Margaret Elizabeth Newall, OC, died July 8, 2023, age 86, in Toronto. She was a teacher, a serious reader, and a respected and decorated volunteer, also helping to build Roxboro's first PL in Montreal.

Madeleine Ollivier died Sept 7, 2022, age 90, in Gatineau, QC. Library Science (McGill). She worked as a librarian at Ottawa PL for many years.

Helen Frances Rogers died August 15, 2023, age 96, in Ottawa. Library science degree (McGill, '64). She worked at the NRC and the predecessors of Library and Archives Canada, and was SDI division chief at retirement.

Matthew Scholtz died June 19, 2023, age 77, in Tillsonburg, ON. MLS (Western, '70). He was chief librarian of the Tillsonburg PL (1970–2010) until

retirement. He founded and became the first chairperson of the Association of Small Public Libraries of Ontario (1980) and served on many area and provincial library committees. He was an active ELA member and contributor to *ELAN*. See [ELA's website](#) for tributes.

Lillian Simpson (Leah Katz) died June 26, 2023, age 92, in Victoria. She earned an Honours degree in English and Religion, and studied librarianship (Concordia).

Christine Maria Sochocky died June 12, 2023, age 84, in Toronto. PhD, Library Sciences (U of Pittsburgh), with a dissertation on the impact of Glasnost on Soviet librarianship. She returned to Montreal and, later, Toronto, where she was involved in the St. Nicholas Ukrainian Catholic Church parish library.

Hazel Starling died August 2, 2023, age 96, in Vancouver. After graduating from UBC in Education and later in Librarianship, Hazel spent more than 30 years as a teacher and librarian.

Jennifer Ellen Stephen died April 28, 2023, age 44. MLIS (Western). She worked at Vaughan PL for many years and, recently, became director of Customer Experience at Oakville PL.

Ellen Tom died April 26, 2023, age 82, in Burlington, ON. Library Science (U of T). She was head of Technical Services, U of Guelph Library, for 34 years and instrumental in the transition of extensive library data to computer.

Dr. Kathleen Toomey died July 27, 2023, age 86, in Montreal. MLS and MA (McGill, '67 and '85); PhD, History (Edinburgh). She was the music librarian, McGill's Marvin Duchow Music Library (1967–1985) and, later, a history bibliographer at McGill's Humanities and Social Sciences Library, contributing within professional organizations. She was Librarian Emerita from 2009.

Doris W. E. Trute died January 7, 2023. BLS (McGill '64). She was a librarian with the Protestant School Board of Greater Montreal.

Helena Vesely died July 18, 2023, age 76, in Ottawa. MLS (Western). She studied

Library and Information at the prestigious Charles University, Prague, in the mid-sixties.

Reuben Ware died August 13, 2023, in Vancouver. An archivist beginning in the 1970s with the then Provincial Archives of BC, he made his mark as director of Records Management, leading early development of BC's Administrative Records Classification System. His career took him to NS, Harvard U, and the City of Vancouver, until his retirement in 2007. For more information on his impressive career, see: <https://www.proquest.com/openview/a238509101d80928f1d595e59f00b44a/1?pq-origsite=gscholar&cbl=28071>.

Dr. George "Qingzhi" Zhao died August 20, 2023, age 63, in Toronto. He was the Chinese Original Cataloguer and Reference Specialist at the Cheng Yu Tung East Asian Library, U of T, for 22 years, and contributed to two of the library's significant publications.

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=history:memories-and-tributes, provides more information celebrating the lives of our members.



Retirements

Compiled by
Suzette Giles

Cathy Chisholm, Cape Breton U's liaison librarian (since 1997) for the School of Education and Health and School of Nursing, retired May 31, 2023. She holds a BA (St. Francis Xavier U) and an MLIS (Western).

June Hicks, assistant head, Access Services at the Ralph Pickard Bell Library, Mount Allison U Libraries and Archives, Sackville, NB, retired from the library on July 2023, after nearly 25 years.

Helen Kelly, CEO of Cambridge (ON) Idea Exchange (formerly Cambridge Libraries and Galleries) since 2014, retired in early 2023. In 2009 Kelly came to the Idea Exchange as co-ordinator of Children's Services. Her career began at Brantford PL, followed by more than 20 years at Hamilton PL, where she received the 2008 Hamilton ABEA Individual Early Literacy Education Award. In 2012, while she was co-ordinator of Children's Services, the Idea Exchange was awarded the TD Summer Reading Club Library Award. **Chrissy Hodgins** is the new Idea Exchange CEO.

Carol Laguë, Chef de service / head librarian of Gatineau PL in Quebec, for 20 years, she retired on April 14, 2023. Carole served as Canadian Urban Libraries Council vice-chair (2008–2010), chair (2010–2012), and past-chair (2012–2014).

Trish LeBlanc, Annapolis Valley Campus librarian, Nova Scotia Community College, retired in early June 2023, after nearly 14 years. Following a BSc, Geology (St. Mary's U) and an MLIS (Dalhousie, '92), she joined Innovacorp in 1993. She was an information specialist at the National Research Council (2001–2009), Institute of Ocean Technology, St John's. Chelsea Heighon is the new campus librarian.

Ann Matthewman, chief Shulich Law librarian (from 2010), and Dalhousie U Libraries associate dean of Learning and Teaching (from 2014), retired on June 30, 2023. She was a 2022 American Association of Law Libraries **Hall of Fame Award** recipient. Following a BA (Hons., U of Windsor, '78), she received an MLS (Western, '79) and an MA (U of Windsor, '85). She held positions at the Essex Law Association, Windsor, Chatham PL, and as library manager/executive director, Toronto Lawyers' Association, before joining Dalhousie U Libraries. She has held a number positions at American Association of Law Libraries, as president, Canadian Association of Law Libraries (2007–2009), member, EBSCO Legal Services Advisory Board (2013–present), and at **LLMC Digital** (2014–present). Mark Lewis has been appointed as the new chief law librarian.

Cynthia (Cindy) McKenna retired from the Robertson Library (U of PEI), after almost 35 years in the Instructional Services Unit.

Pam Medland, Airdrie PL director, in Alberta, retired at the end of June 2023, after a 35-year career in public libraries. Following a BA in English (Simon Fraser U) and an MLA and MLIS (U of T), her first position was at Hamilton PL, followed by positions in British Columbia's Kitimat, Vancouver Island and Kelowna PLs, then Calgary PL, before coming to Airdrie, seven years ago. Kelly Lauzon is acting library director/operations manager.

Three longtime librarians of Ontario's North Hastings PL retired in 2023.

Kim McMunn, who was the CEO/head librarian (2018–present), retired on June 26. McMunn began her Ontario library career in 1997, as Carlow Mayo PL head, before becoming CEO/head librarian at Bancroft PL (2001–2011), Hastings Highlands PL (2011–2017), and North Hastings PL. She noted that, while technology has been the biggest change through the years, the provincial funding model hasn't changed in more than 25 years. Debbie Dailey is the new CEO/head librarian. **Beverly Creighton**, librarian/interlibrary loan officer retired in August, after 30 years with the library. After 22 years, **Shirley McRandall**, assistant librarian, will retire at the end of 2023.

Kitty Pope, Ontario's Windsor PL, retired as CEO in April 2023. Dana Paladino, the city's acting director of human resources, is acting CEO.

Meg Raven retired on June 30, 2023, as collections librarian after 31 years with Mount Saint Vincent University Library, Halifax, and has been awarded the designation of librarian emerita. Nicole Slipp is the new collections librarian.

Dr. Sabrina Saunders, CEO of the Town of the Blue Mountains PL (BMPL), a GLAM, in Thornbury, ON, announced her retirement in the summer of 2023, but is continuing until a successor is found. She joined BMPL in 2017 after 10 years as the CEO of the Six Nations PL, Ohsweken, ON. She has several degrees

from Buffalo State U, NY and in 2011 she completed her PhD from OISE – U of T in Theory & Policy Studies. An Ontario-certified elementary teacher, an MLIS graduate (Western '18), and a graduate of the Advancing Public Library Leadership Certificate through Ontario Library Service and the U of Waterloo, she is vice-chair of both the Ontario Public Library Guidelines Accreditation and Monitoring Council and the Federation of Ontario Public Libraries board, and was the 2022 Ontario Library Association president.

Sharon Seward the longest serving staff member at British Columbia's Kimberley PL, retired at the end of April 2023, after 37 years.

Jan Smith, Palliser Regional Library director (2001–2022) in Saskatchewan, retired at the end of 2022. Smith began with Palliser in 1999, and was director since 2001. She received the 2022 Frances Morrison Award, given by the Saskatchewan Library Association for her outstanding service.

Sarah Stevenson, Dalhousie U Libraries, will retire in February 2024. A U of New Brunswick graduate with a BSc, Chemistry ('90), she received an MLIS (Dalhousie, '01), joining the library as physical sciences librarian that year. Associate dean of Archives, Record Management and Special Collections (February 2022–July 2023), she remained head of Killam Memorial Library since 2016. Sarah will be taking some administrative leave until her retirement next year. Elaine MacInnis is acting head, Killam Library.

Patricia (Pat) Townsend, archivist at Vaughan Memorial Library, Acadia U, in Wolfville, N.S., retired in June 2023. At Acadia for 50 years, most recently as archivist for the Esther Clark Wright Archives and Atlantic Baptist Archives, and as head of Special Collections, she continues as Archivist Emerita. Wendy Robicheau is the new archivist.

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

ELA Indigenous-Student Bursary

By Deb Thomas



News of the ELA bursary is out there in the library world! E-mails were sent to all programs of library and archival studies in Canada. Bookmarks and flyers have been made available at in-person conferences. News of the bursary has been distributed to members of CFLA and provincial associations and promoted on our website and Facebook page. We are pleased to report that, thanks to member donations and a generous \$500 donation from Library Bound, we reached our fundraising goal of

\$2800 (\$2500 bursary, \$300 admin fees for Indspire) for the 2023 bursary this spring. We are contacting various corporations that provide services or materials to libraries in hopes of finding another corporate sponsor (or two) for 2024.

Applications for bursaries and scholarships facilitated by Indspire, including ours, open on August 1. Indspire's process is to receive a general application for financial support. Its staff then streamlines the application process so students don't have to do that work themselves. This means they can't tell us how many students have expressed interest in our bursary. However, if students are matched to our award, Indspire will send us an interim report by year-end. If no students are matched until early in 2024, a report will be sent to us in June or July as to which students have

been supported. See <https://indspire.ca/programs/students/bursaries-scholarships/> for more details on the application process. Indspire is also able to leverage government funds through grants and special initiatives, to top up bursary awards for students in financial need.

Note that Indspire also facilitates **mentoring** of students by Indigenous professionals. See if you qualify at: <https://indspire.ca/programs/students/rivers-to-success/become-a-mentor/>, if this interests you.

*If you wish to make an individual or organization donation to the bursary, contact our treasurer, **Bob Henderson** at bob.exlibris@gmail.com.*

*Please contact our president, **Deb Thomas** at thomasde424@gmail.com if you have questions about any aspect of the bursary. ■*

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Visit ELA's Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/ExLibrisAssociation>) for ELA news and current activities, and for library news.

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Ex Libris Association Newsletter

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Carnegie Libraries: Lecture and Tour

By Barbara Kaye



ELA members lunch at The Pilot

On March 14, 2024, a cool and cloudy spring day, a group of enthusiastic ELA members gathered for lunch at a Yorkville restaurant, The Pilot, for a pleasant meal and some great conversation.

After lunch, we walked over to the Toronto Reference Library where Fiona Smith gave a fascinating talk and slide presentation (including recently digitized images of vintage postcards from its Special Collections) on the 111 Carnegie libraries in Ontario. She spoke of the Scottish-American businessman Andrew Carnegie who described the library as a “never-failing spring in the desert,” and outlined his philanthropic work. His grants enabled the building of more than 2,500 public libraries worldwide, including 124 in Canada alone. The Victoria College Library at U of T was the lone Carnegie-funded academic library in Toronto.

Most Carnegie libraries opened in the early 1900s, with the first three Ontario libraries in Chatham, Stratford, and Windsor. Typically designed in the beaux-arts architectural style, Carnegie libraries were generally located downtown, often near town halls and fire halls. During the First World War, building was severely constrained by labour and material shortages. By mid-20th-century, times were more prosperous, but, by then, many libraries were too small to serve growing populations. Sadly, many Carnegie libraries were demolished in the 1960s and 1970s to make way for larger, more modern buildings. Some do remain, either as libraries or cultural centres.

Thanking Fiona, Bob Henderson presented a gift of three personal Carnegie Library postcards that TPL did not have in its collection.

Continued on page 2

...continued from page 1

After that informative presentation, we walked across Yonge Street to visit TPL's **Yorkville Branch**, opened in 1907. The oldest TPL branch, it is also an official heritage site. We were greeted by Branch Head Zoe Johnston who discussed the origins of this library and showed us the changes made over the years. Tall windows let in light at the front where the children's section used to be. This section now occupies a larger space near the back and serves the many young families who have moved into the area recently. The library also houses a large LGBTQ+ collection. There are some challenges: the front-entrance steps limit accessibility (there is an accessible entrance at the side), the building is small (despite ample seating space and an addition made in 1978), and its small programming room has to serve multiple purposes but is unsuited to larger gatherings or events.

Thanks to Vivienne James and Todd Kyle for making all the arrangements for another successful tour offering a wonderful opportunity to be energized and to meet again with our ELA friends!

Barbara Kaye retired in 2009 after a 33-year career in federal government libraries. ■

President's Report

By Deb Thomas



For ELA, its board, and committees 2023 was a busy year.

- We welcomed two new board members: David Harvie and Julia Schneider.
- Our Indigenous Student Bursary was awarded to William Fayant (see the Bursary Committee report on the last page in this issue).
- In October we hosted a webinar on Indigenous Data, Knowledge, and Cultural Sovereignty and Canadian Libraries, with Kayla Lar-Son, Indigenous Programs and Services librarian for UBC's X̱wi7x̱wa Library (see the article by Julia Schneider in this issue, page 10) and a second webinar accompanied

the November AGM, with CFLA-FCAB Intellectual Freedom Committee member Dick Ellis on Intellectual Freedom in Public Libraries (see the article by **Julia Schneider in this issue, page 5**).

- We offered two tours: Toronto Pubic Library's Wychwood Branch, in April, and a virtual tour of Edmonton Public Library's Stanley L. Milner Central Library, in May (see the article by Gladys Watson in *ELAN* No. 74/Fall 2023, page 14).
- We held our AGM on November 6, at which we reviewed our constitution and approved changes. We also heard executive and committee reports.

Continuing activities include Frances Davidson Arnott's leadership in providing this information-packed newsletter twice a year, the administration of our web and Facebook pages by Lorne Bruce and Donna Burton (who is coping ably with the limitations placed by Facebook on linking to Canadian news), and Christina Wilson's shepherding of the W. Kaye Lamb Award. This award was presented to representatives of Innisfil ideaLAB & Library at the OLA Super Conference (see the article by Christina Wilson in this issue, page 4). Christina Wilson, Lorne Bruce, and David Harvie of the Archives & Community Webs Committee, continue to work on archiving our digital files, including *ELAN's* electronic copies. Special thanks to Bob Henderson for his solid management of our finances and our membership records, and our thoroughly competent secretary, Cynthea Penman, for her minute-taking skills. We are a chatty bunch and it's no mean feat to get all the relevant points accurately recorded. And finally, thanks to continuing past president, Tom Eadie, for always lending an ear when I need to sound out an idea or work through a problem.

And in 2024:

A few constitutional changes were put to the membership for approval, at a special meeting on March 5. We presented the year-end financial report for 2023 at this meeting and reviewed our current committee structure.

Go to our website for a list of **board members**.

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

Welcome to New ELA Members

We're proud to welcome these new ELA members:

Allyson Aritcheta, Toronto
 Dianne Bell, Kamloops, BC
 Haley Brant, Tyendinaga, ON
 Emma Brommer, St. Marys, ON
 Cathy Burke, Mississauga, ON
 Moriah Campbell, Toronto
 CFLA-FCAB, North Bay, ON
 CVS Midwest Tape, Toronto
 William Fayant, Regina
 Charles Gordon-Allen, Toronto
 Susan M. Hart, Victoria
 Casey Hoeve, Hamilton, ON
 James Hope Howard, Air Ronge, SK
 Melanie Kindrachuk, Stratford, ON
 Fiona Kovacaj, Toronto
 Madeleine Lefebvre, Sidney, BC
 Hedwig Mallory, Richmond Hill, ON
 Mike McCaffrey, Hamilton, ON
 Quipu Group, Denver, CO
 Beth Ross, Goderich, ON
 Carmen Konigsreuther Socknat, Toronto
 Catherine Spence, Toronto
 Miriam Ticoll, Toronto
 Sarah Van Sickle, Vaughan, ON

Corrections

Starting with *ELAN* No. 71/Spring 2022, any corrections have been/will be made to the digital issues on our website.

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

By Todd Kyle



The new CFLA-FCAB board of directors was confirmed at its recent AGM as follows: Andrea Cecchetto (Ontario representative, appointed as chair),

Laura Winton (Alberta, vice-chair), Mary-Jo Romaniuk (CARL, treasurer), Mélanie Raymond (Francophone Associations, secretary), Ann Smith (Atlantic), Tracey Therrien (British Columbia), Monika Machacek (CULC), Lorisia MacLeod (Indigenous Ancestry), Nora Hehemann (Northern Territories), and Emily Jaeger-McEnroe (Quebec). The position of prairie-provinces representative is presently unfilled. The new Climate Action Committee has been formed with Lita Barrie as chair and Shevaun Ruby as vice-chair. A work plan is in development and may feature a survey of members' priorities.

CFLA-FCAB and its Intellectual Freedom Committee (IFC) continue to be concerned with threats to the freedom to read in Canadian libraries (see the CFLA-FCAB IFC report, below). The board drafted a letter urging the federal government to take a firm stance against censorship in schools and public libraries by invoking Section 2(b) of the *Charter of Rights and Freedoms*, which says "Everyone has the following fundamental freedoms: [...] (b) freedom of thought, belief, opinion and expression, including freedom of the press and other media of communication." The letter was sent to related federal ministers, such as the Minister of Heritage, and members were provided with a letter template to send their own similar message.

CFLA-FCAB is partnering with the Centre for Free Expression to cooperate on a single, joint database of challenges to Canadian library materials, programs, displays, and room rentals (see CFLA-FCAB IFC report, below). CFLA-FCAB will maintain an historical archive of

anonymous challenges for research purposes.

CFLA awarded its Intellectual Freedom Award to Dr. James Turk, the director of the Centre for Free Expression at Toronto Metropolitan University. Dr. Turk was presented with the award at the Ontario Library Association Super Conference in January 2024. CFLA also presented the 2023 W. Kaye Lamb Award for Innovative Services to Seniors to Innisfil ideaLAB and Library for its program to distribute activity kits to combat social isolation (see the article by Christina Wilson in this issue, page 4).

Finally, CFLA has released its new Strategic Plan 2023–2027 and presented it at the OLA Super Conference.

ELA is a CFLA-FCAB member.

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

CFLA-FCAB Intellectual Freedom Committee (IFC)

By Dick Ellis

For this **committee** 2024 has been an active year. In the last few months, several of the projects underway at the time of the annual report have come to fruition.

Dr. James Turk, director of the Centre for Free Expression (CFE) at Toronto Metropolitan University has received the first **CFLA-FCAB Intellectual Freedom Award** for his lifetime concern with intellectual freedom issues and the recent creation of a strong library sector in the CFE.

In January a memo of understanding was signed between **CFLA-FCAB and the CFE** concerning the future Canadian

Library Challenges Database, presently hosted by the CFE. The agreement paves the way for the addition of data from CFLA-FCAB's Challenges Survey to the joint database of challenges to Canadian library materials, programs, displays, and room rentals. Provision was made for handling data submitted to the Challenges Survey under the policy of not identifying libraries that reported incidents. CFLA-FCAB will maintain an historical archive of anonymous challenges for research purposes.

The recent agreement between l'Association des bibliothèques publiques du Québec (ABPQ) and CFLA-FCAB

will be honoured, and Quebec data will be added to the database accordingly.

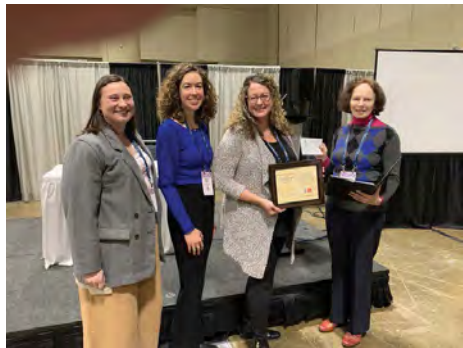
The entry of Challenges Survey data, going back to 2006, is expected to take place over the summer.

In February Wendy Wright, director of Smithers PL, B.C., stepped down as IFC chair, and Mike Nyby of W. Ross Macdonald School for the Blind, vice-chair, stepped into the role. The new vice-chair is Marc Saunders, director of the Port Moody PL, B.C.

Dick Ellis is Librarian Emeritus at Memorial University. ■

2023 W. Kaye Lamb Award: Introducing Innisfil ideaLAB & Library, Recipient for Innovative Services to Seniors

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



Accepting the award are, from left, Kathryn Schoutsen, Director of Community Development and Advocacy; Jocelyn Martin, Library Programming and Outreach; Erin Scuccimarri, CEO, Innisfil ideaLAB & Library; and Christina Wilson, ELA, W. Kaye Lamb Awards Committee Chair
Photo credit: Tom Eadie

Innisfil ideaLAB & Library won the 2023 W. Kaye Lamb Award for Service to Seniors for its Kits and Community: Activity Kits for Older Adults program.

Innisfil ideaLAB & Library's mission statement reads, "Libraries are powerful places that can transform communities by connecting people with one another and the broader community through technology, information, and art." The Activity Kits for Older Adults program epitomizes its efforts to be "... a dynamic, innovative community hub providing opportunities for learning, discovery, gathering, and fun for all."

Through this successful program, the library provides kits to seniors to encourage social participation, shared experiences, and continuous co-learning. Kits that change monthly include various items, so the contents, curated by library staff, are in keeping with community need and interest. The kits may include seasonal crafting supplies, materials such as hand-held exercise equipment

that supports a more active lifestyle, or even self-care supplies. The crafting kits include pre-made crafts designed to bring the library's program into the home. All supplies are included, and each kit contains all the necessary laser-cut, vinyl-cut or electronics pieces, created by library staff. Also included in each kit is community information to connect seniors with important accessible and available community resources.

HackLAB Kits for Seniors are available free through the library's website. The library seeks donations and grant partnerships to support the project over coming years and keep the kits free of charge for Innisfil's seniors.



Seniors work on an activity in the library
Photo credit: Innisfil ideaLAB & Library



Seniors meet at a home to work
Photo credit: Innisfil ideaLAB & Library

By tapping into seniors' shared interests, the program keeps participants active and engaged in their community. Its good reception is evidenced by its uptake — since the program began in 2020, 8,974 kits have been used to complete individual projects by Innisfil's seniors. The photographs show participants using the kits to work together socially, rebuilding their connections as they complete a task.

According to Innisfil ideaLAB & Library's CEO Erin Scuccimarri, "We have heard from the seniors' community how grateful people are for the monthly

kits, and the demand for the kits is consistently high. These efforts have ensured that our customers have been able to remain connected and engaged while creating new friendships."

The 2023 W. Kaye Lamb Committee includes ELA members: Donna Burton, ELA board; Todd Kyle; Christina Wilson, ELA board; and CFLA-FCAB board member Ann Smith. The committee acknowledges the assistance of Michael/Michelle Rogowski, office co-ordinator, CFLA-FCAB.

*Named for Canada's first National Librarian, the **W. Kaye Lamb Award** — co-sponsored by ELA and CFLA-FCAB — recognizes outstanding innovative and excellent library service to seniors. Open to any Canadian library — private, public, governmental, special or postsecondary — it is awarded biennially when merited. Recipients receive an award plaque and a \$500 cash prize. The next intake for this national award is October 5, 2025.*

— Visit the [ELA website](https://www.ela.ca) for details of the application process.

For more information, contact me at:
chriswilson@shaw.ca.

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



ELA booth at the OLA Super Conference
Photo credit: Christina Wilson

Is the Sky Falling?

By Julia Schneider

Richard Ellis's presentation of the challenges facing intellectual freedom in today's libraries — *Is the Sky Falling?* — left attendees with the sense not only that it is, but that the ground is also shaking. Insightful, challenging, and disturbing, Richard's talk that followed the virtual AGM on November 6, 2023, compared traditional challenges with those multiplying now.

The differences are fundamental, he said. In the less-contentious, more-grounded past, individuals brought complaints to the library and these complaints were usually dealt with there, through reference to collections policies, statements of intellectual freedom, and professional practice.

This is no longer the case. In recent years, complaints have tended to come to the library by way of school boards and municipal councils, having been formulated by groups with political agendas informed by conspiracy theories, conservative values, and a deep distrust of the very tenets of intellectual freedom. These groups condemn teaching about

sex in the classroom and its depiction in books, and deplore drag performances as kid-grooming. Education on all such matters, they say, belongs at home.

This presents a major problem for librarians, who are bound to respect all public opinion. Librarians across the profession, Richard said, tend to avoid conflict, so challenges that are unresponsive to statements included in the statement of human rights, and which treat intellectual freedom as an oppressive theory of the neo-liberal state, are difficult to answer. Librarians are put into a problematic situation of having to acknowledge the rights of groups that themselves refuse to respect the rights of other citizens based on differences.

This being a relatively new phenomenon, librarians are struggling to find a way to deal with it. Richard spoke of demographic factors that affect the threat — and that these factors are not something the profession can control. Librarians can, however, stand firm in their professional beliefs — even when the ground may seem to be crumbling

underfoot.

Some intellectual-freedom strategies Richard suggested are to:

- engage everyone,
- build collections comprehensively,
- reject exclusion,
- cultivate the curious library patrons,
- forego parades, as they only incite stand-offs, and
- have faith.

Judging by the questions and comments, Richard's presentation left participants grateful for its level-headed and wide-ranging sense of the challenges they face and for its affirmation of the value of standing firm for intellectual freedom.

To see the full PowerPoint presentation, visit the [ELA website](#).

Julia Schneider (B.Ed. Queen's; MLS Western, '75; MA Waterloo; B Journalism, King's College) has worked in school and prison libraries, and classrooms around the world. She is an ELA board member. ■

ELA Biography Project Update

By Lorne D. Bruce

During 2023 we began adding living biographies to the [ELA biography project](#) on the website. There are now almost 150 biographies — the largest existing collection of biographic information on Canadian librarians, archivists, and people associated with these libraries and archives. In the past year, individuals' portraits and images were added to some biographies.

As an additional feature, the website's [in memoriam](#) section is beginning to fill with tributes (almost 20 in the past three years) to recently deceased ELA members, with the option for members to post statements about their former friends.

I would like to thank Trudy Bodak for all her work over the years. Trudy

has edited and contributed biographies (such as the recent bio of Margaret Cockshutt) and kept the website current. We are always getting suggestions and contributions from members. Last year Bernard Katz contributed biographies of two university librarians: Flora Francis and Florence Patridge. Rick Ficek, who wrote the Richard Moses biography, and Barbara Clubb, who added the Jean Weihs biography, are committee members currently contributing their time to this ELA project. To keep our momentum going, I invite other ELA members to contribute to the project. We have some listings of potential biographies that people could tackle — public librarians, such as Penny McKee and Stanley Beacock, or prominent people, such as Jean-Pierre Wallot, the

National Archivist, or Liana Van Der Bellen and Janette White.

As ELA members, you may be able to help us with these biographies or know of someone who could help. Can you help add these or other important librarians in our history? If you can help in any way, please contact me at lbruce@uoguelph.ca.

For more information, visit:

<https://www.exlibris.ca/doku.php?id=history:canadian-librarians-biographies> and <https://www.exlibris.ca/doku.php?id=history:memories-and-tributes>.

Lorne D. Bruce was a librarian at the University of Guelph, retiring in 2012. He previously worked in two public libraries. ■

Robarts Commons Tour

By Sally Press



Photo credits: Frances Davidson-Arnott (above), Sally Press (at right)

On a chilly Monday morning, November 13, 2023, ELA members gathered at the University of Toronto Robarts Library Commons, on the corner of Harbord and Huron streets. Vivienne James, who organized the tour, was waiting to welcome us. There were eight participants (including two husbands) and all of us had memories of the old Robarts Library. Our guide, **Jesse Carliner**, introduced himself and then asked us to introduce ourselves. We did, describing our years of library experience in different areas. We sat on wooden auditorium-style benches, with lots of light filtering in from the windows on all sides, while Jesse outlined of our tour for the morning, starting in the Commons area. In 2008, he explained, U of T Libraries began an expansion. Phase 1 lasted from 2008 to 2012. Phase 2 of the Revitalization Plan added the

Commons, which has no collections, but provides enough study space to accommodate up to 1,800 students on a peak day (an additional 1,200 study spaces and an extra 50,000 square feet). This addition's benefactors were Drs. Russell and Katherine Morrison, and it opened in 2022. During peak exam times, the Commons is open 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Jesse took us through the Commons, where we saw students at work in open areas, study carrels, and meeting rooms. He pointed out the furniture that can be rearranged as needed for different groups to work together (and sometimes use for their own purposes).

He explained how the Commons is linked to the main Robarts Library through bridges on the second through fourth floors, and we walked across the bridge to the fourth floor to look around the Reading Room, which has been transformed. The new design is based on

elegance and inclusivity, and the views are spectacular. Wood and acoustic metal panels dampen sound, and wood and natural furnishings provide a warm ambiance. (No sign, though, of books or card catalogues!)

We then descended to the first floor to see the 50th-anniversary exhibit, which included some very interesting reminders of past issues and grievances, as well as the history of the library and its chief librarians.



Following the tour, some of us made our way to the Hart House Gallery Grill for a very pleasant lunch and conversation. Many thanks to Vivienne for arranging this tour.

For more information about Robarts Library at 50, go to: <https://features.library.utoronto.ca/robarts50/news/index.html>.

Sally Press retired to Kingston, Ont., in 2018, after working in academic, special, and government libraries in Southern Africa and Ontario from 1976 to 2017. ■

Upcoming Events

Webinar: In May Guy Robertson presents *Disaster Planner Considers the Future for Libraries*. This webinar will include a discussion of recent ransomware attacks such as that suffered by Toronto Public Library. Details will be announced on the listserv and on our website.

2025 Ex Libris AGM: Date TBA. More details will be announced on the listserv, in the next issue of *ELAN* and on our website.

Tours: Watch our Listserv for information about our next ELA Tour.

ELAN in Electronic Format

For members who wish to receive future *ELAN* issues in an electronic format, please contact

Bob Henderson at
bob.exlibris@gmail.com.

Technology Unmasked! Cyberattacks

By Stan Orlov



In 1988, one year before the WWW was created, Harvard graduate Robert Morris, launched a cyber worm that infected and froze thousands of computers around the world. He did it for fun, but the economic impact constituted millions of dollars. Since then, cyberattacks have become a daily occurrence and their effects keep getting more serious. Every organization with computers connected to the Internet can become a victim — even the RCMP! Regrettably, public libraries are no exception. In the U.S. and Canada, over the past five years, a few dozen public library systems of all sizes, including those of Boston, Washington, and London, Ont, were attacked (see “Ontario News” in this issue, page 16). The biggest effect, by far, was recently felt by our own Toronto PL (TPL) and, in Britain, by the British Library.

Libraries are at a higher risk than other institutions because they extensively use many technological layers such as electronic catalogues, public WiFi, and public computer terminals.

Also, their IT budgets often can't compare to those of other institutions. Once the criminals infiltrate a computer network, they shut down the servers, steal employee and patron private information, and encrypt computer files, rendering the system inoperable. Then a ransom, often hundreds of thousands of dollars, is requested.

The RCMP urges victims of ransomware attacks **not to pay the ransom**. This advice applies to everyone, from individuals to businesses of all sizes. The RCMP also refers to the **nomoreransom.org** site, backed by Europol, that states: “Ransomware is malware that locks your computer and mobile devices or encrypts your electronic files. When this happens, you can't get to the data unless you pay a ransom. However, this is not guaranteed and you should never pay! ... The general advice is not to pay the ransom. By sending your money to cybercriminals you'll only confirm that ransomware works, and there's no guarantee you'll get the decryption key you need in return.” Also, The Canadian Centre for Cyber Security (the Cyber Centre), which is part of the Communications Security Establishment, has a section on “**Risks of**

paying the ransom.”

The British Library and TPL refused to pay and suffered the consequences, unable to fully function for months and having to watch sensitive information appear on the dark web.

Security experts say the lesson from the recent cyberattacks is to educate employees and deploy proper tools and practices. This includes providing awareness training two or three times a year, regularly updating mission-critical software, implementing multi-factor authentication (MFA), and using anti-virus software. Hopefully, such high-profile incidents will promote better security measures in other libraries and leave less chance for hackers to succeed in attacking public libraries. These resources are very useful:

Ransomware Attacks at Libraries: How They Happen, What to Do and Ransomware Prevention: Safeguarding Your Digital World.

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

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

Automating a Local History Index: The Beach and East Toronto Historical Society

By Barbara Myrvold and Katherine Vice

Libraries, local history societies, and other community organizations may have print indexes and finding aids created over the years that still have value. Free and widely available online tools offer possibilities to automate such records. **The Beach and East Toronto Historical Society** recently automated its Local History Index. This provides information found in Toronto's libraries and archives about people, organizations, places, and events related to the society's **catchment area**.

The print index was created over three summers in the 1980s by 11 university students hired by the society using funds granted by the federal government.



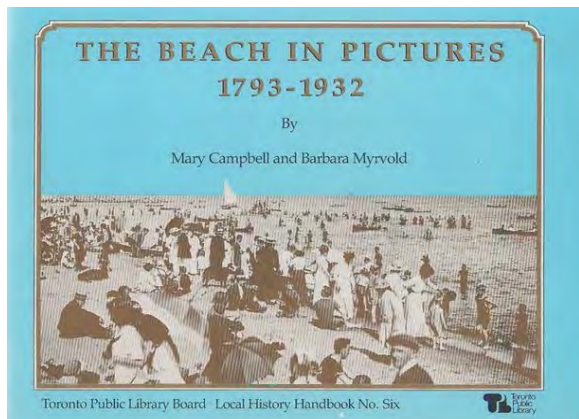
Card catalogue

Supervised by volunteers Mary Campbell and Barbara Myrvold, the students indexed materials from a dozen Toronto repositories, manually recorded on 3-by-5-inch catalogue cards, organized alphabetically by subject, and filed in a card catalogue housed in the society's archives.

Mary and Barbara used this index as the main information source to prepare two local histories, *The Beach in Pictures* (1988) and *Historical Walking Tour of Kew Beach* (1995), published by the Toronto Public Library. Housed in a private residence, however, the index was accessible only by telephone or appointment to a small number of researchers.

