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 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
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.

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!
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.

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

Continued on page 7
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.

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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.

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.


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.
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 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

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 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:


Combining popular and academic history will always raise the danger of succeeding at neither.

**Biblio Files: A History of the Regina Public Library**  
By Susan Birley, Anne Campbell, and Jeannie Mah  
University of Regina Press, 2017. ISBN: 978-0-889774827. $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.

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**Books by Members**


— Susan Ibbetson

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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 jeanmarie.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, heroines, 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 honourary 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=vLkBVRGdEko&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 Centrepontine 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://aplano2018.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 fresh 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-Arnett

University of British Columbia, School of Library, Archival and Information Studies (SLIS)
By Guy Robertson

In January, Routledge published Digital Technology and Sustainability: Engaging the Paradox, co-edited by SLIS 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 Montréal, 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 Larivièrê 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.


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 (1978–88), 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.

**Frances 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.


**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 Weirs. 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.


**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 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 (Toronto Public Library), Anne Hart (Memorial University), Jessie Mifflen (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

Jean Weihs. Photo credit: Tom Sandler Photography

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Please include ELA or ELAN in the subject line of your email.
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ELAN Indexing
Updated after each issue by Agatha Barc, the complete index can be found at:

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