



# ELAN

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Ex Libris Association Newsletter

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## A Profile of the West Vancouver Memorial Library (WVML), 2021 W. Kaye Lamb Award for Innovative Services to Seniors

By Christina Wilson, Chair, ELA's W. Kaye Lamb Award Committee

ELA's W. Kaye Lamb Award Committee selected WVML, due to the outstanding work of its Assistive Services team who provide an innovative range of accessible collections, services, programs, and events tailored specifically to the needs of their senior communities.

The library already had programs and services in place to ensure that seniors had the means and opportunities to connect with friends, family, and others in the wider world, as well as the ability to access important government and library services and resources. The Assistive Services staff's innovation and creativity positioned WVML to serve its senior populations during the encroaching effects of the pandemic, which caused many seniors to become especially vulnerable and isolated.

Early in the pandemic, the library partnered with other library systems in the region to distribute TELUS-donated

phones and tablets, through local community agencies, to those in need. The libraries provided ongoing user support by phone and online to ensure that recipients were able to effectively use their new tools. In addition, the libraries provided access to a wide array of free downloadable audio and e-books, movies, music, and classes.

Library staff built partnerships with area libraries and seniors' homes including the Sk̓wx̓wú7mesh Úxwumixw (Squamish Nation) Elders' Centre. The committee was especially impressed with the Dial-a-Story: Indigenous Storytelling by Squamish Elders, presented in partnership with the Squamish Nation Elders' Centre. This popular program reached more than 230 seniors — as listeners and as storytellers. According to Acting Customer & Community Experience

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Library Assistants Kim Enjo and Kelly Bailey, WVML's Assistive Services team  
Photo credit: West Vancouver Memorial Library

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Coordinator Kendra Sakamoto, “This program provided a low-barrier opportunity for patrons to connect with others, and not only allowed isolated members of the community to listen to a story, but also gave Squamish Elders a chance to tell their stories and connect with their wider community.”

The Assistive Services team further strengthened relationships by working with the two other North Shore library systems to produce a flyer promoting library resources and services, which was distributed with the Elders’ Centre newsletter.

The library pivoted early in the pandemic to offer virtual instead of in-person events. One-on-one device clinics were particularly helpful for seniors with access to devices, but without the skills and knowledge to use them effectively. In addition to the Indigenous Storytelling by Squamish Elders, the opportunity to connect with others during this isolating time was provided by Dial-a-Story, the phone-in program for adults. Using only a telephone, participants could join in and connect with others, listening and discussing stories. In addition to its collection of accessible materials such as large-print books and audiobooks, and related devices such as DAISY players (CD players that are simpler to use for people with visual impairments or limited mobility), Assistive Services has begun lending dementia-friendly pastime kits and simple music players, making WVML one of very few libraries in Canada to do so.

Finally, Assistive Services has continued deliveries of physical materials to seniors in care homes, assisted-living facilities, and private homes. The seniors miss the in-person visits with staff that they had pre-pandemic, but material delivery has been very much appreciated.

The W. Kaye Lamb Committee members, including Donna Burton and Elizabeth Ridler, were thrilled to receive 13 high-quality submissions from libraries across Canada, and worked hard to narrow their selections to a single award recipient. Fortunately, the ELA board agreed

to recognize the outstanding work of several libraries with secondary honours and a special mention.

Brighton and Oakville public libraries shared the runner-up award for their novel seniors’ programs.

Brighton Public Library (BPL) became a Dementia-Friendly Library. CEO Heather Ratz stated, “In collaboration with the Alzheimer Society of Hastings-Prince Edward, we began a journey to increase our awareness of dementia, and implement strategies and services that we hoped would be valuable resources for those living with dementia, and their caregivers. We introduced a series of Cognitive Readers that include features such as large print, reading cues, single-page printing, and contrasting colours and layouts. Like other libraries before us, we created Cognitive Care Kits that we hope will connect people living with dementia to activities they enjoy, thus enriching their lives and inspiring engagement. We are thrilled to be part of a bigger initiative to help build a dementia-friendly Brighton community.”

In its strategic plan, Oakville Public Library (OPL) committed to connecting seniors to technology, developing OPL Connection Kits. CEO Tara Wong explained, “The kits provide a vital service for OPL’s most vulnerable and isolated residents. By including a bundle of tablets and/or WiFi hotspots that can be borrowed from the library, the kits provided accessible library resources, communication tools, and Internet access, and closed a key gap in the continually growing digital divide; especially access to technology for those most in need. For many, the library is their only outlet for learning and socialization. When libraries were closed due to the COVID-19 pandemic, many people were unable to regularly access the library collections and public spaces, and, as such, were without the tools that they needed to support their social connections and lifelong learning. The Connection Kits are an innovative example of how OPL made an immediate and meaningful difference in people’s lives, ensuring that those in the community were able to stay connected and engaged.”

Toronto Public Library (TPL) was awarded an honourable mention for its outstanding work in supporting seniors during the pandemic, and for sharing their experiences widely in mainstream media. North York Central Library Manager Kim Huntley and Learning and Community Engagement Manager Alex Carruthers summarized TPL’s efforts as follows: “TPL recognized the isolating effect the pandemic was having on our most vulnerable senior customers, many of whom are often socially isolated and have no access to the Internet. Staff provided support to seniors by making thousands of wellness-check telephone calls, calling to provide vaccination information, establishing a seniors’ tech helpline for low-income seniors, and offering programs online to help seniors stay engaged. The heartwarming nature of these services attracted media attention and wonderful feedback from the seniors themselves, and was a truly rewarding experience for staff. As an added benefit, we gained valuable insight about how best to deliver services to this particular age group. It was our goal to do what public libraries do best — connecting customers with trusted information sources while providing an exceptional customer experience — even during a public health crisis.”

ELA invites applications for the W. Kaye Lamb Award, which is co-sponsored with the Canadian Federation of Library Associations/ Fédération canadienne des associations de bibliothèques. With this award — named to commemorate Canada’s first National Librarian, William Kaye Lamb, OC, FRSC — the two national library associations recognize outstanding library service to seniors. ELA provides a \$500 cash prize and a commemorative plaque, and CFLA-FCAB uses its network of library associations to encourage applicants from all Canadian library sectors. *For more information regarding the W. Kaye Lamb Award for Service to Seniors, please contact Christina Wilson at [chriswilson@shaw.ca](mailto:chriswilson@shaw.ca). Christina Wilson, recently retired as CEO, Red Deer PL, has worked for public and post-secondary libraries in Ontario and Alberta. ■*

## President's Report

By Deb Thomas



I'd like to begin by thanking Tom Eadie for his past leadership of ELA. Early in 2019, I was able to meet Tom in person briefly before the world closed down, and he was as genial and knowledgeable in person as he has proved to be virtually. Tom has been very supportive of the new presidency with his advice on next directions.

We have a good strong board. Bob Henderson has continued to handle finances and memberships, and generally hold the association together behind the scenes. Donna Burton has continued a lively presence on Facebook. Christina Wilson has taken the lead with Community Webs, the Community History Web Archiving Program of the Internet Archive that will, we hope, eventually lead to ELA digitizing and storing the important documents it has produced. Rick Ficek has been our faithful minute taker (not an easy job with the wide-ranging discussions that sometimes take over our meetings). Vivienne James is looking for a likely candidate for our next virtual tour after the success of the tour of Calgary Public Library's new central branch. Suggestions are welcome!

Of course, we can't forget our ex officio members. Lorne Bruce is leading the biography project, that vital record of the achievements of those who have contributed to the health and vibrancy of the Canadian library community, now adding biographies of our colleagues who are still living, beginning with Nancy Williamson. Lorne also maintains our website. Frances Davidson-Arnott manages to put out a newsletter twice a year that's packed with interesting and informative stories. And special thanks to Wendy Newman for facilitating our Zoom meetings.

I'd also like to thank recently retiring board members, Matt Scholtz and Elizabeth Ridler, for their contributions. Elizabeth served as president and past president and Matt has been a regular and welcome contributor to the ELA listserv.

My thanks also go to those members who sit on the various committees that keep our association running smoothly — Trudy Bodak, Judy Dunn, Suzette Giles, Susan Ibbetson, Shirley Lewis, Leslie McGrath, Cameron Riddle,

Elizabeth Ridler, Nancy Williamson, and Jean Weihs.

We had a well-attended AGM in November, followed by an informative lecture by Peter Hajnal on International Librarianship: A Personal Journey (see the article by Bernard Katz in this issue, page 6). Having to hold both events virtually meant members did not get to mingle socially, but we were able to attract members from across Canada (including the incoming president) who could otherwise not have attended.

We were very pleased at the number and quality of the applications we received for the W. Kaye Lamb Award, administered this year by Christina and Donna. I was delighted to have the opportunity to present a plaque to the winner, West Vancouver Memorial Library, at a West Vancouver City Council meeting on February 7th (see the article by Christina Wilson in this issue, page 1).

We had a virtual presence at the OLA SuperConference this year, and will also be virtually exhibiting at the BC Library Conference in April.

At our March board meeting, we made the decision to issue a statement in solidarity with our Ukrainian professional colleagues. You can find the statement on our [Facebook page](#) or on our [website](#). We also revived our Recruitment and Member Services Committee with the intent of growing and strengthening our membership.

Other goals for the coming year — in addition to continuing the good work listed above — are to review our constitution and look at the possibility, raised by Tom in his final months as president, of establishing a bursary to assist Indigenous students engaged in library studies in library technician or master's programs.

We are open to new members joining us on this active board — particularly members interested in becoming vice president and archivist. Find more information about ELA and a link to a membership form on our [website](#).

*Deb Thomas recently retired from a career of 40-plus years in libraries, 30 years of which were in public library management. She is ELA's representative on CFLA-FCAB IFC. ■*

### W. Kaye Lamb Award for Service to Seniors and Elders

The next award will be made in the fall of 2023. Help us find great candidates!

To apply, visit the [W. Kaye Lamb Award for Service to Seniors](#) web page.

### Welcome to New ELA Members

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

Norma Gibson-MacDonald,  
Burlington, ON  
Mary McConnell, Calgary

## Canadian Federation of Library Associations/Fédération canadienne des associations de bibliothèques (CFLA-FCAB) — the National Voice of Canada's Library Associations

By Todd Kyle, reporting on behalf of the CFLA-FCAB Board of Directors



Since the fall of 2021, CFLA-FCAB has faced considerable challenges. As the former executive director ended her contract, a search was initiated for a replacement, while Office Co-ordinator Michael Rogowski continued to provide support for administrative, financial, communication, and documentation functions. However, it soon became clear the federation did not have sufficient financial resources to accommodate both paid roles. Instead, CFLA-FCAB has continued without an executive director and will expand the role of office co-ordinator as needed, continuing to use the services of a freelance bookkeeper and Impact Public Affairs as a government-relations consultant. Going forward, CFLA-FCAB is looking to explore other operational models including closer advocacy-and-administrative partnerships with its major and

national members. In addition, CFLA-FCAB is planning to revive its efforts to develop a more stable and robust revenue model, which were put on hold due to the pandemic.

Since the last report, CFLA-FCAB advocacy work has included submissions to the 2022 federal budget, as well as a parallel federal election platform. Both of these called for regulations to ensure availability of e-content to libraries, adequate funding for accessible formats (CELA and NNELS), additional funding to Library and Archives Canada to respond to access-to-information requests, and investment in libraries as “green” infrastructure. After the elections, CFLA-FCAB reached out to establish relationships with the new government ministers appointed to library-related portfolios.

Other advocacy work involved the Intellectual Freedom Committee (IFC), which released a statement regarding challenges to the book *Irreversible Damage* by Abigail Shrier.

This statement proved to be very controversial in the library community, exposing a divide over approaches to intellectual freedom as it relates to social justice. In addition, the IFC released a statement on protest and dissent to provide libraries with guidance on how to manage varying rights, when communities or users object to material or speech in libraries.

CFLA-FCAB held its virtual Annual General Meeting on February 11, 2022, when new directors were elected to the board to represent the Canadian Association of Research Libraries, Alberta, the Prairie provinces, and Ontario. The new board elected Lorisia MacLeod as its new chair.

— For more information visit [cfla-fcab.ca](https://cfla-fcab.ca).

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

## CFLA-FCAB Intellectual Freedom Committee (IFC)

By Deb Thomas

The Intellectual Freedom Committee (IFC) has been focused chiefly on several fronts: responding to censorship issues as they arise; continuing the gathering of reports on challenges to material, events and services; and, revising its terms of reference and clarifying its relationship to CFLA-FCAB.

**Censorship issues:** There is a significant rise in challenges to materials in school-library collections in the U.S., and some of the concerns raised south of the border are moving northward. The topics of particular concern in the U.S. are LGBTQ+ issues and issues related to racism (critical race theory, police brutality, systemic racism). At the same time, school districts in Canada are increasingly looking at removing

books they consider containing content harmful to vulnerable groups — especially people of colour and Indigenous people. Books of concern have included *To Kill a Mockingbird*, *Lord of the Flies*, and *Huckleberry Finn*.

**Challenge Survey:** IFC continues to build the database by adding historical survey results and new reports. A reminder was recently sent out about adding reports to the challenge survey, and the committee hopes to be able to produce a final report for 2021 by early April. A list of challenges from September 2019 to September 2021, submitted by IFC members, appeared on the [Freedom to Read pages](#) in late February.