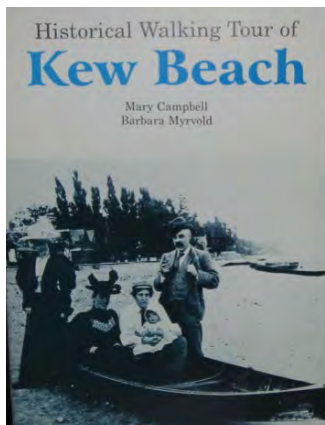
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In 2019 the society's directors budgeted \$4,000 to increase public access to the index, by automating and adding the estimated 13,600 handwritten cards to the society's website. A project team led by Barbara, Irena Lewycka, and Katherine Vice, with some technical assistance from Donna McLeod (all local residents and professional librarians), spent a year verifying and standardizing 2,250 subject authority cards (half of which were personal names), developing electronic

documents to store the authority file and index entries, creating an electronic form for inputting data, producing an instructional manual for data entry, and testing the tools with the society's directors, to prepare for automation. Using genealogical databases such as Ancestry.com and FamilySearch.org, personal names in the authority file were enhanced to include birth and death dates and, wherever possible, provide full names, especially for married women.



From left: Irena, Barbara and Kathy hold cards

Barbara Myrvold enjoyed a long career in public libraries and archives, retiring from the Toronto Public Library in 2020 as senior services specialist, Local History. Active in Toronto's Beach community for many years, she was named Beach Citizen of the Year in 2021.

Katherine Vice is a retired librarian whose career spanned work with the Thomas Fisher Rare Book Library and Scarborough PL, and a decade as an Urban Affairs librarian with the Toronto Reference Library. ■

How and Why I Became a Librarian

By David Harvie

Unlike many who have preceded me in this column, I had no desire to be a librarian growing up. Nor was I an avid reader in my childhood. There were too many adventures to be had elsewhere. It wasn't until I was in high school that I started to read. I was always intrigued by myths and legends, so it wasn't surprising that I started to read J. R. R. Tolkien's *Lord of the Rings*. From there I garnered a taste for epic fantasy and science fiction. This led me in university to study the history, literature, and art of classical Greece and Rome. With an eye toward graduate studies, I understood that ancient Greek was proving too difficult, and I was forced to realize my limitations. As I faced a somewhat uncertain future, someone dared me to apply to library school. To my surprise I was accepted by the Faculty of Library Science, University of Toronto.

All through university, I was a

member of the Naval Reserves, which provided me with employment during the summer and throughout the year. As a medical assistant, I was trained to work in sick bays, medical clinics, and hospital wards. I was deployed to military bases all across Canada and a few ships. The experiences I encountered — some funny, some tragic — taught me many things. As a medic I was able to develop and hone my diagnostic skills, which became easily transferable to computers and programming. It seems that I was an idiot savant when it came to computers and was mostly self-taught.

My interests in computers led me to the information side of library school, and I was the class's computer nerd. Upon graduation in the early 1990s, there were few jobs in libraries. I was able to return to the navy and found myself as the librarian at the Canadian Forces Medical Services

School, CFB Borden. The school had just moved into a brand-new building and library, and had purchased library automation software, without anyone able to understand how it operated. I catalogued and barcoded the entire collection.

I was then hired on for a maternity leave position at the Southern Ontario Library Service (SOLS) as their first web editor, having taught myself HTML coding. I was involved in the SOLScape project, connecting more than 200 southern Ontario libraries to the Internet through dial-up modems. After staff downsizing, I became the manager of Systems, with responsibilities for the internal computer network, interlibrary loan server and ILLO Helpdesk. After five years at SOLS, I moved to Stratford Public Library to become its systems librarian. I was given the project to build a wide area network connecting all the public libraries in Perth County to the

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library's DYNIX library automation system. After 12 years at Stratford, I spent two years at Brantford Public Library as the Systems and Technical Services librarian, before deciding to take on the challenge of becoming the CEO at Kawartha Lakes Public Library. After conducting a service review and realignment, I left and moved to Georgina Public Library to become its CEO. And then I met this woman. We married in 2019, and I was able to find work closer to her at the Woodstock Public Library, where I ended my career.

If there has been anything that I have learned during my 28 years in the public library sector, it is this: We are at war. It's not a war waged with armies, navies or air forces. The battle we fight is not against ideologies, economic systems, or other nations. As librarians we fight against ignorance, illiteracy, intolerance, chaos, and despair. Our libraries are the manifestations of intellectual freedom and the human spirit. Each new idea enriches and ennobles us. Each idea lost or censored diminishes us. We help our patrons seek the perfection of their minds, the fulfilment of their lives, the redemption of their souls, and the realization of their dreams. Our libraries must always tell of the past, converse with the present, and speak to the future. They help us to be human.

I never thought that I would be a librarian, it just sort of happened. I can only imagine that the gods do indeed have a perverse sense of humour. I can still hear the laughter.

David Harvie is a member of the ELA board. ■

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.

My Career at the National Library of Canada, 1972–1993

By Elizabeth (Betty) Deavy

I was fortunate to be hired by the National Library of Canada at an exciting time in its history, when it was under the leadership of National Librarian Dr. Guy Sylvestre who had a vision and the right connections to find resources and attract expert staff. In a new building with growing collections and services in both the library and archives, I had a wonderful network of people with whom to work and from whom to learn. I was also very fortunate to be hired by Fran Rose, Head of the Canadian Official Publications Section. However, she left two months later for a position in Victoria, leaving me to discover independently not only the Canadian Official Publications collection but the rest of the library, including newspapers, foreign and international official publications, reference and location services, and the Public Archives records and manuscripts. I also appreciated the Conservation Section's skilled conservators who restored and preserved old and damaged materials.

Because information was often buried within documents — such as annual reports, sessional papers, and royal commissions — and because official publications were not accessible via the usual cataloguing and indexing tools, the other reference librarians were generally “afraid” of getting a question about government documents when sitting at the Reference Desk. I soon developed a rich network of library and archives staff who I could help, as I developed my expertise, and who, in turn, helped me find obscure documents. This network extended outward throughout the federal departmental libraries, across the country, and beyond. One of the ways to maintain and develop that network was to attend conferences. My first was the Canadian Library Association Conference, at Mount Allison University in 1973. Others followed, including many of the Canadian Association of Law Librarians conferences, where I maintained contact with law librarians from Victoria to St. John's.



Betty at work, 1993

While I found my work content fascinating and I took great satisfaction from helping clients find the information they required, I cannot emphasize enough that it is the people I worked with who made my career so memorable for me — people like Dorothy Ryder (reference), Joyce Banks (rare books), Barbara Wilson and Jim Whalen (archives), John Holmes (conservation) and, in other departments, Jean McNiven (Indian and Northern Affairs, including Forestry) and Ciuneas Boyle (Fisheries and Oceans), to name only a few. To this day, I treasure the friendships I made. At my 90th birthday in 2018, I counted 19 library friends at my party.

This is a brief version of a longer article on the [ELA website](#). ■

Indigenous Data, Knowledge, and Cultural Sovereignty

By Julia Schneider

Indigenous data, knowledge, and culture have existed for millennia on Turtle Island, but it is only recently that an Indigenous library made its appearance. It was not until 1970 that the Xwi7xwa Library, part of UBC's library system since 2005, opened. It is housed in the Kekuli, an Indigenous complex with long house and museum that was built in 1993.

Kayla Lar-Son, the library's Indigenous Program and Services librarian, gifted ELA members with an overview of the library, its collections, and significance — and how they differ from libraries attendees were used to, in an October 24, 2023 [webinar](#).



Kayla Lar-Son

She explained that Xwi7xwa continues to discover and deal with the immense and fundamental differences between traditional Western libraries and the



Kekuli. Photo credit: Julia Schneider

emergent Indigenous model sought.

Western libraries, she said, presuppose a hierarchy of values symptomatic of colonialism, where man is at the top; by contrast, Indigenous culture and libraries have a more nature-based approach. This is experiential, holistic, and narrative/oral, and there are more factors, influences, and associations considered. In this alternate universe, the question of who should act as stewards of knowledge — and how — is of great importance: kin and class, gender, age specifics, geographical considerations, and seasonal associations all need to be considered. The library's holdings are not just objects, they are full of significance in many ways that need to be honoured.

Accordingly, not just anyone can steward them. While Western libraries employ objective researchers, the Indigenous library seeks those who understand the significance of what

they are working with. One of these was McGill graduate Brian Deer. In the 1970s he found the classification system he had been taught was unsuitable for Indigenous libraries, so developed his own system; this is used at Xwi7xwa (see [Weihs, Jean, "A Tribute to Brian Deer," in Technicalities, Vol. 29, No. 3, May/June 2019, pp11–12](#)). Kayla said much "heart learning," unlearning, and relearning continues to go on at her library to this day. To give one recent example, she cited the decision that a catalogue of children put up for adoption in the Sixties Scoop did not fit the criteria for library inclusion.

Near the webinar's end, one participant spoke of the experience at a 1986 Indigenous session in Yellowknife that made a great impression on her. When she admired an object and wondered about its availability, she was told it would be given to her as long as its meaning was transmitted with it. The library at UBC seems a telling indication of what still needs to be done before the reconciliation of traditional Western and Indigenous values can take place but also of the growing awareness of the complexities involved.

Julia Schneider (B.Ed. Queen's; MLS Western, '75; MA Waterloo; B Journalism, King's College) has worked in school and prison libraries, and classrooms around the world. She is an ELA board member. ■

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Treasures of British Libraries: The National Poetry Library (NPL), Southbank Centre, London

By Guy Robertson

Earth has not anything to show more fair than London's South Bank on a sunny spring morning, as people stroll along the Queen's Walk from the Golden Jubilee Bridges to Waterloo Bridge. Many literary souls stop at the Southbank Centre — a huge modern pile — to visit the National Poetry Library (NPL).



Its interior resembles that of a medium-size public library branch. Its patrons look like everybody and nobody, and are best described as the General Public, although they make less noise than one expects to hear in a branch, and they concentrate with dedicated attention on whatever they read. Often one sees their lips move, as their eyes absorb printed material, and they appear to read the same pages again and again.

Meanwhile staff members glide through the stacks, making sure that Pope and Plath and Wordsworth find their proper places on the shelves. Nobody speaks loudly or converses at length in NPL; rather, people murmur briefly at each other if they communicate at all. Staff members murmur answers to reference questions; patrons reply with murmured thanks. Where is the lavatory? A staff member points in the appropriate direction. Children sense NPL is a quiet place, and lie on the carpet in the Little Library with books provided by the Swedish Institute and the Embassy of Sweden in London. Parents encourage to browse, read, and play with puzzles, which they do in admirable near-silence. Missing a piece? Go and murmur at the librarian on duty.



On display: A skirt owned and worn by Sylvia Plath
Photo credit: Guy Robertson

NPL opened in 1953. T. S. Eliot and Herbert Read made speeches at the opening, and their presence inspired other poets to use the library, along with countless members of the public. Twenty years after the opening, NPL started to collect poetry magazines and poetry in translation. Ted Hughes, former husband of Sylvia Plath and, from 1984 to 1998, Poet Laureate of the United Kingdom, became an enthusiastic patron, and encouraged poets of all ages to use NPL.

In the 1960s, vinyl recordings were a popular medium at NPL for poets' voices and readings. The digital revolution in the 1980s replaced much "spoken word" vinyl with CDs. However, a Vinyl Collection remains available, and the Vinyl of the Month selection has become popular.

"In this library, you can read poetry and enjoy it for what it is, all on its own," says Ellen, a graduate student in

Comparative Literature at the University of London. "At school or university, you consume poetry to analyze it and to make clever observations about its structure and meaning. But here on the South Bank, you can simply read poetry and either like it or not. You can read great poetry or less successful stuff. You needn't be an insightful post-structuralist and spot the signifiers. What a welcome relief!"

Ellen notes with pleasure that there is no respect for particular poets because they are trendy or canonical. If you find Tennyson boring, nobody will scold you.

"You can leave *In Memoriam* on a shelving cart and find something else," she says. "How about Browning, Robert or Elizabeth Barrett? Or, if you'd prefer something modern and Canadian, try Pat Lowther, a delightful discovery for British readers. You can study specific poems carefully if you wish, or kick back and read whatever your browsing turns up. This library offers a lot of variety."

In 1988 NPL moved to its current location. Seamus Heaney, winner of the Nobel Prize in Literature and author of many critically acclaimed poetry collections, spoke at the opening. A rumour persists that popular musician and fellow Irishman Van Morrison showed up at the opening as well, although there is no firm evidence of this. But, NPL staff members say Van must have been there in spirit, and these days one should not be surprised to find him in the stacks, poring over a volume of Yeats. There is always something at NPL to attract a poetry reader's interest, and dull would they be of soul who could pass by a library so touching in its majesty.

For more information, visit: <https://www.nationalpoetrylibrary.org.uk/>.

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



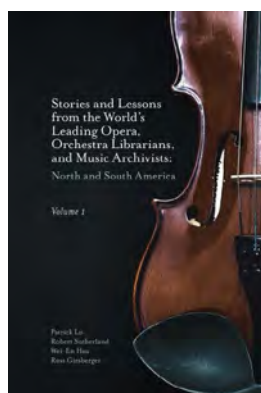
Picture-Work: How Libraries, Museums, and Stock Agencies Launched a New Image Economy
By Diana Kamin
MIT Press, 2023

Reviewed by J. A. Forrester

I found this publication and its approach to photo-collection history very revealing in terms of how quickly we forget the details of the analogue pre-digital era. An advanced lecturer at Fordham University, author Diana Kamin completed her PhD at New York University in 2018. However, this volume is much more than just an academic thesis. Kamin examines the development of three significant collections at the New York Public Library (NYPL), Museum of Modern Art (MOMA), and the H. Armstrong Roberts agency in Philadelphia (one of the very first stock-photo businesses). Developed by a city library, a museum, and a family business, these collections were developed in the infancy of advertising and promotion. The curators of photo collections developed sophisticated methods to house, index, and circulate their images. Romana Javitz (1903–1980), the NYPL photo librarian, was responsible for establishing the principles underlying this important collection. So was

MOMA reproduction manager Pearl Moeller (1915–2013), while integrating the collection into MOMA programs. H. Armstrong Roberts was an adventurous photographer who basically founded the stock-shot photography business in 1920. His son and grandson carried on independently for more than 100 years. The final chapter details the transition through the 1990s and early 2000s, when “digital-asset management” systems took over the storage and retrieval of photographic images. This book gives credit to the collection pioneers who conceptualized how photos would be organized, preserved, and circulated to the public and business communities. It’s a great credit to Ms. Kamin that she tells these stories so well.

James Forrester is a fellow of Traill College (Trent University) and president of the Peterborough Historical Society. He has an active interest in photo research and the use of images for all media formats.



Stories and Lessons from the World's Leading Opera, Orchestra Librarians, and Music Archivists. Vol. 1: North and South America
By Patrick Lo, Robert Sutherland, Wei-En Hsu, and Russ Girsberger
Emerald Publishing, 2022

Reviewed by Laura Mattern Snyder

Authored by leaders in the field, this book presents a fascinating study of music-performance librarianship, a highly specialized profession in which “the core duty ... is centered on the preparation of music for performances and rehearsals.” Given the lack of formal training programs in this niche area (most MLS programs don’t touch it), these librarians followed various paths into their profession, combining extensive music training with practical experience, preferably under the guidance of helpful mentors.

Volume 1 presents 25 email interviews with librarians and archivists from professional orchestras, opera companies, and the ensemble divisions of several well-known music schools. While most are in the United States, Canada is represented in three interviews (Wayne Vogan, Canadian Opera Company; Lucie Brosseau, Les Violons du Roy and La Chapelle de Québec; and Michel Léonard, Orchestre symphonique de Montréal); as well, there is one each from Mexico and Brazil. (Volume 2: Europe and Asia is not included in this review).

Librarians describe their musical backgrounds, paths into ensemble librarianship, and the inner workings of their organizations — in detail, including rewards and frustrations. Advanced music-editing skills are required, as well as a solid understanding of music-publishing practices and performance-licensing requirements. The work requires meticulous attention to detail, excellent communication skills, flexibility, and creative problem-solving — often under the pressure of short deadlines and last-minute changes. Most respondents reported at least one potential performance disaster averted by quick action!

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Write for ELAN

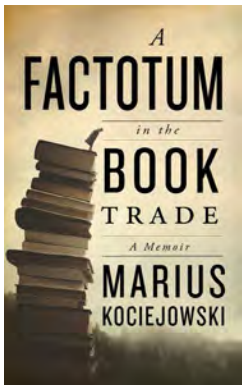
The Newsletter Committee welcomes contributions from our members. We are seeking articles, news items, and ideas that you think would be of interest to ELA members for publication in *ELAN*. Please submit your articles on items of interest to our members, including your memoirs of early days or important 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.

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These interviews were conducted during COVID-19 lockdowns, so respondents also commented on how this situation affected their work. Responses ran the gamut from temporary unemployment, to project work at home, to new challenges as organizations pivoted from live performances to chamber concerts online.

I noted a few editing lapses, and the print quality is disappointing given the price. Nevertheless, this engaging volume is an informative resource for practicing ensemble librarians and archivists, and for music students and professional musicians exploring employment options. Avid music listeners might enjoy it for the “backstage” views, while librarians will gain a glimpse into a very different kind of library world

Laura Snyder retired in 2019 as music librarian at Mount Allison University, after a 40-year career in 10 academic libraries.



A Factotum in the Book Trade
By Marius Kociejowski
Biblioasis, 2022

Reviewed by Peter F. McNally

Born and raised in rural Eastern Ontario, Marius Kociejowski has written a few books which played a totemic role in his life. He soon discovered Ottawa's Shirley Leishman Books, and Patrick McGahern a local antiquarian book dealer, who “is to blame for the road I'd later take.” Moving to the U.K., he became a poet, travel writer, and printer of limited editions. He also entered the London antiquarian book trade, where he was mostly a self-described factotum — general employee — acquiring, cataloguing, and selling books,

manuscripts, and collections.

Names and stories flow easily about the famous and the obscure, as Kociejowski describes the antiquarian book world's dealers and collectors — individually and collectively — and the trade decline during his years in the business. He explores the strengths and weaknesses of dealers, such as Bertram Rota, Bernard Stone, Peter Jolliffe, and Peter Ellis. Collectors, such as Graham Greene and Philip Larkin, are characterized as hawks (collecting with a clear purpose) and magpies (collecting whatever looks attractive at the time). He devotes a chapter to Vancouver's William Hoffer. Another chapter is devoted to unraveling a mysterious 18th-century manuscript, reading like a novel, which unexpectedly relates to one of his ancestors. The book-trade decline is due, he claims, to high rents and taxes, and to electronic texts. In addition, practices such as focusing upon contemporary-author first editions have distorted the business. He also alludes to a general failure to transmit cultural values.

Providing unique insight into the antiquarian book world, this autobiography will appeal to all collectors and rare-book librarians, particularly those who have haunted London's Charing Cross Road and Cecil Court. The book is well written, amusing, and insightful. It has occasional informative footnotes, but is without a bibliography, illustrations, or a (much-needed) index. ■

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.

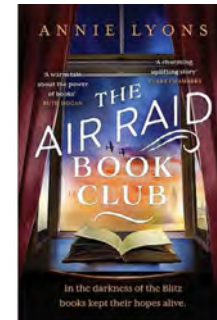
The names of potential new members may also be sent to Bob Henderson at the same address.

And please submit any outstanding membership dues.



Good Reads

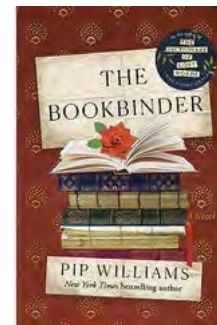
Compiled by Judy Dunn



The Air Raid Book Club

By Annie Lyons
William Morrow, 2023

In 1938 London the widowed owner of a bookstore takes in a Jewish refugee child and together they start a book club to provide a temporary escape from the reality of war.



The Bookbinder

By Pip Williams
Ballantine Books, 2023

Loosely connected but not a sequel to Williams's *The Dictionary of Lost Words*, this novel is set in Oxford during and after the Great War. It revolves around twin sisters who work in the university bindery, and eloquently portrays the themes of loss, sacrifice, family, and friendship.



The Door-to-Door Bookstore

By Carsten Henn
Hanover Square Press, 2024

Translated from the German, this charming tale of a retired bookseller who delivers books to a small group of people details how he won't leave home to buy them. Their lives are all changed by a precocious nine-year-old girl.

Continued on page 14

...continued from page 13



The Keeper of Hidden Books
By Madeline Martin
Hanover Square Press, 2023

Inspired by the true story of the underground library in Warsaw during the Second World War, a young woman fights to save her Jewish friend and salvage books destined for destruction.



Endpapers: A Novel
By Jennifer Savran Kelly
Algonquin Books, 2023

A Metropolitan Museum of Art book conservator and aspiring artist struggles with her genderqueer identity in New York City in the early 2000s.



A Novel Disguise. A Lady Librarian Mystery No. 1
By Samantha Larsen
Crooked Lane Books, 2023

In the mid-18th century, the main character disguises herself as her dead half-brother to remain in their cottage, work as the duke's librarian, and solve a murder at the duke's palace. Add quirky and witty to a dash of romance.

Find a compilation of Good Reads on the [ELA website](#).

Judy Dunn retired in 2011 after six years as Assistant Dean Academic, Faculty of Information at U of T, and 15 years as Program Co-ordinator, School of Information Management at Dalhousie University.

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.

British Columbia News

By Guy Robertson



In December **Vancouver Public Library (VPL)** released its lists of the **Top 10 Borrowed Books of 2023**.

In January VPL appointed **Joseph Kakwinokansum** to be its new Indigenous Storyteller-in-Residence. As a member of the James Smith Cree Nation, Joseph grew up in northern BC. He based his recent first novel, *My Indian Summer*, on his youth, winning the 2023–2024 First Nations

Communities READ Award. The Writers Trust of Canada named Joseph one of Canada's Rising Stars of 2022.

In January **Surrey Libraries** announced it had loaned more than 1.1 million digital items in 2023, including 674,315 e-books. Prince Harry's *Spare* topped the list of e-books borrowed, and was the most-borrowed audiobook that year. Although he and Meghan attended the One Year to Go celebrations for the Invictus Games Vancouver Whistler, unfortunately they did not drop in on **Surrey Libraries**

to congratulate the staff and patrons for their record-breaking borrowing statistics.

From late January to March, the **West Vancouver Memorial Library (WVML)** exhibited Indigenous artist Carey Newman's **Witness Blanket**, one of the largest artworks based on the experiences of First Nations children in Canada's residential school system. More than a decade after Newman completed the original piece, WVML displayed one of two replicas he created to replace the original, which had become fragile after

lengthy travel. The original now has a permanent home at Winnipeg's Canadian Museum for Human Rights. Measuring eight-feet tall and 40-feet long, the piece contains photographs and a selection of artifacts including bricks recovered from residential school buildings and a wooden door from a school's infirmary.

In February **Government of BC Seniors Advocate Isobel Mackenzie** visited the **Cowichan Branch** of the **Vancouver Island Regional Library (VIRL)** to meet local seniors and provide a community workshop that covered topics, such as the prevention of elder abuse, scams that threaten seniors, affordable housing, and improvements to BC's long-term care facilities. **VIRL** encouraged patrons to attend the workshop, which was Isobel's last before her retirement in March.

The **University of British Columbia (UBC) Library** acquired its copy of Shakespeare's First Folio in 2021. In November 2022, the library's Digitization Centre completed the volume's digitization. The digital copy is publicly available at **UBC Library Open Collections**. In February the library announced its support for **First Folios Compared**. This Open Access website with access to Folios in collections in worldwide institutions allows scholars to analyze different textual aspects.

While libraries across Canada long for larger buildings and more space, in February the **Thompson-Nicola Regional District (TNRD)** invited patrons to the grand opening of its new and delightfully small branch, the **Aberdeen Tiny Library** in Kamloops. At 352 square feet, "the Tiny" is the first addition to **TNRD** since 1974. Although it was developed for shoppers' convenience at the nearby Aberdeen Mall Food Court, local residents suggest it might also attract Hobbits. And why not?

In March the **North Vancouver District Public Library (NVDPL)** introduced patrons to its new catalogue, website, event platform, and mobile apps. Now patrons can enjoy updated interfaces, access through multiple languages, and other welcome features. **NVDPL** administrators expect patrons will adjust to the new system quickly and enthusiastically.

Prairies News

By Alvin M. Schrader



City of Winnipeg Libraries funding shortfalls are reviewed in **Framework to Review the Winnipeg Public Library Services for Improvement and Investment**, released in June 2023, and showing that Winnipeg's 20 branches are significantly underfunded in most areas of operation compared to public libraries in selected Canadian municipalities. Operating hours varied widely across branches. The report's suggestions include adding staff, more funding, and improving security and community space. **City of Winnipeg Libraries** received the **2023 Canadian Green Building Award** in the Institutional (Small) Category, for excellence in the design and execution of its **Bill and Helen Norrie Library**.

In April 2023 Kirsten Wurmman, a longtime advocate for prison-library services and a member of the Manitoba Library Association's Prison Libraries Committee, was appointed on a three-year part-time basis with the **Manitoba Law Library** to identify the unmet legal-information needs of incarcerated Manitobans, and create services and legal collections to help meet those needs. Kirsten founded the Canadian **Prison Libraries Network**.

Saskatoon Public Library (SPL) is back on track to replace the aging **Frances Morrison Central Library** after delays and cost overruns. **Construction will start** in the summer of 2024, with a projected opening in 2027.

Beth Côté has been appointed Interim Director of Libraries and CEO of the **Saskatoon Public Library** effective January 2024. Since 2016 she has served as **SPL** Director of Public Services. In July 2023 Alberta's **Marigold Library System** announced it had been the victim of an impersonation **scam** due to a fraudulent job posting. It reported the scam to Upwork, Google, the Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre, and local RCMP.

In August 2023 **Edmonton Public Library (EPL)** announced its next Leader-in-Residence, **Tommi Laitio**. The program supports the library as a learning

organization by connecting staff with forward-thinking ideas on topics such as leadership, innovation, and community development. Using the Latin American concept of *convivencia* and research into public spaces on three continents, Laitio draws a map for libraries to function as critical learning grounds for living with others.

EPL named **Mallory Chipman** as its first Musician-in-Residence (August 2023–May 2024). An award-winning songwriter, producer, and educator whose creativity blends multiple genres, she will offer workshops for musicians of any skill level and one-on-one mentorship, and act as the lead curator and jury member for Capital City Records.

Mid-2023 **University of Alberta Libraries** announced that **Peel's Prairie Provinces Collection** is migrating to a new website on the Internet Archive platform. The Peel collection of digitized materials includes more than 30,000 postcards, 8,000 books and printed ephemera, 900 maps, and 66,000 historic newspapers. Although many materials are in English, the collection also includes numerous materials in French, Ukrainian, and other languages.

In the spring of 2022 **University of Calgary Library** announced the acquisition of an **archival collection** (covering 1844 to 1885) of some 37 or 38 handwritten letters from Louis Riel (all but one in French), as well as a notebook written by him and another notebook containing a transcript of his defence lawyer's address delivered in Riel's treason trial in Regina. The collection has been digitized and an exhibition in the library was mounted mid-2023. **CPL** and **EPL** extended free library cards in the summer of 2023, to evacuees from N.W.T. and B.C. to provide them with access to books, newspapers, magazines, DVDs, audio books, comics, graphic novels, and other services.

Darel Bennedbaek has been appointed CEO of **The Alberta Library (TAL)**, effective January 1, 2024, replacing acting CEO Margaret Law. **TAL** was created in 1997 as a not-for-profit library consortium of public, post-secondary, government, and special libraries in Alberta to take advantage of discounted purchasing, and to share resources and seek new opportunities to reduce duplication and provide equitable access to information for local communities.

Norene Erickson and Lisa Shamchuk

were awarded the **Library Association of Alberta's 2023 Punch Jackson Award for Excellence in Library Service** for their development of the **CFLA Guidelines for the Education of Library Technicians in Canada**. Jaclyn McLean, University of Saskatchewan, was awarded the 2023 **Outstanding Contribution Award** by the Council of Prairie and Pacific University Libraries.

Harriet Roy was awarded the Saskatchewan Library Association's 2023 **Frances Morrison Award** for outstanding service in literacy and librarianship. She began her career as an elementary school teacher and moved to La Ronge to join the **Pahkisimon Nuye?áh Library System** in 1996.

Sharon Siga received the Library Association of Alberta's 2023 President's Award, which recognizes the efforts of an individual or small group of individuals who have made a major province-wide impact on Alberta libraries.

CPL is one of eight libraries to receive the **2023 John Cotton Dana Award** for its strategic communications efforts demonstrating outstanding library public relations. The library developed a well considered, emotionally compelling ad campaign, "This Ad is For..."

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

Ontario News

By Vivienne James



Cyberattacks! Last October **Toronto Public Library (TPL)** was affected by a cyberattack, leading to an almost-complete shutdown of services. **TPL** staff

diligently worked to restore operations, gradually bringing back online services. One million returned books, stored until computers were working again, are being shipped to the branches. A cyberattack also hit **London Public Library** that compromised some employees' personal information, but left library patrons' data secure. Access to digital services such as

Overdrive have been restored, and staff members are working to restore accessibility to public computers, the catalogue, and other lending services. As part of an attack on the city, **Hamilton Public Library** also experienced a cyberattack (see the article by Stan Orlov in this issue, page 7).

Named after the city's longest serving mayor, Mississauga's **Hazel McCallion Central Library** opened in February. Following extensive renovations and a redesign by Toronto-based RDH Architects, the library features a 6,000-square-foot addition, an industrial kitchen, audio-editing booths, space for the homeless, and LED light sculptures by artist Nathan Whitford.

After 41 years with **Guelph Public Library**, and with a new central library beginning construction, CEO Steven Kraft retired, saying "it is time to hand over the reins to the next generation" (see "Retirements" in this issue, page 22).

The Minister of Tourism, Culture, and Sports and the MPP for Parry Sound-Muskoka were in **Gravenhurst Public Library** to announce \$122,000 **provincial support** to bolster Internet accessibility for libraries in rural and First Nations communities and ensure equitable access to high-quality online services.

Two new Ontario libraries will be sharing space with arenas: **Wasaga Beach Public Library** and **Sarnia Public Library** (with a \$1.05 million conversion of the second-floor community room at **Clearwater Arena**).

Libraries across Ontario continue to innovate and receive recognition such as the **Ontario Public Library Service Awards'** Angus Mowat Award of Excellence presented by the Government of Ontario:

- **Ajax Public Library** received the Angus Mowat Award of Excellence (large library category) for its collection diversity audit.
- **Mississippi Mills Public Library** received the Angus Mowat Award of Excellence (small library category) for the Lanark STEM Program.
- **Pembroke Public Library** received the Minister's Award for Innovation (small library category) for Multilicious.
- **Timmins Public Library** received the Minister's Award for Innovation (medium library category) for Library Book Bike (Vélo-Biblio).
- **Cambridge Public Library, Idea**

Exchange received the Minister's Award for Innovation (large library category) for its multi-sensory room.

Western University's Weldon Library won *Interior Design Magazine's* Best of the Year (library category), and the International Interior Design Association's Global Excellence award.

Vaughan Public Library's Civic Centre Reserve Library highlights **The Quiet Immigrant Project: A Living Exhibit**, preserving the stories of the resilient Italian women who came to Canada and helped shape our history after the Second World War.

McMaster University Library's wartime maps and charts star in **Masters of the Air**, a recently released movie based on the book of the same name. And, every February, Ontario libraries celebrate Black History Month to recognize the experiences, accomplishments, and contributions of Black Canadians through storytelling for all ages, topical reading lists, and online resources. These events, and the current and historical information offered by libraries offers patrons a wonderful sense of the unique cultural diversity that contributes to Canadian society.

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



Westmount Public Library celebrated its 125th anniversary as Quebec's first public library, an event noted in the **media**. Last fall the Westmount Historical Society held a three-part lecture series on the library's history; the lectures were published in a theme issue, **Westmount Public Library Celebrating 125 Years**, of *The Westmount Historian*:



Newsletter of the Westmount Historical Association that's available [online](#), free for members.

Transferring **McGill University's McLennan-Redpath Library** collections to the university's new storage site in Valleyfield began in February. It began with literature from the fifth floor. Rare Books and Archives are scheduled to move in January 2025. This transfer is part of McGill's *Fiat Lux* project to rebuild the library complex for the 21st century. The newly renovated **Schulich Library of Physical Sciences, Life Sciences, and Engineering**, in the Macdonald-Stewart Building, will serve as McGill's interim main library until the project's completion. A delivery system for providing material from the storage site is in place.

The City of Québec planned to open the **Gabrielle-Roy Public Library** on March 1, 2024. Renovation began in 2019. At a cost of \$43 million, the library now occupies a brightly-lit four-storey space, with 900 seats, 90 computer stations, work rooms, recording studios, a performance hall, and a collection of 200,000 documents. Artworks, musical instruments, toys, and telescopes can be borrowed!

The unionized public library staff in the City of Québec has been without a contract since December 2022. A labour dispute involving 240 staff members of the system's 26 branches led to a full strike as of March 1 after which the public lost access to the entire public library system. The festivities planned for the renovated library opening have been postponed, as covered by [Radio-Canada](#).

Pierre Guilmette is a retired librarian, Université Laval.

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

Maritimes News

By Tanja Harrison



The **University of Prince Edward Island Robertson Library** has set a goal of \$15 million to [revitalize the campus library](#) and create a more welcoming and inclusive space to support student

success.

Holland College's Library Services, in partnership with the PEI International Recruitment Office and Immigrations Services Association, are offering English Conversation Circles twice a month, at the Prince of Wales Campus.

The **PEI Public Library Service** has [partnered with the SaltWire Network](#) to provide patrons with online access to its news content at library locations throughout the province. The most-borrowed public library book in PEI for 2023? A new loan record was set with *A World of Curiosities*, by Louise Penny.

Children in PEI continue to gain more access to books, thanks to the **Dolly Parton Imagination Library** book-gifting program and support by those in the province including Rotary Clubs, PEI Literacy Alliance, Health PEI, and the **PEI Public Library Service**. Registered children are funded until March 2026, to each receive a high-quality book delivered to their homes. Since 2020 more than 119,000 free books have been mailed to children province-wide.

Moncton, N.B.'s more than 80,000 residents are being asked about their library needs regarding services, resources, and space. A modern central library opened in the city 35 years ago, but continues to be the only branch.

In the border town of Sackville, N.B., the **Mount Allison University** administration unveiled plans to renovate its campus library into the **R.P. Bell Library Hub for Innovation and Learning**. The renovation will be the first in more than 60 years. These projects don't happen overnight, but the initial funding of \$10 million from the province and \$26 million from the federal government is crucial for a temporary space to be built this summer to enable renovations to begin.

Campus librarians and copyright office staff from across the Nova Scotia Community College system supported the Challenge Nova Scotia 2023 competition by offering students academic integrity and copyright education. Challenge Nova Scotia is a free, pan-provincial problem-solving competition that calls on students to propose innovative solutions to social issues affecting the province. It's been reported that library support resulted

in high-quality video submissions by participants. Librarians are on the front lines, supporting copyright and fair-dealing queries at their various organizations; continual education and training is paramount. The Council of Atlantic Academic Libraries' copyright committee will host the annual **ABC Copyright Conference**, from June 20 to 21, 2024, at the Weldon Law Building, Dalhousie University.

The crown jewel of Halifax's **Saint Mary's University rare book collection** — the **Salzinnes Antiphonal** — will celebrated its homecoming in March after an exhibition at the Musée des Arts anciens du Namurois in Belgium.

Novanet Day was held February 23, 2024, with presentations given by and for library staff working with various academic libraries across the consortium network. Previously an annual event, this event was the first time in five years that staff from all the **Novanet** institutions have come together. This was also the last event before the retirement of longtime Novanet Manager, Bill Slauenwhite, who was thanked for his decades-long support and tireless dedication to the success of regional university and college libraries (see Retirements, in this issue, page 22). Acting Acadia University Dean of Libraries and Archives, Jennifer Richards agreed to extend her term until June 30, 2025.

