



ELAN

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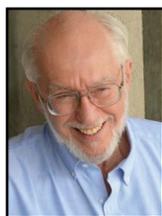
Ex Libris Association Newsletter

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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 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 insitution–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

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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 (FIAP). I recall helping to organize a FIAP 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:

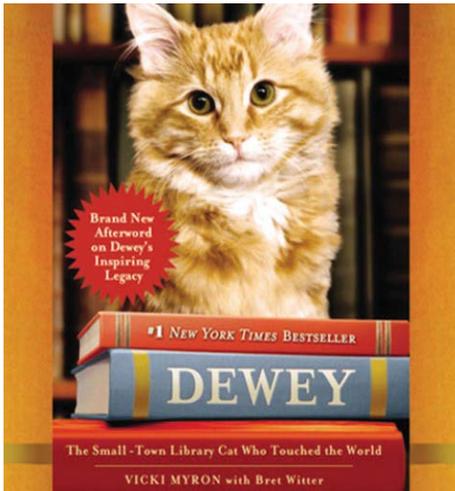
exlibris.ca/doku.php?id=history:biographies:biography_mainpage.

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.

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. |

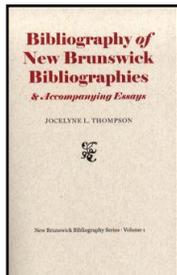
Books of Interest to Members

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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

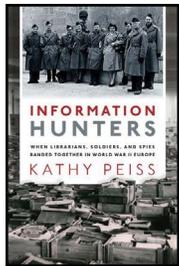
as undergraduates, graduate students, and their professors in the Humanities — by addressing their need for clear definitions of key terms and memorable examples of manuscripts that contain important characteristics. In some places Kwakkel is lighthearted and amusing, in others he impresses readers with 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.

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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.

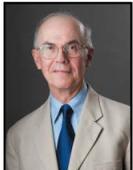
Ryerson University Library is developing a COVID-19 digital archive of images (shared by students, faculty, staff, and alumni) which will eventually be publicly available. Other university and public libraries are also inviting people to contribute stories, diaries, photos, poems, art, or anything else 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.

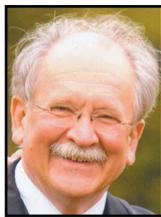
Curbside pickup has become the staple service to reconnect with library books again. In early August, all public libraries across the Maritimes are open for in-library browsing, limited computer use, and varying programs and services. Overdue fines have essentially been eliminated.

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 *Moccasin 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 Alisaukas**, 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 my 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

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.

Compiled by Suzette Giles



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-NvcstAG7SmstgIHuM9nRZ1EQ),
- 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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