**Terms of Reference:** IFC is currently revising and clarifying its

members' roles and its mandate. It has been unclear, for example, if IFC representatives are meant to represent the associations that nominated them or if they can act independently as experts in IF, and, additionally, what IFC can make public without board approval and what must the board approve. It approved a new mandate to replace the terms of reference at its February committee meeting.

For more information, go to [cfla-fcab.ca/en/about/committees/intellectual-freedom-committee/](https://cfla-fcab.ca/en/about/committees/intellectual-freedom-committee/).

*Deb Thomas recently retired from a career of 40-plus years in libraries, 30 years of which were in public library management. She is ELA's representative on CFLA-FCAB IFC. ■*

## ELA-Community Webs Project: Crawling and Seeding Internet Archives

By Christina Wilson



On August 11, 2021, ELA received the exciting news that we were accepted into Community Webs, a special project of the Internet Archives (IA) aimed at helping community-based, local-history initiatives to learn web archiving. After it recently expanded to include Canadian projects, ELA President Deb Thomas and I attended a virtual kick-off event in September, and began learning to “crawl” and “seed” when web archiving — more on that later!

### About Community Webs (IA-CWP)

With many records now published online, the ability to preserve collections of online newspapers, blogs, social media, and other locally-produced online resources is an increasingly important skill for library and cultural heritage workers and volunteers in their roles as information custodians and community anchors. Locally focused web archiving can also diversify the historical record and preserve the voices of those often excluded from the archive. ELA’s rich online collections are an example of locally developed resources that could benefit researchers worldwide.

As a participant, ELA gains access to archiving technology, training, and peer assistance through a membership network of more than 100 participating U.S. and Canadian public and academic libraries, archives, museums, and cultural heritage organizations. Hamilton and Milton public libraries are two participants, possibly opening up opportunities for future collaboration. [View the full list of Canadian projects here.](#)

Participants receive a multi-year, free subscription to Archive-It and half a terabyte of online space on the Internet Archive to house ELA’s collection, sufficient to store *ELAN* issues, the biographies, and more.

Archive-It is an online archiving tool that also includes training, technical support, a public-collections page, and the ability to download archives.

### ELA’s Project Overview

ELA’s active work in collecting historical documents and sharing current issues about Canada’s information institutions and their workers, past and present, parallels the goals of IA-CWP. The project will help ELA share the association’s rich collections more widely. Members interested in digital archiving can help build collections and learn using the training modules. The first collection will be the un-indexed, online versions of *ELAN* issues, enabling the discovery of articles, pictures, and other content via web search engines.

Come “crawl” with us to spread ELA’s rich collection of archival “seeds,” by volunteering to build ELA’s Community Webs Project (ELA-CWP) collections.

Contact Christina Wilson at [chriswilson@shaw.ca](mailto:chriswilson@shaw.ca) or Deb Thomas at [Thomas.deb51@gmail.com](mailto:Thomas.deb51@gmail.com). Visit the ELA page at [archive-it.org/explore?q=Ex+Libris+Association](https://archive-it.org/explore?q=Ex+Libris+Association). View the Internet Archive at [archive.org](https://archive.org).

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

## When You Move

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

## ELA Biography Project Report

By Lorne Bruce

Since the last report in *ELAN* (No. 70/Fall 2021, page 5), biographies have been added for William R. Castell, Mary Donaldson, Peter Grossman, Robert Morris Hamilton, Anne Hume, Amy Hutcheson, Williard Ireland, Kathleen Jenkins, and Ruby Wallace.

We have begun adding living members to the database and the biography of Nancy J. Williamson, the originator of the biography project, is our first in this category. To access these biographies, go to [Biographies of Librarians and Information Professionals in Canada](#) web page.

*We welcome contributions to this project. For details on contributing, please contact Lorne Bruce, Ex Libris Biography Project Committee chair, at [lbruce@uoguelph.ca](mailto:lbruce@uoguelph.ca).*

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

## Notice to Members

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

The names of potential new members may also be sent to Bob Henderson at the same address. And please submit any outstanding membership dues.

## It's a Pandemic — What's an Association To Do?

By Shelagh Paterson

In an admittedly cursory archival search for how the Ontario Library Association (OLA) survived the Spanish Flu pandemic a century ago, not much was found. Reports of that era make some reference to questioning the need to sanitize books, intermittent library closures, and lots of advice on how public libraries can support men returning from war, but it seemed like OLA and libraries just 'got on with it.' Meetings, idea sharing, showcasing excellence, and paper publishing all just continued.

Today, two years into the pandemic, OLA is the same as it never was. The association continues to foster connections, and develop and deliver programs and services, but OLA has a lot more infrastructure — a staff, office space, IT, advocacy and government relations, and a year-round education program — which means we have a much wider range of budget demands and revenue sources than we did in 1919. How did OLA survive? Not without some scars and some serious angst, but here are the key elements: Membership and volunteers

- The library profession has a distinct digital advantage. While going virtual still presents a learning curve for some, the profession was quickly willing and able to meet online. This was critical for the extensive meeting schedule and professional-development programming offered by OLA. Remarkably, the 2021 OLA Super Conference had the highest delegate registration in the association's history, because geography was no longer a barrier.
- OLA board and councils (representing approximately 60 members) agreed to pause the association's election cycle for a year (2021) and stay in place to provide OLA with much-needed stability, which also helped reduce staff workload. OLA has approximately 300 members (of the more than 4,000 members), who volunteer on the board, councils, and committees annually, and who continued contributing, despite deeply challenging times at their own workplaces. Extreme cost-reduction measures and financial support — the

pandemic had an almost-immediate \$1 million hit to OLA's budget

- OLA has an incredible staff team who made serious concessions to help keep the association afloat.
- OLA staff worked effectively from home and, for 13 months, worked a reduced workweek.
- OLA sublet its office in November 2021.
- The federal government provided critical rent relief and wage subsidies. We have all been in — and are still going through — a crisis. People in our profession suffered, library users suffered; people were exhausted in their jobs, some left their jobs, budgets tightened. We reaffirmed that people need their libraries, we learned new ways of doing things, and we all look forward to a time when it is safe and we can *choose* to gather in person or virtually.

*Shelagh Paterson, MLIS (University of Western Ontario), is the executive director, Ontario Library Association and, before this role, was the director, advocacy, sales and marketing, at the CNIB Library. ■*

## A Remarkable Journey Through Librarianship

By Bernard Katz



On November 1, 2021, following our Annual General Meeting, Peter Hajnal spoke on Zoom to ELA's membership. In his presentation, International Librarianship: A

Personal Journey, Peter shared many experiences as a librarian, first at UN's Dag Hammarskjöld Library, NY, then, for 25 years, at U of T, where he was head of Government Documents at the John Robarts Library for 10 years, and also taught courses on Canadian and international government documents at the Faculty of Information. Peter retired from U of T Library in 1997, and from teaching in 2000. His experiences in the field of international affairs and its intersection with librarianship made fascinating listening.

He attended the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA) Conference, in Moscow in 1991, following the attempted coup against Mikhail

Gorbachev, and negotiated his way through the barricades — in Russian. The conference reception was held in the Lenin Library, where, he noted, all the books on Marxism were removed! Apart from interesting international conferences, Peter has also participated in special projects and consultancies, including consulting for the National Library of Albania at the request of the national librarian, two years after their meeting at the 1989 Paris IFLA Conference, following Albania's first multi-party elections since 1923. Peter also wrote a report for the Malala Fund (founded by Nobel laureate Malala Yousafzai) on education for girls and young women.

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Peter became a specialist, with great insight into the functioning and publications of the G7/G8 and G20; as a result, from 2000 to 2018 he was involved in several projects, each of which presented special and interesting challenges, ranging from creating and developing the South East European University Library, in Tetovo, North Macedonia, to being an assessor at Royal Institute of International Affairs Chatham House, in London, to lecturing at various conferences and universities in Moscow, Shanghai, and Beijing.

A founding fellow of the Senior College, and a Munk School of Global Affairs research associate, Peter has authored or edited 11 books on G7/G8 and G20 organizations (translated into Russian and Chinese) and on civil society. He has received several honours, including the American

Library Association's prestigious lifetime achievement, James Bennett Childs Award in 1997. Born in Budapest, Peter fled Hungary to Austria in 1956, then came to Canada, where he attended Sir George Williams University. Subsequently, he worked at the UN and took his BA at the New School for Social Research in New York, followed by his MLS at Columbia University's School of Library Service. One truly could say international librarianship is in his blood.

*Bernard Katz was a librarian at the University of Guelph for more than 30 years. He held several senior positions, including Head, Humanities and Social Sciences Division, and retired, in 2000, as Head, Archival and Special Collections. ■*

## Write for ELAN

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

## Technology Unmasked: Electronic-Material Use in the Time of COVID-19

By Stan Orlov



When COVID-19 forced the world into isolation, preventing us from walking into a library of our choice to pick up a hard copy of a book we wanted, it was logical to expect that the use of electronic materials would increase significantly. According to the American Library Association, in 2020 American public libraries loaned more than 289 million e-books, a 40 percent increase over 2019. Overdrive, the world's leading e-materials lending platform, that also makes the Libby library lending app reported an over 50 percent increase in checkouts during the early months of the pandemic. Hoopla, another prominent lending platform, saw its membership increase by 20 percent. The trend continued in 2021, with more than 500 million e-books and e-audiobooks borrowed from libraries and schools worldwide.

Libraries offer a panoply of platforms to access their materials. On

mobile devices, the top platforms are Libby or Overdrive for e-books and e-audiobooks; Flipster, Overdrive, and PressReader for e-magazines; Kanopy, Hoopla and Naxos Music Library for movies and music (also available on Smart TVs). With most libraries offering online registration, you can start using their digital collections without leaving the comfort of your home.

The pandemic has also returned the fight for fair prices for e-books back into the spotlight, however. With the spike in the use of electronic resources, it became much costlier for libraries to purchase e-books and e-audiobooks. In October 2019 one of the "Big Five," Macmillan Publishers, announced an embargo precluding libraries from buying more than one copy of their e-books per library for the first eight weeks from the publishing date, which they rolled back in March 2020 after a huge public outcry. Since then the publishers have relaxed their e-book license terms and lowered their prices, but these were viewed by the public as temporary measures. A handful of U.S.

states have introduced laws forcing the publishers to sell digital content "on reasonable terms," which the publishing industry is fighting tooth and nail in the courts, a fight we will watch very closely.

For more information, visit [The New Yorker](#) and [Author Alliance](#) websites.

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

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

## ELAN in Electronic Format

For members who wish to receive future *ELAN* issues in an electronic format only, please contact Bob Henderson at [bob.exlibris@gmail.com](mailto:bob.exlibris@gmail.com).

# How and Why I Became a Librarian

By Jane Beaumont

Serendipity, opportunity, and being in the right place at the right time have all played a part in my career. As I was about to leave school and not being offered much except secretarial college, my grandmother's friend, who worked at Hertfordshire County Library in the U.K., asked if I had thought of becoming a librarian. In short order, I was one of six school leavers selected for that library's trainee program; it gave us short work assignments in a public library branch, in a college library, and at headquarters, followed by two years on salary at Brighton Library School. There were some strings attached; we had to return to Hertfordshire for two years, where I became the branch librarian in Stevenage Old Town, but worked mostly at the Stevenage New Town regional library. After that I was ready to spread my wings, preferably as far as Canada — childhood images of snowplows on trains and logs on rivers always intrigued me! When I applied for a visa at the Canadian High Commission, I was informed Saskatchewan's Red River region needed librarians; however, I was short of money and had a school friend who had just emigrated to Ottawa, so that's where I went.

In 1968 Ottawa was a quiet town with many new British immigrants. I quickly fell in with them and started a job cataloguing at the National Harbours Board, planning to work for six months then travel with a friend and return to England. I did the travelling, but returned to Ottawa as the National Gallery of Canada's serials librarian. In 1971 I settled in at Carleton University, initially as science cataloguer and then as a librarian "embedded" in the Norman Paterson School of International Affairs. This turned out to be a career-opening move. One thing was going to limit my career—the lack of a university undergraduate degree — but now I was in the right place at the right time. As a part-time and mature student, I embarked on a BSc with an emphasis in computer science. It took 10 years but,

at the same time, I joined the Canadian library community, CLA and CASLIS in particular, and built a network in the federal libraries for the students, as I was actually a librarian without a library. My last year at Carleton was at McOdrum Library, as systems librarian and designing the online catalogue, CUBE. In 1983, wanting to move to Toronto, I heard that UTLAS was developing a new system from scratch, and would welcome a librarian with experience on its legacy Xerox Sigma computer, to keep the old system going. A golden opportunity for me, with library and computing experience that few others had in our field. At UTLAS, I was database manager until UTLAS II was launched, and then managed programmers developing InfoQuest, a microcomputer-based library system for schools, and another product, ReQuest, to support clients' retrospective catalogue conversion, in preparation for in-house automation and OPACs. Life at UTLAS was never dull and working in the private sector gave me a new perspective of libraries as paying clients.