Tanja Harrison, former University Librarian, Mount Saint Vincent University, is currently on leave.

Newfoundland & Labrador News

By Dick Ellis



The most recent good news is that the provincial government, fresh from spending \$35.6 million on contract nurses (*Globe and Mail*, February 16, 2024) and continuing

that contract indefinitely, has found \$600 million for a one-time grant to the **Newfoundland and Labrador Public Libraries**. This adjustment follows a \$250,000 cut in 2012/13 that has not been addressed and, according

to the minister, is neither permanent nor a sign that a continuing increase is being contemplated. The minister was reported to have explained that after the COVID-19 pandemic, the government realized the additional value that public libraries brought to communities, rumours of a coming election notwithstanding (*The Telegram*, February 28, 2024).

There was no mention of LOLA (Love Our Local Authors) month (February), featuring 29 local titles in 29 days. This annual celebration of local authors and publishers includes a list of the top-ten local books (based on library circulation) and the announcement of the LOLA book of the year. This year will see the presentation of the Margaret Duly award, named after the author of several novels and other works in the 1930s and 1940s, and a prominent library supporter. The winner of the LOLA Newfoundland and Labrador 2024 Must-Read Book of the Year is Michael Crummey's *The Adversary*. Crummey also took home the Margaret Duly award. See CBC coverage here: <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/newfoundland-labrador/love-our-local-authors-lola-n-l-public-libraries-crummey-1.7099484>.

Memorial University Libraries celebrated the 25th anniversary of The Commons, a jointly-operated facility in the **Queen Elizabeth II Library**, with services from the library, the campus computing utility, and the campus writing centre. While the proliferation of laptop computers during the pandemic has had an impact on their use, student numbers are nearing pre-pandemic levels. The Commons resides on the library's main floor with rotating art exhibits on two walls in a space once occupied by a portion of the reference collection.

Dick Ellis is Librarian Emeritus at Memorial University.

News from the North

By Julie Ourom



Late last summer, massive wildfires throughout the Northwest Territories featured prominently on the national news, but fortunately no libraries were destroyed. The

library community in the region pitched in to help evacuees through clothing drives, storytimes, and various drop-in programs, many for youth when fall school openings were delayed.

Libraries across the North, as elsewhere, are experiencing social challenges. **Hay River Public Library** removed chairs to discourage use as a "hangout warming shelter" when staff were no longer able to cope.

Facing similar issues, the **Whitehorse Public Library** took a different approach. Government funding provided the library with a community outreach worker to offer support with housing, mental health, addictions, and other issues. Closed for a month this spring for carpet replacement, this library will continue to offer full online services, while the outreach worker will operate from an off-site warming centre.

Local writers were featured in several events: Roy Osborne read from his short story, *One in the Wilderness*, in the **Haines Junction (Yukon) Public Library**. N.W.T.'s Bonita Nowell and her mother shared residential school experiences and readings from Nowell's book, *My Mother's Legacy*, at **Yellowknife Public Library**.

In October authors participated in the first-ever **Inuit Circumpolar Writers Festival** that included a family event at the **Iqaluit Centennial Library**. Visiting writers included Alberta's Jessica Johns in Yukon and Saskatchewan's Tenille Campbell in N.W.T. In 2023 authors Gord Grisenthwaite and Charlie Petch both enjoyed residencies at the Berton House Retreat, in Dawson City, Yukon.

The Outstanding Volunteer Youth Award went to Arianna Atienzav for her contributions as a regular volunteer at **Iqaluit Centennial Public Library**.

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.

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

Since December 2023, SLAIS has implemented a redesigned MLIS curriculum and adopted a single intake process for application to all master's programs. Prospective students must apply by the annual deadline of January 15 for September classes. SLAIS is pleased to announce that graduate **Claire Dannenbaum**, a reference and instruction librarian at Lane Community College, Eugene, OR, has won an American Library Association (ALA) **I Love My Librarian Award**. Her nomination describes her as "energetic, caring, sleeves rolled up and moving our profession and library forward." She has received a \$5,000 US cash prize and travel fees to attend an ALA conference. Sessional Lecturer **Kristin Kozar** has been confirmed as executive director of UBC's Indian Residential School History and Dialogue Centre. Previously, as the interim executive director, she had enhanced the centre's overall transparency and augmented its management team. Now she and her senior managers are completing a strong strategic plan that will rely on Coast Salish traditions and knowledge.

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

During the busy fall, SLIS warmly congratulated 15 MLIS graduates and **Dr. Brenda Reyes Ayala**, who was awarded

tenure and promotion effective July 1, 2024 by the Faculty of Education Faculty Evaluation Committee. SLIS alumnus **Kirk MacLeod** was elected to the **Indigenous Matters Section of the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions**. MLIS student **Aizle Nyn Bernardo** received both the American Library Association (ALA) Spectrum Scholarship and the Associations of Research Libraries (ARL) Kaleidoscope Program Scholarship, and student **Joey Takeda** received the Kaleidoscope Program Scholarship. SLIS Director **Dr. Kenneth Garipey** celebrated completing the inaugural UAcademy executive leadership program, to which he was nominated by Dean **Dr. Jennifer Tupper**, and his acclamation to a three-year term on General Faculties Council. **Dr. Doug Gleddie** served as acting dean during Dr. Tupper's administrative leave, which concluded December 31. **Chantelle Freitas**, formerly of Strathcona County Library, joined SLIS as the new program assistant.

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

By Becky Blue

FIMS was excited to catch up with old friends at its 25th Anniversary Reception held at the TIFF Bell Lightbox in Toronto on January 25, 2024. Coinciding with the Ontario Library Association Super Conference, the celebration did double duty as the FIMS LIS alumni reception, as well as a 25th-anniversary party for its other programs. LIS alumni from across graduation years stopped by. Professor **Grant Campbell** was there to deliver some reflections on Library and Information Science's role as part of FIMS over the last 25 years. At FIMS we don't forget the legacy of excellence that Western's LIS programs brought with them to the creation of the new faculty in the late 1990s. We hope to continue benefiting from that legacy for many years to come.

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

By Ann Brocklehurst

Major changes are afoot at FI, which welcomed new Dean **Javed Mostafa** in September 2023. FI has entered a period of renewal, recruiting new faculty members, finalizing plans for a critical building renovation, and looking to launch a new four-year Bachelor of Information program. This spring FI will hold its first post-pandemic Ian P. Sharp lecture (stay tuned for the date and details) and then, as always, there will be an alumni reunion (May 29 to June 2). In keeping with the university's Defy Gravity campaign that launched last year, FI has made engaging with as many alumni as possible — in whatever way works best for them — a top priority. The 2024 edition of FI's alumni magazine, *Informed*, can be found on its website.

University of Ottawa, School of Information Studies (ÉSIS)

By André Vellino

ÉSIS is focused on two significant undertakings this academic year: a cyclical review and a curriculum review. The Ontario Universities Council on Quality Assurance cyclical review offers us an opportunity to reflect on our achievements over the last eight years in providing top-tier bilingual education in library and information studies and also to identify areas for further growth. Concurrently we are undertaking a thorough curriculum review aimed at integrating new courses that reflect the evolving landscape of information studies. Recognizing the importance of digital humanities, bibliometrics, and business analysis and strategy, we are committed to updating our curriculum to include these critical areas. **Mary Cavanagh** is taking a well-deserved half sabbatical; we look forward to her return in the fall.

McGill University, School of Information Studies

By Peter F. McNally

The school is busy preparing its self study in preparation for next fall's American Library Association re-

accreditation site visit. The current enrolment is: MIST, 175; PhD, 26; Cyber Security Graduate Certificate, 27; and other Graduate Certificate, 4. The new Cyber Certificate program is running successfully online.

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

By Isabelle Bourgey and Martin Bélanger

On August 23, 2023, Trenholme Dean of Libraries at McGill **Guylaine Beaudry** (MBSI '97), was awarded the **Insigne du mérite** from the Faculty of Arts and Sciences, Université de Montréal, in recognition of her exceptional career. **Romy Otayek**, now a PhD student at EBSI, was awarded the Prix du ministre de la Sécurité publique (Québec) for her master's thesis entitled *Portrait actuel des services de bibliothèque dans le milieu carcéral québécois*. Last Fall, EBSI awarded 16 scholarships worth a total of \$39,000. They 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. On the faculty level, Professor **Vincent Larivière** is again on the list of the scientists most-frequently cited internationally by their peers, according to the Web of Science 2023 ranking.

Dalhousie University, Faculty of Management, Department of Information Science

By Sandra Toze

Dr. Vivian Howard retired as of December 2023. We thank Vivian for her significant contributions to our program, our faculty, and Dalhousie. This fall our Dalhousie Library and Information Alumni Association hosted its annual Outstanding Alumni and welcome event, where **Margie Singleton** (MLS '80) was honoured as the 2023 recipient of the association's award. Margie was celebrated as a "staunch advocate, champion and ambassador for public

libraries at the local, provincial, and national levels." Highlights of our Information Science Public Lecture series include the talk by **Dr. Maria Pawlowska** on Nov 29, 2023, on *Open Science: A Shifting Paradigm, a New Reality*. **Emily Drabinski**, president of the American Library Association, and associate professor, Queens (N.Y.) College Graduate School of Library and Information Studies, gave our 2024 Dalhousie-Horrocks National Leadership Lecture, on the

topic of *Collective Power, Public Good: Library Leadership for Everyone* Category. At the lecture we honoured MI student **Catherine Gracey**, who was the 2023 recipient of the Dalhousie-Horrocks National Leadership Award.

Awards to Our Members

Victoria Owen

2023 OLA Larry Moore Distinguished Service Award, Ken Haycock Award

Shelagh Paterson

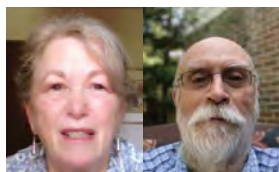
2024 OLA President's Award for Exceptional Achievement

To Save Space

ELAN will only include awards and appointments of national importance and high relevance to our members. Look for these in the news sections.

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

Milestones



Obituaries

Compiled by Frances Davidson-Arnott and Bob Henderson

Birute Ruth Bogusis died April 6, 2023, age 75, in Ottawa. She worked at the NLC Newspaper Division and was an author of *Checklist of Canadian Ethnic Serials*. Ruth pursued Eastern European and Slavic studies, at the undergraduate (Brock) and graduate levels (U of T, Carleton).

Nancy Leonard Byers died January 15, 2024, age 99, in Toronto. BLS (U of T, '63). She pursued children's library work, and ended her library career as head, TPL Dufferin/St. Clair branch.

Beverly Chandler died September 10, 2023, age 77, in Montreal. BLS (U of T, '69). She worked at the U of Alberta, Redpath Library at McGill, and retired as communications director, Vanier College.

André Chénier died October 17, 2023, age 93, in Gatineau, QC. He was a librarian at the National Library and various Quebec institutions, including Université du Québec de l'Outaouais.

Katherine Eleanor Cochrane died December 8, 2023, age 79, in Oshawa, ON. BLS (U of T, '68). She last worked at St. Catharines PL, retiring in 1995.

Gerald Cormier, CSC, died January 25, 2024, age 92, in Welland, ON. MLS (U of New York, '70). After retiring from his ministry in Catholic education, Father Cormier spent 22 years at College Regina Assumpta, Cap-Haitien, Haiti, as librarian.

Michael Dawe died December 24, 2023, age 67, in Red Deer, AB. BA (U of A, '76). A founding member of the Alberta Society of Archivists in 1981, he held executive positions from 1982 to 1999. In 1979 he became the first full-time archivist with the Red Deer and District Archives. He served as city archivist until 2017 when he was elected to Red Deer City Council, and remained until his death. Among numerous awards, he received the

Citizen of the Year (Alberta Teachers' Association's Council on School Administration), the Minister of Veterans' Affairs Commendation, the Queen's Golden Jubilee Medal, the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal, and Red Deer Citizen of the Year. He wrote historical columns for local newspapers as well as six books.

Sheila Farthing died January 4, 2024, age 91, in Mont-Royal, QC. MLIS (McGill, '02). Starting university at age 48, she earned her MLIS at 70. She spent most of her career at the McLennan library.

Ernesta E. Greenidge (née Bryce) died February 27, 2024, in St. Augustine, Trinidad and Tobago. MLS (U of T, '82). She was head of the Medical Sciences Library at the University of the West Indies, St. Augustine.

Shelagh Harris died December 10, 2023, age 89, in Richmond Hill, ON. With an M.Ed., she was a teacher, librarian, and principal. Active in the OLA, she was chair of the Richmond Hill PL Board, and received numerous

awards, including the OLA's 2018 James Bain Award.

Denise Hartley died March 8, 2024, age 69, in Leamington, ON. MLS (U of T, '79). She worked at Windsor PL for more than 30 years, supporting literacy, programming, and doing research.

Francoise Hebert died September 20, 2023, age 76, in Toronto. BLS (U of Ottawa, '68); PhD (U of T, FLIS, '93). She was head, National Library of the CNIB, president of the Canadian Library Association, chair of the Book and Periodical Council, and worked to advance the interests of Canadian writers and other creators. She ran the Alzheimer Society of Toronto, served on the Dying With Dignity board and campaigned hard to make the case for MAID.

Carole Henderson died October 7, 2023, age 81, in Simcoe, ON. She was a longtime librarian at the Simcoe PL.

Beryl Maxine Hunter died February 4, 2024, age 86. She served in libraries in Toronto, Nepean, Ottawa, and at Library and Archives Canada.

Linda Jane Jewett died December 29, 2023, age 76, in Toronto. BLS (U of T, '70), MLS (U of T, '76). After working at the Toronto Reference Library, she studied law and was admitted to the bar. She co-authored *Access to the law: a study conducted for the Law Reform Commission of Canada*, 1975.

Jeannine Lawlor died November 19, 2023, age 82, in Kirkland, QC. McGill (MLS, '83). She was a medical librarian at St. Mary's Hospital for more than 15 years.

Beryl Genevieve Laura LeMoyne (née Robinson) died December 17, 2023, age 95, in Montreal. McGill (BA, '49, BLS, '50, MLS, '72). She assisted Professor Effie Astbury, McGill Library School, with the reference course and worked in McGill University libraries. Beryl seems to have been the first anglophone hired by Bibliothèque de la ville de Montréal.

Elizabeth Anne Lewis (née Bennet) died February 26, 2024, age 96, in Montreal. BLS (McGill, '51). She worked at McGill University Library's Cataloguing Department and Rare Book Room, becoming the first head, McGill's Rare Books and Special Collections, from 1965 until her retirement in 1986. She also taught the Rare Books course, McGill Graduate School of Library.

Barbara Livesey died January 13, 2024, age 92, in Calgary. She began as a librarian at Manchester Central Library in the U.K., then worked at various libraries, finishing at the Calgary PL, in the Macleod, Shaganappi, Southwood, and Fish Creek branches.

Edith Vivian Mackay died December 18, 2023, age 98, in Toronto. A graduate of Acadia University, she was a longtime children's librarian for the Scarborough PL.

Margaret Fanny "Florence" Mackesy (née Cullen) died September 21, 2023, age 82, in Chesley, ON. BLS (U of T, '65) MLS (U of T, '82). She worked in St. Catharines, ON, as a reference librarian.

Margaret Elizabeth McFadyen died December 2, 2023, age 82, in Dundas, ON. She studied library science, worked as a librarian, and was an eminent library administrator. She worked at CORLS, headquartered in Richmond Hill, ON, and was predeceased by her husband, Don, also a librarian.

Roberta "Bobbie" Joy Merilees died December 31, 2023, age 81, in Vancouver. BLS (U of T, '62), MLS (McGill, '71). She worked at IBM, in Toronto, bringing libraries into the digital age, and earned an MBA (York U).

Cassandra Mireau died January 18, 2024, age 38, in Saskatoon. MLS (U of A). She was regional librarian, Lakeland Library Region, and assistant director and branch manager, Wheatland Regional Library, and active in library association activities.

Sylvia Morrison died January 17, 2024, age 95, in Stittsville, ON. BLS (U of T, '52). In Cape Breton she was a librarian, travelling in a bookmobile throughout Victoria County, Cape Breton. She was editor of the *Canadian Periodical Index* at the Canadian Library Association for many years. She was one of only 15 librarians awarded the 1977 Queen Elizabeth II Silver Jubilee Medal for outstanding service.

Hiroko Ozaki died December 31, 2023, age 84, in Ottawa. (U of Ottawa, '70). She was a librarian at the National Library of Canada for nearly 30 years, many as a cataloguer. She also worked briefly in the Library Documentation Centre.

Chantale Elizabeth Pard died January 3, 2024, age 39, in Halifax. MLIS (Western, '13). During her career, she wrote two books for the Practical Guides for Librarians series: *STEM Programming for All Ages* and *Anime Clubs for Public Libraries*. At her death, Chantale was the Youth Services Librarian for Halifax Regional Library and was a PhD student in LIS (Western).

Duncan Rand died February 4, 2024, age 83, in Calgary. BLS (McGill, '64). He worked at Regina Separate Schools and was vice-president, Saskatchewan Association of School Libraries; assistant chief librarian, Regina PL; acting director, London PL and Art Museum; and chief librarian, Lethbridge PL. He was president of both the Canadian Association of Public Libraries and Library Association of Alberta. He was involved in the establishment of the Chinook Arch Regional Library System and The Alberta Library, and the construction of the new Lethbridge PL building.

Ann H. Schabas died November 8, 2023, age 97, in Toronto. Physics (U of T), master's (Smith College). BLS (U of T, '65), MLS and PhD in library Science (University College, London). She joined what is now the Faculty of Information, where she became

a professor, then dean. Ann was a longtime **ELA** member.

Betty Doris Seldon-MacFarlane died February 9, 2024, age 96, in London, ON. MLS (Western, '79). In 1964 she became an instructor. She was then an associate professor in the Department of Secretarial Science at Western, retiring in 1988 with a Professor Emerita designation. She also took a local leadership role within ARMA International.

Shafferun (Shaffie) Shaieb died January 11, 2024, age 88, in Montreal. She was a librarian in the Pulp and Paper Research Institute of Canada Library at McGill University. She completed her library degree as a mature student.

Brian Silcoff died February 17, 2024, age 81, in Ottawa. MLS (Western). He worked in the Ottawa Room, Ottawa PL, and at the Department of External Affairs library.

Katherine Simpson (née Jenner) died November 18, 2023, age 83, in Mississauga, ON. MLS (U of T, '73).

Terry Conway Skeats died August 28, 2023, age 75, in North Hatley, QC. MLS (McGill, '82). He taught courses in the Philosophy Department at Bishop's and Champlain College Lennoxville (1977–1988) and was a librarian at Bishop's (1981–2004). He served briefly as head of North Hatley PL.

Vida Venter died February 4, 2024, age 101, in Graysville, MB. She worked at Potchefstroom University of Christian Higher Education library, then studied library science. She worked in the catalogue room, becoming head of the catalogue department, and eventually vice-librarian. After retiring she and her husband moved to Canada in 2002.

Elaine Louise Waddington died November 14, 2023, age 99, in Halifax. MLS (McGill, '75). She had a long career as medical librarian at the Royal Victoria Hospital Women's Pavilion. She earned a diploma in computer sciences in her sixties, learned to program in several

languages, and provided consultation to medical libraries across Canada.

Patricia Doreen Ward (Thornton) (née Simmons) died September 15, 2023, age 92. With a degree in science, she was instrumental in the development of the Pickering PL system, retiring as chief librarian. Pat fought for women's rights and pay equity in the workplace.

Elizabeth Jennifer Wheeler died December 19, 2023, age 89, in Montreal. Library Sciences (Concordia U). After attending night classes for many years, she worked at Vanier College Library, then McGill University's Religious Studies Library.

Nancy Williamson died December 3, 2023, age 95, in Toronto. BLS (U of T, '49), MLS (U of T). She worked at Hamilton PL (1956–1964), then joined U of T's Department of Library Science as assistant professor (1965–1977). After completing a PhD (Case Western), she was appointed associate professor, then, in 1982, full professor, FLIS, U of T. A world traveller, she attended many national and international library-science conferences. A longtime **ELA** member, Nancy was on the ELA board for many years as archivist and managed the Biography Committee.

(George) Alan Wilson died January 23, 2024, age 96, in Halifax. During a distinguished academic career, he taught and lectured in many places and contributed to the *Dictionary of Canadian Biography*. In retirement, he chaired the South Shore Regional Library Board and was a president of the Library Boards Association of Nova Scotia.

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, provides more information celebrating the lives of our members.



Retirements

Compiled by
Suzette Giles

Deputy CEO and children's librarian at the Almonte, ON, branch, **Monica Blackburn**, Mississippi Mills PL, retired in December 2023 after more than 35 years with the library. She is also a published author of three children's books, illustrated by Almonte artist Sam Hamilton and published by Upstream!, an Almonte-based independent publisher.

Vivian Howard, associate professor, School of Information Management and Associate Dean Academic, Faculty of Management, Dalhousie University, retired in early 2024. With a BA and an MA from UBC, Vivian held a number of positions at UBC, before moving to Halifax in 1991 and enrolling in the Dalhousie University MLIS program in 1992. Positions at Nova Scotia College of Art and Design, the library at the Technical University of Nova Scotia, and part-time teaching at Dalhousie University followed. She became a full-time instructor at Dalhousie, with the launch of the Bachelor of Management Program, becoming the program's academic director in 2007. In 2011 she was appointed associate dean academic for the Faculty of Management. She has a PhD from Aberystwyth University, Wales, UK. Her research focuses on books, literacy, and services for children, teens, and young adults, with an emphasis on Atlantic Canada.

CEO and secretary to the library board, Guelph PL (GPL), ON, **Steven Kraft**, retired on February 29, 2024, after almost 41 years in that position. His career spanned 41 years with GPL, beginning as a part-time children's reference librarian. Prior to becoming CEO, his roles included director of Main Branch Services and assistant CEO. Steven holds a master's degree in library and information science from Western University. As of March 1, 2024, deputy CEO, Dan Atkins, is interim CEO.

Public Services Librarian **Jeff Lilburn**, Mount Allison Libraries and Archives, retired in September 2023. Jeff joined the library in 2002 and, with a master's degree in English literature from Western University and an MLS from McGill University, became a full librarian in 2018. Jeff was Mount Allison Faculty Association president for two years, and was twice on the collective bargaining and arbitration teams. He also served terms as a director on the boards of the Canadian Association of Professional Academic Librarians and the Federation of New Brunswick Faculty Associations, and spent two years on the CAUT Librarians' and Archivists' Committee.

Mary Maw, manager of Communications and Community Development at Caledon PL, ON, retired at the end of 2023. Mary began as a page at the library in 1979. After a brief break — from 1983 to 1986 — she spent her career at the Bolton branch, where she held roles in Circulation, Children's Services, Technical Services, as Public Service manager and Bolton branch manager, before her final position, a career spanning 37 years. **Jill Jambor** is the new manager of Communications and Community Development.

Cynthia Mckeich, director at Humber College, retired in December 2023. Cynthia's career of more than 24 years in the Ontario college system, included more than 10 years at Seneca College, where she was manager, King Campus Library and manager, Library User Services, before starting at Humber in 2017. She has a master's degree in Library and Information Science (U of T '86). At Humber Cynthia oversaw the launch of the Idea Lab and the expansion of the college archives, and also played an important role in the development of a new college library-system resource-search tool called Page 1+, as well as the integration of University of Guelph–Humber library services with those of Humber Libraries. She was president of the Ontario College and University Library Association in

2006, and, in 2024, received OCULA's Lifetime Achievement Award. On December 11, 2023, **Alexandra Ross** joined the senior leadership team, in the Division of Students and Institutional Planning, as library director.

Bill Slauenwhite, manager of Novanet, joined Novanet as the Implementation Project Manager in 2004 and retired in February. Bill graduated from Dalhousie University in 1983, and held positions in Dalhousie University Libraries and Technical University of Nova Scotia, prior to joining Novanet. He received the Atlantic Provinces Library Association Award of Merit in 2013 and was the Halifax Library Association president (2015–2016).

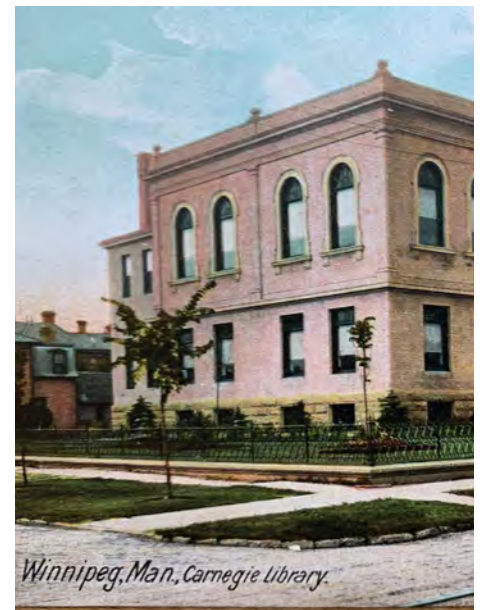
Chris Stephenson, CEO of Haliburton County PL, ON, retired in October 2023. Stephenson graduated with a BA from McMaster University in 1997 and an MLIS from UBC in 2015. He was a scenic carpenter with the Vancouver film industry for nearly 10 years, a rare-books digitizer for the BC Historical Books Project, an information architect for the Global Civic Policy Society in Vancouver as well as a board member of the Niteo Africa Society, Kelowna, BC. He was the CEO/head librarian of Bancroft PL, ON, (July 2016 – November 2017). In August 2018 he became head, Kelowna branch of the Okanagan Regional Library. While there, together with Ashley Machum, branch Youth Services librarian, he received the 2020 BCLA Intellectual Freedom Award, which stemmed from a Drag Queen Story Time held in 2019. Stephenson left Okanagan Regional Library in January 2021, and was a librarian at Bookmanager.com, before becoming Haliburton County PL CEO in September 2021. **Andrea Brown** was appointed CEO and chief librarian as of February 2024.

Susan Therrien, CEO of Port Colborne PL, ON, since July 2017, retired on February 29, 2024, after 31 years with the library. Susan worked on the library's first strategic

plan (adopted in 2018 and recently renewed), joined the Libraries in Niagara Cooperative in 2020, increased outreach with a pop-up library to cater to underserved areas, and increased community engagement and partnerships. Library Services manager/acting CEO is **Rachel Tkachuk**.

Ross Tyner, director of Library Services, Okanagan College, Kelowna, BC, retired in December 2023. After obtaining a BA from the University of Ottawa in 1988 and an MLS from UBC in 1992, Ross joined Okanagan College library. Prior to being appointed director of Library Services in 2009, Ross was active in the faculty association, serving terms as chief steward and president. During his 14 years as director, he also became interim regional dean, Shuswap-Revelstoke, Salmon Arm campus (2015–2016) and interim director of Human Resources (2016–2017). Roën Janyk became interim director of Library Services on December 18, 2023.

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



ELA Indigenous-Student Bursary

By Deb Thomas



In 2023 ELA launched an annual Indigenous Student Bursary of \$2,500 for students in library and archival programs. Thanks to a donation of \$500 from Library Bound and generous contributions from ELA members, we were able to raise the funds for the bursary's first year. We are pleased to report that the 2023 bursary has been awarded to William Fayant, a second-year student with an excellent GPA in his second year in the Library and

Information Technician Program at Red River College Polytech.



William Fayant
Photo credits: From left, Don's Photo (Regina),
Quin Jackson-Buck

"As I currently understand it, 2023 marks the first year this bursary has been awarded, in what I hope shall be the case for many years to come. Being an initial recipient, I understand, first-hand, just how much this award can change a person's life. I would like to express my sincerest gratitude to the Ex Libris Association for their support in the 2023-24 academic year. As a Library and Information Technology student, and as a Cree/Métis man from Treaty 4 Territory, receiving this bursary has been a life-

changing experience for me: I am now enrolled full-time in my studies, and can begin my path to a lifelong career in the library field much sooner than I could have without the Ex Libris Association's generous support. Thank you very much, ELA, for your kind investment towards my future!"
— William Fayant, Ex Libris Association Indigenous Student Bursary recipient (2023)

We have a healthy start, but welcome more donations to fund the 2024 award. If you would like to donate, please contact bob.exlibris@gmail.com, and contact our president, Deb Thomas at thomasde424@gmail.com if you have questions about any aspect of the bursary.

Thanks to Indspire which manages the award. More information on the bursary can be found on ELA's [website](#).

The Indigenous Student Bursary Committee comprises Deb Thomas (chair), Bob Henderson, Tom Eadie, and Lorisia MacLeod.

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Electronic versions of *ELAN* are available at exlibris.ca/doku.php?id=elan:newsletter-list.

Visit ELA's Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/ExLibrisAssociation>) for ELA news and current activities and library news.

ELAN Indexing

The current index can be found at:
<https://exlibris.ca/doku.php?id=elan:ex-libris-association-newsletter>

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ELAN

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Ex Libris Association Newsletter

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Disaster Planning for Libraries Webinar

By Leslie McGrath

On June 18, 2024, ELA hosted a fascinating webinar, A Disaster Planner Considers the Future for Libraries, presented by ELA member Guy Robertson. This informed wake-up call about known and emerging risks to libraries is available for attendees and new viewers to watch on this recording (<https://exlibris.ca/doku.php?id=activities:news>). Hearing an expert's inside views about the flaws of current disaster planning is illuminating. Too many libraries copy each other's disaster plans without sufficient modifications; too much attention is devoted to comfortably improbable risks from earthquakes and volcanoes, and too little care is paid to preparing for cyberattacks and disasters driven by climate change. Guy offered valuable advice about concerns related to natural, human-caused, and technological disasters, and he has kindly agreed to provide written notes to supplement the recording. Perhaps the most important takeaway is Guy's encouragement to librarians to re-engage with their staff, collections, physical facilities, and surroundings in analyzing and addressing disaster planning and risk management. The exemplary disaster management practised in Japan, Guy noted, results from everyone knowing their role and acting in a measured, effective manner, without panic or confusion. The North American trend toward silos of responsibility defeats such orderly conduct in crises. Whether by sharing catalogue data among libraries (a "cheap and cheerful" protection against cyberattacks) or by ruining the creases in one's trousers by actually falling to the floor as

requested during disaster rehearsals, Guy's presentation reminded us that everyone can and should take part in reducing risks we all face.

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

ELA Event

A tour of the spectacular newly renovated Albert Campbell branch of Toronto PL was held in late September 2024. Watch for the report in the Spring 2025 issue of ELAN!

Save the Date!

The Ex Libris Association AGM will be held Tuesday, March 4, 2025, at 10 a.m. Pacific / 11 a.m. Mountain / noon Central / 1 p.m. Eastern / 2 p.m. Atlantic / 2:30 p.m. Newfoundland. The AGM will be accompanied by a short presentation (topic TBA).

President's Report

By Deb Thomas



At a recent ELA board meeting, we discussed the value that our association can bring to the library community. As well as keeping our members engaged and

informed on current library issues in various ways — and preserving some of our history through biographies of individuals who have contributed to the library and archival communities in Canada — we recognize the importance of our members as individuals with both experience and perspective from long careers and often leadership roles in libraries and archives. In an increasingly fraught landscape for libraries in all sectors, our voices are especially critical.

We offer the time to reflect on our professions, to read about them, to debate them, and to act in response to them — time not always afforded in busy working lives. We offer an independent view, as our members are not representing any specific institution. And we offer the wisdom gained from years of watching various trends come and go.

As well, ELA remains firm in its commitment to promoting the fundamental values of librarianship, among them the importance of intellectual freedom. Recently, the board affirmed its support of the CFLA-FCAB's statement

on **Intellectual Freedom and Libraries**. A **Library Advocacy page** on the ELA website states: "ELA considers it essential that libraries and archives engage in the development of policies, collections, displays, programs, and promotional activities that ensure the communities they serve are defended against infringements to intellectual freedom, the right to free and confidential access to information, and the right to privacy protection."

Some of our ongoing activities include:

Tours and presentations

- Webinars and in-person presentations are offered roughly twice per year. We are currently looking for topics for a presentation this fall. In-person and virtual tours are being planned for the fall and winter. Watch for details about presentations and tours on the ELA listserv. (We are always open to suggestions for tours, webinars or in-person presentations. Contact **Deb Thomas** about webinars or in-person presentations and **Vivienne James** about tours.)

Preserving ELA and library history

- On our website, our **Biography page** holds biographies of more than 150 Canadian librarians and archivists, and more are continually being added. The **Remembering our former library colleagues** section provides a place for sharing the memories, life stories, and milestones

that celebrate the lives of those who have worked in libraries and information settings.

- We are preparing to hire a co-op student in the University of Toronto's Library and Information Sciences program to help us organize and digitize ELA's print archives.

Support for the library and archival communities

- The next biannual **W. Kaye Lamb Award** for excellence in services to seniors will be awarded in 2025. The current deadline for entries is October 2, 2025. (See the announcement by Christina Wilson in this issue, page 4.)
- We continue to fundraise for ELA's **Indigenous-Student Bursary** in our efforts to encourage more Indigenous voices in the future of work in libraries and archives. (See the bursary report by me in this issue, page 5, for more details.)

And, in uncertain financial times, ELA membership is very affordable at only \$35 a year. Tell your friends and former colleagues to consider joining!

Go to our website for a list of **board members**.

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

Canadian Federation of Library Associations/

Fédération canadienne des associations de bibliothèques (CFLA-FCAB)

By Todd Kyle



As part of the first year of its new **Strategic Plan**, CFLA-FCAB's executive has spent a great deal of effort on a series of consultations

with member organizations, other key stakeholders, and its own

strategic committees. The purpose was to help CFLA-FCAB identify consensus priorities for action, explore the strategic and fiscal viability of the organization, and strengthen its engagement and communications with the library community. As a result, three priority actions were identified for 2024:

- a Communication and Member Engagement Strategy, for which a request for proposals was issued

and awarded to Anne Bailey Communications & Strategy, to enable work to continue through the balance of the year;

- an Advocacy Strategy, which CFLA-FCAB has worked on with its government relations consultant, Impact Public Affairs, and which focusses on the need for federal funding for libraries as key components of social

Continued on page 3

...continued from page 2

- infrastructure, and,
- a governance review about how best to structure its board of directors, membership, committee nominations, and voting rights, for which CFLA-FCAB has struck a committee with its board and member associations.

CFLA-FCAB's committees have also been busy.

- The Indigenous Matters Committee completed the compilation *Steps to Reconcili-action*, a summary of actions taken by libraries in implementing CFLA-FCAB's Truth and Reconciliation Report.
- The Copyright Committee finalized its *Crown Copyright Code of Best Practices*.
- CFLA-FCAB also collaborated with Canadian School Libraries on the creation of a *Position Statement on the Status of School Libraries in Canada*.

Finally, it was announced that the next national forum will be held as part of the OLA Super Conference in early 2025.

ELA is a **CFLA-FCAB** member.

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

ELA Education Committee

By Deb Thomas

On June 18 Guy Robertson presented a webinar, entitled *A Disaster Planner Considers the Future for Libraries* (see the article by Leslie McGrath on the cover of this issue).

A link to an audio recording of his lecture can be found **on the ELA website**, along with links to video recordings of previous webinars.