Another golden opportunity appeared, as libraries of all shapes and sizes moved ahead with automation and networked resource-sharing. In 1984 Ontario launched the Automation Program for Small Libraries (APSL) to support libraries with a population of 10,000 or less. A condition of receiving funding was the library having a consultant to guide the project and provide necessary automation knowledge. I left UTLAS and started Beaumont and Associates Inc. Library and Automation Consultants. Through APSL, I worked with Ontario libraries, from Timmins in the north to Leamington in the south and all points east! A series of CLA-sponsored workshops across the country gave me national exposure and there was no shortage of work. Sometimes I worked alone and at other times the team would involve other librarians and consulting firms. I criss-crossed the country, working with libraries in all sectors, and loved every moment of it!

By the late 1990s, most work involved provincial networks and resource-sharing and, along the way, I worked with the Canadian National Institute for the Blind (CNIB) Library at the start of its efforts to digitize its analogue audio collection, opening the door to alternate formats and services for people with print disabilities. My appointment to the CNIB Library Board coincided with a concerted effort to move the charity-funded library into the public sector, so that clients could benefit from the same publicly-funded services as the general population. We advocated on Parliament Hill and in provincial offices and eventually achieved the creation of CELA — supported by the federal government, large public libraries, and provincial libraries. Its success has exceeded my wildest dreams.

Moving to the National Board of Directors, I was its chair for three years, but CNIB's centenary, in 2018, took me back to libraries and archives. LAC holds the CNIB archives and, also using photographs and artifacts from CNIB, we created *That All May Read* to celebrate CNIB's unwavering support for literacy, reading, and access to information. Being volunteer archivist for the CNIB connects me to a remarkable community, and I am forever grateful to my grandmother's friend. ■

## Laughing in the Library

Trying to be clear and unequivocal when calling patrons about their reserve books is sometimes difficult. That's the problem we had when we called a patron to tell him that his reserve was available: *Sooner or Later*. (It was a bit like the classic Abbott and Costello "Who's On First" sketch.) If you have a humorous personal story or anecdote to share about your library career, send it to [mattscholtz@rogers.com](mailto:mattscholtz@rogers.com).



## Librarian on Board: Is This for You?

By Donna Burton

After I retired in 2012, I began to spend more time in my hometown and was encouraged to join the local library board. Having spent my career in a legislative library, my knowledge of public library activities and priorities was limited. However, in 2014 I served on a fundraising committee to raise funds for a new local library branch, which helped pique my interest in contributing more to the town library. Knowing I had a solid roster of management skills to contribute, I decided to apply for the Lincoln Public Library Board, as a way to keep my hand in libraries. I was appointed for the 2015–2018 term, then for 2019–2022, and currently serve as chair.

Public libraries in Ontario are established under the *Public Libraries Act*. Library board members are publicly appointed by the local council for a four-year term, concurrent with the council's term. Boards are

responsible for library governance. They set direction for the library, approve strategic plans and policies, and set the library budget. They play an important advocacy role in the community on behalf of the library. Boards may be involved in fundraising initiatives and in providing high-level direction to large projects such as library expansion and renovation.

A key role for the board is the hiring of the library CEO, who is responsible for library operations. During my first board term, I participated in the selection of a new CEO, which was a very challenging and rewarding experience.

What have I gained from being on a library board?

- a chance to contribute my library skills and expertise to the governance of an important community institution and a chance to advocate on its behalf (Librarians understand the library environment

and can be an asset to the CEO in helping to persuade the council on important issues. Librarians are already committed to libraries; a library board is a great fit.),

- an increased awareness of local issues and broader community needs,
- the opportunity to make connections and new friends in the community — and maintain them through long months of pandemic isolation, and
- have fun. (Our board members have been invited to take part in library special events and outreach activities, such as Canada Day and the town's Christmas-tree lighting.)

When recruitment time comes for your local library board, consider donating your time and expertise to your community. It can be a very rewarding experience.

*Donna Burton retired in 2012 as Director of the Ontario Legislative Library. She is also a member of the ELA board. ■*

## Hidden Stories: Books Along the Silk Road, an exhibition at the Aga Khan Museum, Toronto

By Bernard Katz

This spectacular exhibition was held from October 2021 through February 2022 at the Aga Khan Museum (AKM). Many diverse and original artifacts illustrated the movement of goods and knowledge from the Far East to Western Europe, by way of the Middle East, especially handmade and printed books, including different materials from paper (originally made from papyrus, hence its name) and vellum to bindings. Added to this were spectacularly beautiful and complex garments of woven silk and brocade, which were unknown as fabrics in Europe before being brought from China, where silk had been woven into simple cloth and complex brocades since the third millennium BCE.

Curated by Dr. Filiz Çakir Phillip (AKM) and Dr. Suzanne Conklin Akbari (Princeton Institute for Advanced



The Five Protectoresses (tantra), handwritten and illustrated with colour on palm leaves, Kathmandu, Nepal, 1780  
Photo credits: Bernard Katz

Study), displayed works came from the AKM's permanent collection, the Royal Ontario Museum, the Thomas Fisher Rare Book Library, Western

University, and the private Marshall and Marilyn R. Wolf Collection. Per the guide, "Considered on their

*Continued on page 10*

...continued from page 9



Jewish marriage contract (ketubah), handwritten ink, watercolour, and gold on paper and parchment, Greece, 1797

own, each of these works sheds light onto a time and place in history. Assembled together, they tell vivid, soaring stories about the intercultural exchange of technology, art, and ideas, the ingenuity of human beings, and a millennia-old worldwide love affair with books that continues today.”

Displayed in thematic relationship to each other (with excellent notes), artifacts ranged from a 1,000-year-old prayer sheet from northwestern China, to a five metre-long Iranian scroll of the Qur’an, to a richly coloured Jewish marriage contract from 18th-century Greece, to an impressive number of books and individual leaves from the 12th to the 19th centuries (handmade and printed), made from a variety of materials. Even papermaking originated in China, coming to Europe

via the Silk Road in the 11th century. Included in the exhibit were tools and devices used in book making over the centuries, from a silver-inlaid bronze inkwell (12th-century Iran), to pens and quill-cutting tools, to wooden printing plates, to metal and wooden movable type — the latter from 18th-century Korea. Everything related to the Silk Road — the 1,500-year-old trade routes that brought rare goods and so much knowledge to the West.

What’s the point of a review now that it has closed? Answer: the virtual world has made this splendid assemblage and its notes available to all through the [Hidden Stories companion site](#) and an excellent [3-D virtual tour](#) (including notes) of the exhibition. Enjoy!

*Bernard Katz was a librarian at the University of Guelph for more than 30 years. He held several senior positions, including Head, Humanities and Social Sciences Division, and retired in 2000 as Head, Archival and Special Collections.*

*Corrections have been made to the online version of this article. ■*



Antiphoner (choir book), handwritten black ink and colours on parchment, Granada, Spain, 16th century

## To Save Space

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

Look for these in the news sections.

A Canadian awards page is now available on ELA’s website at [exlibris.ca/doku.php?id=award:list\\_of\\_canadian\\_library\\_awards](http://exlibris.ca/doku.php?id=award:list_of_canadian_library_awards).

## Library Memories of Long Ago Days

By Jean Weihs, B.A., B.L.S., O.C.

In the early 1950s, U of T offered a Library Science degree in a one-year program, which allowed the graduates to add “B.L.S.” (Bachelor of Library Science) to their names, in addition to their primary degree (usually a BA). I graduated with a B.L.S., in May 1953, and was hired as a librarian in U of T’s main library. At that time, this library was housed in a building on the east side of the campus. Most of the collection was easily available, but seldom-used items were housed in the basement. My memories of this building include the necessity, from time to time, of going down a set of metal stairs to the basement to retrieve a less-requested book. After a few visits to this underworld, startling at first, I became used to the sound of water as I descended the stairs. A river that ran through the Toronto area down to Lake Ontario had been redirected underground and passed under a section of the library basement’s floor, where it was possible to see this river moving under a grate in a particular section.

The library and the library department were moved the next year to the building next door and, in the following year, to a “permanent” library, all on the same campus. I worked in the order department, involved in obtaining books in the subject fields which I had studied for my BA degree. This was a truly interesting job, because it involved developing contacts with booksellers in many parts of the world. (Each Christmas the bookseller in Paris sent our department a box of chocolates — which never contained enough chocolates for all the department’s librarians, so this treat was enjoyed by me only in alternate years.)

I worked in the department until September, 1959, when I left because I was expecting a baby. During the exit interview with the chief librarian, I stated I planned to return to work when the child was of school age. The

*Continued on page 11*

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chief librarian expressed horror at this statement, because he believed a mother should not leave a child in someone else's care unless she was unable to look after it properly. And it turned out this was the problem I had to face, because my young husband died a few years later. If my son and I were going to eat and have shelter, I had to work.

And that work led to many wonderful opportunities for both me and my son, who I took with me to various library-associated conferences. For example, at a conference in Texas, my son helped the hotel's housemaids with their work, such as making beds and emptying wastebaskets. With my permission, they took my son to many tourist sites and he never appeared to notice the housemaids had black skins. He had a very special education not available to all children. ■

## Books of Interest by Members

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

## Twice Upon a Time

By Barbara Clubb

Twice Upon a Time (Twice) is a registered Canadian charity serving Ottawa and area. It was created in 2014 by a group of librarians and people passionate about children's literacy. Board-operated and run entirely by board members and additional volunteers, Twice provides free new and nearly new books to children of up to 12 years of age, to support literacy and foster a love of reading in the home. Books are carefully curated and selected by Twice in consultation with partner organizations. During COVID-19, Twice had to suspend regular activity at its seven locations; however, it teamed with community health centres, literacy organizations, community associations, schools, and two First Nation communities — Kitigan Zibi First Nation and the Algonquins of Pikwàkanagàn First Nation — that provide Twice books directly to their young readers. During the pandemic, these new service-delivery partners distributed more than 10,000 books.

Twice has received support from such funders as RTOERO (Retired Teachers of Ontario/Les Enseignantes et les Enseignants Retraités de l'Ontario), the Government of Canada Emergency Community Support Fund, the Ottawa



Community Foundation, the Order of the Eastern Star, and many individuals. It is a member of Volunteer Ottawa and CanadaHelps and recently contracted to use its new Donor Management System. Every one to two years, a new theme is created for development and fundraising. The current fundraising theme is ReconciliAction: Best Indigenous Kids' Books, with the goal of purchasing new books by First Nation, Métis, and Inuit authors, as well as books about Indigenous culture, history, and characters, to enrich the inventory of children's books.

For more information go to: [twiceuponatime.ca/](http://twiceuponatime.ca/).

**Barbara Clubb** is a Twice Upon a Time board member. ■

## Donate to ELA

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

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

## Libraries Named after Librarians: Flora Blizzard Francis Memorial Library

By Suzette Giles

*This is the 17th in a series of articles about outstanding librarians and the libraries named after them.*



The grand opening on September 25, 2021, of Heritage Hall — part of a multi-faceted Freedom Project of the Guelph Black Heritage Society (GBHS) — was held. Prominent among its resources is the Flora Blizzard Francis Memorial Library. Originally the British Episcopal Methodist Church in Guelph, the hall was built in 1880 by formerly enslaved Black individuals and their descendants, who arrived in the area via the Underground Railroad. Francis was a founding member and archivist of the GBHS, which formed to purchase the building in 2012, to develop it into a centre for Black history, culture, and community activities.

A selection from her personal library forms the core of the GBHS library which has written, audio, and video items relating to the Black history of this area. The library's vision and mission are to find, preserve, organize, and make available this important historical material, and educate the local and wider community about its history.

Flora Helena (née Blizzard) Francis was born in September 1932, in Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, and qualified as an Associate of the Library Association (U.K.), before coming to Canada in 1959. Settling in Guelph, she worked at the Ontario Agricultural College's Massey Library (a founding University of Guelph college). She earned a BA from Waterloo Lutheran University (now Wilfred Laurier University) through part-time study, and her BLS (1969) and MLS (1978) from the University of Toronto. She remained at the University of Guelph Library until 1995, when she retired after 35 years of service.

From her arrival in Canada, Flora was a quiet but efficient advocate of the Black community in Guelph and Canada. As a Black librarian at the University of Guelph, she was a natural mentor for minority students, especially for those from the Caribbean. She was a collector of articles and literature about and by the Black community at all levels, and published *West Indians in Canada: A Selective Annotated Bibliography*, University of Guelph Library Bibliographic Series, No 1. 1970, followed in 2000 by *Black Canadian Bibliography*, Ottawa: Pan-African Publications, 2000, which also included musical, spoken and video materials.

Francis was actively involved in other community groups and professional associations. These included the Soroptimist International of Guelph club, where she was a member and treasurer for more than 40 years and received a number of awards. She was renowned for her photography and, as the Eastern Canada Region archivist, left a legacy of 1,435,765 pictures.



Photo credits: Guelph Black Heritage Society

With responsibility for the map collection at the University of Guelph, she was also a member of the Association of Canadian Map Libraries and Archives (ACMLA). She chaired the membership committee from 1983 to 1987, and hosted the annual conference in 1994. At ACMLA meetings, she was also renowned for her camera(s) and photos.

Her entry in *Who's Who in Black Canada 2* also notes that Flora received the Ontario Volunteer Service Award for 35 years (1965–2001) of volunteer work with the Guelph Spring Festival, as well as being a member of the American Library Association and the Canadian Library Association, and having published in a number of journals.

After retirement, she was also involved with Guelph's River Run Centre for the performing arts and the University of Guelph Alumni Association. She remained active in many of these areas until her death in 2016.

At the University of Guelph, she worked closely with ELA members Bernard Katz and Lorne Bruce, who provided background information for this article. Joan Winearls, also a member, knew Flora via ACMLA and the Ontario Council of University Libraries Map Group.

Nearly 150 community members came for the renovated building's grand opening and to celebrate the Flora Blizzard Francis Memorial Library's opening, in a fitting recognition of all that Flora contributed to both the Black and wider communities of Guelph and Canada.

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

*Corrections have been made to the online version of this article. ■*

# Buried Library Treasures of Britain: Charles Babbage and Anthony Panizzi in London Cemeteries

By Guy Robertson

Resource sharing has become a major trend in the library world. Many libraries would struggle to survive without it. But how, where, and when did it begin? The answers are inconclusive, but one thing is certain: the British provided an early and singular example when the brain of the deceased Charles Babbage (1791–1871), inventor of computational technology, was sliced in two and shared between London’s Science Museum and the Hunterian Museum in Lincoln’s Inn Fields.



Photo credit: Guy Robertson

The division of human remains has been common for millennia. Ancient Egyptian embalmers removed the viscera of pharaohs and other important persons and

stored them in canopic jars, which were entombed near their respective mummies. Closer to our time, the bodies of Austro-Hungarian kaisers were buried in a Viennese Capuchin church, while their hearts ended up in the Herzgruft, or Crypt of the Hearts at the Augustine Church of the Imperial Palace. Their remaining organs were deposited in St. Stephen’s Cathedral’s Ducal Crypt.

As for the body *sans cerveau* of Babbage, it rests in London’s Kensal Green Cemetery. His plot is shady and quiet, and visited occasionally by computer-science, mathematics, and information-studies students who come to pay their respects. Visitors take photos — frequently selfies that include Babbage’s gravestone — and appreciate the cemetery’s respectful atmosphere. Ed, a retired lecturer on library topics at University College London, has become a regular visitor to Kensal Green.

“It’s a lovely place to walk,” he says, “and I like to escape the bustle of my local neighbourhood. I always make



Photo credit: Guy Robertson

my way to Babbage’s grave. He was one of the founders of computer science and designed the Difference Engine and the Analytical Engine, forerunners of modern computers, both of which featured rudimentary data storage. My students used to say that he contributed to our notions of steampunk, which is a popular style of science fiction and visual design. But my interests lie with his mathematics and his conceptions of computing technology.”

Jill, a librarian at an investments firm in the City of London, notes it is appropriate that Sir Anthony Panizzi (1797–1879), one of Britain’s more important librarians, is buried in the adjacent St. Mary’s Roman Catholic Cemetery.

“Librarianship and computer science are now closely related fields,” she says. “It’s fitting that you can stroll from Babbage’s grave to that of the chap who played such a significant role in British librarianship. In fact, both contributed to global culture, and now their influence is felt more strongly than ever. They were fascinating people, but I think that Panizzi led a more interesting life.”

Panizzi left Italy to avoid arrest for revolutionary activities in the interests of Italian liberty and unification. His career as a patriot and conspirator against tyranny deserves a lengthy treatment on its own, but it is as a librarian at the British Museum that he is most often remembered. Settling in England in 1823, he became the museum’s Assistant Librarian in 1831, Keeper of the Printed Books in 1837, and Chief Librarian in 1856. Ambitious and energetic, in 1841, he issued 91 *Rules for Compilation of the Catalogue*,

the first attempt to standardize the museum’s catalogue. He was acquainted with many Victorian luminaries including politicians, artists, and writers. He corresponded with Babbage and feuded with Thomas Carlyle. He was successful in increasing the British Museum’s public image, and attracted substantial parliamentary support.

“More than anything else, he’s remembered for championing the concept and design of the Great Round Reading Room in the museum’s quadrangle,” says Kenneth, a bookseller in East London. “The design was revolutionary — of course — and created a lot of storage space along with seating for library users. Among many other famous people, those users included Darwin, Marx, and Dickens. All of them should have been grateful to Panizzi.”

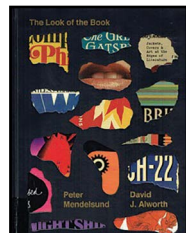
A walk through Kensal Green and St. Mary’s will take you past the graves of writers including Thackeray, Wilkie Collins, Leigh Hunt, and Thomas Hood. Harold Pinter’s grave slab lies off the main path; every spring it disappears behind a wall of new greenery. Reaching Anthony Trollope’s grave requires a hike past collapsed headstones and across soft ground. Grey squirrels dart between gravestones and up trees to escape the foxes that lurk in the undergrowth. Eventually you will reach the graves of Charles Babbage and Anthony Panizzi, and each should give you pause. If they had not lived and dedicated themselves to their careers, how would our profession have developed? Would librarianship or any of the other information professions be similar to what they are today? Probably not, although, undoubtedly, resource sharing would be as common as ever.

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



## Book Reviews

Edited by Susan Ibbetson



### ***The Look of the Book: Jackets, Covers and Art at the Edges of Literature***

By Peter Mendelsund and David J Alworth  
Ten Speed, 2020  
ISBN-13:

978-0399581021, \$49.08

Reviewed by J. A. Forrester

This book explores the graphic design of the most successful books in English-language publishing history. Curiously, this book's cover is a collage of torn sample titles bonded onto the hard cover and raised from the

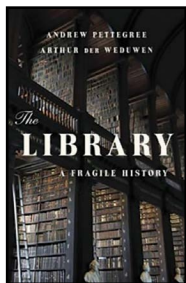
surface. The illustrations throughout are extensive and you'll recognize most, if not all, of classic works such as *Portnoy's Complaint*, *The Tin Drum*, *Lolita*, *Jaws*, *Ulysses*, *Moby Dick*, and *On the Road*.

The authors — a creative director at *The Atlantic*, and an academic — explore the subject visually rather than using large blocks of text. It's a novel approach that does not work completely unless the reader has an extensive graphic-arts background, in which case it reads more like visual shorthand. I think there's an assumption that the publishing industry and art-college libraries will be the book's market.

The section, *The Future of the Book Cover*, is revealing, in that it examines

the shift from the physical book cover to the digital realm of e-books. The authors cite Pew Research Center surveys, which indicate "print books are still the most popular reading platform in the United States." They conclude that the cover, "whether physical or digital, will continue to visualize and communicate information, and it will provide edges around the text, thereby framing the reading experience as bounded and discrete."

**James Forrester** was Head, *Library Systems & Technical Services*, *Dorothy H. Hoover library, OCADU (1991–2016)*. ■



### ***The Library: A Fragile History***

By Andrew Pettegree and Arthur der Weduwen  
Basic, 2021  
ISBN: 978-1541600775, \$43.56

Reviewed by Guy Robertson

Inevitably, general histories of libraries will contain accounts of disasters and the loss of collections. Since the invention of writing, risks such as warfare, vandalism, fire, flooding, and other calamities have threatened written materials, the buildings that house them, and the people who oversee their acquisition and use. Many histories begin with the story of the Great Library of Alexandria, which — depending on the research and biases of the authors — was destroyed by the Romans, or the Christians, or the Arabs, during various years between the first and 8th centuries AD.

In *The Library: A Fragile History*,

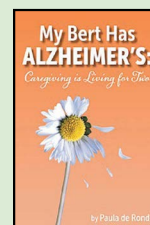
University of St. Andrews scholars Andrew Pettegree and Arthur der Weduwen offer a well-considered and balanced explanation of the probable causes of the Library of Alexandria's destruction, with references to the better-known destroyers. Their approach is notable for its even-handedness and clarity. In a straightforward and readable style, they impart substantial amounts of information regarding libraries, from the pre-Alexandrian clay-tablet collections of Babylon to our present-day electronic organizations. Their research is comprehensive and well-documented in a first-class bibliography. Also included is a selection of brilliant colour illustrations, many of which readers will not have seen before, and all of which are clearly captioned with essential details.

The overarching theme of this book harkens back to the pre-Socratic philosopher Heraclitus, who is often quoted as saying that change is the only constant. The history of libraries — and everything else — is

bound to include events that will force people to accept new and often disturbing circumstances, from the outbreak of war to the rise of new technologies that make us work, play, and think in ways we could never have predicted. In measured tones, Pettegree and der Weduwen discuss change in the library world and offer hope it will survive its mutability.

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

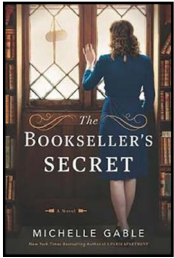
## Books by Members



***My Bert Has Alzheimer's: Caregiving is Living for Two***  
By Paula de Ronde  
FriesenPress, 2022  
ISBN: 978-103-9129214 \$33.32

## Good Reads

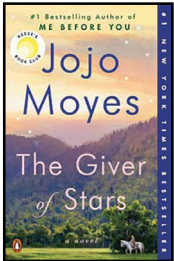
Compiled by Judy Dunn



*The Bookseller's Secret*

By Michelle Gable  
Atlantic Monthly  
Graydon House, 2021  
ISBN: 978-1525811593, \$16.62

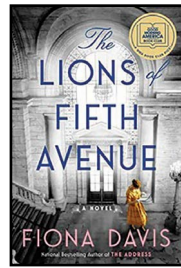
This thrilling novel centres on real-life author Nancy Mitford, her infamous sisters, and the Second World War.



*The Giver of Stars*

By Jojo Moyes  
Penguin, 2021  
ISBN-10: 0399562494,  
\$22.77

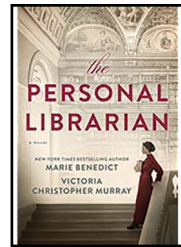
A team of five extraordinary women delivers books by horseback, as part of Eleanor Roosevelt's new travelling library in Depression-era America.



*The Lions of Fifth Avenue*

By Fiona Davis  
Dutton, 2020  
ISBN-10:  
15247446611, \$23

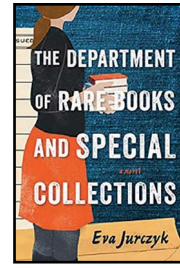
This historical mystery unfolds inside the New York Public Library with two storylines — one set in 1914 and the other in 1992.



*The Personal Librarian*

By Marie Benedict and Victoria Christopher Murray  
Berkley, 2022  
ISBN-13:  
978-0593101544, \$23

In a fictionalized story, Belle da Costa Greene, J. P. Morgan's personal librarian, hides her heritage as she becomes one of the most powerful people in New York's art and book world.



*The Department of Rare Books and Special Collections: A Novel*

By Eva Jurczyk  
Poisoned Pen, 2022  
ISBN-13: 978-1728238593, \$24.74

Set loosely in the Thomas Fisher Rare Book Library, this fictional mystery centres on an extremely valuable missing manuscript, written by a University of Toronto librarian.

*Judy Dunn retired in 2011 after six years as Assistant Dean Academic, Faculty of Information, U of T, and 15 years as Program Coordinator, School of Information Management, Dalhousie University. |*

## British Columbia News

By Guy Robertson



In January, the **University of British Columbia (UBC) Library** announced the acquisition of a copy of the First Folio of *William Shakespeare's*

*Comedies, Histories, & Tragedies*, published in 1623. This volume contains 36 of his 38 known plays, and serves as a foundation for studies in Shakespearian textual criticism. Previously owned by a private American collector, it was purchased through Christie's New York, with funding from Canadian Heritage and North American donors. Only 235 copies of the First Folio survive; UBC's is the second in Canada. The other is held by U of T's **Thomas Fisher Rare Book Library**. From January to March, the Vancouver Art Gallery exhibited UBC's

copy. The exhibition, For All Time: The Shakespeare FIRST FOLIO, also included three later 17-century Folio editions. This was the first time all four editions have been on display in B.C. The audio mobile guide featured the enthusiastic voice of Christopher Gaze, the founding artistic director of the Bard on the Beach Shakespeare Festival.

**Vancouver Public Library (VPL)** announced the city's new Poet Laureate, Fiona Tinwei Lam, who will hold the title until 2024. She has four published books, including three poetry collections and a children's book, and her work appears in more than 40 anthologies. She has won *The New Quarterly's* Nick Blatchford Occasional Verse Contest, and appeared on the shortlist for the City of Vancouver Book Award. She has also been selected three times for B.C.'s Poetry in Transit program.

**VPL** reduced its fines in early February. Late charges on all items dropped to 20 cents per day for adults and 10 cents for children. Renewals

for most items have increased from two to three per item, but no renewals will be permitted for Fast Read books, Book Club Sets, DVD Quick Views, and magazines.

In January, the **Greater Victoria Public Library** released the **list of its most-borrowed books of 2021**. The 1.8 million borrowed books fell into several categories.

In February, the **Vancouver Island Regional Library** opened its new branch in Sooke. The circular design has attracted much local attention. The collection of approximately 35,000 items is twice the size of that of the old branch. A larger staff will work with the new branch's 13,500 square feet of surface area, and Sooke residents will benefit from its increased hours of operation and new programs. Study space, bookable rooms, and a laptop bar are available, and the fireplace lounge has quickly become popular.