While we are attempting to have

recordings of all webinars available for viewing after the live presentation (with the presenters' permission), we encourage members to attend the live presentations, as these provide opportunities to engage with the presenters not available through the recordings.

The Education Committee members are Deb Thomas (chair) and Todd Kyle. ■

Welcome to New ELA Members

We're proud to welcome these new ELA members:

Cheryl Buchwald, Toronto
 Donna Chan, Mississauga ON
 Gillian Clinton, Toronto
 Murray McCabe, Milgrove, ON
 Victoria Owen, Toronto
 Brighton PL, Brighton, ON
 Hamilton PL, Hamilton, ON
 Innisfil idea-LAB & Library, Innisfil, ON
 Oakville PL, Oakville, ON
 West Vancouver Memorial Library

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**.

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

And please submit any outstanding membership dues.

CFLA-FCAB Intellectual Freedom Committee (IFC)

By Dick Ellis

The 2023 report of **challenged titles, programs and policies** — based on data from both the CFLA-FCAB Challenges Survey and the Canadian Library Challenges Database (CLCD) — has been published. Future reports will be derived nearly entirely from the CLCD. The 2023 report is notable for the substantial number of titles reported multiple times, for the 400 percent increase in drag story-hour complaints, and for the predominance of works that are LBGTQ2S+ on the list.

The process of replicating past reports from the CFLA-FCAB

Challenges Database with the Canadian Library Challenges Database is now fully underway, with permissions to transfer data received from major contributing libraries.

The IFC has completed work on a policy regarding **labeling** in libraries and it is now on the CFLA-FCAB **website**.

In addition, the CFLA-FCAB board has approved a statement on the Intellectual Freedom Rights of Children.

At the time of writing, the IFC, the CFLA-FCAB board, and the Prison Libraries Network are reviewing the existing statement on **Prisoners' Right**

to Read inherited from the CLA's last days. The board reviews its statements on a regular basis.

While not essentially IFC proposals, the CFLA-FCAB board has approved a statement on the **status of school libraries**, in conjunction with Canadian School Libraries.

And, finally, the CFLA-FCAB board has approved a statement on **public lending rights**, arguing that the funding for such a program ought not to come from library budgets.

Dick Ellis is Librarian Emeritus at Memorial University. ■

ELA Website Update

By Lorne Bruce

The ELA website continues to evolve and expand, with more information. This spring and summer, two important additions have been made — separate sections on advocacy and ELA presentations. The advocacy section contains ELA's executive decision to endorse the CFLA-FCAB statement on intellectual freedom. The page also includes additional links to other intellectual-freedom e-resources such as:

- the ALA Library Bill of Rights, adopted in 1939 and most-recently amended in 2019,
- the CFLA-FCAB statement on Third Party Use of Publicly Funded Library Meeting Rooms and Facilities,
- the Canadian Association of Research Libraries Freedom of Expression and Inclusive Libraries statement, adopted in April 2022,
- the International Federation of Library Association's Libraries and Intellectual Freedom statement, adopted in January 2007, and
- the website for the Centre for Free Expression at Toronto Metropolitan University, an important non-partisan Canadian organization focused on freedom of expression.

You can find all of this at exlibris.ca/activities/advocacy.

The second section gathers presentations, pdfs, html pages, and videos of people who ELA has recorded over the years. Most of these addresses

were recorded at in-person ELA annual meetings, but — in the Zoom age — members will become more familiar with ELA-hosted webinars in the near future. The new section includes links and pages for:

- 2002 Panel discussion: Is Librarianship Headed for Oblivion? This is the printed version of the session held on the deprofessionalization of librarianship and featured Roma Harris (Western University), who has written extensively on the topic.
- 2010 ELA's four YouTube videos:
 - Storytelling and Children's Library Work: Ken Setterington spoke about his career as a children's librarian at Toronto PL and his passion for storytelling. Also, Mariella Bertelli, a children's librarian with Toronto PL, spoke about her career and the importance of reaching children through stories.
 - Shirley Lewis spoke about the Older Women's Network in Toronto as well as her volunteer work in Ethiopia that ELA helped fund.
 - Jean Weihs discussed working after retirement and the possibilities for temporary paid employment such as teaching, writing, indexing, cataloguing small collections, and acting as a consultant.
- 2022 Archives and Truth and Reconciliation: Lisa Glandt (University of British Columbia) provided a Zoom talk about how archives are responding to Truth and Reconciliation calls to action, in relation to archival practice in British Columbia.
- 2022 Censorship Threats in Canadian School Libraries: Richard Beaudry spoke to the ELA annual meeting, via Zoom and now available on YouTube, about material censorship in Canadian libraries and current threats to intellectual freedom.
- 2023 The State of Intellectual Freedom and Canadian Libraries: ELA's Richard Ellis (Librarian Emeritus at Memorial University) spoke via Zoom about the current situation libraries face on the intellectual-freedom front in Canada.
- 2023 Kayla Lar-Son spoke on Indigenous data, knowledge, and cultural sovereignty related to libraries.
- 2024 Guy Robertson gave a 45-minute webinar, A Disaster Planner Considers the Future for Libraries, which covered many risks and highlighted the need for planning to mitigate problems. Links to all of these presentations are on the new navigation page at the [ELA website](https://exlibris.ca/), so it's not necessary to visit YouTube for the video and Zoom files.

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

W. Kaye Lamb Award for Service to Seniors

By Christina Wilson

We ask our members to help the W. Kaye Lamb Award Committee seek out great candidates among the libraries you visit! The next award will be given out in the Fall of 2026. The call for applicants will be issued in the spring of 2025.

Named for Canada's first National Librarian, the **W. Kaye Lamb Award** — co-sponsored by ELA and CFLA-FCAB — recognizes outstanding innovative and excellent library service to seniors. Open to any Canadian library — private, public, governmental, special or postsecondary — it is awarded biennially when merited. Recipients receive an award plaque and a \$500 cash prize.

For more information, contact Committee Chair [Christina Wilson](#) or visit our [website](#).

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

ELA Indigenous-Student Bursary

By Deb Thomas



Our 2023 bursary, as reported in *ELAN* No. 75/Spring 2024, was awarded to William Fayant who is taking Library Technician courses. We are looking forward to providing another Indigenous student enrolled in library or archival studies with financial assistance in 2024. We are close to meeting our 2024 fundraising goal but welcome additional donations. Library Bound has continued with its generous support with another \$500 for this year's award. If you are

interested in donating to the bursary, please contact our treasurer, **Bob Henderson**. Interested and qualified students can apply for financial assistance, which may include our bursary, with **Indspire**.

*Committee members are Deb Thomas (chair), Tom Eadie, Bob Henderson, and Lorisia MacLeod. If you have questions about any aspect of the bursary, please contact **Deb Thomas**.* ■

Technology Unmasked! Artificial Intelligence (AI)

By Stan Orlov



For quite some time, AI has been part of our lives. Everyday examples include smartphone maps, voice assistants, facial recognition, Netflix recommendations, and more. Libraries also put AI to good use. With the help of AI tools, librarians are automating cataloging and metadata creation, offering personalized book-and-resource suggestions to patrons, and providing 24/7 assistance to common queries. Libraries also use AI techniques for faster and deeper analyses, indexing, and classification of collections. The **Bibliothèque nationale de Luxembourg**, for instance, analyzed 600,000 illustrations in digitized newspapers published from 1844 through 2007 to determine the type and content of the images, making them keyword searchable. It also used AI to identify subjects in 3.5 million newspaper articles, which allowed it to group them by categories.

AI became a much more discussed topic, since November 30, 2022, when OpenAI announced its free-to-use ChatGPT “Chat Generative Pre-trained Transformer” chatbot. Other companies — Meta with Llama, Microsoft with Bing, Google with Bard (later Gemini) — followed suit with their large language models. This

explosive growth in AI capabilities brought advanced natural language processing with more accurate and context-aware responses to user queries, more engaging and effective interactions with librarians and patrons in many languages, and the ability to provide detailed answers and personalized recommendations based on behaviour and preferences. AI can also improve accessibility by converting text to speech, providing visual descriptions, and creating accessible formats for users with disabilities — all in real time. And it will handle more complex tasks and automate a broader range of library services, reducing the workload on library staff.

While AI technology has many merits, some ethical concerns — such as data privacy, bias, transparency, potential of job displacement, and accuracy of AI-generated information — need to be addressed. In 2023, the International Federation of Library Association and Institutions published a report, **Developing a library strategic response to Artificial Intelligence**, outlining AI's present and future in libraries, including a SWOT (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats) analysis that I recommend to everyone interested in a deeper insight into this important and timely topic.

*Please send your questions and comments to stan.orlov@msvu.ca. **Stanislav Orlov** is Systems Librarian at Mount Saint Vincent University in Halifax.* ■

ELAN in Electronic Format

For members who wish to receive future *ELAN* issues in an electronic format, please contact Bob Henderson at bob.exlibris@gmail.com.

Why I became a Librarian

By Ross Gordon

I have to say that being a librarian was not my first choice for a career. Or second. I always liked visiting libraries and studying in them, but it never occurred to me that this was a career path for me. In fact, I didn't really notice the librarians when I was looking through the stacks, or even when they helped me. It was as though that world existed apart from the everyday and the people there were, just, there.

When I went to university, I spent an enormous amount of time and energy working toward becoming a professor of history, before realizing that it was not my dream so much as something that would make my mother very happy. Looking at the professors in our department I foresaw an uneven path filled with infighting and disappointment (I later realized that applies to other careers as well, but I was young).

I thought about other roads into the future: journalism, law, and even the Armed Forces (but — being half blind — I was only offered a position in HR, not a dream scenario).

The thing about reading a lot as a kid is that every kind of life looks interesting and every place on earth deserves a visit. I still haven't gotten past that.

When I wasn't at university, I did some travelling, held a string of jobs as

a barman or security guard, here and in Europe, and it seemed like I did not have to settle on anything too concrete for the time being. I figured I'd land on something if my career in history collapsed.

Then, one day, maybe not too soon, things got serious. I was engaged and suddenly had the desire to find a

looked very interesting, and I could use the grad courses I had already finished. I had never heard of such a program and, since my fiancée was from Quebec, I thought Montreal could be a good place to live. I didn't know that the University of Alberta, my alma mater, offered the same degree (and, interesting to note, McGill sent me to be interviewed in Calgary by an alumnus who never once mentioned the program up the road).

Now again, Mr. Indecisive, I thought I could graduate, get a job in Library World, then go back and do a PhD part-time. It did not occur to me that the MLIS would lead me to a life of complete satisfaction and success in a professional milieu. (Later, I did try a PhD part-time, while working at the Library of Parliament, but there comes a time in life where one wonders: to what purpose?)

Library work, frankly, was a perfect fit. Not just the job, which had its ups and downs, but I met people that I truly liked, who were funny and eccentric, and — I don't know if this does them

justice — they were really good people. Renaissance people to put a label on it. I remember an old fellow at the Library of Parliament (he must have been in his forties!) sitting with me at coffee and



Ross and friends, Library of Parliament
Photo credit: Robert Leriche

career and a need to ground my life in something solid. Lo and behold, in a library in Edmonton I found a brochure about the McGill MLIS degree that

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saying, “Nobody ever started out in life wanting to be a librarian.” (Note: This statement has since been proven to me to be wrong.) I had found my people.

I started off as a replacement at the Jewish General Hospital in Montreal, but jobs in that town were rare in those days, so when the Library of Parliament advertised for a term position it was ideal. History and beauty were merged. I spent 12 years there until moving to the National Archives to run the staff library. This segued into work in the new Library and Archives Canada,

working on the Consortium of Federal Libraries, then into a stint at the RCMP at the Canadian Police College. I went on to become the director of Information Management, at Environment Canada, until retirement. A lovely place to work, a department filled with idealists. I taught part-time, at McGill, Algonquin College, and the University of Ottawa, I wrote some articles, and I got to feel what it might have been like to be a professor.

Maybe being a lawyer would have been fun, I suppose, but my old lawyer

acquaintances didn’t stick with it long or turned out to be less content. I used to go home to Calgary and joke that, if I’d gone to law school, I’d be on my second divorce and third heart attack, by now. Not so in the world of libraries, where fidelity and a calm nature are assets.

My library career was good and, to be frank, it paid well. I recommend the degree as a solid grounding for any career, to any young person who asks. It can lead you anywhere. ■

Library Treasures of Britain: The Wren Library at Trinity College, Cambridge

By Guy Robertson

We hesitate to call anything “the very best” or “the most beautiful,” because superlatives are difficult, if not impossible, to prove. Our value judgements may sound stirring, but often lead us nowhere. One exception stands out — the Wren Library. Upon entering, visitors frequently utter series of superlatives regarding the beauty of the library and the importance of its collections, and go on to enrich their understanding of any number of subject areas.



Rear facade of library
Photo credit: Guy Robertson



Wren interior
Photo credit: Guy Robertson

“There’s nothing like this anywhere in the information world,” says a retired archivist from Calgary. “I might not go

to heaven when I die, but I wouldn’t complain if my ghost could haunt this library. I’ve seen many magnificent libraries and archives in Europe and North America, and none of them come close to this. It’s sublime, beyond anything I could imagine.”

Trinity College is an appropriate setting for the library. Founded in 1546 by Henry VIII, the college has had many students and faculty members who became famous for their achievements. Scientists and mathematicians predominate on a list that includes Isaac Newton, James Clerk Maxwell, Francis Galton, J. J. Thomson, and Ernest Rutherford. But the college has also supported noteworthy classical scholars and philosophers such as Sir James Frazer, A. E. Housman, Bertrand Russell, and Ludwig Wittgenstein. Poets and prime

ministers add lustre to the college’s history.

Occasionally, Trinity students demonstrate *joie de vivre* that has little to do with scholarship. While an undergraduate residing in rooms near the library, Lord Byron acquired a tame bear for a pet. When college authorities asked what he intended to do with it, he replied that the bear should “sit for a fellowship.” The authorities were not amused. Byron was forced to keep the bear in a stable outside the college, but Byron otherwise enjoyed a wild social life as a student, receiving an MA in 1808.

Byron’s statue, carved by the Danish sculptor Bertel Thorvaldsen, stands at the far end of the library. Originally intended for Poets’ Corner in Westminster Abbey, the statue was rejected by abbatial authorities, because of Byron’s perceived immorality.

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Workstation
Photo credit: Guy Robertson

What first strikes the visitor to the library is Christopher Wren's overall plan. Designed in 1675, the building was completed by 1695. Its rectangular exterior is dignified by four rooftop statues representing Mathematics, Physics, Law, and Divinity, subjects for which the university is famous. On one side of the building is Nevile's Court; on the other, the River Cam. Wisely, Wren laid out the library on the first floor (that is, above the ground floor) to protect it

from floods that might occur near the river.

Wren also planned the library's interior — the shelves, the sturdy stools, and the tables that are still in use. He hired Grinling Gibbons, the brilliant woodcarver and sculptor, to produce the limewood carvings on the ends of the bookcases, the heraldic pieces above the doors, and the floral swags in the vestibules.

Trinity developed its collection of books and manuscripts over centuries, amassing more than 80,000 items in the library, with another 40,000 in storage. It has the largest Oxbridge college collection, including approximately 1,250 medieval manuscripts and more than 750 incunabula. The oldest item is a copy of the *Epistles of St. Paul*, created in a Northumbrian monastery

around 730 AD. The library also holds four editions of Shakespeare's Folio and a large part of Isaac Newton's personal library, including his annotated first-edition copy of *Principia Mathematica*.

Material exhibited in display cases changes regularly, but lucky visitors might find themselves looking at the manuscripts of A. A. Milne's *Winnie-the Pooh* and *The House at Pooh Corner*, alongside the notebooks of Alfred, Lord Tennyson and Ludwig Wittgenstein.

"I've always wanted to see a

Wittgenstein notebook," says an academic librarian from Vancouver. "I must admit, however, that his notebook scribble is as impenetrable as his printed works. Still, it leaves me speechless, and perhaps in a century or two, somebody will be able to figure out what the old boy was saying. Undoubtedly the Wren Library will still be in operation, and that notebook will remain available for interpretation."

The **Wren Digital Library** provides online access to many valuable items, including manuscripts by John Milton and Isaac Newton. These are well worth your attention, but why not visit Cambridge and spend time in the most beautiful library in the world? That is a superlative that could lead you to a place that you would never forget.

Find more information at <https://www.trin.cam.ac.uk>.

Guy Robertson, senior instructor at Langara College, teaches library history, reference and readers' advisory services, and records management, and is an instructor in information security and risk management at the Justice Institute of B.C. He is a consultant to organizations across North America, and has provided advice and services to libraries, archives, records centres, and museums in Europe and Asia. A regular ELAN contributor, Guy is noted for his research into book and manuscript theft, data loss and protection, and financial fraud and forgery.

Guy is the author of five books on library and archival topics. ■

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.

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Dangerous Books

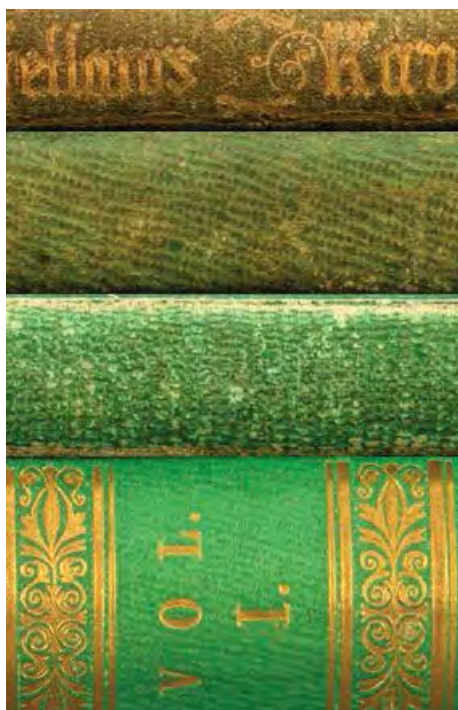
By Leslie McGrath

Part I: Avoid Sudden Movements

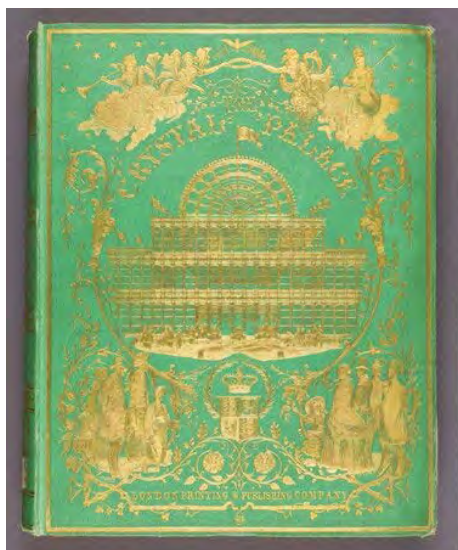
During the “Great Book Scare” that spanned the late 1800s to the 1920s unhealthy conditions in cities brought epidemics of scarlet fever, smallpox, and tuberculosis, and reports of books transmitting diseases caused suspicion of circulating libraries (Hayes). Two studies with conflicting results had exposed laboratory animals to germy book parts. In the first study, the subject monkeys lived, leading the British journal *Library* editor to conclude that “no danger exists to the ordinary library user, but ... anyone who moistens fingers to turn book pages might well be infected—and deservedly so!” (Greenberg, 283). In the second, all 40 subject guinea pigs died (Hayes). Rigorous contemporary methods of disinfecting library books included the use of formaldehyde, sulphur, gasoline, and heated carbolic crystal fumes, no doubt creating new risks (Greenberg). With improved public health, most fears of book-borne infection subsided, though bioterrorism is a concern, because anthrax spores can survive indefinitely on paper (CDC).

Experts also warn that the dust on books holds chemicals, heavy metals, and biohazards that air currents send “directly to your nose” (Bolourchi). These currents are “likely emitted by sudden activities, such as ... quickly browsing a book, or removing a book from a shelf,” leading to the recommendation that librarians “increase their care in sudden movements” (Baldelli et al). Delicate handling may also avoid papercuts and infection leading, in one rare case, to flesh-eating disease (New York Post).

Many early book inks and pigments are harmful, especially if dissolved on the tongue. Orpiment (yellow), lead-based white and red, and vermilion are poison (Baker). Handling books bound around 1840 to 1860 in shades of the popular “Paris Green” may expose readers to arsenic, warns an international project listing known arsenical titles (Winterthur). Poisonous lead was long used in type and inks, causing some countries to limit the selling of old



19th-century arsenical book covers
Photo credit: Winterthur Library, Printed Book and Periodical Collection



Green bookcloth on an 1852 imprint
Photo credit: Winterthur Library, Printed Book and Periodical Collection



Burned Fingers
Photo credit: Wellcome. Detail, arsenic poisoning. *Annales d'hygiène publique et de médecine légale*. Paris: J.-B. Baillière et fils, 1829–1922

children's books to prevent exposures (Stillman). Tobacco adds new hazards: a recent study found high levels of harmful chemicals on paperbacks read by smokers (Lavallee et al).

Books may pose hazards because of their weight. One extreme hoarder reported the origins of her disorder as working in a bookshop with a good employee discount. Endangered by toppling piles of books and other memorabilia, “Tiffany” had to abandon her home and enter therapy (Hoarders). In 2008 the owner of the Green Text Book Store in Hong Kong was killed when 20 boxes of books fell onto him; his body wasn't found for 10 days (Chow).

The ritual of “kissing the book” spans most major religions. This may be unhygienic, but actually ingesting a book, whether through force-feeding, a suicidal impulse, or an exercise in religious ecstasy, can be deadly: in 1987 a man died at East Toronto Detention Centre from choking on a miniature Gideon Bible (Toronto Star). Few books, indeed, are meant to be consumed in entirety (Bacon). Yet, all these physical dangers are no more a deterrent to reading than the intellectual and moral risks books pose. Forewarned is forearmed: books are essential, even those that “affect us like a disaster” (Kafka).

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Part II: Wear Protective Clothing

At the Bibliothèque nationale du France, visitors who wish to study Marie Curie's notebooks and cookbooks must sign a waiver and "wear protective gear," because "the items are contaminated with radium 226, which has a half-life of about 1,600 years ... it will take another 1,500 years until they are half as radioactive as they are now" (Tasch, 2015). More commonly, books have been exposed to gamma rays (to control mould and insect infestations) after major conservation emergencies such as floods. Given the urgency of the situations, attention to



Marie Curie's radioactive notebook
Photo credit: Wellcome Collection object.
Photo courtesy of Aurora Health Physics Services

hazardous outcomes has focused on the effects on the books (degradation of the paper) rather than on the unintended

consequences for subsequent readers, but more research is needed to measure the risks. The coating on paper used in many magazines to create shiny surfaces is composed of kaolin clay, which contains traces of uranium and thorium, and is a mildly radioactive substance. At least, the danger in this case is considered minimal, as studies have shown that glossy magazines, like *Playboy*, expose their readers to less radiation than they would get from eating a banana (Inglis-Arkell, 2011).

The deliberate weaponization of books, however, is more than just a literary metaphor. Books have recently been carved into symbolic paper guns by American artist Robert The, but hollowed books containing actual firearms are known to have existed since the 17th century. Francesco Morosini, Doge of Venice (1688–1694) owned a prayer book containing a buttless gun that could be fired without the book being opened, simply by pulling on a silk bookmark; its binding, incidentally, is described as "stunning" and may have distracted the victims (The Archaeologist, 2022).

Books are also convenient receptacles for miniature pipe bombs and explosive devices. In 1980 the president of United Airlines was injured by a bomb concealed in a book sent through the mail (Dispatch, 1980). In a less dangerous variation, James Patterson's unusual "self-destructing book," *Private Vegas*,



Doge Francesco Morosini's prayer book with pistol, Venezia, Museo Correr, inv. CL. XIV n. 1515
Photo credit: Photo courtesy of Fondazione Musei Civici di Venezia

disappeared from readers' ebook devices in a virtual puff of smoke, after their allotted 1,000 hours of reading expired — except in the case of the \$300,000 single paper copy, burned on camera by

a bomb squad, when its owner's time was up, though he was kept at a safe distance from the flames (Patterson, 2015).

As commonplace objects, easily overlooked, books have naturally been employed for espionage. Whole books were turned into cameras, or used to conceal miniature cameras, while exposed film could be easily transported in a book. The "Microdot camera" was "developed on the Minox's abilities to scan paper documents, photographing a whole page with a camera the size of a full stop" — one that could be embedded in the print of a coin or book (Mudd). More commonly, books concealing cameras have been used illegally for voyeuristic purposes (Dillon, 2006).

The rectangular shape and solid construction of a book also make it easy to hollow out for hiding illicit goods. Smugglers have mailed books filled with guns and drugs across borders and into prisons; in one instance, the yellow marker highlights in a book were found to contain methamphetamine (D.E.A., 2007). A specialty service in Tennessee listed on Amazon will "custom fit book safes for flasks and handguns" (Bookmods, 2024); generic "flask books" are also readily available. Small but valuable items of cultural property have been concealed in books for illegal removal from home countries (Bridges for Peace, 2005). In another instance, the contraband was a large amount of stolen cryptocurrency to be transported for laundering (Farivar and Jeans, 2022).

Readers themselves can add hazards to books because, as every librarian has observed, readers will use *anything* to mark their place, and as one expert puts it, "why would you buy a bookmark when there are dozens of things within reach that could do the job for free?" (Royle, 2024). Highly private letters and photos, herbs and flowers, foodstuffs, messages to strangers ... these have inspired articles, blogs, and books, but not all inserts are benign: one librarian found a circular saw blade tucked into *Inside Every Woman*; another came across a six-inch shard of glass in a paperback copy of *Gunsmoke* (Bolton, 2017). Scarlet fever was once apparently transmitted by the strips of peeled

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skin a patient had used as bookmarks (**Atenstaedt**, 2006), while other reported inserts include “scissors, knives, a cheese slicer [wrapped single cheese slices are also popular], and even a small hatchet” (**Zeitlin**, 2022). Despite the hazards, nothing will stop these dedicated professionals from handling books. They may not use full protective clothing, but it should be no surprise that, at least on their jobs, many librarians still prefer to wear gloves.

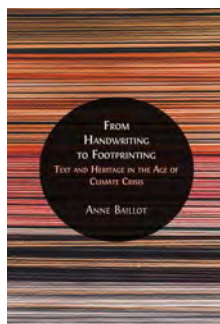
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Book Reviews



From Handwriting to Footprinting: Text and Heritage in the Age of Climate Crisis
 By Anne Baillot
 Open Book, 2023

Reviewed by J. A. Forrester

This is a slim anthology of previous articles by European academic Anne Baillot who works at Centre Marc Bloch, Berlin. She has reworked and expanded her research into the effects of digitization and climate change on access to materials in library and archival collections. The first section covers the institutionalization and digital transformation of physical items, as well as contemporary digital files. The second outlines the transformation of the publishing industry and emphasizes the importance of the Open Access concept. The concluding statement explores the implications of climate change and the costs of preserving archival collections into the future. In the third section the author focuses on the impact of the climate crisis on her vocation in textual studies and what the future direction might be. She concludes, “In this book, I wanted to show that philology, Open Access, and environmental evolutions are intimately

intertwined.”

She states that “in the context of IT technologies, 10 years is a long time.” Digital formats and operating systems come and go. How many of us have floppy disks which are no longer recognized by the OS, assuming you kept a drive of the appropriate size?

This publication will interest those working in archival repositories and researchers studying climate change on public texts new and old.

James Forrester is a fellow of Trail College (Trent) and president of the Peterborough Historical Society. He has an active interest in photo research and the use of photos in all media formats.



Unpacking the Personal Library: The Public and Private Life of Books
 By Jason Camlot and J. A. Weingarten (eds.)
 Wilfrid Laurier University, 2022

Reviewed by Peter F. McNally

Personal libraries are a much-overlooked aspect of Canadian

Anglophone library history. Correcting this lacuna may have begun with this collection of essays, edited by two English-literature professors. Between their introductory and concluding contributions, 11 essays are organized under the headings Private Libraries Made Public (publicly accessible private collections) and The Personal Library as a Field of Interpretation (private collections as a source for analyzing the creative process). The libraries of Sir William Osler and Prime Minister Mackenzie King are among those considered in the first category, and the collections of Al Purdy and Sheila and Wilfred Watson are among the second.

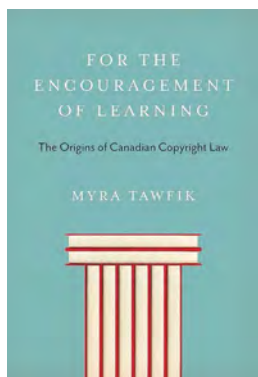
Several features of this collection deserve mention. First, the focus is international, with the libraries of Virginia Woolf and Robert Duncan receiving chapters. Second, the volume's definition of private collections is elastic, including books housed in Canadian embassies and high commissions, books housed in a Spanish protest encampment, and fugitive small-press publications found in a bookstore. Third is the reliance on formal literary theory, with philosophers such as Jacques

Continued on page 12

...continued from page 11

Derrida and Michel Foucault being cited. Most of the articles treat libraries as a methodological approach to literary criticism. In “Serious House: on the Future of Library Print Collections,” Andrew Stauffer’s skepticism about digital texts and electronic libraries being able to replace “redundant duplicate texts” will resonate with many.

The volume is footnoted with a full bibliography, is well edited and indexed, but is without illustrations. The articles are written by qualified scholars and will appeal particularly to literary professionals.



For the Encouragement of Learning: The Origins of Canadian Copyright Law
By Myra Tawfik
University of Toronto, 2023

Reviewed by Victoria Owen

Myra Tawfik’s book on Canadian copyright history will transform our understanding of copyright law and policy. It reads like a legal and social adventure, yet has the heft of a textbook and the citations of a scholarly work. Tawfik’s years of piecing together this gripping legal history contextualizes a rich backstory that illuminates the law and informs Canadians of who we are and why we are this way.

Professor Tawfik (University of Windsor) is a well-respected legal academic whose scholarly work the Supreme Court of Canada cited in the 2021 case *York University v Canadian Copyright Licensing Agency (Access Copyright)*. She has turned her considerable talent to illuminate the origins of copyright law in Canada. Her masterful, detailed history exhaustively researches legislative records, provincial and national archives,

and scholarly literature. Many Canadians dismiss the complex and nuanced history of Canadian copyright law with a brief — and, as we learn, uninformed — statement that our copyright regime descended from the British statutes. Canada’s copyright story is far richer and more closely aligned with this country’s complicated history as a British colony that includes a ceded French territory with a linguistic majority, common law and civil law systems, a behemoth neighbour in the United States, and a complete absence of reference to Indigenous laws.

Professor Tawfik teases out Canada’s copyright story following those strands. With a small population, Upper and Lower Canada strained to support a printing and publishing industry tailored to educational materials that reflected the local environment. They could not compete with Britain or the U.S. in scale or volume. The situation was aggravated by a distant, imperious colonial master whose publishing lobby and self interest dictated that Britain favour the American book market, one that produced school books with a staunchly republican perspective, and British reprints that violated copyright.

The many letters from the Canadian government to London, articulating the harms to Canada’s cultural identity and literature, and its printing and publishing trade, were ignored, and Canada was forced to acquiesce. London treated Canada in a dismissive and secondary manner, favouring the U.S. book market over that of its own colony.

Myra Tawfik’s seminal work transports us to a deeper understanding of copyright’s original purpose, the advancement of learning, and to our own Canadian history, complexity, and character.

Victoria Owen is information-policy scholar-practitioner in the Faculty of Information at U of T and special advisor to the dean on information

accessibility at UT Scarborough. Her background is library administration in academic, special, and public libraries. Her special interest is intellectual property. ■

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Books by Members

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

Corrections to ELAN

Starting with ELAN No. 71/Spring 2022, any corrections have been/will be made to the digital issues on our website.

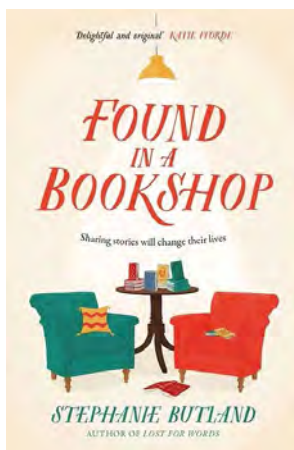


Good Reads

By Judy Dunn

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

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



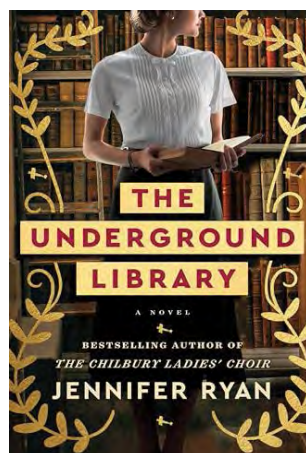
Found in a Bookshop By Stephanie Butland Headline, 2023

A sequel to *The Lost for Words Bookshop*, this story is set during COVID at a little bookshop in York, England, where the new owner keeps the shop open to prescribe books as a remedy for isolation and difficult times.



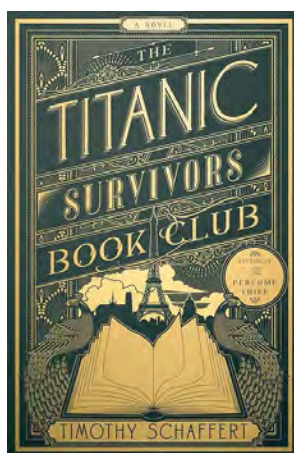
Miss Morgan's Book Brigade By Janet Skeslien Charles Simon & Schuster, 2024

This celebration of strong women making their mark on history is based on the true story of Jessie Carson. In 1918 this librarian leaves the New York Public Library to go to France and work for the American Committee for Devastated France.



The Underground Library By Jennifer Ryan Ballantine, 2024

This novel is based on the true-life underground library at London's Bethnal Green tube station during the Second World War (see *The Little Wartime Library*, "Good Reads," ELAN No. 74/Fall 2023, page 11). Three women's paths cross and their story explores the power of books, hope, and friendship.



The Titanic Survivors Book Club: a Novel By Timothy Schaffert Doubleday, 2024

A *Titanic* librarian survives by not boarding the doomed ocean liner. After opening a book shop in Paris, he meets a small group of similar survivors and forms a book club where they discover second chances and the life-changing nature of books.

British Columbia News

By Guy Robertson



In April the **University of British Columbia Library** announced that faculty, staff members, and students will have access to digital newspaper archives from Canada, Asia, and

Europe. The database of *The Montreal Gazette*, the only English-language daily newspaper in Quebec, will allow users

to conduct comprehensive research in issues published between 1867 and 2010. The database of *Le Monde*, a widely circulated newspaper founded at the request of **Charles de Gaulle**, contains issues from 1944 to 2000. Of particular interest to Asian history scholars is *The Chinese Newspaper Collection*, a database containing more than 20 historical English-language newspapers and other publications that appeared

from 1832 to 1953. Over the past decade, the library has increased access to many newspaper archives, including local publications such as *The Vancouver Sun* and *The Province*.

From May to August at **Simon Fraser University Belzberg Library**, patrons enjoyed *Destroying Tradition: Movements in Vancouver Punk Rock*, an exhibition featuring handbills, photos, performance posters, t-shirts, and rare

vinyl records by legendary bands such as D.O.A. The library's extensive collection of punk material attracts researchers from North America, the U.K., and Europe.

In June the **BC Summer Reading Club** (SRC) began its annual activities by declaring its goals, which included engaging children in programs that support literacy, connecting young readers with materials that suit their interests, and distributing bookmarks and stickers to help them track their reading. The British Columbia Library Association, the Public Libraries Branch of the Ministry of Municipal Affairs, and CUPE BC sponsor SRC.

In June Pride Month at the **University of Northern British Columbia Geoffrey R. Weller Library** included the promotion of LGBTQIA2S+ books in its collection. These included *Love Beyond Body, Space, and Time: An Indigenous LGBT sci-fi anthology*, edited by Hope Nicholson, Kara Keeling's *Queer Times, Black Futures*, and Billy Ray Belcourt's *A History of My Brief Body*. The works in various genres demonstrate the creativity of the LGBTQIAQ2S+ community.

Island Health provides health-care services to Vancouver Island and neighbouring islands and communities. In December 2023 it supported the installation of 10 motion-detection sensors in the washroom stalls of the **Vancouver Island Regional Library (VIRL) Nanaimo Harbourfront** branch. This June Island Health gave VIRL \$50,000 for the installation of more sensors; these will detect medical emergencies including toxic drug overdoses. Dubbed **Brave Branches**, the project supports library staff and enhances patron safety during a time of increasingly unregulated drug distribution.

In July and August the **Vancouver Public Library (VPL)** mounted its **Adult Summer Challenge**, which included a series of "adventures" to enhance public awareness of the library's facilities and services. Adventure No. 1 encouraged people to "walk, bike, roll, or stroll" to all of VPL's 21 libraries. Each location gave

participants a stamp to verify their visit. Adventure No. 2 involved taking a selfie with a book and a reading buddy — a person, a pet, a toy, or any other object beside which one liked to read — at a favourite place such as a café or beach. Participants posted their photos on Facebook or X. VPL's website included riddles and clues for participants, who searched for hidden treasures in Adventure No. 3. Most popular with many dedicated readers was Adventure No. 4, appropriately called *Book Bingo*. Participants checked off squares on a grid — under headings such as Set in the Pacific Northwest, Book you loved as a kid, and Book by an author with a disability — describing books they had read during the summer. Participants completed a line — horizontal, vertical, or diagonal — to win prizes. Staff at circulation counters reported hearing "Bingo!" in public seating areas. The grand prize for completing any of the adventures was a private screening for the winner and 20 friends at **VPL's Central Library**.

Prairies News

By Alvin M. Schrader



Last January, with temperatures hovering at -48°C , **Airdrie Public Library** stayed open around the clock as a warming shelter facility. In the absence of a 24-

hour emergency shelter or other social housing programs, that city of about 85,000 has commissioned a homelessness study to determine a more comprehensive understanding of **the vulnerable and unsheltered population** in the community, and future options.

In the same month, **Airdrie Public Library** signed a certificate of partnership commemoration with the Knights of Rizal Airdrie Chapter to award naming rights for a room in the new library facility. The Philippine Consul General and Dr. José Rizal (the

Knights of Rizal founder) presented books on the Philippines in both English and Tagalog.

Calgary Public Library reported that several LGBTQ2S+-themed books were returned to the **Crowfoot Branch** "with significant damage," mid-February. The incident was referred to the Calgary Police Service, which asked its Hate Crime Prevention Team for review.

Edmonton Public Library (EPL) is participating in a pilot program at the downtown **Stanley Milner Branch**, under the city's Downtown Vibrancy Strategy, to deal with the increase in overdoses and security incidents in recent years. Tabatha Plesuk, an overdose-prevention-and-response nurse for Boyle Street Community Services, responds to mental-health crises and opioid poisonings. Equipped with naloxone, she works alongside outreach worker Blake Loates at the branch. Plesuk also provides health support and clean supplies to vulnerable people. EPL first brought in social workers in 2011; other public libraries, including **Halifax and Calgary PLs**, have brought in support staff and **social workers** to respond to the needs of a broad population. Since COVID, the homeless population of Edmonton has doubled.

EPL now brings parents and tots to seniors' homes in a program that supports older adults and leverages EPL's expertise in early childhood education, storytime, sing, sign, lap, and learn, to help everyone to connect them. The pairing is mutually beneficial, combats social isolation, and supports memory and recall. At the same time, it helps babies' development.

February 18 to 24, **Battleford Public Library, Sask.** celebrated the 40th anniversary of Freedom to Read Week with a display of challenged books and a "mugshot station," where patrons could get a mugshot snapped of themselves and their banned book. Some of the books on display included *Fifty Shades of Gray*, *The Hunger Games*, and *Fahrenheit 451*.

Regina Public Library (RPL) has requested \$340,000 in additional

security costs estimated for 2025, after a report saying public library workers face an increase in violent incidents they have personally experienced or witnessed. The downtown branch was temporarily closed, in June 2023, after a stabbing. **RPL** has worked with outreach workers for a five-month pilot through Family Service Regina, reporting that library calls to police went down by a third.

In late 2023 the **Steinbach Public Library board** decided to use stickers to label every LGBTQ2S+-related juvenile picture book in the easy and board sections. A patron had requested to remove or separate children's books with LGBTQ2S+ books, with many others emailing similar complaints. **Chrystie Kroeker Boggs** left the position of library director before the board meeting at which the stickering decision was made. Stickers on Christian books were already in place.

Manitoba Legislative Library has provided a permanent home for more than a century's worth of archival copies of the **Brandon Sun**. Issues date back to the late 1800s. The library's mandate includes the preservation of Manitoba's publishing history, and more than 800 newspaper titles are currently in the collection. The library already had a Brandon newspaper microfilm collection, but did not have original print copies.

Hailey McCullough was appointed director of the **Grande Prairie Public Library (GPPL)**, effective January 1, 2024. Prior to joining **GPPL** in 2018, she was at the College of the North Atlantic.

Last February **Emma Hill Kepron** picked up her buzzer to compete for a wild-card spot — and for cash and bragging rights — in the annual Tournament of Champions on *Jeopardy!* Emma, who has been watching *Jeopardy!* since she was a teen, trained by practising ringing in with a clicker pen, and studied categories such as state capitals and the periodic table. She placed second and won \$28,000 US. She is associate dean, **University of Winnipeg Library**.

Alvin M. Schrader is Professor

Emeritus at the University of Alberta, School of Library & Information Studies.

Ontario News

By Vivienne James



The 10th OCULA Annual Symposium, Fostering Collaboration and Knowledge Exchange in Digital Learning, is planned for November or

December 2024. It offers discussions, presentations, and hands-on workshops related to e-learning in library environments.

During Indigenous History Month (June), **Guelph University Library** highlighted Exploring Indigenous Narratives and Worldviews, a collection uplifting First Nations, Inuit, and Métis voices through research and storytelling.

McMaster University's Vivian Lewis, who reopened two campus libraries during the pandemic, continues as associate vice-president and university librarian. July's virtual event, One Love and Venceremos: Celebrating the Correspondence of Austin Clarke and Andrew Salkey, brought together scholars from McMaster (holding Clarke's papers) and the **British Library** (holding Salkey's papers) to discuss these Caribbean diasporic writers, kicking off a week-long series of readings and discussions marking Clarke's 90th birthday. A conference — Austin Clarke, Black Studies and Black Diasporic Memory — is scheduled for September at **McMaster and Toronto Metropolitan universities**.

Western University Library's (WUL) new vice-provost and chief librarian is **Geoffrey Little**, who replaces Catherine Reeves. The library received a \$2 million gift from the estate of Halina and James (Rus) Russell Robinson, enhancing access to military and veterans' history resources. **WUL** is now an associate member of the Digital Preservation

Coalition (DPC), supporting digital preservation and training globally.

Queen's University Bracken Health Sciences Library hosted the National Library of Medicine-produced **Renaissance Science, Magic, and Medicine in Harry Potter's World** in July, exploring influences of Renaissance thinkers on Western science, through the lens of the Harry Potter series.

Casita Azul, York University's library in Costa Rica is a community-education hub providing Internet access, books, and computers. **York University Library** has also shifted its Open Access Author Fund to focus on nationally negotiated agreements for article-processing charge (APC) discounts.

Nicole Nolan, with her strong background in academic librarianship, has been appointed **Brock University Library's next University Librarian**.

Toronto Public Library (TPL) continues to shine with its Special Collections exhibit, **Centuries of Treasures, 1500s to 2022**. **TPL** also participated in Pride Toronto Community Connect, celebrated the opening of and broke ground for its 101st branch in the Etobicoke Civic Centre. **TPL** is the only North American library system in the top 10 of the **2024 IFLA PressReader International Marketing Award**. In May **TPL** hosted a virtual Innovation Symposium on the future of libraries. **TPL's Gerrard/Ashdale branch** turned 100 in May, and all 100 branches hosted Customer Appreciation Day, in gratitude for support during a cybersecurity incident.

Guelph Public Library received a \$13.5 million federal investment for the construction of a new central library to the Canada Green Building Council's Zero Carbon Building-Design standard.

The 4,000-square-foot **Sarnia's Clearwater Library** is now open, offering a hub for knowledge, creativity, and community connection.

Ottawa Public Library launched its first system-wide adult summer program, **Stories of Summer: Adult Library Challenge**, with bingo cards and book lists, awarding prizes by

September 30.

Barrie Public Library and **Richmond Hill PL** each received a **2024 John Cotton Dana Library Public Relations Award**. The Ontario Library Association awarded the 2024 **Library Architectural and Design Transformation Award** at the OLA Annual Institute in June to **TPL, Albert Campbell Branch** and **Western University, D. B Weldon Library – Eastside branch** with an honorary mention to **TPL, Wychwood branch**.

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



Can You Hear Me?/M'entendez-vous? was the theme of the Association des bibliothécaires du Québec/ Library Association's Annual Conference in May. Opening and closing keynote addresses were delivered by Dr. Marina Doucerain, UQAM, and Annabelle Laliberté (Montreal), respectively.



The 2024/25 ABQLA co-presidents are Melissa Rivosecchi and Aeron MacHattie, Concordia University.

The Anne Galler Award to an individual who has enriched librarianship in Quebec was awarded to **Pat Riva**, Associate University Librarian, Concordia University.

Due to funding issues with the Quebec government, McGill University is re-evaluating the Fiat Lux project for rebuilding the **McLennan-Redpath Library** complex.

Employees of the **Bibliothèque**

de Québec network began strike action March 1, 2024, coinciding with festivities to celebrate the reopening of the **Gabrielle-Roy Library** after a major renovation. On June 14, 52 percent of the 240 employees accepted a new contract, **ending the 106-day strike**. The **Pierre-Georges Roy Library in Lévis** closed this summer for a \$10 million restoration. Originally a chapel, it was built in 1891 to meet the religious needs of the Collège de Lévis. During the restoration construction, library users are invited to visit the system's nine other libraries.

Pierre Guilmette is a retired librarian, Université Laval.

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

Maritimes News

By Tanja Harrison



Nova Scotia's Cumberland Regional Public Libraries

system has reinstated the hours cut in the spring. The towns of Amherst and Oxford

provided one-time bridge funding to restore the hours to all locations. One can only hope that the support of countless citizens, staff, and local leaders has demonstrated the need for sustainable core library services, which increasingly include food-security initiatives. Libraries are using a \$53,000 grant to collaborate with local organizations, such as the YMCA of Cumberland and the Cumberland Adult Network for Upgrading (CANU), that are already doing food-security work. Snacks are available at all seven branches, with a food pantry at the **Amherst PL**.

Thanks to funding from Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada, newcomers can practice conversational English and connect with community members at multiple branches of **Cape Breton Regional Library (CBRL)** through programming that encourages sharing

cultural traditions and celebrations, and offers guest speakers on topics related to living, working, and playing in their new home. To promote health and wellness, YMCA locations in Sydney and Membertou First Nations communities now have free five-day guest passes, including bus tickets, available via **CBRL** branches.

Funded by the Rotary Club of Charlottetown, the **Charlottetown Library Learning Centre now offers a 'comfort cabinet'** with items such as general hygiene products, clothing, and diapers that's accessible by anyone with or without a library card and restocked daily. It's located in an unmonitored area to ensure discretion for patrons in need.

The **PEI Public Library Service** has extended its hours and added open days at all French branches — **Bibliothèque publique d'Abram-Village, Bibliothèque publique Dr.-J.-Edmond-Arsenault (Charlottetown) and Bibliothèque publique J.-Henri-Blanchard (Summerside)** — to expand access to French-language books and resources for islanders and visitors alike. "This is beneficial to the growing Acadian and francophone community," says provincial Minister for Acadia and Francophone Affairs Gilles Arsenault.

The **University of New Brunswick (Fredericton) Engineering and Computer Science Library** has become an integral resource, lending an expanding tool library that includes hand tools, power drills, sanders, and other essential equipment, as well as devices for academic and personal projects. Recently librarians have used Google Lens — a powerful image recognition-technology combined with AI — to identify a tool's name, function, and usage. Particularly helpful for new or international students, Google Lens quickly finds user manuals, video tutorials, and safety guidelines, and also aids in inventory management. By scanning barcodes and QR codes, staff can access tool records, loan status, and condition data to determine the need for maintenance or replacement. The app can also stimulate research and innovation, by helping users to

brainstorm and develop new project ideas. For visually impaired patrons, Google Lens also provides audio descriptions and features.

Jeannie Bail became university librarian at **Mount Saint Vincent University Library**, effective August 12, 2024. She has held various positions, most recently with the University of New Brunswick as a liaison librarian and the director of Learning and Research Services.

Tanja Harrison, former University Librarian, Mount Saint Vincent University, is currently on leave.

Newfoundland & Labrador News

By Dick Ellis



Not a great deal has happened on the library scene in Newfoundland and Labrador in the past few months, save the passing of Pearce Penney, which is covered elsewhere.

It is safe to say the one-time supplement to the province's library system has been spent or committed. As noted in *ELAN's* last issue, this was the first increase since 2015. For an evening's entertainment, take out a pencil and calculate on the back of this issue the real value of \$600,000 in 2015 dollars. My calculation makes it about \$250,000, the amount that was cut in 2015.

Well there is an election coming up in a year or so, and the current Liberal government is ramping up the good news. There is time enough to address the long-term problems in the library system, as part of the good news.

Oh yes, **Memorial University Education Library**, primarily a collection of curricular materials, held a Drag Storytime on July 24. Apparently 50 people showed up "from across campus." Gives one pause for thought.

Dick Ellis is Librarian Emeritus at Memorial University.

News from the North

By Julie Ourom



In a new venture, **Whitehorse PL (WPL)** partnered with Yukon University's Youth Moving Mountains summer camp, with an Expedition Engineers theme geared to ages 8 through 12. The library introduced two **pods** available for one- or two-person use for study, work, or taking calls. WPL also held a co-operative event on growing microgreens, to launch their deck garden and "write Fridays by the river," promoting WPL's prime location on the Yukon River, while talks at **Dawson City Community Library** promoted gardening in the midnight sun.

Special guests joined the **Iqaluit Centennial Library** for an interactive throat singing and Inuit drumming program.

A coffee-and-Islam session in the **Yellowknife PL (YPL)** encouraged understanding and inclusivity. To expand accessibility, YPL is now lending **sensory support kits** for autism, ADHD, and other conditions. YPL's updated **website** offers information on events and services.

Hay River PL invited seniors to enjoy movie matinees.

The Yukon Writers' Festival returned with a gala in Whitehorse at the local indie cinema, followed by a tour of community libraries and the Yukon Young Authors' Conference in Whitehorse. The **Northwords Writers Festival** returned for its 19th year, across the Northwest Territories. Year-round kids' programs continued throughout the North, including the TD Summer Reading Club.

Library pets are not uncommon, but they don't always make the **national news**; one, in Fort Smith's **Mary Kaeser Library**, did.

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.

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

Earlier this year, the School of Information announced the winners of the 2024 **iSchool Bookmark Design Contest**. **Danielle Osakwe**, an MLIS candidate, produced a colourful bookmark with images that illustrate the historical relationship between physical and digital formats. MASLIS candidate **Lilly Liu** included an iris — a symbol of knowledge — in her design. For her bookmark, **Nobu Kawaguchi**, a 2024 MLIS graduate, mixed images from different cultures, languages, and eras, to demonstrate iSchool students' diverse backgrounds. The 2023/2024 UBC **Killam Research Prize** recipients include iSchool Professor **Heather O'Brien**. She specializes in information seeking, retrieval, and access, and is involved in the **STOREE project**, which will facilitate access to research for non-academic individuals and organizations. During four afternoons from April to August, the iSchool encouraged students to participate in the **School of Information Great Canadian Beach and Park Cleanup Party**. Students picked up rubbish in Vancouver's heavily used public areas, and those who picked up the most won prizes. A minimum of sunburn was reported.

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

By the SLIS Administration; edited by Kenneth Gariepy

SLIS extends warmest congratulation: to the 60 MLIS graduates who convoked on June 19, 2024, in the Universiade Pavillion (Butterdome).

Mikaela LeBlanc and **Myles Shingoose** received the 2023/24 **COPPUL Indigenous-Student Awards** valued at \$22,000 each, and Myles also received the Saskatchewan Library Association's \$5,000 **Indigenous-Student MLIS Education Bursary**. SLIS received a record 331 applications for the fall of 2024 and 93 students began their studies in September, demonstrating the continuing high demand for, and competitiveness of, the accredited program. Two incoming students were awarded entrance scholarships valued at \$17,000 each. Esteemed professor Dr. **Toni Samek** has been named **Scholar-in-Residence 2024–2025** at Toronto Metropolitan University's Centre for Free Expression. SLIS is also pleased to announce the re-appointment of academic adjunct colleagues Dr. **Kathleen DeLong**, **Gail de Vos**, and **Pilar Martinez**, along with the new appointment of Dr. **Margaret Law**.

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

FIMS was pleased to host American Library Association president **Emily Drabinski** to speak at Museum London, on April 9, 2024. Professor **Melissa Adler** invited Drabinski to present an open-to-the-public keynote lecture, Libraries Do Good Work, for a graduate student research conference. With leadership change afoot, FIMS Graduate Library Director **Melanie Mills** was named acting associate chief librarian for Western Libraries, a one-year appointment effective May 15. While she is reassigned, FIMS has appointed **Erin Bourgard** as acting director of the FIMS Graduate Library. A graduate of our MLIS program, Bourgard was a metadata management librarian at Western Libraries. We wish Melanie a successful term and welcome Erin back to our FIMS community.

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

By Ann Brocklehurst

The University of Toronto selected Alison Brooks Architects, working in collaboration with Executive Architects Adamson Associates, to revitalize the **Claude T. Bissell Building**, home to FI. This landmark project will support FI's growth and overall mission to leverage technology for human good, as well as to make knowledge, information platforms, and systems equitable and accessible to all. The commission includes a comprehensive reimagining of the Bissell Building's social, teaching, and research spaces to modernize FI's identity and create a new front door to the St. George Campus. FI has hired seven new professors: Professor **Ebrahim Bagheri**, Associate Professor **Eric P. S. Baumer**, Assistant Professor **Huili Chen**, Assistant Professor, Teaching Stream **Gustavo Ferreira**, Assistant Professor **Jessica Lapp**, Associate Professor **Evan Light**, and Assistant Professor **Michel Mersereau**. In addition, Assistant Professors **Joel Alleyne** and **Jennifer Orpana** are taking up contractually limited term appointments.

McGill University, School of Information Studies

By Peter F. McNally

In early February, an informal tea/coffee/cookie chat session was held for students and faculty to meet and socialize. Later in the month, SMPTE Montréal (Society of Motion Picture and Television Engineers) invited students to join them in a discussion of research touching all aspects of audio/video technology. On March 9, MIST students held an international potluck supper followed by a subtitled Chinese movie. On April 6 the school participated with the Schulich School of Music and other McGill academic units in a CIRMMT RA2 WORKSHOP - GLAM-MIR to foster interdisciplinary collaboration on information storage and retrieval among libraries, archives, galleries, museums, and musicians. The school's Master's students shared their research results at a research seminar on April 6.

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

By Isabelle Bourgey and Martin Bélanger

This winter, EBSI opened a new teaching lab dedicated to support students in Professor **Guillaume Boutard's** Curation and Digital Archaeology course. This lab can read and transfer obsolete digital media (5¼-inch and 3½-inch floppy disks). It is also equipped with a write blocker to access stored content without compromising its integrity. April 8 saw the launch of **L'archiviste humaniste: rôles et positionnement institutionnel et sociétal**. *Mélanges offerts à Louise Gagnon-Arguin*, edited by professors **Sabine Mas** and **Dominique Maurel**. It honours Professor **Louise Gagnon-Arguin** and highlights her contributions to Quebec archival science. **Arnaud d'Alayer**, head of the Computing Laboratories, received the innovation category Dean's Award, which recognizes his exemplary contribution to numerous academic development projects for EBSI and Université de Montréal. In June students and professionals took a study trip to Germany, Switzerland, and France, under the direction of professor **Jean-Sébastien Sauvé**, offering an opportunity to discover the services and layouts of 20 specialized, university, and public libraries.

Dalhousie University, Faculty of Management, Department of Information Science

By Sandra Toze

Congratulations to our recent Master of Information (MI) and Master of Information Management (MIM) graduates. Our students continue to have impact, including **Rebecca Marjoram** (MI candidate) who won a **Coalition Publica Scholarship**, and combined MI/Master of Resource and Environmental Management student **Alexandre Legault** who won a best-poster award at the Atlantic Canada Coastal and Estuarine Science Society & Bay of Fundy Ecosystem Partnership Joint Conference.

During the past year, we modified our MI degree to provide more flexibility and align with changes in the professional landscape. We reduced overall credits

to 15, decreased the number of core courses, and added an Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, Accessibility, and Decolonization requirement. Our PhD Information proposal is at the final stages of approval; we plan to welcome students in January 2025.

Congratulations to Dr. **Philippe**

Mongeon the new DIS Chair, who was awarded a Faculty of Management (FOM) Teaching Excellence Award. Dr. **Stacy Allison-Cassin** with **Camille Callison**, university librarian at University of the Fraser Valley, received a \$1.8-million Mellon Foundation grant for their work to overhaul harmful terminology. **Stacy**

Allison-Cassin was the 2024 recipient of the FOM Research Impact Award (Emerging Scholar). Congratulations also to Dr. **Colin Conrad**, who was awarded tenure and promotion.

Milestones



Obituaries

Compiled by Frances Davidson-Arnott and Bob Henderson

Folarin Obaro Olaitan Ayinde Agbaje died May 16, 2024, age 34, in Toronto. MLIS (U of T, '17). He was diversity director and customer-information specialist, Oakville PL (2019–2024).

Ferne May Allen died April 28, 2024, age 91, in Collingwood, ON. She was a long-time librarian and an active member of the Stayner Heritage Society.

Anne Ball (née Paul) died April 5, 2024, age 88, in Parksville, BC. Library Sciences, UBC.

Gordon William Brandstadt died June 22, 2024, age 83, in Pembroke, ON. He was a decades-long librarian, working in central Ontario PLs, finally returning to Pembroke PL.

Dr. Irene Audrey Busterd died March 26, 2024, age 96, in Collins Bay, ON. BA '47, MA '69, PhD '76 (Queen's); BLS (U of T, '48). She was a cataloguer at Trent U Library (1966–1968) then spent the rest of her career at Kingston PL, retiring as branch librarian, Calvin Park Library.

Lorraine Church died April 29, 2024, age 97, in Ottawa. BLS (U of Ottawa). She was a professional librarian at the Ottawa Board of Education for 20 years.

Krystyna Cienska died March 10, 2024, age 97, in Montreal. She obtained a

library studies degree from Concordia, and worked at the McGill Library until retirement.

Helen Caroline Nielsen Craig died August 16, 2024, age 90, in Fredericton. BLS (U of T, '65). After teaching in New Brunswick, she earned her BLS and became a librarian at UNB.

Charlotte Isabelle Curtis (néé Boddy) died age 90, in Ajax, ON. She enjoyed a long career as a librarian in London, Brockville, and Ajax/ Pickering.

Joan Margaret Dodsworth Ware died May 17, 2024, age 96, in Kanata, ON. Library technician diploma (Algonquin College). Joan was Kanata's first librarian in 1968. During her tenure as chief librarian, a one-room library in the Beaverbrook Community Centre grew into the Kanata PL (with two locations), an early adopter of an automated circulation program and interlibrary loans.

Elda Dunham died July 27, 2024, age 92, in Mississauga, ON. After working as a registered nurse throughout Canada, she oversaw the Sheridan College School of Nursing library for 25 years.

Wilhelm (Willy) Erich Eisenbichler died April 12, age 72, in London, ON. MLIS (Western, '77). He worked at the

Sault Ste. Marie PL for 29 years, CEO (1993–2009) and was awarded the 2009 W. J. Robertson Medallion, Librarian of the Year, by the Ontario Library Boards' Association. He served on the Historic Sites Board, the Municipal Heritage Committee, and Heritage Sault Ste. Marie, Inc.

Marilyn Francis Elkin died June 13, 2024, age 76, in Orangeville, ON. MLIS (Western, '89). She worked for several law libraries in Ontario's Peel and Dufferin regions.

Alexandra (Sandra) Borys Fraser died June 21, 2024, age 96, in Calgary. BLS (U of T, '52). A librarian at several institutions, including the *Calgary Herald*, Chevron Standard Ltd., and U of Calgary's Education Library, she retired in 1990.

Joan Ellis-Hill died June 5, 2024, age 87, in Kingston, NS. MLS (McGill, '86). She was a librarian in the U of Saskatoon Medical Sciences Library.

Jennifer Mae Everett died February 17, 2024, age 79, in Santa Barbara, CA. She attended Lakehead U, where she was an assistant librarian, graduating in library science. She was assistant librarian at Confederation College, Thunder Bay, ON, until 1969.

Mary Ellen Gilliss died June 5, 2024, age 72, in Halifax. MLS (Dalhousie). She was Halifax County Regional Library chief librarian for many years.

Carol Yvonne Graham died June 15, 2024, age 84, in Langley, BC. MLS (UBC, '88). After a career as a school librarian, she earned a degree in library science.

Ann Gross (née Cohen) died March 8, 2024, age 84, in Toronto. MLS (McGill,

'77). She was head librarian at Centennial Academy and worked with the City of Westmount in cataloguing and IT. She assembled, catalogued, and managed the collection of literature and information for the Québec Association for Children with Learning Disabilities, cataloguing this collection using a system she had developed. The collection was absorbed into McGill's library collection, with her unique classification markings still in place. Ann was an ELA member.

Merry Harper died July 18, 2024, age 74, in Victoria. MLS (Western). She was Saskatchewan provincial librarian, responsible for province-wide library-book sharing. In Winnipeg she became a lawyer. Later, she became a law professor at U of Windsor.

Lesley Ellen Harris died April 13, 2024, age 63, in Annapolis, MD. A lawyer, she started her career as a copyright policy advisor to the Canadian government, where she delved into domestic and international copyright laws affecting libraries, archives, museums, and educational institutions. She founded copyrightlaws.com, wrote 10 books and numerous articles about copyright, taught about copyright, and, in partnership with the Special Libraries Association and the American Library Association, developed and taught Copyright Management Certification programs in the United States and Canada.

Anna Henshaw died June 1, 2024, age 90, in Windsor, ON. RN ('55), BScN (Windsor U, '74). A nurse educator, she became librarian at Grace Hospital in Windsor (1966–1993) where she planned and oversaw the construction of Grace's new library. She was head librarian at Hospice of Windsor (2007–2014) where she established the library, provided services for staff and visitors, and self-published a booklet on how to establish a library for hospice organizations. She was also active in health-library association activities.

Barbara Alice Hope Hicks died August 11, 2024, age 91, in Ottawa. After training as a librarian in England, she came to Canada for a job in a Canadian university library. Her library career included posts at the Advisory Council on the Status of Women,

the National Library of Canada and, finally, as chief librarian at St. Paul U. After retiring, she was a Friends of Library and Archives Canada board member.

May Lily Isaac died April 25, 2024, age 90, in Oakville, ON. Library Techniques (Sheridan College, '80), BA (McMaster, '81). She worked in the business libraries of Abitibi-Price, Shell Canada, and CIBC, retiring in the late 1990s.

Marion Elizabeth Jarman (née Ziehlke) died June 4, 2024, age 98 years, in Calgary. BLS (McGill, '50).

Penelope Helen Kamichaitis (née Yates) died February 2, 2024, age 86, in Montreal. Library Science (U of Ottawa, '66). After graduating, she worked at Air Canada, then ran the Monenco library, retiring in 1997.

Susannah Ketchum died May 3, 2024, age 83, in Toronto. A teacher-librarian at Bishop Strachan School, she served as chair of the Southern Ontario Library Services Board and on the Ontario Library Association's Red Maple Selection Committee.

Elizabeth Howard Killing died May 16, 2024, age 100, in Midland, ON. She was a librarian at London Central Secondary School and London PL.

Donna Kincade died August 11, 2024, age 71, in Brantford, ON. MLS (UBC). She was a librarian at Wheatland Regional Library, Saskatoon PL, SaskPower, and Ontario Hydro Research Division, before establishing her information business, Accessible Information Retrieval.

Rebecca Larocque died June 25, 2024, age 48, in St. Catharines, ON. MLS (Dalhousie, '01). She worked at North Bay PL (2006–2024), lastly as head of Information Services.

Helen Larose died April 11, 2024, age 94, in Edmonton. She worked at the John Walter Museum, Edmonton, as historical sites custodian — undertaking research for the construction of Fort Edmonton, cataloguing artifacts, and planning the first pioneer programs at the museum. She

served as manager of the City of Edmonton Archives and later as city archivist. Helen was an active member of the Historical Society of Alberta, the Archives Society of Alberta, the Edmonton Historical Board, and the Association of Records Managers and Administrators. Her many awards included the Historical Society of Alberta's Award for Outstanding Contributions to Alberta History, Edmontonian of the Century for her contributions to the preservation of history, Institute of Public Administrators of Canada for her management excellence, and the Commemorative Medal for the 125th Anniversary of Confederation.

Alexander Liros died March 7, 2024, age 80, in Toronto. BLS (U of T, '69). He was a librarian at Carleton, then worked part-time for North York PL. He was an artist and, with others, formed the gay art collective, JAC (1981–1988).

Mary Elizabeth "Beth" Martin (née Kneen) died June 8, 2024, age 77, in Mississauga, ON. BLS (U of T, '70). She began her career in the Toronto Reference Library. Moving to the Mississauga Central Library, she was manager of the Business and Government Documents Department.

William "Bill" Frederick Masselink died May 20, 2024, age 86, in Charlottetown. He was a Prince Edward Island librarian and public servant for many years. Active in APLA, he was vice-president P.E.I. and Copyright Committee convenor.

Margaret McGrath died April 23, 2024, age 98, in Niagara Falls, ON. A graduate of Niagara College, she was the librarian at Greater Niagara General Hospital, retiring in 1987.

Diane MacQuarrie died June 3, 2024, age 87, in New Glasgow, NS. BLS (U of T, '60), MLS (U of T, '73). She started as a bookmobile librarian in Scarborough and Halifax, before moving into leadership roles in the Halifax County Regional Library and the Nova Scotia Provincial Library. The Halifax City Regional Library chief librarian for 21 years, she held executive roles at Canadian Library Association and was on the National Library Advisory Board. She was awarded the Queen's Silver

Jubilee Medal in 1977.

James Edwin Mayor died June 28, 2024, age 82, in Toronto. He attended U of T (BA) and worked for more than 30 years at U of T's Robarts Library.

Carmen Miriam Moore died June 12, 2024, age 98, in Willis Point, BC. While studying library sciences at Sir George Williams College (now Concordia University, '51 BA), she worked at McGill Library. She owned Carmen Moore Books (1962–1977), then ran a book-ordering business until 1981. Carmen was part-time librarian/archivist at Butchart Gardens until 2005, cataloguing the resource library, and sorting a vast collection of memorabilia and documents to create the garden archives.

Geoffrey Scott Moyer died July 2, 2024, age 55, in Brantford, ON. He worked at Brantford PL for more than 24 years. Specializing in local history and digital archiving, he was lauded for his knowledge of Brantford's history.

Ian C. Nelson died January 22, 2024, age 82, in Saskatoon. MLS (McGill, '69) after a career at the U of Saskatchewan libraries. He was credentialed as an expert book examiner and became Librarian Emeritus upon retirement.

Maria Anna "Maryna" Nowosielski died June 15, 2024, age 87, in Ottawa. MLS (McGill, '74). She worked at the McGill McLennan and Polish libraries. In 1977 she moved to the former National Library of Canada (NLC), where she became head of Technical Services and Automation (1980–1991). In 1992 she became acting director of the Employment and Immigration Canada Library, receiving a gold medal in 1993 for leadership and innovation in the use of IT as part of the federal awards program. Maryna ended her public service career as director of acquisitions, back at NLC.

Edward Joseph Pantone died May 1, 2024, age 88, in Hamilton, ON. He worked in Mills Memorial Library before completing his MLS at Western.

Pearce John Penney died June 7, 2024, age 96, in St. John's. MLS (Syracuse U,

'68). His career began at Memorial U and continued at U of Guelph, before he returned to Newfoundland in 1972 as the provincial director for Public Library Services. He was president of the Newfoundland and Labrador Library Association (1973–1974), president of APLA (1975–1976), and president of CLA (1983). He was a longtime **ELA member**.

Oksana "Ksenia" Piaseckyj died April 5, 2024, age 80, in Ottawa. MLS (Western, '72). A librarian at U of Ottawa for 35 years, she headed the library's Slavic Department. She compiled *Bibliography of Ukrainian Literature in English and French: Translations and Critical Works (1950–1986)*.

Barbara Ellen Robinson died April 16, 2024, age 66, in Kamloops, BC. She worked as a librarian for 17 years at Kamloops PL, after being a teacher in several Kamloops elementary schools.

Steve Sachaschik died January 18, 2024, age 84, in Edmonton. BLS (U of T, '62). He worked for many years at Edmonton PL.

Dawn Sills died June 5, 2024, age 69, in Ottawa. She worked in the IT Branch, Library and Archives Canada.

Anne deBlois Smart died May 17, 2024, age 88, in Saskatoon. She was educated at Smith College, Queen's, Concordia, and Western. She worked at Saskatoon PL under the direction of Frances Morrison and was New Democratic Party MLA for the Saskatoon Centre constituency (1986–1991).

Judith Stonehewer died June 7, 2024, age 73, in Montreal. MLS (McGill, '76) At Vanier College she was in charge of the Snowdon Campus Library and Snowdon AV Department (1980–1986). Judith left Vanier in the late 1980s to become co-ordinator of Library Services at Marianopolis College.

Annabelle Rose Taylor died July 14, 2024, age 89, in Halifax. BLS (U of T, '64). She was a research librarian with the National Research Council in London, ON, Ottawa, and Halifax.

Shelagh Sally Telford died July 1, 2024, age 88, in Cobourg, ON. MLS (U of T, '85) Despite being a non-believer, Sally enjoyed

a long career as the head librarian at the Centre for Christian Studies.

Judy Thompson died November 18, 2023, age 82 in Victoria. MLS (UBC, '81). Her career as an election consultant began as deputy chief election officer for Manitoba. She worked internationally for more than a decade, organizing elections in new democracies including Cambodia, Kosovo, Bosnia, Ethiopia, Bangladesh, Kazakhstan, Papua New Guinea, Palestine, South Africa, and Ukraine. She moved to Victoria in 2003 and, in semi-retirement, applied her talents in the archives and libraries of the Maritime Museum of B.C., the Victoria Art Gallery, and Ballet Victoria.