In February, **TRU Libraries Thompson Rivers University**, in Kamloops, invited students and

faculty to meet the Student Library Ambassador team. Based at the information desk in the **House of Learning Library**, team members offer directions to study spaces, printers, and other amenities. Their overarching purpose is to dispel confusion regarding the library's services and make patrons comfortable. This spring, a Student Library Ambassador Instagram Takeover will offer patrons an opportunity to become better acquainted with Team members.

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

## Prairies News

By Alvin M. Schrader



The Manitoba Library Association conducted a study of 55 Manitoba public libraries about their responses to COVID-19, which was **published in a special issue of Partnership (Vol.16, No.1, 2021)**.

The Manitoba Government announced \$769,000 funding for rural public libraries to support long-term stability and sustainability across the sector, as well as to ensure library systems' access to resources and services for people with print disabilities, through the non-profit Centre for Equitable Library Access.

The City of Winnipeg has authorized an engineering feasibility study of future options for the **Winnipeg Public Library's** 45-year-old **Millennium Library** parkade, estimated to need \$54 million in structural repairs and other upgrades, over the next 10 years. The study will be completed in 2022.

The University of Manitoba Faculty Association, representing professors and librarians, accepted a compensation deal to end a 35-day strike for higher salaries, improved maternity and parental leave benefits, and equitable course assignments.

**Saskatoon Public Libraries** released a concept design for the proposed new four-storey central library building, on May 31, 2021, after extensive community consultation. The concept was inspired by traditional First Nation and Métis architecture. A final design will be selected in early 2022, and construction will begin later in the year, with occupancy slated for 2026.

The Saskatchewan Library Association has begun preliminary exploration for the creation of a Prison Library Literacy Committee. The committee will collaborate with The Book Project, an initiative of Saskatchewan's Chief Justice and colleagues to provide paperbacks to provincial jail inmates, to make their time in custody more tolerable and encourage and improve literacy.

The Alberta Library Conference Planning Committee was dissolved effective July 27, 2021, and the 2022 Alberta Library Conference was cancelled. Historically, a joint conference between the Library Association of Alberta (LAA) and the Alberta Library Trustees Association, its review identified several factors for the decisions — principally fiscal restructuring, impacts of the pandemic, feedback from members via the LAA Advisory Committee, and “changes in the entire library community.”

Camille Carol Radford-Grant was appointed Provincial Archivist, **Provincial Archives of Saskatchewan**, effective September 20, 2021. She served as city archivist for the **City of Toronto Archives** since 2012 and, before that, she specialized in regulatory records in various positions for the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario, the **Archives of Ontario**, and the Ontario College of Teachers. She earned her master's degree in Information Studies (archives stream) at U of T in 2007.

**St. Albert Public Library** in Alberta created an original learning series, Indigenous Canada Learning Circle, in 2018, in partnership with the **Musée Héritage Museum**. Based on the University of Alberta's popular MOOC, Indigenous Canada, the series explores Indigenous histories and contemporary issues in Canada. It was developed

and implemented with the generosity and wisdom of local Elder, Tom Ghostkeeper, who died before a major revision could be completed last year, following pandemic barriers. The series was relaunched in September 2021, to conclude by the end of February 2022.

Sarah Meilleur was appointed Chief Executive Officer, **Calgary Public Library (CPL)**, effective October 2021. She had served as **CPL's** interim CEO from April 2021. Prior to that, she was **CPL's** Director of Service Delivery, responsible for achievements such as an innovation-development plan, the successful launch of the new **Central Library** in 2018, and the adaptation of the library's public service during the pandemic. She was also responsible for the launch of the Community Heritage and Family History Digital Library, **an online bank of more than 5,000 photographs and postcards documenting Calgary's history and growth**. She is considered a North American leader in urban library development and city building, having presented workshops at Harvard University and many international conferences on urban libraries, and has been acknowledged for her extensive volunteer work, including as vice-chair, with the Calgary Heritage Authority. In 2011 she was selected as one of the Top 40 Under 40 Calgarians. Sarah is the first female CEO in **CPL's** 109-year history.

Amanda Wakaruk (U of A) and Sam-chin Li (U of T) were awarded the 2021 Margaret T. Lane/Virginia F. Saunders Memorial Research Award by the Government Documents Round Table (GODORT), American Library Association (ALA), for their co-editorship of *Government Information in Canada: Access and Stewardship*, published in 2019. Before that, the most recent book on the subject was 40 years old.

**Edmonton Public Library (EPL)** received major awards for the dramatic revitalization and public reopening, after almost four years, of the **Stanley A. Milner Library**, **EPL's** central facility (*ELAN* No. 69/Spring 2021, page 13). One was the 2021 John Cotton Dana Award, managed by the ALA, for



outstanding public relations for **EPL's** Virtual Milner Library Open House, on September 13, 2020, in recognition of this virtual public event celebrating the reopening — with a day of new virtual programming, available every hour, featuring key spaces and services, and ending with a live spelling bee. The event garnered more than 61,000 views, 10,000 unique page views of the Hello Milner page, and 145 media mentions, with a total readership of 112 million. The award provides a \$10,000 grant from the H. W. Wilson Foundation. For the same virtual event, **EPL** was further recognized by Canadian Event Awards as the 2021 Best Event Produced for a Community-Based Non-Profit. **EPL** received the International Federation of Library Associations' Green Library Award 2021 for the **Stanley A. Milner Library** revitalization.

**EPL** received the 2021 Canadian Podcast Award for Outstanding Artwork for a Series, for its Overdue Finds podcast.

In May 2021, **Grande Prairie Public Library** in Alberta was awarded the Community Engagement Award by the city's Youth Advisory Council for its Full Stop Program, launched later in 2019 to offer free menstrual products in all library washrooms.

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

## Ontario News

By Vivienne James



The ever-changing story of COVID-19 seems to be one of hope and healing. Ontarians enjoyed many innovative and interesting programs, mostly online.

The Hospital for Sick Kids report, *Moving Forward while Running in Place: Children's Mental Health & Covid*, shared findings about the impact of COVID-19 on children's mental health, and support and coping strategies; *Happy parents, Happy Kids* did the same for parents and caregivers.

**Toronto Public Library (TPL)**

briefly closed 44 branches, but reopened most of them with no in-person programs, yet. **TPL's** Our Fragile Planet series of 37 virtual programs featured Indigenous presenters, community leaders, and the environmentalist-in-residence on accessing urban native spaces. **TPL** received nearly \$1.5 million to deliver Digital Archive Ontario, which offers library users free online resources in Toronto and across the province, including remote areas and the First Nation communities. A Study in Sherlock Holmes & His Creator: 50 years of the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection opened in the **Toronto Reference Library's TD Gallery**, and runs until April 16, 2022. **A virtual tour is also available on TPL's website.**

At their 2nd Annual Innovation Symposium, participating staff from different countries found libraries around the world are all thinking about and addressing issues like digital equality, workplace development and seniors. International Day of Persons with Disabilities featured stories and experiences in literature and the arts, booklists, blogs, and COVID-19 resources for organizations serving them. The Canadian Government recently recognized their monthly online seniors series in collaboration with **TPL**. **CanAge, Aging Your Way** promotes opportunities for seniors to learn, contribute, and build age-inclusive communities.

Grief and Loss in the Era of COVID-19 was part of **Hamilton Public Library's** Psychology Month Series in February.

A "pepper pot" of programs for Black History Month, most via Zoom, was enjoyed throughout the province and included author readings, book discussions, book displays and lists, films, music, and art exhibits. Many libraries posted Black Canadian content and blogs on social media.

**Guelph Public Library** is now a FamilySearch Affiliate Library, providing access to genealogical resources through FamilySearch, the world's largest genealogical organization.

Edit-a-thon, a joint effort by **library and archives staff and students at York University, U**

**of T, X University (Ryerson)** and **TPL** aims to consciously, and with care, improve the digital coverage of Black histories and experiences. Through training in editing and writing Wikipedia articles, people are empowered to write their own stories.

**McMaster University Library** acquired Altmetric Explorer for Institutions, a resource which monitors how publications are picked up in media outlets and cited in other publications, in patents, and in government policy documents. This library also celebrated a love story: Former librarians Carol and Victor Nunn bequeathed \$1.1 million to the place they met and fell in love. With a zest for life and literature, they worked together for more than 30 years, and were recognized by students and faculty as being as central to the library as the books. When they died, within a year of each other, their legacy passed to the library.

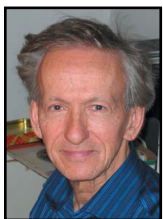
Another donation story comes from **Queen's University Library**. Dr. s Thomas and Gwendolyn (Wendy) Garrett established the Helen Garrett Memorial Fund for his first wife, Helen, who worked in **Douglas Library** and had a passion for English literature. The fund supports 17th- and 18th-century English literature purchases and the conservation of rare materials held in special collections. This library also marked International Day of Women and Girls in Science with selected research guides, resources, and exhibits.

In March **Waterloo University Library** began a bi-monthly Indigenous-led reading group — in-person and virtual — with a sharing circle of experiences, ideas, and intentions, based on Dr. Jo-ann (Q'um Q'um Xi'em) Archibald's *Indigenous Storywork: Educating the Heart, Mind, Body, and Spirit*.

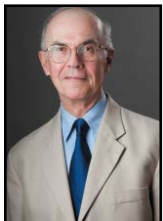
*Vivienne James worked at TPL for more than 25 years, was Branch Head of Queen Saulters, St. Lawrence and Spadina Rd. Libraries and was responsible for adult-collection development for the Black and Caribbean Heritage Collection (Parkdale) until retiring.*

## Quebec News

By Pierre Guilmette and  
Peter F. McNally



Building the new **Gabrielle-Roy Library** in Quebec City began in 2021, with a planned opening in spring 2023. The cost, initially estimated at \$40 million, it is now expected to reach \$52 million, if not a little more. The original design, developed in 2017, has been modified due to the increased expenditure.



Attendance at the former public library had decreased in recent years, with an annual average of 450,000. After the renovation, one million visitors and loans per year are expected.

**The Centre des livres rares des bibliothèques de l'Université du Québec à Montréal (UQAM)** has acquired a collection of 700 rare and ancient books published between the 15th and 18th centuries — a gift from the Franciscans that is an addition to the old books preserved at **UQAM** (See "Quebec News" in *ELAN*, No. 68, Fall 2020, page 13). This new collection focuses on the founder of the order, Francis of Assisi, and great figures such as Nicholas of Lyra, Duns Scotus, Clare of Assisi, and Angela of Foligno. It includes books in Latin, Italian, French, and Spanish. The community of Franciscan Fathers was founded in the 13th century and was established in Canada in 1615.

L'Association des bibliothécaires du Québec – Quebec Library Association (ABQLA) held three virtual events in the fall of 2021. The Youth & School Libraries sessions included Hosting a Human Library, in October, and Subject Headings and Truth & Reconciliation, or Decolonizing the Catalogue, in November. The Public Libraries Section held Digital Literacy and Older Adults in December.

On December 6, 2021, multiple gunshots were fired through the window of the **Philippe-Panneton Public**

**Library** in Laval, injuring an 18-year-old man, who was known to police. Struck in the lower body, he was taken to hospital, but was expected to survive.

On January 4, **McGill University Libraries** — including stack areas, and in-person reference and circulation services — became accessible to library users again. As a result, the HathiTrust Emergency Temporary Access Service, Pickup Service, and Study Hubs were discontinued. Vaccine passports, McGill ID cards, and procedural masks continue to be required at the time of writing.

## Maritimes News

By Tanja Harrison



Maritimes libraries continue to navigate the pandemic, with varying stages of reopening plans in effect across the three provinces.

The Omicron wave prompted the distribution of COVID-19 rapid testing kits by all public library systems. In New Brunswick, some staff were deployed to other government departments and helped support library vaccination clinics. As reported via the *Atlantic Provinces Library Association (APLA) Bulletin*, "library workers have been highly sought-after throughout the pandemic for their customer service and organizational skills."

The **Kennebecasis Public Library**, in Quispamsis, N.B., was forced to close temporarily during an icy January, due to flooding from a sprinkler system. Significant water damage to the building prompted public library branches across the Greater Saint John area to rally in support of the Kennebecasis patron-service needs.

The River Hebert/Joggins Area Development Association, N.S., worked diligently on a new community centre. Formerly a curling club, the renovated building opened in February, as the home of **Cumberland Public Libraries'** newest library branch.

Pivoting between restrictions, the **Prince Edward Island Public Library Service** offered programing

that ranged from in-person events for teens painting terracotta pots to virtual community connectors such as Dungeons & Dragons and crafter clubs. The popular P.E.I. snowshoes-for-loan program made news in a recent story on CBC. Prompted by an idea from a co-worker, a dedicated registered nurse braved a winter storm, using her library-borrowed snowshoes, to make the hour-long snowy trek to the Prince County Hospital to relieve a previous shift.

Academic libraries across the region embraced African Heritage Month celebrations. **Saint Mary's University**, for example, promoted its significant holdings documenting Black life via the **The Lynn Jones African Canadian & Diaspora Heritage Collection**.