Audrey Grace Wellwood died May 19, 2024, age 88, in Kentville, NS. BA (Acadia), master's degree in librarian services (U of Maine, '72). She was a teacher and teacher-librarian, and a member of NSSLA and the CSLA.

Robert (Bob) Wilson died March 25, 2024, in Sudbury, ON. Graduate degree at U of Ottawa. He was a university librarian, enjoying a 39-year career at Laurentian U.

*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**, provides more information celebrating the lives of our members.*



Retirements

Compiled by
Suzette Giles

Isabelle Cramp, library director, and staff member **Margaret Meetsma** at Morinville Community Library, Alta., retired this past summer. They joined the library within a day of each other in 2003. Isabelle played an active role in the library's extensive renovations in 2012 and worked to ensure the staff had good work-life balance. Margaret filled many roles through the years and will especially miss the many patrons she helped. The library is seeking a new director.

Dorothy Martens retired after 33 years at Morden South Central Regional Library, Alta., where she had responsibility for many programs including Storytime Lady and the Lego Club. She particularly enjoyed searching out information and books on challenging topics.

Rosemary Rae, CEO of Espanola PL, Ont., retired May 31, 2024. Rosemary studied at Mohawk College and the University of Waterloo. Her career spanned 35 years in libraries across Ontario, with the final eight as CEO, Espanola Public Library. Laura Luopa is

the new CEO.

Kelley Potter retired March 22, 2024, after nearly 30 years at Caledon PL, Ont., as public service director for almost the last five years. A graduate of Mohawk College Library Studies program, '05, Kelly is also a certified life-cycle celebrant. She was a library page at Caledon PL in high school and returned to a full-time position in 1995. Her various roles included Youth Services co-ordinator, Youth Services manager, manager of Lending Services, and, in 2014, Public Services manager. Her noteworthy projects include the Young Reels Film Festival, the writing

contest created in Elizabeth Scavetta's memory, renovations and new buildings, and management of the pandemic. Leah Rucchetto is the new Public Service director.

Joanne Wicker retired after 16 years at the Stuart MacPherson Library, Lac La Biche County, Alta. A retirement party was held in June to recognize her many years of dedication as children's programmer.

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

Awards to ELA Members

At an alumni reunion last May, **Helen Katz** was awarded a University of Toronto Faculty of Information Alumni Association Outstanding Alumni Award for her significant contribution to the information profession. She was also a **2013 Arbor Award** recipient.

In July 2024 **Donald W. McLeod**, FRHistS, Librarian Emeritus, University of Toronto Library, was elected a Fellow of the **Royal Historical Society**, London, for his contribution to historical scholarship.

On January 16, 2024, **Wendy Newman** received a **2023 Arbor Award**, University of Toronto, for her work on the Faculty of Information's Public Library Leadership program. Wendy is an active ELA member (previously on the board) and sits on the *ELAN* committee.

Norma Gibson-MacDonald and **Christina Wilson** each received a **Volunteer Appreciation Award** recognizing Burlington, Ont., volunteers and presented by MP Karina Gould, on April 24, 2024. Norma was recognized for her work with Karina Gould's Community Volunteer Income Tax Clinic; Christina was nominated by the Burlington Tennis Club.

Appointments

Christine Ivory (BA [Honours] University of Manitoba '98, MA Queen's '99) was appointed Parliamentary Librarian, effective October 21, 2024. "In this role, Ms. Ivory will oversee the management of the Library of Parliament, whose collection

and services support the activities and decisions of Parliament and parliamentarians. She will report to the Speakers of the Senate and the House of Commons." In 2023 Christine was appointed Assistant Deputy Minister, Collections Sector, at Library and Archives Canada, and

was part of the Library of Parliament's management team for more than 15 years, including as director general of Information and Document Resource Services and as senior director of Economics, Resources, and International Affairs.

An Historical Overview of Co-operation Among British Columbia PLs

By Deb Thomas

"Our recommended objective, or 'vision' ... is to encourage the development of a strong library in each community and a co-operative approach amongst all libraries." — New Approaches Ministerial Task Force on Public Libraries, British Columbia's Libraries: A New Approach (1988).

Introduction

Working together is one way public libraries have traditionally improved services, stretched scarce dollars, and shared resources. For more than a hundred years, British Columbia has shared a vision with its public librarians — providing library service to every resident, regardless of place of residence — and this would be done most effectively through co-operation between public libraries in the form of associations, regional systems, and federations.

Provincially sponsored co-operation has taken many forms — from a provincial interlibrary loan system to the creation and distribution of audio-books for the visually impaired. Since parliament proclaimed the first *Public Libraries Act*, in 1919, this co-operation's primary facilitator is the Public Library Commission — now the Public Libraries Branch.

At its height, the Public Library Commission had five branches that offered consortium book purchasing and cataloguing for libraries with populations under 10,000, as well as books by mail for British Columbians not served by a library. The branch also offered funding for author tours

and secondments to assist with major projects such as new buildings and library referenda. In the 1990s it played major roles in internet training and upgrading libraries to automated systems.

Co-operative models

A 1927 province-wide commission survey of public libraries identified a clear need for co-operation among rural libraries. The "union library district" was created and resulted in the establishment of three big regional systems. (Morrison, C.K. "Regional Library Development in British Columbia" in *British Columbia Libraries: Historical Profiles*, 59). From 1930 to 1936, union library districts were created in the **Fraser Valley**, the **Okanagan**, and on **Vancouver Island**. These three co-operative units still exist today as regional libraries.

The Thompson-Nicola Library System was established in 1974. The Cariboo region joined the system, in 1975, to form the Cariboo-Thompson Nicola Library System (Morrison, 68–69). The two regions separated in 1994 to form the **Cariboo Regional District Library** and the **Thompson-Nicola Regional District Library System**.

The North Central Co-operative Library (1949) and the Peace River Co-operative Library (1952) were established in partnership with Public Library Commission branches in Prince George and Dawson Creek.

The Greater Vancouver Library Federation (GVLF) was established in 1975, with seven Lower Mainland libraries. The GVLF became **Public**

Library InterLINK (1994) and now boasts a membership of 18 libraries. In 2004 the branch undertook an extensive strategic planning exercise, called Libraries Without Walls, resulting in goals to "encourage library federations" and "support partnerships between multi-type libraries."

Between 2006 and 2008, five additional library federations were formed: **Kootenay, North Central, Northwest, North East**, and **IslandLink**.

Conclusion

The regional library systems and federations work together to provide many of the Public Libraries Branch's former functions — now significantly reduced in size — with provincial financial support, but not the hands-on work previously done by branch staff.

In addition to annual grants, the **Public Libraries Branch** provides strategic leadership, professional advice, and co-ordination of province-wide programs and shared services.

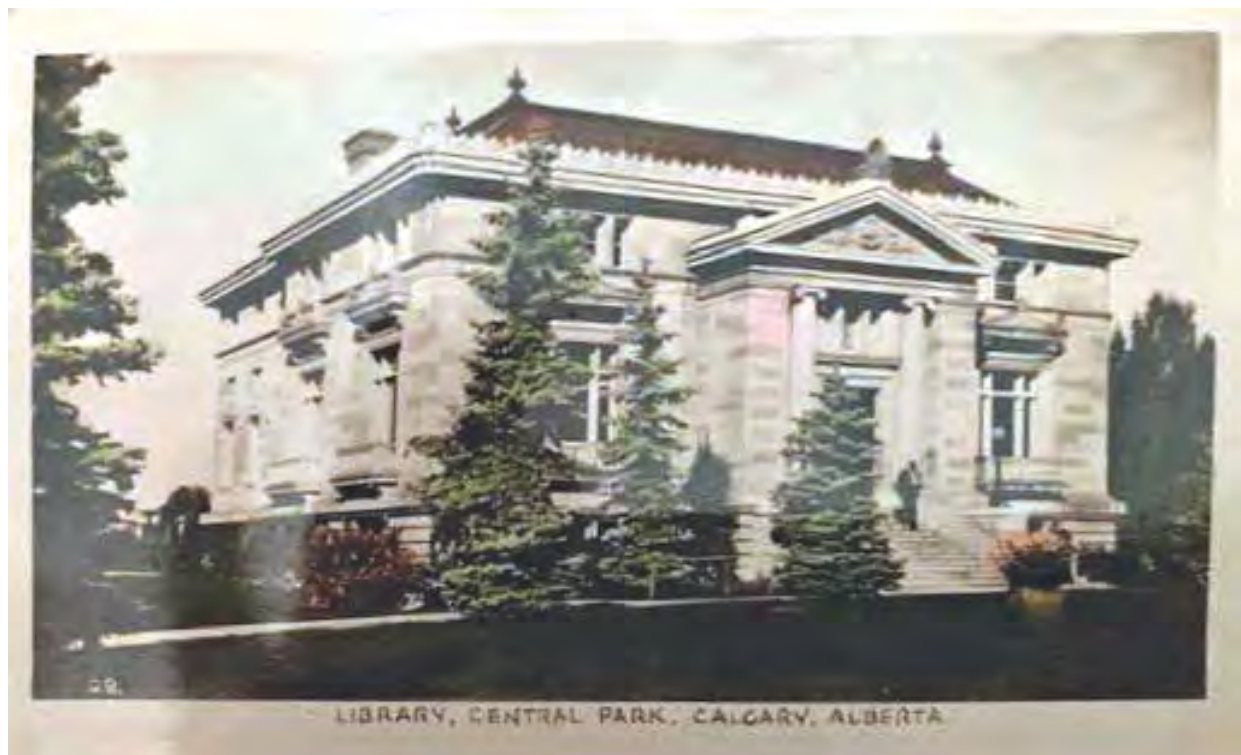
Public library directors and boards will continue to position libraries as accessible, community-based institutions that facilitate access to a world of information, promote culture and a diversity of ideas, and improve levels of literacy. And much of this will be achieved through the enhanced levels of collaboration possible today.

*For a more in-depth article on this topic, see **BCLA Perspectives**, May 2023. ■*

Laughing in the Library

Bad Chatbots by Leslie McGrath

Businesses' live customer-service chat lines have been increasingly replaced with AI chatbots that provide soothing but utterly useless generic information to consumers. One customer notes that the AI chatbot could not resolve her complaint, but could be told to write a poem about "how terrible they are as a company." The AI chatbot quickly produced the poem, but, the customer notes, "it also swore at me."



Memorial Park Library. Donated by Andrew Carnegie, Calgary's Central Park Library, now known as Memorial Park Library, was Alberta's first public library, opening on January 2, 1912.
Photo courtesy of **Calgary PL**

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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



CFLA-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

Carole 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

Libraries 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.

Corrections to ELAN

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

Technology 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.

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 Haaften

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 Haaften

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.

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

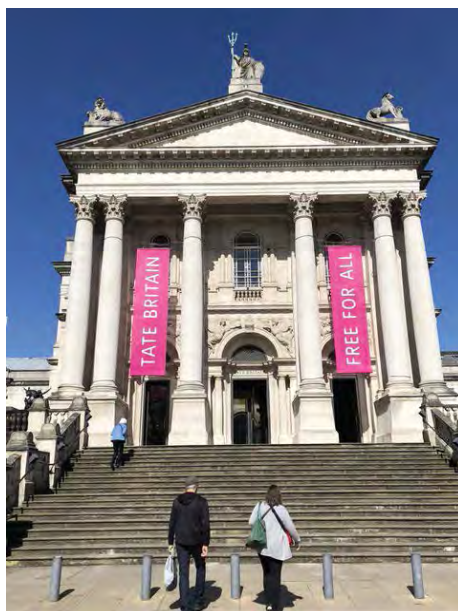
By Guy Robertson

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.

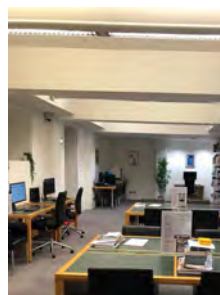
"While I wanted works on Sargent's life and career, I was mostly interested in the library's ephemera," says Kelly, a Nova Scotian graduate student who is writing her doctoral dissertation on the social history of art exhibitions. She delights in examining items that are most often discarded and forgotten: 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—even 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.

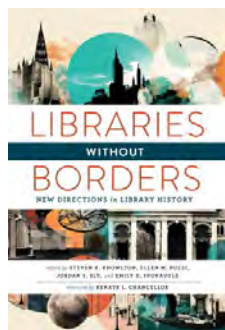
Milligan concludes his work by stating that, while the digital dark age was largely averted by 2001, a digital dark-age fear still persists. Despite the Internet Archive establishment and national library programs, the question remains how sustainable their holdings will be over the long term. Without 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.

Continued on page 14

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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 Lorie 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:

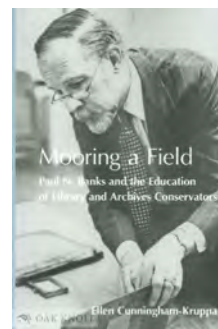
- a preserved mole's skin used as evidence in a Civil War widow's pension claim, sent from the front by her husband as a souvenir (National Archives and Records Administration, USA),
- a book made of cheese slices (Oxford, Tufts),
- human hair (BL, Folger),
- wax death masks (State Library, Melbourne),
- 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

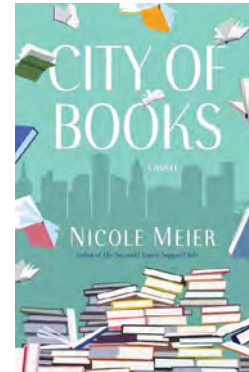
An inspiring, true story about a group of humanities scholars who helped beat the Nazis underlines the crucial role played by the book in espionage.



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

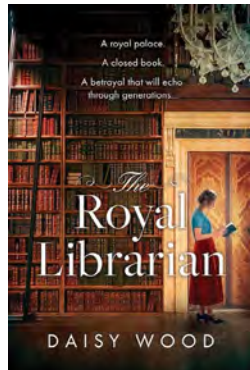
COVID — describes it as a love letter to independent bookstores everywhere.



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 War, 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.

A minor correction has been made to the digital version of this column.

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.

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

For members who wish to receive future *ELAN* issues in an electronic format, please contact Bob Henderson at bob.exlibris@gmail.com.

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 literacy 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-Païement Library**, located in the Charlesbourg borough near Quebec City, is undergoing major renovations, while major renovations to the **Le Prévoist 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 (AEEEBI) 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



Compiled by Frances Davidson-Arnott and Bob Henderson

Obituaries

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 Bombererry) 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. MSLS (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 Kusce 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 Pammett (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 BLSc (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 Smeenck 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.

Moirra 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, 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.

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**.



Image credit: Vintage postcard courtesy of Bob Henderson

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Electronic versions of *ELAN* are available at exlibris.ca/doku.php?id=elan:newsletter-list.

Visit ELA's Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/ExLibrisAssociation>) for ELA news and current activities, and library news.

ELAN Indexing

The current index can be found at: <https://exlibris.ca/doku.php?id=elan:ex-libris-association-newsletter>

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ELAN

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Ex Libris Association Newsletter

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Ex Libris Association Receives Governor General Patronage

The Ex Libris Association of Canada is proud and humble to have been granted vice-regal patronage by Her Excellency, the Right Honourable Mary Simon, Governor General of Canada.

The Governor General plays a key role in promoting national identity by supporting and promoting Canadian values, diversity, inclusion, culture and knowledge. As such, the Governor General recognizes exceptional contributions to Canadian society by associations and organizations through awarding vice-regal patronage.

As a national association of retired librarians, archivists, publishers, and information professionals that seeks to bring attention to significant issues affecting the provision and advancement of information services in Canada, we are deeply grateful for this recognition.

Her Excellency's priorities and clear commitment to equity and inclusion are shared by Ex Libris Association's focus on building an informed, inclusive, and equitable society through the promotion of intellectual freedom and access to information.

Ex Libris Association hopes to continue to earn Her Excellency's support through its activities, which include a bursary for an Indigenous student in library sciences and an award for library services to seniors. ■



Her Excellency the Right Honourable Mary Simon, Governor General and Commander-in-Chief of Canada
Photo credit: Sgt Johanie Maheu, Rideau Hall
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Upcoming AGM

Save The Date

The **2026 Ex Libris Association AGM** will take place on Tuesday, March 3, 2026 at 1 p.m. Eastern via Zoom. Details and Zoom link will be sent on the listserv closer to the date.

President's Report

By David I. Harvie



I have always believed that our libraries should tell of the past, converse with the present, and speak to the future.

I also believe this to be ELA's core mission as an organization.

We tell of the past through our work in recording the history of Canadian libraries and librarianship. ELA's **Biographies of Canadian Librarians and Archivists** is a unique resource that honours the many individuals who have made their mark in library and information science in Canada. *ELAN*, our association newsletter, publishes articles and news related to its core objectives of preserving our heritage. Its pages are filled with histories, reminiscences, scholarly articles, and vignettes of members' experiences.

We converse with the present on important library-related issues in our listserv discussion group, which provides updates on current events concerning libraries, and offers a forum for discussion among our members. Our education committee continues to provide library tours and thought-provoking and informative webinars on a number of issues of interest to our members.

We speak to the future in activities such as our Indigenous Student

Award. This bursary award helps to ensure the future of our profession by assisting Indigenous students who wish to further their library or archival education at a university or college.

Of all our endeavours, the need to converse with the present is the most pressing, in my opinion. While we have, and will continue to be, an organization that honours and preserves our past, there is a growing need to strengthen the voice of libraries on a national level. This is an opportunity that is ideally suited to *Ex Libris* and its members. If not us, then who?

It is my intention that ELA will support the efforts of provincial library associations and provide a voice for our members on national issues concerning intellectual freedom, literacy, equity, diversity, and inclusion in libraries through our advocacy committee. Recent examples of advocacy are available on our website in the **News section**.

As an organization, we will need to develop and strengthen mechanisms on how we can best respond to censorship and threats to libraries. If you would like to participate in this work, please **contact me** to join our advocacy committee.

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

Corrections to *ELAN*

Corrections to this issue are made to the digital issues on our website.

Corrections have been made to the online edition of *ELAN* # 77/Spring 2025 to correct the following print edition errors:

Page 5: The TPL cyberattack Zoom presentation was held in 2024, not 2025.

Page 28: Susan Ibbetson is no longer a member of the newsletter committee; Julia Schneider has replaced her as a committee member.

Page 15: In the review of *The Wartime Book Club*: the word "War" should be added to "Second World."

New ELA Members

We're happy to welcome these new ELA members:

Kerry Badgley, Kemptville, ON
 Melissa Botelho, Ottawa, ON
 Vickery Bowles, Palgrave, ON
 Sandra Craig, Toronto
 Lisa Egan, Newmarket, ON
 Susan Ewing, Toronto
 Tanis Fink, Aurora, ON
 M. A. Gingras, Toronto
 Harleen Grewal, London, ON
 Ken Haycock, Vancouver, BC
 Lisa Henderson, London, ON
 Kristen Hinnegan, Mississauga, ON
 Moe Hosseini-Ara, Toronto
 Yvonne Ivicevic, Toronto
 Rebecca Jones, Markham, ON
 Andrew Lofft, Toronto
 Feather Maracle, Ohsweken, ON
 Lisa Miettinen, Woodstock, ON
 Niki Naponse, Naughton, ON
 Right Honourable Mary Simon, Ottawa, ON
 Arathy Sivasubramaniam, Milton, ON
 Andrea Stewart, Uxbridge, ON
 Lisa Tam, Toronto
 Diane Thompson, McKellar, ON
 Ashley Thomson, Sudbury, ON
 Heather Turnbull, Toronto
 Julie Wendland, Napanee, ON
 Michael J. White, Kingston, ON
 Alyssa Williams, East Gwillimbury, ON
 Victoria Yang, Toronto

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

By Todd Kyle with contributions from Dick Ellis



On May 1, CFLA-FCAB appointed Dr. Margaret Law as Interim Executive Director on a one-year contract. She is tasked with implementing the organization's recent operational and governance review. As part of this review and to focus on big picture advocacy and government policy work, CFLA-FCAB has made the decision

to disband its standing committees in favour of issue-specific task forces as of Sept. 1. These include the Intellectual Freedom, Copyright, Indigenous Matters, Climate Action, and Cataloguing and Metadata Standards committees. CFLA requested action plans from each committee and intends to use these as the basis for initial task force assignments.

In addition, the board of directors will welcome member suggestions for task force actions in these and other areas.

In a statement, CFLA indicated it remains committed to these broad areas of advocacy, but wishes to concentrate its resources on time-limited, defined-output actions aligned with its national advocacy role. For example, regarding intellectual freedom, CFLA will continue to pursue federal concerns related to hate legislation and Charter rights, while leaving issues related to specific content challenges to member organizations and other partners, such as the Centre for Free Expression at Toronto Metropolitan University.

The Climate Action Committee's Climate Action Week will nonetheless take place Nov. 1 to 7, 2025, hosted by the British Columbia Library Association. Libraries and other gallery, library, archives, and museum organizations across Canada are invited to participate through initiatives such as book displays, movie-

screening programs, panels on seeds and food security, nature walks to fight climate anxiety, climate cafés, and recipe swaps.

Prior to the Intellectual Freedom Committee's dissolution, CFLA-FCAB released a statement of concern regarding the Alberta government's school resources announcement which would restrict access to materials deemed age-inappropriate. The statement referred to ongoing work with partners at the Library Association of Alberta and Canadian School Libraries to raise awareness and advocate on behalf of school library resource selections by qualified professionals.

*ELA is a **CFLA-FCAB** member.*

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

Dick Ellis, Librarian Emeritus, Memorial University. ■

W. Kaye Lamb Award for Service to Seniors: By Christina Wilson

Every other year, ELA, in partnership with the Canadian Federation of Library Associations (CFLA FCAB), invites Canadian libraries to apply for the W. Kaye Lamb Award for Service to Seniors. The national awards committee works with libraries and their associations to highlight the extraordinary services our Canadian libraries offer seniors. This year, we're asking every ELA member to tell their libraries about this award to allow ample time to apply. The deadline is Nov. 6.

All Canadian libraries – First Nations, post-secondary, public, or special – are eligible. The list of past winners is on the **W. Kaye Lamb section** of the ELA website.

In 2023, the Innisfil IdeaLAB & Library, Ont., received the award for providing innovative programs that connected seniors socially, both in the library and at home, and assisted them in learning to use emerging technologies. You can view photos of their work and learn more in the **ELA website** awards section.

The awards committee reviews each application to determine the winner. The lucky winning library receives a cash prize of \$500, a commemorative certificate named after Canada's first National Librarian, William Kaye Lamb, OC, FRSC, and national acknowledgement of the library's accomplishment.

The awards committee encourages members to suggest worthy programs by contacting the **committee chair** or directing applicants to the **ELA website** awards section.

For more information, please contact W. Kaye Lamb Committee Chair, Christina Wilson, at chriswilson@shaw.ca.

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

Spring Outing Takes in Library and Play in Stratford By Todd Kyle

About a dozen ELA members attended the 2025 spring outing May 15, comprising a tour of the Stratford Public Library followed by a play at the Stratford Festival. Coming from as far away as Sault Ste-Marie, the group first attended a presentation about the history of the library, one of the oldest Carnegie libraries still in operation in Ontario. They followed that up with a tour of the crowded, but well-used, library. Library service in Stratford dates back to 1853, part of the Mechanics' Institute, before being incorporated as a public library in 1897 and moving to the current building in 1903. Despite facility renovations and expansions over the years, the single-branch Stratford Public Library has one of the lowest space rates of square feet per capita among Ontario

libraries. Staff still manages to find room for a very active Makerspace, which the group was lucky enough to experience.

After that, the group convened at the nearby Avon Theatre for the Stratford Festival production of *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels*, a 2004 musical based on the 1988 film. The production was directed by Tracey Flye and starred Jonathan Goad and Liam Tobin as a swindler and his protégé, who make a bet to swindle an heiress, played by Shakura Dickson. The group was highly entertained by the music, the twisting plot, the hilarious dialogue and the occasional dirty joke. At over two hours, the play maintained a fast and captivating pace. Members left satisfied before their treks home.

Thanks to Shauna Costache, public services supervisor, Stratford Public

Library, for giving us such an informative presentation and tour and to Julia Schneider and Vivienne James for organizing the event.

Todd Kyle is CEO, Brampton Public Library. ■

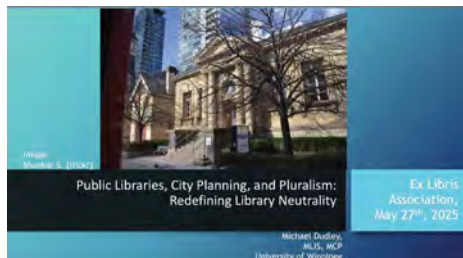


Photo credit: Todd Kyle

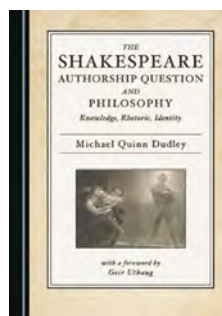
Public Libraries, City Planning and Pluralism: Redefining Library Neutrality

By Julia Schneider

Public libraries exist to serve their public(s) and Michael Dudley knows this is not an easy thing to do when prioritizing intellectual freedom. In his May 27, 2025 ELA webinar, the multifaceted University of Winnipeg librarian showed his iconoclastic, scholarly, and pragmatic/idealistic sides in a webinar designed to challenge any facile notions participants might have had about their mission at a particularly challenging time.



Librarians have no how-to text on how to deal with patrons who bring conflicting demands about what the public library



should do (or not do) for them and, "there's the rub" (as a Shakespeare scholar like Dudley might put it). They are all entitled to be heard and acted on. Dudley's presentation drew on thinkers from John Stewart

Mills, in his 1859 text *On Liberty*, to intellectual freedom advocates David K. Berninghausen and Anita Brooks Kirkland to answer the question of how to be fair all to all, while contending that we face "wicked problems" that really have no pre-set solution.

In fact, it could be argued that, in their tendency to favour uncensored resources, activities and outlooks, librarians can themselves be accused of censorship if, and when, they refuse to consider the views of all those who oppose them. Who is to judge the judge? It is, indeed, a thorny question. Are we serving all our publics? What about the homeless, the handicapped, those who need outreach? What about those we might consider biased? People currently may find villains of all kinds easier to relate to than the "good guys" because, in view of social realities, people now relate to the villains.

This being the case, the exclusion of dissenters can mean they are not being heard and librarians are limiting their free speech.

Dudley states there is no right or wrong way, but only attempts to appreciate the "plurality of objectives," keeping in mind librarians can never address wicked problems to everyone's satisfaction. He speaks of the value of neutrality, not as an abstract good, but rather as part of what he calls "Dialogical Librarianship," which does not impose values for outsiders, but rather (one too many "but rather") allows users to tell what they want the library to do for them.

Dudley's talk raised many questions from webinar participants about how to be fair to all publics; his advice would probably be "keep trying." Intellectual freedom is of paramount social importance, but how to approximate it in today's world involves unprecedented challenges – and inclusive dialogues. To view the presentation, go to the [ELA website](#).

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

Final Gifts

Contributed by Leslie McGrath

Librarians wrote a series of Reddit posts some months ago about the strangest “gifts” their libraries had received, mostly as anonymous, night-time drop-offs. The list was long and varied, including, a vintage wedding dress, novelty crab socks, a taxidermized turtle, a kit for making beef jerky and a fish wrapped in newspaper. Perhaps the most surprising: “People’s ashes. More than once.” A low-cost, but respectful form of disposal? Or the fulfillment of a bibliophile’s last wish? Librarians should be grateful that AI, when consulted by potential donors of ashes, gently suggests other forms of gifts because libraries, generally “do not have policies” for dealing with such donations, and they “may raise ethical questions about the library’s mission.”

Sources:

AI Overview, “People donating their ashes to a library.” June 27, 2025.

[Reddit](#).

Leslie McGrath worked at TPL as a children’s librarian and a branch head for 10 years and Senior Department Head of the Osborne Collection of Early Children’s Books for 23 years. ■

Upcoming Webinar

Save The Date

Library Violence and Staff Safety will take place on Thursday, November 20, 2025, at 1 p.m. Eastern, via Zoom. The link will be provided on the listserv closer to the date.

Canada’s Public Libraries have traditionally been regarded as welcoming spaces offering a variety of educational, learning, and social engagement opportunities for patrons. However, as cutbacks have become more acute, vulnerable people increasingly look to libraries for shelter, health care, and food supports. Library staff feel ill-equipped to manage these situations, especially when vulnerable patrons with complex needs may attack others.

How can public libraries provide physical and emotional safe spaces and secure environments for staff and patrons while protecting their privacy? How can they maintain open, accessible, and welcoming spaces? This session examines the current landscape in North American “library land” and includes practices to mitigate disruptive or threatening incidents. Particular emphasis is placed on sharing an innovative, trauma-informed approach to prevention that will improve staff resiliency for physical, emotional, and psychological safety.

Webinar presenter **Heather Turnbull** is an award-winning learning and development professional with 20+ years’ experience in designing and delivering a real-world curriculum that optimizes individual, team, and organizational growth. Heather advocates on behalf of marginalized and at-risk people, especially women and girls, impacted by violence and trauma.

Awards to Members

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

Award to ELA Member

The Canadian Association of Research Libraries (CARL) presented its 2025 CARL Award for Distinguished Service to Research Librarianship to Victoria Owen.

Appointments

Leslie Weir, Librarian and Archivist of Canada, assumed the role of president of the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA) for 2025 to 2027 at the recent IFLA World Library and Information Conference in Astana, Kazakhstan.

ELA Advocacy Committee Activities

By Deb Thomas

This committee was formed in spring 2025 in response to the need for the Ex Libris Association to comment on issues related to our fields and support those working to keep our fundamental values strong and protected.

Our first action was a letter sent in May to the Honourable Steven Guilbeault, Minister of Canadian Culture and Identity, joining our voices with other library, archival, and historical associations in urging the Department of Canadian Heritage to acquire the Hudson's Bay Charter for Library and Archives Canada to keep it in Canada and accessible to Canadians. To date, there has been no response. However, we're pleased to report that the charter may be on its way to the Canadian Museum of History, pending court approval of a plan to let the Weston family buy the charter and donate it to the museum. The Museum of Manitoba, the recipient of many Hudson's Bay artifacts, expressed

its disappointment that it wasn't able to acquire that charter but, like many Canadians, is satisfied it will remain in Canada and accessible to researchers.

In late June, the committee responded to the province of Alberta's move to diminish the role of trained educators and library professionals in determining the content of school library collections and in responding to challenges to that content. ELA joined other provincial and national library associations by endorsing the **Canadian School Libraries (CSL)'s Statement on Alberta's Announcement Regarding Possible Book Bannings**, which emphasizes the need for trained professional input from educators and school librarians in the selection and management of school library resources.

The standards have now been published. The ministerial order outlining them is on the Alberta government **website**. A summary of the survey done by the government is on its **website**.

The Library Association of Alberta (LAA) has challenged the decision to issue the standards, noting most survey respondents (40 to 60 per cent in most cases) were content with the current processes.

ELA President, David I. Harvie, followed up July 28 with a letter to the minister and the minister replied in mid-August. The **president's letter** and the **minister's response** are on the ELA website.

Committee: Deb Thomas, Julia Schneider, Chris Middlemass, Elizabeth Ridler, and Tanis Fink.

*Questions? Contact Committee Chair **Deb Thomas**.*

***Deb Thomas** recently retired from a 40+ year career in libraries, 30 years of which were in public library management. ■*

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 March, the iSchool hosted a research day that included a keynote panel discussion featuring faculty members Dr. Eric Meyers, Dr. Muhammad Abdul-Mageed, Dr. Cameron Pierson, and Dr. Tess Prendergast. Their topic was "Unleashing Curiosity & Breaking Boundaries: Diverse Approaches to Research Excellence." Student presentations covered a wide range of topics, from Manga literacy for librarians to cataloguing Franklin Expedition relics in museums. Dr. Richard Arias-Hernandez, associate professor of teaching at the iSchool, is the new academic director of

Vantage College, which offers programs for international students who do not yet meet UBC's English-language admission requirements. Dr. Arias-Hernandez specializes in curriculum research and the use of AI and machine learning in archival and records management processes. The Association for Information Science & Technology has selected Candace Taylor, an upcoming Master of Library and Information Science (MLIS) graduate, to receive the Pratt Severn Best Student Research Paper Award. Ms. Taylor's winning paper is entitled "You Have to Quit Your Life: Mapping the Information World of an Experienced Thru-hiker."

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

By SLIS Administration; edited by Kenneth Garipey

We congratulate the 43 MLIS graduates who convoked on June 18, and we are proud to celebrate a number of recent achievements across our community. In student news, C. Whelpton received **Saskatchewan Library Association's Indigenous MLIS Student Award**. N.

Peredo and W. Quarshie were awarded **ALA's Spectrum Scholarship** for 2025/26. Faculty and staff also saw significant recognition with Director Dr. K. Garipey appointed to Centre for Free Expression's (CFE) Working Group on Intellectual Freedom, Dr. T. Samek renamed **CFE Scholar-in-Residence** for 2025/26 and academic adjunct colleague Dr. M. Law appointed executive director of CFLA/FCAB. Additionally, alum and term instructor J. Wilson was named **deputy director of Yellowhead Regional Library** (YRL). We also wish Dr. M. Washington well in his new endeavours ahead of his departure as dean and vice-provost of the College of Social Sciences and Humanities. Finally, the program's continuing high demand and competitiveness are demonstrated by a record number of applications for Fall 2025.

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

By Becky Blue

With the conclusion of Lisa Henderson's term as dean on June 30,

Faculty of Information and Media Studies (FIMS) welcomed Associate Professor Susan Knabe as the acting dean from July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026. The LIS program also welcomed a new full-time faculty member. Assistant Professor Bri Watson, who joined FIMS on July 1, will teach knowledge organization and representation, cataloguing, metadata, and related topics and has a particular interest in teaching at the intersection of Galleries, Libraries, Archives, Museums, and Special Collections (GLAMS). Congratulations go to Professor Pam McKenzie who was named recipient of the Association for Information Science & Technology (ASIS&T) **2025 Research in Information Science Award**, in June. Further, doctoral alumna Heidi Julien (PhD '97) received **ASIS&T's 2025 Award of Merit**. Dr. Julien is currently a University of Buffalo professor.

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

By Ann Brocklehurst

The Faculty of Information's 2025 Ian P. Sharp Lecture, held last spring and entitled "Weaving the Future: Indigenous Knowledge and the Ethics of AI," brought together two distinguished speakers: Morgan Vigil-Hayes from Northern Arizona University and Jennifer Wemigwans from OISE at the University of Toronto. They explored how AI can be shaped with respect, relationality, and responsibility, rooted in Indigenous ethical frameworks. The talk was moderated by Danica Pawlick-Potts, PhD candidate at Western University. Video of the lecture can be viewed on the [faculty's website](#). Also on the website is a new section with regular updates on the [faculty's strategic plan](#), which was introduced to the public by Dean Javed Mostafa at the Sharp lecture. And finally, you'll find featured articles about recently retired professors, Chun Wei Choo, Leslie Regan Shade, and Brian Cantwell Smith, who served as the Faculty of Information Dean from 2003 to 2008.

McGill University, School of Information Studies

By Peter McNally

Professors Benjamin Fung and

Steven Ding will co-lead a four-year project, **ZenithVector**. It was recently awarded a \$5.6 million Natural Science and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC) Alliance Grants-Communications Security Establishment (CSE). The project will provide a multimodal, comprehensive solution for exploratory analysis of unstructured data with a strong focus on cybersecurity applications. The project will help McGill become a hub for innovation in AI and cybersecurity. Unstructured data refers to information that does not conform to a traditional tabular format of rows and columns. Common examples include network logs, malware executables, chat messages, dark web fora, and system alerts. Professor Peter F. McNally delivered the convocation address at McGill University's Faculty of Arts Convocation "B" on June 2, 2025. The School of Information Studies put forward three PhDs, 84 Master of Information Studies (MIS), five graduate certificates in cybersecurity and one graduate certificate in digital archives management.

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

By Isabelle Bourgey and Martin Bélanger

Several books by École de bibliothéconomie et des sciences de l'information (EBSI) professors have been published in recent months: *Le mouvement Wikimédia au Canada: communautés, institutions et culture libre* (*The Wikimedia Movement in Canada: Communities, Institutions, and Free Culture*) by Marie D. Martel; *Aux marges de l'archivistique. Exploitation des archives et cinéma de réemploi* (*On the margins of archiving. Exploitation of archives and reuse cinema*), by Annëlle Winand; and *Les bibliothèques universitaires à l'heure des bilans* (*University libraries at a turning point*) by Réjean Savard. Professor Lubna Daraz was selected as Canada's delegate to attend the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women's 69th session. As a member of Business and Professional Women Canada (BPW Canada), an international non-profit organization representing

businesswomen and professional women across the country, she had the honour of representing the Montreal chapter among other women. Professor Christine Dufour received an award for excellence in teaching at the Faculty of Arts and Science Commitment and Inspiration ceremony.

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

By Philippe Mongeon and Sandra Toze

There was much to celebrate this past term within the Department of Information Science (DIS). Dr. Bertrum MacDonald was awarded the Canadian Association for Information Science (CAIS/ACSI) **Career Achievement Award**, recognizing his significant contributions to our programs and the field. Our newer faculty members were also recognized for their research and impact. Dr. Philippe Mongeon received the CAIS Emerging Leader Award, Dr. Colin Conrad received the Faculty of Management Research Impact Award (Emerging Scholar), while Dr. Stacy Allison-Casin received the **President's Research Excellence Award Emerging Scholar**. At the Association of Canadian Archivists (ACA) annual meeting, Patti Bannister, provincial archivist at the Nova Scotia Archives and adjunct professor with DIS, received the **Larry Dohey Award** to honour her work to raise public awareness of archives and recordkeeping. Master of Information (MI) graduate, 2025, Chelsey MacPherson, was awarded the CAIS Master's Research Award. Congratulations also to all our 2025 graduates. For details of our award winners, see our [blog post](#). Looking to the academic year ahead, we are very excited to welcome a new cohort of MI students, as well as the inaugural cohort of four PhDs in Information students starting this September.

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.

News from the Provinces & the North

News from the North

By Julie Ourom



Libraries across the north are closely connected to territorial and community initiatives. Nunavut Community Access Program (CAP) sponsors community internet access at the **Rebecca P. Idlout**

(Pond Inlet) and the **Donald Suluk** (Arviat) Libraries (NU). Library success is dependent on volunteer support. For example, Friends of the **Iqaluit Centennial Library** (NU) provides story time, craftersnooks, book clubs, and other programs.

Libraries in the north serve as community archives and cultural centres. Hay River Centennial Library (NWT) participates in the annual Hay Days celebration, showcasing culture and history through the library. **Inuvik Centennial Library** (NWT) received a donation of yearbooks from Stringer Hall (the former Anglican day school) dating from 1959 to 1990. The library's collection of photographs, funeral and memorial programs, and other local resources are now digitized.

Garden boxes on the **Whitehorse Public Library** (YT) balcony thrived this summer. Hay River Centennial Library (NWT) sponsored the Tallest Sunflower Contest award at the local community garden.

The Hay River library also hosted Lee Moldehauer, author of *Prospecting in the Northwest Territories*, to share his experiences searching for minerals in the 1970s. Another event featured music from a local collector's vintage LPs. The summer Words Out Loud showcase for Yukon writers featured both Kate Fisher and long-time Yukoner and local author Ellen Davignon who wrote *The Cinnamon Mine*. **Dawson City Community Library** (YT) offered readings by Simon Tourigny, author of *Guns & Roses*, Marielle Veilleux with her *The Adventures of an Aviatrix*, and Cole Pauls, a local comic book writer.

Tagish Community Library (YT) closed after a catastrophic fire destroyed the community centre that housed the library. The community is overjoyed about the arrival this fall of a mobile library that

will serve until the centre is re-built.

Whitehorse Public Library (YT) introduced sensory tool kits for people with sensitivities.

Summer reading programs wrapped up in libraries across the north. Celebrations included an ice cream sundae station at **Whitehorse Public Library** (YT).

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

British Columbia News

By Guy Robertson



In June, **University of British Columbia (UBC) Library** gave library assistants **Matthew Barrett** and **Kyra Wheatley** the **Suzanne Dodson Award**, which recognizes outstanding

commitment to the library profession. In September, Barrett and Wheatley commence their MLIS studies at the university's School of Information/iSchool. Wheatley also received the **Diana Lukin Johnston Award** along with her library colleague **Aleha McCauley**, who will participate in the **Fostering Change for Academic Library Leaders** cohort program sponsored by the **Association of College & Research Libraries**.

Established in 1993, UBC's **Xwi7xwa** [pronounced "whei-wha"] **Library** has obtained funding to hire **Jesse Carson**, a graduate of the iSchool's Master of Archival Studies program, as a two-year term archivist, reporting to the Xwi7xwa library head and university archivist. Holdings include correspondence and meeting minutes recording discussions of the library's development and purposes and records of UBC's **First Nations House of Learning** and the **Indigenous Teacher Education Program (NITEP)**.

In June, the **Vancouver Public Library (VPL)** announced the appointment of **Ben Hyman** as chief librarian and CEO. He previously served as executive director of the **Vancouver Island Regional Library**, where he developed strategic renewal initiatives. He has earned a reputation as an effective leader. **Board chair Karen Spears** said she

and her board colleagues are excited to work with Hyman, who they believe will lead the institution into the future.

Over the past two years, the **Greater Victoria Public Library (GVPL)** recorded hundreds of threatening disturbances at its 12 branches. Staff members have filed almost 600 incident reports at the downtown central branch, an area that is a hub for street people and opioid abusers. Overdoses are frequent, and petty crime has increased to alarming levels. GVPL management recognizes many incidents are minor: smoking in washrooms; intoxication and disagreements over using printers and photocopiers. Other incidents are more serious and involve physical threats, theft, and racist outbursts. Staff stress levels have risen, along with staff vacancy rates. GVPL hired a full-time safety and security co-ordinator to deal with problem patrons.

On July 4, **Cranbrook Public Library (CPL)** celebrated its 100th anniversary. Popular writers -- **John Grisham**, **Louise Perry** and **Ann Patchett** -- sent congratulations, as did **Simon Tolkien**, novelist and **J.R.R. Tolkien's** grandson. On its opening day in 1925, CPL offered a few shelves of donated books to an enthusiastic public. The first borrower was **T.M. Roberts**, the town's mayor.

Terrace Public Library announced plans to build an accessible parking lot, to include two accessible and three regular parking stalls. Local residents are disappointed at the loss of treed green space but are pleased with accessible parking. Replacement trees are coming.

Prince George Public Library (PGPL) has announced the appointment of **Wendy Jael**, a **lheidli t'enneh** [pronounced klate-lee ten-eh] **councillor**, as its first Indigenous board member, an important step toward reconciliation and community engagement.

According to many of its patrons, **Richmond Public Library (RPL)** is for the birds. In July, it offered an Introduction to Birdwatching program, using RPL's Birdwatching ExplorePacks which introduce users to essential aspects of a popular activity. **Birds Canada** representatives kicked off the program with a presentation covering local bird families and the use of binocular and field guide.

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.

Prairies News

By Alvin M. Schrader



Edmonton Public Library was awarded the “2024 Minister’s Award for Municipal and Public Library Excellence” in October 2024, for its **“Together We Grow”** program that supports older adults by bringing babies (with parents) to seniors’ homes (program reported in *ELAN* Fall, 2024). The program has reached 2,000 participants across seven locations, with plans to expand to more seniors’ residences in support of EPL’s strategic goals and Edmonton’s commitment to community safety and wellbeing.

Calgary Public Library avoided the worst effects after it was targeted in a massive cyberattack Oct. 10, 2024. Servers were shut down immediately, a decision that **CEO Sarah Meilleur** credited with saving the library’s infrastructure and ensuring no business, employee, or member data were compromised. A Microsoft Incident Response team was brought in early to support containment procedures and investigate what happened. A three-stage pathway to recovery was implemented. Initially, patrons were asked to avoid returning books, Wi-Fi was discontinued, ebooks and audiobooks were unavailable for check-out, and holds could not be placed. Branches reopened six days later with limited services such as hand-written checkout cards. Later, secure laptops were provided to branches.

Sarah Meilleur, Calgary Public Library (CPL) CEO, was honoured as one of four **“Exceptional Women of East Village 2025,”** in March 2025, in honour of International Women’s Day. She has dedicated her life to building a library system that serves everyone, where she leads initiatives that make mental health, career development, and library programming more accessible. Under her

leadership, CPL has grown to more than 818,000 members, nearly 60 per cent of all Calgarians, averaging more than 20,000 visitors a day, including 3,000 to 4,000 daily visitors at the central library in East Village. Meilleur played a key role in shaping the vision for the new central library, an award-winning building that brought international recognition to Calgary.

The Saskatchewan Library Association celebrated its **2025 One Book One Province** program, in April 2025, with the title *Bread & Water: Essays* by dee Hobsbawn-Smith. Hobsbawn-Smith uses food to explore the human soul’s hungers that loiter beyond cravings for love. She kneads themes of floods and place, grief and loss, the commonalities of refugees and Canadians through common tastes in food, cooking methods, grandmothers and mentors, the politics of local and sustainable food, parenting, male privilege in the restaurant world, and the challenges of aging gracefully. Seven in-person events with the author were scheduled across the province.

Winnipeg Public Library selected **Raymond Lytle to be its Maker-in-Residence** at the Millennium Library from March 3 to June 14, 2025. He led creative workshops and studio sessions. The program operates out of ideaMILL, a creative space designed to provide the public with hands-on learning opportunities for exploring various artistic techniques during weekly drop-in sessions and workshops. Library branch sessions were also arranged, with a focus on engaging families and youth. Lytle’s artistic approach emphasizes community engagement and exploring how visual art can represent memories and emotions. He works in multiple media, including ceramics, watercolour, ink, and oil paints.

Winnipeg Public Library announced in March 2025 that, thanks to the **Ukrainian Bookshelf** project that is an initiative of Olena Zelenska, Ukraine’s First Lady, Winnipeggers would have access to additional Ukrainian language books. She donated more than 120 such books. Winnipeg is the fourth Canadian city to participate in this project, joining Montreal, Ottawa, and Toronto.

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

Ontario News

By Vivienne James



Ontario Library Association **2025 Awards:**
 • **New Library Building Award:** The **Coulson Family Bracebridge Library**. The jury praised the library design for its

integration of the warmth and colours of the north, capturing the Northern Ontario complexity and simplicity;

- **Ontario Public Library Association Children’s and Youth Services Librarian of the Year Award:** **Danielle Big Canoe Snake**, library co-ordinator, Rama First Nation Public Library;
- **OPLA Advocacy in action: Excellence in Children’s and Teen Services Award:** Audrey Kennington, Library Associate, Community Engagement, Barrie Public Library. Visit the **OLA website** to see more awards.

Toronto Public Library’s new city librarian is **Moe Hosseini-Ara**, succeeding Vickery Bowles, who served since 2015 with excellence and creativity. Hosseini-Ara, highly experienced in various library service levels and with a deep passion for public service, is expected to continue to ensure libraries remain gateways to opportunity and equity.

Hamilton Public Library celebrates more than 55 years of **Summer Reading Club**, with an exhibit until December at the central library, exploring adventurous places captured in the archives. In July, Six Nations author Dawn Hill led a live reading and conversation about her new book, *Memory Keeper*.

Niagara Falls Public Library opened its **Chippawa branch**, to the delight of the community, after closing the previous site last year due to prohibitive repair costs.

Guelph Public Library expanded its annual **Comic Con** event in August, featuring activities and exhibits, including local graphic novelists, role-playing games, a cosplay contest, and more for fans and the community.

Cambridge Public Library. The Hespeler Public Library is a century-old Carnegie Library now enclosed in a modern glass structure. It features **Cast**

Continued on page 10

...continued from page 9

Shadow, Sofia Eleni Escobar's innovative installation reflecting the region's textile heritage. Escobar, a Toronto-based artist with roots in Peru and Ecuador, creates three-dimensional woven sculptures inspired by Andean textiles. The exhibit is open until July 2026.

London Public Library suspended Sunday service for the rest of the year—the first service cut since the library's multi-year budget was not approved.

Windsor Public Library launched its new bookmobile, **Fred 2.0**. In July, its first official stop at Captain Wilson Park marked a new era of community outreach and access to library services.

The Ontario Council of University Libraries (OCUL) presented the **Excellence in Leadership Award** to Catherine Davidson, recognizing her significant contributions to the executive committee. A librarian at Ontario Tech University and a director for more than a decade, she has demonstrated unwavering commitment to the goals of Ontario's post-secondary libraries. OCUL directors have approved the **2025-2029 strategic plan** which focuses on academic research advancement, social change, and reconciliation with Indigenous communities.

McMaster University Library's William Ready Division of Archives and Research Collections acquired the **Encyclopedie, ou dictionnaire raisonne des sciences, des arts et des metiers**, considered the supreme French Enlightenment work. Articles by thinkers, such as Rousseau and Voltaire, challenged 18th century social and political norms. It will benefit students and faculty across disciplines.

University of Toronto. For the second consecutive year, UofT has been ranked the world's most sustainable university. UofT Libraries support the vision through climate-focused efforts at **UTL@Downsview**. Since 2005, the Downsview facility has preserved the university's academic collections, housing more than 3.5 million items. (On an ELA tour of Robarts Commons, many of us were a bit startled to see no books around. We were told they were all stored in a building and were easily and quickly available upon request. See *ELAN* Spring 2024, p. 6.)

The building hosts one of the university's largest solar energy projects and is an example of environmental responsibility, making practical decisions today for the benefit of tomorrow.

Vivienne James worked at TPL for more than 25 years, was Branch Head of Queen Sault, 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



Association des Bibliothécaires du Québec Library Association (ABQLA) held a Spring Social and Awards event, May 8, in the Selwyn House Library, where, among others, the following awards were presented:



- Anne Galler Award for Outstanding Library Service: Barbara Whiston (Lower Canada College) and Maria Ressina (Côte-

Saint-Luc Public Library

- Anne Hébert Award: Elisabeth de Grandpré (McGill University School of Information Studies and Côte-St-Luc Public Library)

At the ABQLA AGM, June 19, in person at Webster Library, Concordia University, and virtually, the following were elected co-presidents: Sam Devin, assistant librarian at the Atwater Library and Computer Centre; Jinian Beharrell, a student in McGill's MIST program.

The AGM also voted for a significant constitution overhaul. Sections and section presidents – for areas such as public and academic libraries – were eliminated. Directors-at-large were also mostly eliminated in favour of directors-with-assigned-portfolios.

The annual conference will occur in the autumn as a subset of a larger pan-Quebec library conference.

The Haskell Free Library and Opera House, in Stanstead, Quebec, is on the border between Canada and

the United States. Canadian users have had to enter through the main entrance located in the U.S. Access to this library for Canadians has become difficult due to more challenging control by American authorities recently. A fundraising campaign raised funds to build an entrance on the Canadian side. The campaign, which initially had a goal of \$100,000, raised \$160,000. Renovation work was expected to begin in September.

It is quite rare for libraries to be named in honour of women who deserve recognition. Is this unfortunate situation about to change? Montreal's Ahuntsic Library is now named the **Hélène Charbonneau Library**, in tribute to the librarian (1929 to 2021) who dedicated her life to helping young people read. In 2027, the **Saint-Charles Library** will be named Éva-Circé-Côté Library (1871 to 1949) to honour the pioneering librarian, journalist, and activist. A third Montreal library, the Le Prévoist Library, will be renamed **Caroline-Dawson Library**, in memory of a Montreal writer born in 1979 in Chile and died in Montreal in 2024. It is worth noting here the name of the **Monique-Corriveau Library** in Quebec City, which evokes the memory of the writer (1927 to 1976) who published several books for children.

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

Pierre Guilmette is a retired librarian, Université Laval.

Maritimes News

By Penny Logan



The **University of Prince Edward Island (UPEI)** is welcoming 20 Prince Edward Island students to Memorial's Doctor of Medicine program, which is being delivered at Memorial's new

regional campus located in the Health Education Facility at UPEI. Students begin Aug. 22. While UPEI has a Faculty of Medicine unit, the program will initially operate as a regional campus of Memorial University of Newfoundland, under its accreditation.

Kim Mears, UPEI's Medical & Knowledge Synthesis Librarian, says the Charlottetown campus will get a new building. The library has benefited with the addition of two librarians, a library technician, and an addition to the library budget to support the program. There was a very successful collaboration around collection building between UPEI and the Memorial Health Sciences Library (shout out to Alison Farrell), where librarians focused on surveying the two collections, identifying and filling gaps. The work on licensing was undoubtedly very complicated. The additional resources will be available to the general UPEI student population.

In Nova Scotia, the third Libraries, Archives, and Museums Nova Scotia (LAMNS) Conference was held Oct. 2 to 4 in Halifax. This innovative collaboration is meant to happen every five years. The first was in 2015, the second virtual-because-of-COVID conference was held in 2021. This year's conference theme is: *Intersections: Adaptability, Sustainability, Community Connections*. Jeff Mercer, executive director and chief librarian of Colchester-East Hants Public Library and current president of the Nova Scotia Library Association (NSLA), was involved in the first two conferences and is a co-chair of this year's. He

expects about 200 people to attend. Associations such as NSLA usually hold their own annual conferences. On the fifth year, associations for public libraries, archives, and museums forgo their annual conferences and, instead, pool their resources for a combined conference. Funds were made available to hire a co-ordinator to oversee the 2025 event. Jeff says libraries, archives, and museums have shared challenges and the conference provides a forum to show what each sector is achieving and share approaches and successes. The overall intent is to make the whole sector stronger.

Penny Logan worked in public and hospital libraries, retiring in 2015 as Manager, Library Services for the Nova Scotia Health Authority.

Newfoundland & Labrador News

By Dick Ellis



Collaboration: The House of Assembly **Legislative Library** continues to make available its holdings digitally. In collaboration with

Memorial University Libraries' Digital Archives Project, the Newfoundland and Labrador statutes text and an accompanying index are now publicly available. It is interesting to note that the first statute (1833) provided for quarantines. Perhaps that explains, in part, the general acceptance of the early COVID restrictions here.

The Dominion of Newfoundland government was bicameral and the texts of the first 28 sessions, 1833 to 1934, of both branches are also available online at the Legislative Library and the Digital Archives Initiative. It will come as no surprise that the new assembly's first action was to strike a committee.

Support for the provincial library service: A year ago, I reported the province had allocated an additional \$600,000 to the Newfoundland and Labrador Public Library budget. At the time, the appropriate minister was quick to explain the increase was neither permanent nor a sign a continuing increase was being contemplated. Well, I can now report a different minister has announced another one-time grant of \$500,000, with the same caveats.

Dick Ellis, Librarian Emeritus, Memorial University.

Technology Unmasked: Substack

By Stan Orlov



Today, we will look at **Substack**. Launched in San Francisco in 2017 to allow writers to publish directly to readers and earn a living through paid subscriptions, the platform soon expanded to include podcasts, videos, and mobile apps. But its core focus is still on email-based publishing. While the early adopters were mostly independent journalists and niche writers, over time educators, librarians, and cultural institutions also began experimenting with Substack as an easy, no-cost platform for creating and distributing newsletters. Since libraries

typically use Substack free of cost, the only real investment is staff time to write and maintain content, making it an accessible way to reach patrons without new software or subscription expenses.

Substack started slowly, but in the early 2020s it rolled out a mobile app and saw rapid subscriber growth, going from about 50,000 paid subscribers to more than 5,000,000 in 2025, with more than 35,000,000 total (paid and non-paying) subscribers. This is helped by the fact most newsletter creators don't monetize their content.

Some USA libraries are making good use of Substack. Stonington Public Library, in its "**SPL Newsletter**," shares book recommendations and community news. Samuels Public Library, "**Next Chapter News**," focuses on advocacy and campaigns, using the platform to rally community support and highlight local

initiatives. Coeur d'Alene Public Library, "**Programs and Services**," uses Substack as a calendar for all ages, providing a monthly overview of events and services. I have not yet located a Canadian library using the platform.

Substack is not a replacement for a library website or catalogue. It delivers everything via email so it could easily become one email too many for some patrons. It also does not offer an easy way to search and browse the content in multiple emails. Still, it is a great supplementary outreach tool, and it would be nice to see it used by Canadian libraries.

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

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

How and Why I Became a Librarian

By Norma Gibson-Macdonald

Here's where it started.



How do you go from the small public library in Agincourt, Ont., to being a founding member of the Ontario Workplace Health Coalition? Who knew where a library degree would take you?

It may be a cliché, but I have always loved books and spent many hours in our local library as a child. I well remember the alcove in the front with the children's collection and the stuffed animals and birds in glass cases looking down on us.

The Agincourt Public Library was in built 1925 on Church Street (now Midland Avenue) in Agincourt. Built to resemble a house in case the library didn't succeed, the library was supported by members and small grants from the government. About the time I started to use the library, it was incorporated into the new Scarborough Township Public Library Board, in 1955.

While the Agincourt library subsequently moved to larger locations, I also frequented the high school library. My heaviest use of libraries was, of course, in university, mostly the Frost Library at Glendon College, York University. I still didn't know what I wanted to do after university, but as I spent more and more time in the library, I got to know the librarians well. They were so helpful to everyone and, for me, an inspiration to investigate library schools. I settled on the School of Library and Information Science at University of Western Ontario, because I could get my degree in 12 months. Our family had a jewelry store in Agincourt, and I learned from a young age the importance of customer service. This served me well in my career.

In 1974, with my MA in history and brand-new MLS, I took the first

job offered to me, namely cataloguing meteorological materials using the Universal Decimal Classification at Environment Canada's Atmospheric Environment Service. I left the next year to establish a library for the International Joint Commission's Great Lakes Water Quality Office in Windsor, Ont. Staff members were a mix of Canadians and Americans, covering a wide range of disciplines. I joined the Detroit chapter of Special Libraries Association and had opportunities to visit other special libraries in Michigan, including the Henry Ford Museum library. I particularly enjoyed the opportunity to network with other librarians in the Great Lakes basin area. We formed the Great Lakes Environmental Information Specialists group.

After three years, it was time for a change, and I moved to the Harrow Research Station of Agriculture Canada. A few years later, the Vineland Research Station needed a librarian, and I took the opportunity to move closer to Toronto.

I became increasingly tired of being a "solo" librarian, although I was able to network with area librarians in a Hamilton-Niagara online user group. At this time, the newly established Canadian Centre for Occupational Health and Safety (CCOHS) in Hamilton was developing its library, and I answered an ad for the Canadiana librarian. On the job, I was one of 19 librarians in areas including cataloguing, reference, and systems. I was responsible for collecting Canadian occupational health and safety (OH&S) documents to be sent to the International Labour Organization for its microfiche collection. I also developed an online directory of people, organizations, and research in OH&S in Canada.

In 2000, Health Canada invited proposals from leading health organizations in Canada to develop a new **website**, which would provide "**Health Info for Every Body.**" Subjects included groups such as women, topics starting with active living and diseases, such as diabetes. Once our proposal to be an affiliate organization was accepted, I became the project leader and hired a librarian and a workplace

health promoter to work on the project. Through the project's eight years, I met many people, including librarians, in the Canadian health promotion community.

A number of other organizations in Ontario were very interested in comprehensive workplace health, and in the early 2000s, we formed the Ontario Workplace Health Coalition. It was an incorporated, not-for-profit body serving as a unifying structure across the province, helping to facilitate communication among workplace health stakeholders and promoting the importance of using a comprehensive approach to create and maintain healthy and safe workplaces. I was on the board of directors for many years, even after I retired. I also selected resources to highlight and maintained the website which CCOHS hosted. Unfortunately, the organization is no longer, but its messages still resonate.

I look back now on the many opportunities I had to develop as a librarian and work in so many different organizations providing information services. I haven't stopped. Since retiring I continue in my volunteer work to identify useful resources and help people access them. As I often say, once a librarian, always a librarian. I can't help it. ■

Write for ELAN

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

Book Reviews

Edited by Sally Press



**Library 2035:
Imagining the
Next Generation
of Libraries**
**Edited by Sandra
Hirsh**
Bloomsbury, 2024

Reviewed by
Victoria Owen

This collection of 25 short chapters forecasts the future of libraries a decade hence. There are a few bright lights, writers that imaginatively take up the remit to look ahead and describe what we might meet in 2035.

Among the bright lights was Chapter 2. It is eye-opening -- Predictions about Future Technology in Libraries and Epistemic Collapse. It illuminates the transformative impact AI will have on libraries. Our fundamental understanding of data, information, and media will be utterly altered. There will be a proliferation of AI outputs, bespoke text, images, and code, giving rise to fundamental and thought-provoking questions about preservation practices, if any, that will be applied to unique, customized outputs. The chapter presents a paradigm shift, a collapse of categories, and the question of how and if libraries will evolve to embrace the explosion of customized content while continuing with traditional roles.

Hand in glove with Chapter 2 is Chapter 21, with job descriptions for 2035. Four new positions were created to address the rise of the metaverse, the staggering challenge of misinformation, use of robot-delivery services, and AI/robot assistance in public spaces. The chapter includes job descriptions for a TruthCloud Librarian, an Automated Service Delivery Librarian, a Synthetic Customer Service Programmer and Wrangler, and a LibraryVirtual Librarian. These will manage the metaverse experience using design principles to construct a virtual space with programmers and gamers, using both human and AI staff responding to the ever-changing communities that libraries serve.

A handful of chapters offer some thoughtful gems; the remainder were uninspired and mundane. Absent were

substantive discussions on inclusion of people with disabilities. It was completely U.S. focused, with no international exemplars.

The library profession needs more bright lights; there is ample room for those with ideas to add some amperage. Libraries need them. Overarching, the book emphasizes libraries must be proactive and creative and adapt to technological advancements and cultural shifts to fulfill their essential societal role.

Victoria Owen is Information Policy Scholar-Practitioner in the Faculty of Information at U of T and Special Advisor to the Dean on Information Accessibility at UT Scarborough. Her background is in library administration in academic, special and public libraries and her special interest is in intellectual property. ■



**Academic
Librarianship
in Canada:
Post-COVID
Perspectives in a
Neoliberal Era**
**Editors: Jessica E.
Shiers, Harriet M.
Sonne de Torrens,
Joanna Szurmak,
and Meaghan
Valant**

Litwin Books Price, 2024

Reviewed by Amanda Ross-White

There is a popular joke going around that, if you want to know when the world started to fall apart, add Ronald Reagan's face to any chart. And sure enough, whatever it is you're measuring, it all started to decline with his election. This joke may also work with Margaret Thatcher, of course, but it can also be described as the rise of "neoliberalism." This economic concept that favours austerity and privatization of public goods, including universities and colleges, is a global phenomenon. This book provides a snapshot of how higher education is enraptured by neoliberalism today. It's a series of essays, mostly case studies on aspects of how austerity and constant

threat of cutbacks, especially in the humanities, are influencing various aspects of libraries. Many of these issues are not COVID-specific, other than the promise of all Massive Open Online Courses, which seemed to fade from popularity and are back again rebranded as online programs, but still are not as scalable for information literacy as administrators would like. There is a significant lack of reference to global consultancy firms, such as Nous Cubane or Deloitte and their service surveys, which are running faster through university administrations than, well, the plague. In the example I'm familiar with, we are asked to rate the quality of different university services (including libraries), but without any reference to reduced staffing and budget cuts, which might be making it harder to keep up with service expectations. Still, the essays are worthwhile and relevant to universities beyond Canada. Many of the issues are universal and will likely continue long past the influence of COVID or specific politicians. The authors are all well-known academic librarians, some of whom are unable to take credit for their work due to lack of academic freedom in their current role. Interesting to any academic librarian.

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 the Canadian Health Libraries Association / Association des bibliothèques de la santé du Canada. ■



**On Book Banning:
Or, How the
New Censorship
Consensus
Trivializes Art
and Undermines
Democracy**
By Ira Wells
Biblioasis, 2025

Reviewed by Dick
Ellis

This book is best read twice: once, to appreciate the author's prose and his care in reporting both his own experience and the record, both recent and historical,

Continued on page 14

Continued from page 13

of book banning and the associated rationales; and then, with others having continuing professional responsibilities for maintaining libraries, to explore the author's insights in concrete contexts.

The topic of book banning is complicated by problems of definition, which the author explores, and by a common reversion to the abstract concepts of freedom: intellectual; expressive; and speech. Wells deals with the concrete problems, both political in the U.S. and Canada (his report of a book reviewing/weeding session at a school library captures the ambiguity of the process nicely) and the theoretical. His handling of history is adroit. Who knew the Streisand Effect was reported two millennia ago, or that an early unsuccessful marriage and the world's smallest focus group had long-ranging impacts on the discussion? His handling of free speech's theoretical basis, in particular the work of the philosopher Stanley Fish, author of *There's No Such Thing as Free Speech, and It's a Good Thing, Too* (Oxford, 1994), is appropriately rigorous.

These are the virtues that a single reader can fully appreciate. But they take on real significance in discussions that move from the abstract to the concrete. What is the implication of school districts citing policies obviously derived from the advice of the professional association Canadian School Libraries? In what context, a contribution of Fish, is the book proffered by the school librarian a problem? Are sexuality and ideology sufficiently similar in the lives of students or young people as to be treated with the same strictures? Is the development of curiosity and discernment part of education? Always? At certain ages?

These are the aspects of Wells' work that are best explored by those whose professional and personal responsibilities should be at the leading edge of the effort to understand book banning and its impacts.

Sally Press, retired to Kingston, Ontario, in 2018, after working in Academic, Special and Government Libraries, in Southern Africa and Ontario, from 1976 to 2017. ■



Good Reads

By Judy Dunn



The Boxcar Librarian
By Brianna Labuskes
William Morrow, 2025

A historical novel that follows three women in Depression-era Montana.

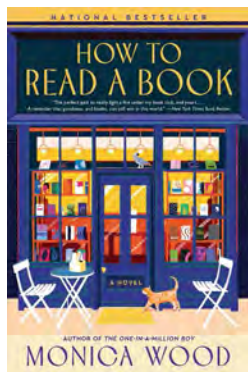
Inspired by the true story of a converted train car library.



The Forgotten Book Club
By Kate Storey
Avon, 2025

A woman joins her husband's unique, silent book club after his death. Explores themes of grief, loss, friendship, the power

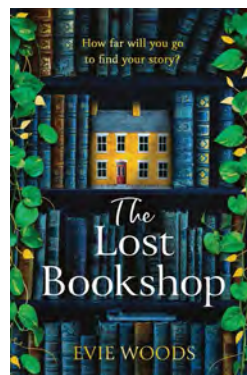
of literature, and the importance of finding your own path.



How to Read a Book
By Monica Wood
Harper Collins, 2024

A prison book club leads to unlikely friendships, redemption, and a new start.

Charming and beautifully written.



The Lost Bookshop
By Evie Woods
Harper Collins UK, 2023

Tells the story of three individuals whose lives become intertwined through a mysterious

bookshop in Dublin. Explores themes of courage, love, the power of stories, and second chances.



The Memory Library
By Kate Storey
Avon, 2024

A mother builds a special library by adding a book every birthday for her estranged daughter. A heartwarming novel of loss,

hope, and new beginnings.

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**. ■

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.

Treasures of British Libraries: The Adam Library, Kenwood House, London

By Guy Robertson

Murder remains popular in Britain, and new detective series appear regularly on TV. All sorts of people end up dead, their bodies discovered by joggers or elderly persons taking dogs for walks. TV producers favour wooded areas for body disposal; London's Hampstead Heath is ideal for this purpose. Along comes a retiree, whose spaniel gets a whiff of something dreadful. Presently, the police arrive with a pathologist, who provides the time of death, an assumption about the weapon, and a cynical comment about a possible motive. And then, the detectives show up. They demonstrate high intelligence and charming neurosis. You have seen it all before. What you have not seen — yet — is Kenwood House, a neoclassical villa that stands at the north edge of the Heath.

John Bill, the King's Printer, built the first house on the property during the early 17th century. It was renovated and rebuilt by subsequent owners before its purchase in 1754 by William Murray, who became Lord Chief Justice in 1756. He was created 1st Earl of Mansfield in 1776. Rich and ambitious, he hired the noted Scottish architect Robert Adam to expand Kenwood and decorate its exterior and — famously — its interior, including what is now known as the Adam Library.



Photo credit: Guy Robertson

In 1925, Edward Guinness, 1st Earl of Iveagh, bought Kenwood from a descendant of the Earl of Mansfield, and in 1927 he donated it to the nation. His donation included a fine collection of Old Masters paintings that hang in various rooms. These days, people visit Kenwood specifically to view Rembrandt's "Self-Portrait with Two Circles" (c.1665) and

Vermeer's "The Guitar Player" (1672). The former presents the painter in his later years. On the wall behind him appear two almost perfect circles, indicating to viewers that he could demonstrate his gift of exactitude. Who else could paint such circles? One turns with some relief to Vermeer's painting of a young woman playing a guitar. Whereas Rembrandt looks intense, the woman seems approachable and playful. Viewed from different angles, these paintings deserve considerable time and attention. But Kenwood offers even more for librarians.



Photo credit: Guy Robertson

"You'll want to spend a lot of your time in the library," says the security guard by the door. "It's simply a splendid place to be."

Also known as the Great Room, the Adam Library was designed and constructed by Robert Adam and his craftsmen between 1764 and 1770. The largest room in Kenwood, it was intended to be the high point of any visit, laid out not only as a library, but also as a room in which Lord Mansfield could receive guests. During his travels in Italy, Adam had been deeply impressed by classical architecture, hence the library's neoclassical design, the shape of which features a double cube with semi-circular apses and a magnificent coved ceiling that displays 19 paintings by Antonio Zucchi.

"This is Adam's most noteworthy achievement in interior design," says a guide. "Everything about it fascinates architects. Adam planned the room carefully, and considered the ways that

people could enjoy it, from quiet reading by the fireplace, to chatting and dining in the middle area, to gazing out the windows at the landscape, to browsing the collection on the shelves."

The 1st Earl of Mansfield was a friend of writers, such as Alexander Pope, who described him as "his country's pride." The library once housed his fine collection of books, including a 1504 edition of Petronius's *Satyricon* and works by 18th century scholars, such as Jean-Jacques Barthelemy. This collection was dispersed in the 1830s and '40s, and now what stands on the shelves are miscellaneous volumes that belonged to previous Kenwood owners and residents.

"It's a bit of a mishmash on those shelves, but when you look at them, you understand that you're in a library," says the guide. And not just any library. From its earliest days, it has been regarded as remarkable. In *The Ambulator, or the Stranger's Companion in a Tour round London* (1782), the anonymous author states that "the new room latterly built by his Lordship, from a design by Mr. Adam, is considered, by architectural judges, as well for its proportions and decorations as its novelty to be superior to any thing of its kind in England."

For the record, there are no murder mysteries on the library's shelves. What happens outside Kenwood is another matter.