**Mount Saint Vincent University (MSVU) Library & Archives** acquired the papers and musical journals of Laura Smith, a renowned Canadian folksinger and songwriter, who died on March 7, 2020. Raised in Ontario, Smith moved to Cape Breton in 1984 and was honoured by MSVU in 2003 with a Doctor of Humane Letters, *honoris causa*.

In library-security news, the **Université de Moncton** recently installed an automatic-locking mechanism to its main doors, plus approximately 30 cameras outside and throughout the **Champlain Library** building, to ensure the safety of its students.

Tracy Lenfesty has been appointed University Librarian at the **University of King's College Library**, in Halifax. Sarah Stevenson is the new Associate Dean Archives, Records Management, and Special Collections at **Dalhousie University Libraries**, while maintaining her role as Head, **Killam Memorial Library**. Christine LeBlanc has joined the **Nova Scotia Community College Libraries**, in a term role as Lunenburg Campus Librarian within the province-wide college library system. Laura Landon is Interim University Librarian at **Mount Allison University**.

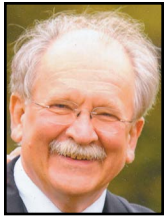
The 2022 Atlantic Provinces Library Association Conference will be held virtually, June 7 to 10. Bridging the Gap: Inclusion and Diversity in Libraries

/ Réduire les barrières: l'inclusion et la diversité dans les bibliothèques is the theme (see [apla.ca](http://apla.ca) for updates).

*Tanja Harrison is University Librarian, Mount Saint Vincent University, Halifax.*

## Newfoundland & Labrador News

By Dick Ellis



There are two major library systems in Newfoundland and Labrador: **Newfoundland & Labrador Public Libraries** and **Memorial University Libraries**.

The public library system comprises 94 branches — about the same number as the Toronto Public Library — spread from the Quebec border in Labrador to Pouch Cove, northeast of St. John's on the Avalon Peninsula.

Memorial's library system includes three branches in St. John's, a branch in Corner Brook at the Grenfell Campus, and a small branch at the Harlow Campus of Memorial University in the U.K.

Getting the word out about current events and services is a serious task for both systems, as Memorial has always opened its libraries to the public, being the only research library in the province. Both systems have found willing partners in the local media, in particular CBC Radio.

Going well beyond public-service announcements, CBC Radio participates in efforts such as *NL Reads*, modeled on *Canada Reads*, supplying both publicity and panelists to the public library system. It also draws on Memorial's librarians for interviews on matters of topical interest (such as coping with misinformation on the web), making sense of COVID information, and the role of maps in history.

Other media, notably the SaltWire newspaper group, call on the libraries for book reviews and readers' advisory functions.

While the province covers a large

area, regional media outlets are a constant source of information about or from libraries in their areas. These links go back decades and reflect the popular appeal of libraries, not always translated into financial support, but always on tap to avert absolute disaster.

*Dick Ellis is Librarian Emeritus, Memorial University.*

## News from the North

By Julie Ourom



Northern libraries continue to adapt to changing circumstances resulting from the pandemic. Patrons and staff exhibit flexibility, ingenuity and patience, while adjusting to service changes, sometimes with little notice.

Ever-expanding electronic resources ensure libraries remain accessible. Patrons of **NWT Public Libraries** now have access to the interactive World Book Online. Questions to Santa event hosted by **Yukon Public Libraries** on YouTube was popular with families at Christmas and **Yukon Public Libraries** now offer **TikTok**.

**Pigiarniq fonts are downloadable** through **Nunavut Public Library Services** to create documents. Online activities include themed storytimes, book clubs, and special programs.

**Yellowknife Public Library's** Raging Raven Meditation sessions and digital-literacy workshops spark interest. The library also offered take-home "escape" packages, featuring Nahanni National Park, for those tiring of winter. Sadly, in Yellowknife, community members are reviewing options after vandalism in the fall to Inclusion NWT's **Little Library in Abe Miller Garden**.

Regular programs range from bookbags and craft kits (for pickup and/or home delivery) to promotions of all types. Libraries lend everything from Xbox and other games to SAD light-therapy lamps.

In February, **Whitehorse Public Library** presented Blind Date with a

Book, while **Hay River Public Library** held a Valentine-themed seniors' tea. For teens, **Hay River Public Library** promoted a board-game café, and **Yellowknife Public Library** offered a make-your-own-comic-book session. A successful annual holiday-season fundraiser for the **Hay River Public Library** raised funds for new and requested materials to augment the collection. Donations and discards find new homes in regular Friends of the Library sales in many locations.

Libraries continue to participate in community events. In Whitehorse, an Indigenous book club is co-sponsored with the **Kwanlin Dün Cultural Centre**. The **Whitehorse Public Library** participates in the Yukon Anti-Poverty Coalition's outreach to people in need and co-sponsors activities with the Yukon Literacy Coalition.

**Dolly Parton's Imagination Library, Canada** sends **free books to kids across the North**.

Through a new Council of Yukon First Nations initiative, Yukon First Nations Books will be available to Yukon Imagination Library kids.

*Please send news items about library matters in Canada's North to me at [crocuscats@gmail.com](mailto:crocuscats@gmail.com).*

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

## News from Canadian Library/Information Studies Schools

Compiled by Judy Dunn



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

By Guy Robertson

This winter as part of its Technology in the Core program, SLAIS offered a

series of interactive and hands-on IT literacy workshops to introduce students to HTML, databases, CSS (a language used to develop HTML displays), and electronic portfolios. Available on Zoom, these workshops ensured students acquired basic IT skills for their graduate studies and future professional endeavours. From January through March, the school invited faculty, staff, and students to attend the First Nations Curriculum Concentration (FNCC) Bi-weekly Virtual Tea, on Zoom. InterPARES Trust AI, managed by Professors **Luciana Duranti**, **Muhammad Abdul-Mageed**, and **Corinne Rogers**, is a new multinational interdisciplinary project that identifies and investigates artificial-intelligence technology applicable to records and archives. Partners in the project include the City of Vancouver Archives, the National Archives of Brazil, and the University of Florence's Department of History, Archeology, Geography, Art, and Entertainment. The project will continue until 2026.

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

By Kathleen DeLong

Restructuring continues at the University of Alberta and the Faculty of Education (where SLIS resides); a non-departmentalized model has been adopted. SLIS will continue as a school and is currently recruiting a new director. It plans to have a decision by mid-April, at the latest, and a new director in place when Interim Chair **Dr. Kathleen De Long** finishes her term on June 30, 2022. With public-health orders easing in Alberta, remote instruction ended February 28, and staff and students returned to campus. **Dr. Dinesh Rathi** has been promoted to full professor and **Dr. Danielle Allard** to associate professor with tenure, both effective July 2022. Congratulations are due to **Dr. Ali Shiri**, winner of the J. Gordon Kaplan Award for Excellence in Research, the university's most prestigious award for research. It is the first time someone in the Faculty of Education has won the award in nearly 20 years, and it is a first for the school!

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

By Becky Blue

The FIMS and LIS communities mourned the loss of one of the faculty's founders this fall, when Professor **Catherine Sheldrick Ross** passed away on September 11, 2021. Professor Ross was a well-known and respected scholar in library and information science, working at Western's Graduate School of Library & Information Science (GSLIS), before she accepted the challenge of leading the creation of a brand-new Faculty of Information and Media Studies in the late 1990s. Under her guidance as a transitional dean, GSLIS came together with the Graduate School of Journalism in 1996/1997, and FIMS emerged as a new faculty focused on library and information science, journalism, and media studies. Interdisciplinarity and collaboration were hallmarks of FIMS' early days, and they continue to be so today. Professor Ross went on to lead the faculty as acting dean and dean, between 2000 and 2007. She retired from teaching in 2010, but leaves behind a legacy of seminal LIS scholarship and a flourishing faculty.

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

By Ann Brocklehurst

At the time of writing, the Faculty of Information is preparing to return to in-person classes on February 28. While the faculty offered in-person elements for many courses in the fall of 2021, after more than a year of 100 percent remote learning, the end-of-February return marks by far the biggest shift, as the transition to post-pandemic education begins. The faculty is also involved in a strategic planning process, its first since new concentrations, including Human-Centred Data Science and User Experience Design, and new programs – the Bachelor of Information degree – have been introduced. As work-integrated learning options, including co-op, continue to gain in popularity, the faculty is looking to forge new and stronger ties with potential and existing

partners. Associate Professor **Irina Mihalache** has taken over from **Cara Krmpotich** as head of the Museum Studies program, while Associate Professor **Scott Richmond** has been named director of the McLuhan Centre.

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

By Mary Cavanagh

We are delighted to report that the School of Information Studies MIS program has received continued accreditation from the American Library Association's Committee on Accreditation and the next review will be in the fall of 2028. We are grateful to the professional colleagues who gave their time to this process. We recently completed interviews for a tenured faculty member with specialization in digital humanities, and look forward to a new colleague joining us next year. Our anticipated return to campus for this winter term has been severely disrupted, first by Omicron, and then an extended city-centre protester occupation. The campus remained secure and open, but travel to and from the campus was seriously disrupted, and the situation impacted our students. We are anticipating a full return to campus for the next academic year and look forward to welcoming back students, staff, and faculty.

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

By Peter F. McNally

In the fall of 2022, the School of Information Studies will launch an online graduate-certificate program in cyber security. The certificate will require 24 credits (eight courses) for successful completion. The McGill Association for Information Science and Technology student chapter has organized events for the 2022 winter term: a four-session Writing Retreat; Skills to Conduct a Productive Interview; and the Scientific Publishing Process. On April 28, the 14th EBSI-SIS Symposium will be held in partnership with the Université de Montréal. It provides an opportunity for Master's Université de Montreal. It provides an opportunity

for master's and doctoral students to present research and meet peers. The symposium will be a hybrid of in-person and virtual. The chapter also holds informal monthly lunches to facilitate meeting colleagues and sharing interests. Current enrolment in the school is 147 master's, 14 graduate-certificate, and 25 doctoral students.

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

By Isabelle Bourgey and Martin Bélanger

To support students in isolation and encourage motivation to continue their studies, EBSI has set up a student-led wellness committee, supported by staff. **The initiatives include a virtual mosaic where students posted an image documenting their experience of confinement.** The annual student-award ceremony was held on November 17, 2021. Fourteen scholarships were awarded for a total of

\$30,000. Professor **Vincent Larivière** is on the 2021 list of scientists most-frequently cited internationally by their peers, according to the *Web of Science* ranking. **Annaëlle Winand** has successfully completed the PhD program in Information Science. The jury awarded her thesis an outstanding mention and recommended her for the President's Honour Roll, in recognition of both the quality of her thesis and her outstanding results during her doctoral studies. Her research was co-supervised by Professor **Yvon Lemay**.

### Dalhousie University, School of Information Management (SIM)

By Sandra Toze

This fall, we welcomed **Cabot Yu**, as our inaugural SIM professional-in-residence. His role is to ensure that our students have opportunities to build and practice the professional skills they will need in the workplace. Our new series, Antiracism in the Information Professions, has included

the following lectures: Raising Our Hands: Indigenous Data Sovereignty and Relationality in LIS (**Kayla Larson**) and Hidden Voices — The Plurality of Provenance & the Deconstruction of Colonial 'Truth' (**Jesse Boiteau**). As these lectures are ongoing, please check **our website** to confirm dates and times. We were delighted to host **Dr. Carla Hayden, Librarian of Congress**, for a well-attended Dalhousie-Horrocks National Leadership Lecture, Library Engagement in a Pandemic & Post Pandemic World, on February 1. We recognized this year's recipients of the Dalhousie-Horrocks National Leadership Fund scholarship: MI students **Vinson Li** and **McKenzie Young**. SIM Associated Alumni celebrated **Tanja Harrison** (MLIS '96) with the 2021 Outstanding Alumni Award. **Dr. Bertrum MacDonald** was awarded the 2021 Faculty of Management Research Impact Award. *Corrections have been made to the online version of this article.*

## Milestones

### Obituaries

Compiled by Frances Davidson-Arnott

**Dennis Abblitt** died June 25, 2021, age 80, in Willow Grove, NB. In 1967 he moved to Canada from England, where he had studied philosophy, law, and library sciences, and embarked on a lifelong career as librarian at UNB-SJ, where he helped create one of North America's best science-fiction collections.

**Patrick Joseph Adams** died January 25, 2021, age 54, in Montreal. With an MLIS (Western), he had a rewarding career in IT that took him to England and India, working for Thomson-Reuters, Essar Algoma Steel, U of O Health Institute, and others.

**Lenora Aedy** died July 21, 2021, age 89, in Thunder Bay, ON. She was a faculty member at Lakehead University School of Library Technology, retiring in 1987.

**Marilyn Aldworth** died March 30, 2021, age 68, in Burnaby, BC. Following a brief teaching career, she earned an MLIS (Western) and worked as District Librarian for North Vancouver School.

**William Scott Allison** died January 3, 2021, age 77, in Edmonton. He earned a BA in French and the gold medal in arts (U of A), then spent a year in Paris at the Institute des Professeurs de Français à l'Étranger, returning to U of A for a B.Ed. After a year of teaching, Scott returned to Paris to work on his MA from Middlebury College, then earned his MLS (U of Maryland). In Edmonton, Scott worked as a U of A librarian for 30 years, retiring in 1999.

**Ruth Lillian Archer** died January 6, 2021, age 87, in Vancouver. Ruth graduated from UBC (1955) with a BA in home economics and a minor

in art history. She earned a library sciences degree (UBC '78), taught elementary school in Vancouver, then in France. In 1969 she returned to BC and was the librarian in four Burnaby elementary schools.

**Andrew Armitage** died November 18, 2021, age 82, in Leith, ON. Owen Sound PL's Chief Librarian (1973–2000), Andrew earned a master's degree in library science (Drexel U), and was a doctoral candidate (U of Pittsburgh).

**Roberta Barlow** died October 2, 2021, age 83, in Kamloops, BC. She graduated in library science (McGill), then became a librarian at Upper Canada College.

**Maynard Joseph Bates** died April 2, 2021, age 76, in Halifax. After graduating with an education degree (SFX), Maynard had a 34-year career,

teaching in the Western Arctic communities of Inuvik and Fort Smith. A keen interest in research led Maynard to U of A, where he pursued an MLIS.

**Claude Beaudry** died January 21, 2022, age 80, in Quebec City. After completing studies in music and library science, he was a music librarian at the Université Laval Library and wrote *Guide de rédaction des travaux de recherche en musique*.

**Marie-Luise Berryman** died December 16, 2021, in Fort Langley, BC. She graduated with a master's degree in librarianship (UBC '86), retiring as a librarian in North Vancouver in 2009.

**Marjorie "Marj" Virginia Bilar** died January 26, 2021, age 84, in Leduc, AB. After earning a teaching certificate (U of A), she taught in Thorsby, also serving as a school board trustee for the Black Gold School Division for 22 years. Disturbed by deficiencies in many local public libraries, she lobbied the Alberta Department of Education and the Alberta Department of Culture, resulting in the formation of the Yellowhead Regional Library System.

**Maatje "Marsha" Blok** died September 29, 2021, age 92, in Guelph, ON. In 1948 Marsha came to Canada with her family on the first post-Second World War immigrant ship from the Netherlands. After marriage and two children, Marsha attended high school, earned a BA (U of Waterloo) and an MLS (Western), then worked at U of Waterloo as an academic librarian until retiring in 1994.

**Fay Blostein** died January 24, 2022, age 94, in Toronto. A teacher-librarian in Etobicoke and Toronto, she joined U of T's Faculty of Education, retiring as an associate professor. She was the winner of OLA's Larry Moore Distinguished Service Award in 1989. She was the author and coauthor of books and teachers guides, and edited OLA's *Reviewing Librarian*.

**Grant Bracewell** died October 31, 2021, age 93, in Surrey, BC. After

working as a United Church minister in BC, he became the first theological librarian at U of T's Emmanuel College and co-ordinator of the Toronto Schools of Theology Libraries.

**Marilyn Ruth Brooke (née Mackey)** died March 8, 2021, age 76, in Ste. Anne, MB. She studied piano at the Royal Conservatory of Music, later earning a Bachelor of Music (U of Windsor) and a master's degree in library sciences (Western). Moving to Manitoba, she worked at Red River College, then, as Head Librarian, for Health Sciences, Government of Manitoba, until retirement.

**Sheila Cardone** died February 9, 2022, age 77, in Halifax. Born in Los Angeles, raised in New York City, she earned a BA at MSVU, in Halifax, then a BLS (U of T). For 30 years, Sheila was a librarian in Halifax Regional Library branches, retiring in 1997.

**Doreen Carpenter** died March 26, 2021, age 90, in Lethbridge, AB. She set up the new Picture Butte Library, and, as Head Librarian, she organized many activities and art shows.

**Gayle Ardith Chambers** died January 25, 2021, age 78, in Comox, BC. Ardith was a librarian at Burnaby PL and Douglas College.

**Hélène Charbonneau** died November 7, 2021, age 92, in Montreal. After studying at l'École de bibliothécaires de l'Université de Montréal (1952), she worked in children's libraries, eventually becoming responsible for the Montreal's children's libraries until her retirement in 1992. She is the author of *Pour que vive la lecture: littérature et bibliothèques pour la jeunesse*.

**Agnes Helen Chayer** died April 7, 2021, age 81, in Quebec. She returned to school after her children were grown, studying library sciences. After retiring, she was a volunteer librarian.

**Ruth Hulbert Clark** died April 10, 2021, age 95, in Ottawa. After graduating from McMaster University

and earning an MLS (Drexel U), Ruth worked at the Central Experimental Farm (1947–1949) and the Department of Health and Welfare's Food and Drug library, and the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada library, retiring in 1991.

**Judith Colson** died March 7, 2021, age 84, in Fredericton. Judy was a librarian at the Harriet Irving Library at UNB from 1967 until retirement and served on the Fredericton Public Library Board and Friends of the Library. In retirement, she became a quilter and was librarian for the Cotton Mill Quilt Guild.

**Ann Crompton** died December 15, 2021, age 90. With a library sciences degree from Concordia, she became a school librarian for the Protestant School Board of Greater Montreal until the early 1990s.

**Edward Gerald Devine** died January 29, 2021, age 77, in Sechelt, BC. After university, he had a 40-plus year career at Baker and Taylor Publisher Services. Ed's curiosity and gift of the gab facilitated his success. His clients were universities, high schools, elementary schools, and bookstores across Canada and the Western U.S.

**Maria (Mary) Filomena Disipio** died November 2, 2021, age 69, in Ottawa. She was a cataloguer at LAC.

**Edith Eleanor Doyle** died February 12, 2022, age 83, in Winnipeg. Born in Australia, she earned a BA and a diploma of education (U of New England), then her MLS in Nashville, TN, and her B.Ed. (U of Manitoba). Involved with the International Association of School Librarianship, she worked as a librarian at several Winnipeg schools.

**Dorothy Jean Goodier** died August 2021, age 95, in Toronto. A Western graduate, Dorothy worked for many years at TPL's Swansea branch.

**Barbara Grabowski** died September 9, 2021, age 99, in Ottawa. She earned

a BLS and an MLS (U of O) and also completed the coursework for an MA in Slavistics, then became Head Librarian at McArthur High School.

**Andrew Gregorovich** died February 26, 2022, age 86, in Toronto. U of T Librarian Emeritus, he was a department head for 30 years. He served as chairman of the Toronto Historical Board, OLA President, President of the Canadian Multilingual Press Federation, and as a board member of the U of T Governing Council, Executive Director of the Ukrainian Canadian Research & Documentation Centre, and President of the Taras Shevchenko Museum. He was honoured with a City of Toronto Medal, a Shevchenko Medal by the Ukrainian Canadian Congress, and a Ukraine government-awarded medal. He was also the author of *Forum: A Ukrainian Review*, *Ukraine in World War II*, *Roxelana*, *Anna Yaroslavna*, *Holodomor*, among other publications.

**Helen Margaret "Margot" Hall** died February 5, 2022, age 99, in Ottawa. After obtaining her BA (McGill), Margot established Miss Hall's Personnel Service in Ottawa in 1972, retiring in 1997. Many Ottawa-area librarians used her agency to hire library staff and some librarians got their start working for her.

**Louise Hall** died February 10, 2022, age 97, in Cowansville, QC. An educator-teacher, principal, visiting teacher with the Department of Protestant Education and specialist in educational sciences with the Ministère de l'éducation, she co-founded the Farnham Library more than 60 years ago, and was honoured when it was renamed Bibliothèque municipale Louise-Hall, in 2018.

**Nancy Jane Halpern** died July 8, 2021, age 89, in Vancouver. Nancy completed her BA and MLS at UBC, then worked as a librarian for Burnaby PL, where she met David Conn, her partner of 36 years.

**Margaret Hawthorn (née Currie)** died September 22, 2021, age 85, in Toronto. A librarian at U of T

Mississauga, she volunteered extensively for senior women's causes, social-justice issues, literacy, politics, and the environment after retirement.

**Barbara Jane Holmes** died March 14, 2021, age 77, Hamilton, ON. She was a research librarian at Brock University.

**Anne Howlett** died November 20, 2021, age 88, in Toronto. A Western graduate, she launched a distinguished career of 40-plus years, managing school libraries in Sarnia, ON, Edmonton, Manchester, England, and Toronto. Anne graduated with a McGill library science degree and was awarded the library school prize for the highest average. Anne was lauded for her contributions, notably the *Independent Study Booklet*, an innovative and essential student learning tool, now titled *Research Success @ Your Library: A Guide to Inquiry and Research for Intermediate and Secondary Students*.

**Neil Rutherford Hughes** died December 30, 2021, age 66, in Edmonton. He earned his B.Mus. in viola performance (U of A '77), and played professionally in the Edmonton Symphony Orchestra. In 1981 he began a career in music information, receiving his AMLS (U of Michigan '84); he later also earned a second master's degree in music history (U of Georgia). Neil was Assistant Librarian at the Curtis Institute of Music, in Philadelphia (1984–1986), then head of music cataloguing at U of Georgia's library for 30 years, retiring in 2016.

**Ada Hazen "Stit" Inches** died August 29, 2021, age 101, in Saint John, NB. After earning a BLS (McGill, 42), she joined the Women's Royal Canadian Naval Service (WRCNS) and served overseas, in Newfoundland and the U.K. She was discharged with the rank of lieutenant in 1946.

**Lance Laverne Irvine** died April 8, 2021, age 88, in Yorkton, SK. He earned teaching and library science degrees (UBC), and a master's degree in philosophy (U of Washington). In 1967 he became the first librarian

at the new Yorkton Regional High School. Ahead of his time, Lance used audio-visual resources to build English and history courses for students who struggled in a conventional classroom.

**Louise Irwin** died January 6, 2022, age 94, in Vancouver. She attended UBC for a BSc in Agriculture ('48) and a BLS ('67). Louise worked abroad in research labs, taught at University Hill Secondary School, and retired as a librarian at Vancouver PL.

**Colleen Keizer** died November 9, 2021, age 74, in Dunnville, ON. She was a librarian in West Lincoln Township for more than 30 years.

**Margaret Eileen Vera Irwin Kobes** died December 23, 2021, age 83, in London, ON. After training as a nurse, she earned a BLS (U of T '68). She was staff nurse, instructor, and librarian at London's Victoria Hospital; part-time medical librarian at Windsor's Grace Hospital; and, part-time staff librarian at Windsor's Metropolitan Hospital. She was an active member of the Canadian Bookbinders and Book Artists Guild.

**Jean Elizabeth Laundry** died in 2021, age 93, in Toronto. With an MLS (U of T), Jean was a business and law librarian, working at Imperial Oil, Tilley Carson Finley, and Sun Life. She authored a definitive monograph on Stevengraph bookmarks, which she collected. She endowed a theatre-arts collection to the Osborne Collection of Early Children's Books at Toronto PL's Lillian H. Smith Branch.

**Virginia Leach** died November 17, 2021, age 97, in Toronto. A graduate of McGill and U of T's Wycliffe (Theological) College, Virginia was a respected theological librarian.

**Mary Diana Lie** died December 23, 2021, age 98, in Toronto. She attended U of T library school and worked as a librarian.

**Linda Macleod** died September 29, 2021, age 73, in Halifax. She attended Dalhousie and was a librarian

there for more than 30 years.

**Audrey MacLellan** died February 13, 2022, age 93, in Brampton, ON. Born in Iowa, she grew up on a family farm during the Great Depression. With an MLS from Boston, she worked as a librarian at the Detroit PL. She moved to Canada in 1953. When the government established community colleges in 1965, Audrey applied as Chief Librarian at Humber College, and became the first employee Humber hired, despite being a married woman with young children.

**Mary-Eileen McClear** died April 10, 2021, age 72, in Baden, ON. With a master's degree in library science (Western Michigan U '71), Mary began her career in children's services in St. Catharines, ON, then moved to the Midwestern Library System in Kitchener-Waterloo, ON. Later, she became a professional storyteller.

**Thomas Gregory McCool** died March 4, 2021, age 82, in Victoria, BC. A history teacher in Sudbury, Tom continued his education with a degree in library science (Arizona State U), becoming a head librarian, until his retirement.

**Dora Craig McPherson** died March 11, 2021, age 95, in London, ON. She was the medical reference librarian at University Hospital from the day it opened. After retiring, she continued to volunteer there for more than 15 years.

**Mary McTavish** died January 26, 2022, age 89, in Toronto. She graduated from U of T with a BA in historical and modern languages, then a library science degree in London, England. She worked as a librarian at Robarts Library.

**Donald Frederick Meadows** died January 21, 2021, age 84, in Nanaimo, BC. With a BLS (UBC '67), he began a lifelong career in library management, building and overseeing the development of many regional library systems in Saskatchewan. From 1981 to 1986, he was Toronto PL's Chief Librarian and Secretary to the Board of

Directors, Toronto Reference Library, when 12 new branches were opened. Five years later, he went to Nanaimo, BC, where he led further inter-regional development of the Vancouver Island Regional Library System (VIRL).

**Claude D. Moïse** died November 17, 2021, age 79, in Ottawa. Claude was a reference librarian at the Fisheries and Oceans Canada library, the Supreme Court of Canada library, and the Library of Parliament.