For more information, see english-heritage.org.uk. ■



Photo credit: Guy Robertson

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

Departmental Government Libraries in Ontario: An Historical View

By Helen Katz

Provincial government departmental libraries have varied widely across provinces. In some, legislative libraries provided services to government departments; in others, they provided little to none. This article focuses on Ontario, where the Legislative Library did not directly support departments.

The golden era for Ontario government libraries was the 1960s to 1980s, though they were not immune from ongoing reviews.

The role of librarians remained constant: supporting clients, government goals, and fellow librarians. What changed was how they delivered services. Libraries were crucial to their organizations, and the collaborative network among Ontario libraries contributed significantly to their continuation.

Libraries were reviewed repeatedly—1969, 1972, and 1988—to explore possible consolidation. These reviews consistently found little duplication, but recognized the need for co-operation.

In 1968, the Treasury Board's Advisory Services Division studied whether consolidating library services would be beneficial. Its 1969 report, *Review of Ontario government libraries*, found:

- No duplication;
- No cost-effectiveness measurement;
- Anticipated impact of computerization;
- Libraries should remain separate.

It also recommended a council to co-ordinate services and improve library management.

As a result, the Ontario Government Librarians Council was formally created by Order-in-Council in 1970 (OC-2905/70), later renamed the Ontario Government Libraries Council (OGLC). Membership was by invitation, approved by Deputy Ministers.

A 1972 review made further recommendations:

- No full consolidation;
- Ministries retain responsibility;
- Partial consolidation by policy area;
- Central storage for older materials;
- Joint acquisitions and specialized services;
- Co-ordinator position with authority.

In response, Ontario government librarians wrote a paper, *Library services in the Ontario government: today and tomorrow*, that recommended:

- Ministries should decide their own library services;
- Maintain local technical services;
- Investigate central repository;
- Maintain a resource directory and union list;
- Possibility of libraries supporting specific program/policy areas;
- Support for a well-funded co-ordinator role to:
 - Run pilot projects;
 - Purchase data services;
 - Provide temporary staffing;
 - Provide consultation for projects.

Over the years, OGLC compiled a directory of libraries and multiple editions of a union list of serials—the fifth being internal-only.

By 1986, there were 280 library staff and 64 member libraries in OGLC, including those in ministries, psychiatric hospitals, colleges (e.g., police/fire), museums, labs, and research centres. By 2018, this had dropped to 22 member libraries, most with three or fewer staff.

Today, Ontario government has about 20 member libraries, including the Legislative Library, with more than half in agencies, not ministries. Most operate with minimal staffing and resources.

The 1988 review, *Report on the activity review of library services within the Ontario government* led by Barbara Stanley, also surveyed government libraries in New Brunswick,

Alberta, and B.C.

- New Brunswick had 14 to 15 libraries; a consolidation proposal was not adopted due to lack of departmental support.

Alberta had 48 main and 73 satellite libraries, most in Edmonton. Economic downturns in the mid-1980s led to closures. By 2000, Alberta **consolidated the libraries** into 10 branches, which were gradually closed—by 2021, all had shut.

British Columbia had 19 libraries; ministries rejected centralization proposals.

The 1988 Ontario review made 33 recommendations, including:

- Each ministry should designate one library to be the main one;
- Negotiate volume discounts government-wide;
- Needs analysis for automated systems;
- Use library expertise for information management;
- Libraries should be aware of ministry publications.

A contentious proposal was to create a central co-ordinating office, which ministries would fund. Instead, a more cost-effective OGLC-led alternative was adopted. OGLC focused on:

- Updating the union list;
- Maintaining the library directory;
- Securing discounted pricing on resources.

In the 1990s, following a severe recession and the Common Sense Revolution government platform, the Ontario government sought to reduce administrative costs through shared services. Libraries were targeted for cuts:

- Emphasis shifted to desktop resource access;
 - Proposed partnerships (e.g., with the Legislative Library);
 - Use of information brokers;
 - Reduced real estate and staff costs.
- Between 1996 and 2004, many

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ministry libraries were closed or services were outsourced to Ontario universities. Affected ministries included Health, Labour, Agriculture, Transportation, and others.

Libraries rebranded or stayed “under the radar,” and OGLC ceased meeting. In 2004, a meeting led to the revitalization of the network of librarians and restored OGLC.

Despite reduced resources, OGLC achieved:

- Government-wide access to e-databases (cost-shared);
- Recommendations for government

publication retention and accessibility;

- Digitization of older government documents as resources permitted;
- Recognition of librarians’ roles in information and FOI management.

In 2010, Ontario funded Knowledge Ontario to provide e-resources and research assistance across the province regardless of the size of the community. Ontario Government libraries participated, but after funding ceased, they jointly negotiated continued access throughout the government.

Since 2018, the number of government libraries has further

declined. Still, Ontario Government libraries continue to fulfill their supportive mandate—with fewer staff and fewer resources.

Editor’s note: After this article was written, it was announced that, after more than 45 years of operation, the Ontario Ministry of Finance Library closed on Sept. 15, 2025.

Helen Katz worked at CIBC for 15 years, in the library and investor relations, followed by 26 years as the manager of the library at the Ontario Ministry of Finance, retiring in 2016. ■

Judging Crime Writers of Canada Crime Stories

By Elizabeth Ridler

C **Crime Writers of Canada** (CWC) recruits Canadian **volunteers** to judge **10 categories** of crime and mystery, including crime novel, crime novella, crime set in Canada, French language, and juvenile or young adult crime. Each applicant completes a questionnaire about which categories they wish to judge. A three-person panel judges each category. I have judged best novella, best traditional mystery, and, the biggest category, crime novels. Previously, judges received hard print copy for each title, with books arriving in multiple boxes. Now, the copy is provided via a drop box.

Publishers choose titles to submit and category; they must submit by the end of the year of publication. The author must be Canadian or a Canadian resident. There must be enough titles in a category for the judging to go ahead. When I judged the best Canadian novella in 2023, two novellas were disqualified, one for wrong publication date. As a result, the others were held over for the 2024 competition. Result: 11 entries of varied lengths and quality.

Judges are all kinds of readers from all across Canada. I have worked with judges who are librarians, bookstore owners, and readers who love crime writing.

Judges receive criteria and judging models for assistance, but they can

do their own analysis. I tend to judge from the whole novel and not get into technical criteria; other judges follow crime writers’ criteria or have their own. Judges often have very different tastes in crime writing which makes the evaluation phase interesting. Judges can consult each other from January to March with questions of style, content, even length of story. They can also consult their crime writers’ contacts for technical assistance.

By March 31, judges must decide on the top five finalists; by April 30, they must choose the winner for which they provide a short blurb for CWC’s May newsletter. Judges are acknowledged for their work in each category. They can meet in person or by zoom or finalize via email. I have finalized judging all three ways and all work. Once the five finalists are chosen, judges pick the winner.

Here is our judges’ blurb on our selection for Best Novella in the Crime Writers of Canada’s 2025 Awards: *The Windmill Mystery* is a whodunit set in off-the-beaten-path neighbourhoods of Montreal, where an unlikely duo of detectives investigates the death of an eccentric political activist with a mysterious past and a few items of considerable value. When she is found deceased at the foot of an old windmill, the officers find several suspects with compelling motivations: a riches-to-rags

sister; a shady politician; and a group of financially distressed nuns. Central to the story is the history of the expulsion of the Acadians in 1755 from what is now Canada’s Maritime provinces. With its clever writing, colourful characters, and a satisfying puzzle that can be solved by the perceptive reader, *The Windmill Mystery* tops our list as Best Novella.

I hope to judge again this year, although I have not yet chosen what category to request.

Elizabeth Ridler, former president of *Ex Libris*, retired librarian, former elected American Library Association Councilor, is now busy judging Canadian Crime Writers crime novels, travelling, and enjoying retirement. ■

ELAN in Electronic Format

For members who wish to receive future *ELAN* issues in an electronic format, please contact
Bob Henderson at
bob.exlibris@gmail.com.

Noisy Books

By Leslie McGrath

Part 1: Turning Up the Volume

In Medieval times, readers believed they could hear noises from manuscripts: “hold a runic inscription up to your ear, many thought, and it would whisper to you ... the Middle English word for ‘whisper’ is ‘runeth’” (Olmert). Books written on parchment “crackled and creaked, and were usually read aloud (even in private). We should think of medieval books not just as objects to look at, but as a kind of musical instrument that needs a reader to bring its sounds to life” (Terlunen). Dystopians have found pleasure in the pigeon-like fluttering of burning book pages (Bradbury). Today, one needn’t hold a book to enjoy what is now called its ASMR (autonomous sensory meridian response) potential. YouTube offers numerous, varying lengthed recordings of the soothing sound of pages being turned, many with specialized themes: one is devoted entirely to water-damaged copies of Reader’s Digest, promising “heavenly crunchy crinkles” (Poisabloom). Librarians may enjoy the sound of “Old Books Cataloguing & Page Turning” with a thunderstorm in the background (Moonlight Cottage), but may be less engaged by “Licking fingers, turning pages, library book sounds” (Southern).

The deliberate addition of noises to books is related to Edison’s phonograph invention in 1877, followed by brief recordings of nursery rhymes and poetry, first recited by Dylan Thomas, demonstrating this technology’s literary potential. The creation of closed-groove records extended recordings to 20 minutes; further technological advances led to the American “Talking Books Program” in 1931, with copyright exemption and subsidized postage. According to an article in the *Economist*, November 28, 2024, audio books now make up 12 per cent of the commercial book market, span interests from cradle to grave, from potty-training books that include “whooping” and “hollering” applause (Leavitt) to how-to books on death: *Nothing to Fear* will “demystify” your “end-of-life-journey” (McFadden). Aspiring Wiccans can listen to the spells

they wish to cast, joining the chants and personalizing them (Audible.ca). Dramatized audiobooks offer lively sound effects and multiple carefully auditioned voices in “steamy” romances and gothic horror series, for which monthly subscriptions are promoted through a free trial recording, such as *My Heart is a Chainsaw* (Audible.ca). One may now wake up to a clock recounting *A Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich* instead of a beeping alarm (Reddit).



The Speaking Picture Book
Photo credit: Courtesy of Dominic Winter Auctioneers

Sound effects in children’s books have a long history. *The Speaking Picture Book* of 1880 features lifelike noises made by cows, chickens, donkeys, and other animals, activated by pulling on a miniature ivory button that operated a tiny bellows next to the creature’s image. Today, most sound effects in children’s novelty books are based on microchip sound storage technology, activated by opening a page, pressing a button, or lifting a flap. However, others rely on their construction to create noise: Pieńkowski’s *Haunted House* grates a cardboard saw against paper to make a realistic rasping sound. Some books contain music boxes, cultivating young readers with renditions of “Swan Lake,” “The Nutcracker,” and “The Magic Flute.” More lively how-to books offer push-button play: *My Big-Fun Piano Book*, an “educational musical gadget” for “kids 3 and up,” allows children to mix their own piano playing with vibraphone, organ, accordion, guitar, violin, harp, trumpet, saxophone, and clarinet accompaniments, together with recordings made by their parents (Walmart). Usborne’s *Listen and Learn Musical Instruments* contains the sounds

of 70 instruments, with an on-off switch for parents lest prolonged use “drive you mad” (Usborne).



In a return to their printed origins, recently developed Augmented Reality (AR) books now allow the reader to scan hard-copy volumes to add and customize built-in sounds, from mood music to narrators’ voices and even to activate 3D projected images that rise from the page (Wonderbook). It would be helpful for writers, especially diarists and inventors, to have stationary AR books that scream and shriek on being opened by an unauthorized person, but at least for now these seem limited to literary fantasy (Rowling).

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Part 2: Artists' Musical Books

There are many examples of children's books with built-in xylophones and keyboards. But are there adult books that are musical instruments? Yes, though some of these exist only in AI algorithms, in which spoofs and actual creations alike are gleaned from the internet and repackaged in AI's authoritative voice as viable responses to the question. For example, in *"Spring Cleaning with Summer Reading: a Xylophone Made of Books,"* author Anna J. Grossman, apparently, described mounting books of different sizes on a frame to make a xylophone, played by hitting their spines with wooden mallets – apparently, because the article cannot be accessed. AI cites it from *Vice* magazine, provides step-by-step instructions for making it and provides a diagram of Grossman's finished "xylophone," concluding that books can indeed be adapted to make "magical and musical" sounds (Copilot).

Grossman, who now runs a dog obedience school in New York, replied to a querying email, "Would you believe I have NO memory of that story?" She thought most likely it was one of a series of humorous captions she wrote with no accompanying text, in this instance inspired by a YouTube video (Grossman). AI does not scan these videos so it missed gathering data on an actual robotic "book xylophone." This is actually a percussion instrument built with O'Reilly computer programming books which, apparently, give just the right hollow thumping noise and have pleasing uniform animal-themed covers (Branwyn).

AI also suggests that harps and drums, among other instruments, can be made from hardcover books and maracas, kazoos and rainsticks from paperbacks (Copilot). Asked how to make a "book harp," AI once again gave detailed instructions: crafters and aspiring musicians should fit strings across the spine of a book, allowing the pages to act as a "resonating body, amplifying the sound produced by the

strings" (Copilot). When asked for its source, AI admitted "I didn't find a specific source mentioning a 'book harp' in my search results. However, the concept of transforming everyday objects into musical instruments is a popular creative endeavour among artists and musicians..." (Copilot).

Yet, there are indeed many documented examples of books actually made or incorporated into genuine musical instruments, apart from music clipped onto a band instrument with a "lyre" holder. An early example, patented by Anselmo Gavioli in 1892, is the "book organ" that uses a series of punched sheets, accordion-folded into a book, called "book music," to be fed through the mechanism, causing keys to rise and fall. Unlike paper music rolls, "book music" does not require rewinding, and is still used in some outdoor organs in Europe.

Electric guitars have been created from Bibles for spiritual folk performances (Arvey), and one has been carved from 700 laminated sheets of newspaper; it produces mellow sounds and features interesting articles on its playing surface (Burls Art). Most impressively, Peter and Donna Thomas, of California, have created a series of artists' books from ukuleles, guitars, accordions, concertinas, and a dulcimer, with relevant text and illustrations, almost all of which can be both played and read -- though not at the same time (Thomas, 2014). There are more than twenty Hawaiian-themed playable books in their ukelele series, with text formats ranging from flip books and a Jacob's Ladder to a full bookshelf tucked into one instrument. Their early work, *The Actual Accordion Book*, now at MIT, was once a functional accordion; with its bellows slit and turned into pages it can no longer make music, but according to Thomas, it explained the correct use of the term "accordion" for rectangular expanding books, as opposed to hexagonally-designed "concertinas" (Thomas, 2016). Their subsequent projects are mostly functional instruments combined with books. An advocate for proper terminology,

Thomas notes "the world will be a better place for having a word for books made out of instruments" and hopes a definitive term will soon be coined (Thomas, 2025). After discussions with the Canadian Bookbinders and Book Artists Guild and book artist Karen Hanmer, and with the approval of Peter Thomas, whose works inspired the initial research, the term "Artists' Musical Books" appears to fill this need.

Leslie McGrath worked at TPL as a children's librarian and a branch head for 10 years and Senior Department Head of the Osborne Collection of Early Children's Books for 23 years. Her PhD thesis was *Service to Children in the Toronto Public Library: A Case Study, 1912-1949*. ■

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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.

Milestones



Obituaries

Compiled by Frances Davidson-Arnott and Bob Henderson

Shirley Anne Atkins (née McTavish)

died July 16, 2025, age 89, in Bradford, ON. BA, B.Ed. (York); LT Dipl (Seneca). She taught in elementary schools in Scarborough, Kingston, and Clarendon, ON. She worked at Markham PL's Unionville Branch and then Ryerson Polytechnic Library. She was a York Region District School Board Trustee, 1985-1991.

William "Brian" Bell died April 24, 2025, age 68, in Richmond Hill, ON. Brian was a librarian at Richmond Hill PL, the last 15 years of his career as Richvale Branch Manager.

William (Bill) Forest Birdsall died August 12, 2025, age 87, in Halifax. PhD (LIS, U of Wisconsin). He held positions at Iowa State U, U of Wisconsin-LaCrosse, and U of Manitoba before becoming Dalhousie's Director of Libraries, 1981-1998; he became Novanet Executive Director in 1998. He was a consultant for CARL, CRKN, and CISTI. He authored many papers and books, and CACUL named him 1998 Outstanding Academic Librarian.

Alan Caden Burk died August 7, 2025, age 82, in Fredericton, NB. He was the Assistant Director of the UNB library system, establishing the Electronic Text Centre (now the Centre for Digital Scholarship). He collaborated with universities across Canada to develop standards in the field of digital publishing. After retirement he worked for a year at McGill to help further the development of the digital publishing landscape.

Brent John Cehan died September 15, age 63, in Toronto. Master of Information

Studies 2006 (MIST) (U of T, '06). Brent had just retired after 36 years with TPL, mostly in the Toronto Reference Library's Arts Department, where he curated and selected works for the various collections.

Helen Anne Coffey (née McGinnis)

died July 18, 2025, age 80, in Kingston, ON. BLS (U of T, '69). She was a librarian in the Queen's Library System for 35 years.

Michael Keith Dell died January 2025, age 69, in Edmonton. MLS (U of A, '80). Starting as a children's librarian and ending as a branch manager, he worked for Edmonton PL until retirement.

Louise Dion died April 4, 2025, age 91, in Quebec City. Library Science (U de Montréal). She worked in the Laval U library from 1970 - 1990 until retiring, specializing in collection development. She authored *An Introduction to Reference Works in Geography*, 1970, one of the library's bibliographic guides series.

Daphne Dolan died August 2, 2025, age 82, in Ottawa. BLS (McGill, '65). She was Chief Librarian at Concordia. She then had a career in Canada's Civil Service, retiring as the Public Service Commission's Audit Branch Director General.

Adele Fasick died May 26, 2025, age 95, in California. PhD (Case Western Reserve). She was a scholar of children's libraries and literature and former Dean of U of T's Faculty of Information.

Bruno Fast died May 14, 2025, age 68, in Chicago. MLS (U of T, '82). He spent his career as a librarian at Northwestern U, Evanston, IL, from where he had recently retired.

Nancy Fay died June 1, 2025, age 69, in Ottawa. She was Manager, Copyright Services, Library and Archives Canada.

Fr. Donald Francis Finlay died April 4, 2025, age 88, in Toronto. MLS (Rosary College, River Forest, IL, '67). He was

Chief Librarian of the Pontifical Institute of Mediaeval Studies (1966-1993) and Chief Librarian of the U of St. Michael's College (1985-1993).

Bertrand Fleurant died May 30 2025, age 82, in Gatineau, QC. He was Director, Acquisitions and Cataloguing Division, Library of Parliament.

Ronald Alva Fox died March 25, 2025, age 84, in Calgary. MA Library Science (U of Minnesota). He was Assistant Librarian at Bethel Seminary for seven years. Then he was pastor several churches. In 1992 he became Director of Library Services, Rocky Mountain College, Calgary, retiring in 2005.

Donna Ellen Frederick (née Mazurek) died April 16, 2025, age 57, in Saskatoon. MLIS (San Jose State College). She was Metadata Librarian at U of Saskatchewan. She also worked for the Metis Nation of Saskatchewan, Moose Jaw Water Plant, and Agriculture and Agri-food Canada.

Zelda Freedman (née Achbar) died April 29, 2025, age 92, in Ottawa. She was a former medical librarian and an accomplished author and artist.

Judith Pearl Ghert died April 29, 2025, age 82, in Toronto. BSc (McGill). With a keen interest in history and genealogy, she became an avid archivist after moving to Toronto in 1970. Her archival work included the Ontario Jewish Archives, where she was a long-term board member (2001-2020) and led the creation of Toronto's Temple Sinai Congregation archives.

Robert Gibson died May 25, 2025, age 83, in Wakefield, QC. He founded Micromedia Ltd. in 1972. He dedicated his career to advancing the accessibility of global Canadian content for use in corporate, academic, and library settings. In 2006, Bob and his brother Gary established the Canadian Electronic Library/desLibris, which collected and curated primary sources (Canadian publishers and policy papers from governments, think tanks, and research institutes), and delivered them through

an online platform built for library and educational use. From 2022 he was owner of desLibris Publishing Solutions, providing publishers with eBook conversion services. Bob had recently joined ELA.

Iris Mary Gilley died, January 31, 2025, age 92, in Red Deer, AB. BLS (U of A, '72). She taught at North Battleford, Lloydminster, Edmonton, and Red Deer.

Edna Anne Hajnal (née Moore) died June 8, 2025, age 88, in Toronto. BLS (U of T, '62). After library school, she worked at U of New Brunswick before returning to U of T as a librarian. Edna spent much of her career at U of T's Thomas Fisher Rare Book, where she worked until her retirement in 2002. Edna was an ELA member.

Maureen Rose Harper (née Fitzpatrick) died March 24, 2025, age 92, in London, ON. She earned a teaching certificate in the 1960s. After briefly teaching public school, she obtained an MLS degree and became the librarian at Halton Hills secondary schools until her retirement in 1988.

Jean Hatton died April 29, 2025, age 96, in Mississauga, ON. She was a long-time librarian at Lorne Park Library and Christ First United Church.

Kathleen Angela Holder (née Huggins-Chan) died May 2, 2025, age of 81, in Hamilton, ON. MLS (McGill). She was a librarian at Hamilton PL for 35 years.

Steven A. Horn died September 17, 2025, age 81, in Nanaimo, BC. BLS (U of T, '69), JD (U. Saskatchewan). He worked at Carleton U library and Brampton PL, among others, before moving into law: JP in BC and Saskatchewan and Chief Legislative Counsel in the Yukon for 11 years, responsible for drafting legislation, and advocated for good legal information in public libraries. After retirement in 2011, he and his late wife, also a librarian, Meg (née Gelinis) moved to Nanaimo, where they carried on their promotion of and working for civil rights and public legal

education through public libraries.

Joan Huzar (née Featherstonhaugh) died August 7, 2025, age 79, in Victoria. BLS (U of T, '69). She was a teacher in Richmond Hill, ON.

Margaret Joan King (née Langlois) died April 13, 2025, age 94, in Kingston, ON. LT Dipl. Joan was Librarian and CEO of Englehart PL for more than 20 years, retiring in 1994.

Judith Kolonics died April 8, 2025, age 71, in Montreal. She worked at McGill's Library for 43 years, retiring in 2016. She contributed significantly to electronic documents and cataloguing policies in library technical services. She was among the first library staff to work with electronic documents and played a key role in shaping practices in this area.

Yvan Lamonde died August 26, 2025, age 81. He was a McGill Professor Emeritus and a leading specialist in Quebec's intellectual history. As the author of some 40 publications, his writings included work on the subject of Quebec Library History. He co-edited, with Patricia Fleming of U of T, *A History of the Book in Canada / Histoire du livre et de l'imprimé au Canada*.

Paula Lederman died May 17, 2025, in Toronto. MLS (U of T, '75). She was a consultant for much of her career: Lederman and Associates, Lead Consultant, Information Management, Canada, 1985-2005; and, information management consultant with IMERGE Consulting from 2006. She was an instructor at the U of T School of Continuing Studies in the information and records management certificate program.

David William Leonard died July 3, 2025, age 76, in Edmonton. BA, MA (U of A, '68 and '69), PhD (U of Sheffield, '75). He was an archivist with the City of Edmonton, the Northwest Territories, and the Province of Alberta, and Alberta's Provincial Archivist, 1993-1996. In 1996 he became Project Historian for Northern Alberta. He

taught archives and records management at U of A. In 2022, David received the Queen Elizabeth II Platinum Jubilee Medal.

James (Jim) Robert Looney died November 9, 2024. MLS (UBC, '75). He was a recipient of the BC Library Association's Helen Gordon Stewart Award in recognition of his outstanding work with BCLA and his 30-year career at British Columbia's Public Library Services Branch bringing public libraries into the digital age. He retired in 2006.

Richard Malinski died August 27, 2025, age 81, in Oakville, ON. BLS (U of T, '68). Richard's career included positions at York U, Simon Fraser U, and Ryerson U, as Chief Librarian and Director of Distance Education.

Jane Alison Maxwell died September 10, 2025, age 68, in Barrie, ON. MLS (U of T, '82). She was a research librarian at Bell Canada, sole librarian at McKim Advertising, Assistant Editor at Micromedia ProQuest, and, most recently, Resource Specialist at Findhelp Information Services.

Lorna Olga Bertha Mays died August 10, 2025, age 89, in Mississauga, ON. LT Dipl (Sheridan College). Her career included library work at U of T, North York PL, Gulf Oil research centre, and as librarian at Peel Regional Police HQ.

Ljubica Milicevic died in, 2025, age 76, in Montreal. Library Science (Concordia, '89). In her years of service as a librarian she produced future critical thinkers and leaders through the power of fiction, storytelling, and nonfiction. She worked at Solomon Schechter Academy.

Jean Mary Molson (née Rennie) died May 20, 2025, age 99, in Vancouver. BLS (UBC, '64). She served as a librarian for the BC Registered Nurses Association and then in the Woodward Biomedical Library, UBC.

Anna Ruth Rogers died January 18, 2025, age 93, in Halifax. BLS (McGill, '53). She was a librarian in Annapolis

Royal, where her duties included adventures on a sometimes-unreliable bookmobile that traversed the Annapolis Valley on even more unreliable roads.

Wendy Mary Elizabeth Schick (née Warner) died April 7, 2025, age 82, in Burlington, ON. BLS (UBC, '65). She had a 40-year career at Burlington PL, starting as a part-time cataloguer, followed by positions as Head of Technical Services, Deputy Chief Librarian, and Chief Librarian (later titled City Librarian) for 23 years. She was a pioneer with the introduction of computers in all aspects of operations at Burlington PL. She advocated for the expansion of several branches to support Burlington's rapidly growing population and the redesigned and rebuilt Central Library building.

Dorothy Sedgwick (née Taylor) died June 17, 2025, age 97, in Toronto. MLS (U of T, '74). After a short time at Quill & Quire, she worked for Markham PL. She was then hired to establish and manage a library and information centre in the National Office of Price Waterhouse Chartered Accountants. She was President of Toronto's SLA Chapter.

Brian Cantwell Smith died September 6, 2025, age 75, in Toronto. BS, MS, PHD (MIT). He was U of T's Faculty of Information Dean, 2003-2008. His research focused on the philosophical foundations of computation, artificial intelligence, and mind, as well as on fundamental issues in metaphysics and epistemology.

Judith Ellen Snow (née Bradley) died April 20, 2025, age 81, in Toronto. BLS (U of T, '65). Her career began at the U of T Faculty of Education, then continued at Ontario Institute for Studies in Education (OISE), Chief Librarian at Erindale College, back to OISE as Co-Director of the Education Commons, and concluding as Deputy Chief Librarian for U of T libraries, until retiring in 2007.

Nancy Page Stuart-Stubbs (née Ballard) died April 20, 2025, age 93, in Vancouver.

BLS (McGill, '54). She joined Vancouver PL, where she was one of two VPL librarians to work in all three Main Branches, starting her career at Carnegie Library in 1956. She spent the last years of her career in the Local History Room, where she could be closer to the history of her pioneer relatives around the Salish Sea.

Jane Glasgow Trimble died July 31, 2025, age 84, in Halifax. BLS (U of T, '66). Jane began her career at the Dalhousie Library before moving to Ottawa in 1970 to work as Librarian with the Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada. She returned to Dalhousie in 1977 and then to the U of King's College where she worked with Dr. Wayne Hankey, helping to prepare the specifications and proposal for funding the new college library, completed in 1991. She worked at the Nova Scotia Centre on Aging, Mount Saint Vincent U, until early retirement in 1995.

Kathleen M. Tripp died June 22, 2025, age 90, in Calgary. MLS. She taught English and Physical Education. After getting her MLS she became a long-time teacher-librarian in Calgary.

Mary "Betty" Ward died March 29, 2025, age 95, in Calgary. BLS (U of T, '53). Her career as a librarian included working at Calgary PL until her retirement in 1989.

Brian Bromley Wilks died May 31, 2025, age 87, in Toronto. BLS (UBC, '66). He was a science librarian at Simon Fraser U before joining York U's Steacie Science and Engineering Library in 1970, remaining there until retiring in 2003. He was the author of *What Every Librarian Should Know About On-line Searching* (CLA) and *Browsing Science Research at the Federal Level in Canada* (U of T Press).

Nan Williamson died August 8, 2025, age 84, in Peterborough, ON. BA, English (U of T, '65), OCE, '66. Mid-career she shifted directions from classroom teacher to become a teacher-librarian. She believed the library should be seen as the hub of research-based

inquiry and learning, with the teacher-librarian and classroom teacher working in partnership to promote a student-centered learning environment.

Alexandria Yurgensen died January 18, 2025, age 39. MLS (UBC, '14). After beginning her career at Okanagan PL, she was a children's librarian for eight years at Vancouver PL.

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



Retirements

Compiled by
Suzette Giles

Constance Adamson, associate librarian, Queen's University Library, retired May 30, 2025. She received her Master of Library Science from Faculty of Library Information Science (University of Toronto, '86). Prior to joining Queen's University Library in 1992 she was at Metro Toronto Reference Library and KPMG Peat Marwick's Corporate Finance Group. At Queen's she was Head, Information Reference Unit until 1997, when she became reference and instruction librarian. In 2000, she was promoted to associate librarian. Constance served on multiple Queen's University Faculty Association committees and as QUFA president (2003 to 2005). She was president of the Ontario Confederation of University Faculty Associations (OCUFA) (2011 to 2013) and honoured with the 2016 OCUFA Service Award. In addition, she was Queen's University Librarians and Archivists chair and co-chair at various times receiving, in 2017, the Liz Fox Distinguished Service Award. (With thanks to Michael J. White.)

Peter Bailey, CEO of St Albert PL, Alta., retired Aug. 31, 2025 after 24 years, the

last 15 as CEO. During his time as CEO, the library developed its digital services and outreach programs, including a Makerspace, computer classes for seniors, and since 2011, STARFest a Readers Festival. Also, a branch library opened in 2020. Bailey served as CFLA-FCAB chair, Library Association of Alberta president, and as a member of the Centre for Free Expression's working group on intellectual freedom.

Darla Fraser, CEO of Orangeville Public Library, Ont., will retire in 2025. She joined OPL in 2010, after more than eight years with the County of Dufferin as Manager, Community Services, Program & Research. Her educational attainments include Master of Information Science, Library, Research and a certificate in Public Library Leadership from University of Toronto.

Elizabeth Gibson, associate librarian, Queen's University Library retired at the end of May 2025, after 48 years at the library. She joined Queen's as a cataloguing librarian in 1977 after receiving her Master of Library Science from Faculty of Library Information Science (University of Toronto). Elizabeth had a dual role as a cataloguer and a member of the Information Reference Unit in the Douglas Library (1982 to 1985), with promotion to associate librarian. In 1994, the unit was relocated to the Joseph S. Stauffer Library, where she remained until retirement. Elizabeth's primary liaison responsibilities have included drama, history, English language and literature, and film and media studies, and she is the author of more than 70 published LibGuides. Her committee work included being chair of Professional Librarians at Queen's (PLAQ, later QULA), as well as various committees including Appointments and the Renewal, Continuing Appointment, and Promotion Committee. (With thanks to Michael J. White.)

Brenda Reed, Head education librarian retired from Queen's University Library, on December 31, 2024, after 30 years. Brenda joined the library in 1994, after positions in St. Mary's in Halifax, N.S., and Bishop's College in Lennoxville, Quebec.

With the creation of the Teacher Resource Centre in 1996, her position became fulltime and has involved renovations, collection building, and supporting new programs and priorities in the Faculty of Education. Her professional accomplishments have been recognized by being the first recipient of the Liz Fox Distinguished service award in 2010 and in 2023 receiving a Queen's University Distinguished Service Award. (With thanks to Michael J. White.)

Heather Robinson, CEO and chief librarian of St. Thomas Public Library, Ont., will retire on Dec. 31, 2025. In 1998, she joined St. Thomas PL as children's librarian and became CEO/chief librarian in 2016. She studied library science at University of Western Ontario and held positions at the City of York Public Library and Kingston Public Library prior to St. Thomas. She played a key leadership role in the library's major 2010 to 2011 renovation project and other highlights include the creation of the Kids Spot, installation of outdoor murals, and other community-driven art projects. In 2004, she received the Ontario Public Library Association's Children's Librarian of the Year award.

Wendy Sears, deputy director and manager of administrative services, Yellowhead Regional Library, Alta., retired effective Sept. 2, 2025. She joined YRL in 2004, as assistant director and manager of bibliographic services and was appointed manager of administrative services in 2019. From 2001 to 2004, she was bibliographic services manager for Northern Lights Library System. She earned a Master of Library and Information Science (Western, '87) and a BA (University of Alberta, '83), specializing in French and minoring in English. Jocie Wilson was appointed deputy director, effective Sept. 3, 2025.

Terri Short retired at the end of March 2025, after 20 years at McKellar Public Library, Ont. She joined as assistant librarian and worked with CEO Joan Ward to design a new library. She was appointed CEO in 2019 when Ward retired. She has played an integral part in keeping the library updated in technology. Lynne

Campbell was promoted from assistant librarian to CEO/head librarian, effective March 31, 2025.

Donna Spickett, resource assistant, LaSalle Branch of Essex County Library, Ont., retired May 14, 2025 after a 52-year career at ECL. Starting as a desk clerk while in high school, she continued to work at LaSalle and Essex branches both full and part time. When her mother (Jean Forbes) retired from the LaSalle Branch in 1990, she returned to LaSalle as the branch supervisor. From the 1990s, there were on-going technological developments and programming expanded to include adult crafts, cooking programs, book clubs, and outreach to the community. Donna was a recipient of a **County of Essex 2024 Employee Excellence Award**. She was honoured for her "sound judgment, organizational knowledge and collaborative approach to leadership." She was also praised for her positive attitude and work ethic that inspires those around her to work as a team.

Wenyan Wu, associate librarian, public services in the Engineering and Science Library at Queen's University, retired on May 31, 2025 after 31 years of service. He received a Master of Library Science (University of Western Ontario, '94), which followed a Master of Public Administration (University of Manitoba, '92). (With thanks to Michael J. White.)

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

Let's Stay in Touch

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

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

Indigenous Student Bursary Activities

By Deb Thomas



The Bursary Committee is pleased to report that we have once again raised sufficient funds to award the bursary for 2025. **Library Bound** has continued its generous bursary support with another \$500 donation. Its staff also helps promote the bursary by including our flyers and bookmarks at their library conference booths. The remainder of the annual budget (\$2,500 bursary + \$300 administration fees to Indspire) is raised through generous donations

from Ex Libris Association membership and others in the library community.

Each year, we promote the bursary with library and archival studies programs at Canadian colleges and universities. This year, we are reaching out to programs awarding certification for teacher librarians. We feel that, with growing threats of school library collection censorship — especially in the United States but spreading into various regions in Canada, Indigenous voices in this sector are particularly critical.

Indspire continues to manage

bursary awards for ELA as it is better able to determine financial need and Indigenous status. It will announce this year's award recipient at year's end. We will share the news with ELA membership through the listserv and in the Spring 2026 *ELAN*. More information on the bursary can be found on ELA's **website**.

The Indigenous Student Bursary Committee comprises Deb Thomas (chair), Bob Henderson, Tom Eadie, and Lorisia MacLeod.

Questions? Contact Committee Chair **Deb Thomas**. ■

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