**Elizabeth Mullens** died November 19, 2021, age 95, in Owen Sound, ON. Awarded a scholarship to Western, she studied sciences. Liz worked at Western's Collip Lab and U of T's Banting Institute and Academy of Medicine Library.

**Nora Murchison** died June 15, 2021, age 92, in Ottawa. With a BLS and master's degree in geography (McGill '52 and '61), she was librarian at the Arctic Institute of North America (1954–1972) in Montreal. She single-handedly catalogued and cross-indexed its collection, while expanding and completing its coverage. Nora contributed entries for the *Dictionary of Canadian Biography*, and wrote three books: *Polar and Cold Regions Library Resources: A Directory* (1975), *Travel in Canada: a guide to information sources* (1983), and *Resources for Native People Studies* (1984).

**Tony Neal** died December 4, 2021, age 55, in Regina. A UBC library science grad, he was the community librarian at Regina PL for 25 years.

**Denise A. Ostiguy (née Côté)** died February 2, 2022, age 90, in Gatineau, QC. After her librarianship studies, she worked at the National Library of Canada (1972–1992).

**Terry Paris** died September 13, 2021, age 72, in Halifax. An MLS grad (Western '72), he began a 42-year career at MSVU Library & Archives, retiring as head of academic and reference services in 2014. His legacies include the early development

of MSVU's library collection in the areas of women, gender, and queer studies, now the strongest in the region. Terry's forward-thinking article, *Breaking the mould: How re-examining the allocation formula led to the creation of a dynamic role for the university's librarians*, is highly cited and, over the years, academic librarians near and far have reached out to seek further insight into changing historical collection–funding models.

**Lorna Peaker** died January 31, 2022, age 88, in Oakville, ON. She studied librarianship while working at libraries at the U of Manchester and ICI (AstraZeneca). Lorna later completed a degree in anthropology (U of T).

**Anne Pennylegion** died October 8, 2021, in Earl Grey, SK. She worked in book purchasing and selling in bookstores in Toronto and Regina. Anne was the retreat co-ordinator for the Saskatchewan Writers' Guild (2006–2008 and 2009–2013). In recent years, she worked for the Saskatchewan Library Association, coordinating programs such as the guild-partnered One Book One Province.

**Howard Clement Perron** died September 25, 2021, age 93, in Ottawa. After serving in the RCAF, he obtained a BPH (St. Paul's U), BA and BLS (U of O), and an MLS (McGill). After a 28-year career as an academic librarian at Loyola College (now Concordia), he was granted the honour of Professor Emeritus by Concordia.

**William Edward Parker** died May 25, 2021, age 86, in Vancouver. With an MLS (UBC), he spent almost his entire career at the UBC Woodward Biomedical Library.

**Margaret Peel** died December 25, 2021, age 103, in Edmonton. Margaret taught all grades in one-room schools in Saskatchewan, then became a librarian at the Connaught Branch Regina PL. Margaret painstakingly edited her husband Bruce Peel's books, including the monumental *A Bibliography of the Prairie Provinces*



to 1953. In the late 1960s, she was the one-person jury for the Governor General's Award for Fiction.

**Sylvia Piggott** died June 7, 2021, age 82, in Montreal. She earned an MLS (McGill '79), became Senior Manager, Information Resource Centre, Bank of Montreal, then Deputy Division Chief of Information Services, Joint World Bank and IMF Fund Library (Washington, DC), retiring from this position in 2002. A long-standing member of the Special Library Association, she served as President (1996–1997). She was active in the International Federation of Library Associations and received several awards for her service to her profession.

**Phyllis Eva Price** died April 11, 2021, age 96, in London, ON. She taught English, library, and geography. After earning her MLS (Kalamazoo, Michigan), she served as a school librarian.

**Ruth Prowse** died March 10, 2021, age 97, in Aylmer, ON. She retired as Deputy Chief Librarian with the Elgin County PL.

**Idalia Helena "Ida/Lila" Rappé** died November 8, 2021, age 97, in Windsor, ON. Idalia took part in the 1944 Warsaw Uprising as a member of the Polish Home Army, then was sent to a POW camp. In 1949 she arrived in Canada. While raising her family, Ida earned a bachelor degree (U of Windsor) and an MLS (U of Michigan), and then worked as a U of Windsor librarian until retirement.

**Sharon Reeves** died December 21, 2021, in Nanaimo, BC. Sharon was a career librarian with Library and Archives Canada (LAC). She was a member of the Networked Digital Library of Theses and Dissertations Board of Directors (2002–2012), retiring as Manager of Theses Canada, at LAC. She then acted as the board's secretary and served on committees, including as Chair, Conference Standing Committee (2006–2012). She also co-chaired the 9th International Symposium on

Electronic Theses and Dissertations.

**Marge Roberts** died July 9, 2021, age 79, in Thunder Bay, ON. She began teaching in 1962, left to raise her family, then returned to school for degrees in anthropology, sociology, and library science. Her lengthy career as a librarian at Confederation College ended with her retirement in 2006.

**Catherine Sheldrick Ross** died September 11, 2021, in London, ON. (See the article by Becky Blue in this issue, page 20.).

**Carolynne Elizabeth Scott** died September 26, 2021, age 73, in Winnipeg. After graduating in library science at U of A, she managed several Calgary PL branches.

**Edward Trivett Sharp** died February 11, 2022, age 67, in Toronto. He earned an MLS (U of T). While a Queen's student, Ted was the federal Rhino Party nominee for Kingston. Running against Flora McDonald, Ted 'not so' Sharp's slogan was "Vote Fauna, not Flora." Ted was a librarian at the Mississauga Central Library in many departments for 36 years, becoming the Manager of Collections Management (2007–2020).

**John Smart** died August 29, 2021, age 82, in Ottawa. John worked for 18 years as an archivist at the Public Archives of Canada and, in 1992, founded the Archives Technician Program at Algonquin College where he taught until retiring in 2000. He was an NDP candidate three times and an Ottawa school board trustee. In 2004 he completed the history PhD (Queen's University) that he had abandoned during his Waffle political years.

**Shirley Smith** died April 5, 2021, age 88, in Ottawa. She earned her MLS (U of O) and worked as a librarian for the RCMP, then for CN, before retiring.

**Joyce Sowby** died January 5, 2022, age 94, in Toronto. She was a librarian at Annapolis Valley Regional Library then at U of T Scarborough for many years. Joyce enjoyed art, travelled extensively,

studied French, read voraciously, and attended lectures on history, art, and religion into her 90s. She devoted herself to the Trinity College Book Sale. Two of her books were *Quality printing: a history of Rous and Mann Limited, 1909–1954* (about her father's printing company) and a history of the Cathedral Church of St. James, Toronto. Joyce was an active longtime member of ELA.

**Richard Spafford** died October 6, 2021, age 82, in Regina. He graduated from the University of Saskatchewan. In the late 1960s, he opened the Book Cellar (later renamed Spafford Books) in Regina. In the early 1980s, he served as an appraiser for the National Archives, then for other libraries and archival departments. He amassed one of the largest Canadian collections of Indigenous, Prairie, and Canadian history materials, which were sought-after by North American academic libraries. In 2005 Richard was awarded the Lieutenant Governor's Arts Award for Leadership, for his contributions to arts and culture in Saskatchewan.

**Josephine Mary Stackhouse** died May 21, 2021, age 93, in Saint John, NB. After graduating from UBC, she earned a library-science degree (U of T), then an education degree (UNB). Until retirement, Jo was the Coordinator of Library Services for Saint John and southwest New Brunswick schools.

**Eunice Lulu (Chen) Stringer** died August 26, 2021, age 75, in Halifax. She earned an MLS (Western '72), worked at UNB's Harriet Irving Library, then the New Brunswick PL Service.

**Wasył Sydorenko** died January 13, 2022, age 61, in Toronto. At U of T, he earned a BA (musicology specialist, geology major) and an MIS. Starting his career in vertebrate palaeontology at the ROM, Wasył moved to U of T. From 1994 he was East European Reference Specialist, Petro Jacyk Resource Centre. He was also a composer and, in 1991, organized a concert to promote the 100th year of Ukrainians in Canada, conducting a 10 grand piano–ensemble, at Massey Hall. He wrote numerous articles and music reviews.

**William “Paul” Swan** died October 28, 2021, in London, ON. He attended Western, earning teaching and MLIS degrees. Paul taught for Middlesex County and Thames Valley District School Boards.

**Constance Adrienne Taylor** died July 18, 2021, age 93, in Toronto. Having returned to university at age 40 to complete her BA, she then earned her MA in English and MLS at U of T. She worked in a public library system, then as a librarian at Wycliffe College, U of T, until retirement.

**Anne Louise Taylor-Vaisey** died February 8, 2022, age 74, in Toronto. After earning a master’s degree in library science (Western), she became map librarian at Trent, then circulation and reference librarian until 1984. In 1991 she joined U of T’s Office for Continuing Medical Education, as library-services consultant and co-authored articles cited by thousands of researchers. She served as president of the Toronto Health Libraries Association and the Indexing and Abstracting Society of Canada. She was architect of the Society for Academic Continuing Medical Education website. In 2001 she became the Canadian Memorial Chiropractic College’s (CMCC) reference librarian. In 2012 Anne joined a multidisciplinary and international team of health-care professionals at the Institute for Disability and Rehabilitation Research, where she displayed her rigorous approach to scientific research. She was named adjunct professor at CMCC, in 2016, and chief editor of the Index to Chiropractic Literature the next year.

**Marlene Joyce Turkington** died November 14, 2021, age 75, in Woodstock, ON. She was a teacher and teacher-librarian with Oxford County and Thames Valley District school boards. Marlene was also a private consultant and worked with GoodMinds. Through various organizations — OLA, OSLA, TALCO, and CASL — she advocated for libraries by encouraging the purchase of memberships, organizing bus trips to conferences, writing articles,

and guest-editing publications.

**Blair Garfield Thompson** died November 28, 2021, age 85, in Vancouver. After attending SFU and UBC, he was a librarian in Coquitlam and North Vancouver District.

**Bonnie Ruth Waddell** died October 21, 2021, age 76, in Truro, NS. She graduated in library science (Dalhousie). She worked at South Shore Regional Library, Colchester East Hants PL, then became Chief Librarian, Nova Scotia Agricultural College.

**Darlene Charlotte Warren** died February 7, 2022, age 62, in Calgary. She earned an MLS (Dalhousie) and, after working briefly at the Biological Station Library in St. Andrews, NB, worked at U of Calgary as an associate university librarian for more than 25 years.

**Margaret (Maggie) Weaver** died January 12, 2022, age 71, in Toronto. She graduated in mathematics from U of Exeter. Maggie worked in many areas, including management-consulting firms, information-search organizations, a large chemical company, as a trainer for online searching, and two years with the UN, in Vienna. She developed unique and much sought-after expertise that she used to assist small businesses and entrepreneurs, and was active in organizations such as the SLA and Ontario Association of Library Technicians.

**Ronald Welwood** died November 21, 2021, age 81, in Nelson, BC. He joined the NLC in 1966, as a member of the library trainee program. After graduating from UBC Library School in 1967, he worked in the public services branch, at Notre Dame University library, in Nelson, at David Thompson University Centre, and at Selkirk College, Castlegar, BC, retiring in 2000.

**Heather Lynne West** died October 1, 2020, age 77, in Belle River, PEI. With an MLS from McGill, she was a librarian in Sudbury, ON, and Yarmouth, NS, before becoming City Librarian, Corner Brook, NL, retiring in 2008.

**William Kenneth Whiteway** died May 11, 2021, age 72, in Saskatoon. With an MLS (Western ’72), he worked at the NLC before completing a law degree (Queen’s ’77), and later a Juris Doctor. He worked at the U of Saskatchewan Law Library for 35 years as the reference librarian and then as head of the law library until his retirement in 2012.

**Christie Ann Whitman** died September 29, 2021, age 78, in Orillia, ON. With a BA (McMaster University), BFA (York University), and a master’s degree in psychology (Adler Institute in Chicago), she was librarian at the Huronia Regional Centre, opened and ran the Health Sciences Library at Soldiers’ Memorial Hospital, was President of the Ontario Association of Hospital Librarians, and Orillia PL board chair.

**Robyn Willis** died March 29, 2021, age 75, in Parksville, BC. She became a librarian in New Zealand before coming to Canada. In Prince Rupert, BC, Robyn was head librarian. She later ran a bookmobile.

**Muriel Lorraine Wright** died March 15, 2021, age 99, in Ottawa. In the early 1940s, Muriel moved from Toronto to Ottawa to work as a librarian. After raising her family, she returned to work at the Ottawa PL.

**Victoria Geraldine Young** died December 10, 2021, age 83, in Toronto. Born in Tobago, West Indies, she worked as a librarian at U of Windsor, U of the West Indies, St. Augustine Campus, and was Head, Tobago Children’s Library for many years.

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

## Retirements

Compiled by Suzette Giles



**Ann Barrett**, Associate Dean, Scholarly Communications, and Head, W. K. Kellogg Health Sciences Library, Dalhousie University, retired at the end of June 2021. She obtained her M.L.I.S (Dalhousie '81), after which she worked in the United Arab Emirates and Saint John, NB, before returning to the university in 1986. During her 35-year career at Dalhousie Libraries, she held various positions and, for many years, was the liaison librarian for the School of Nursing and the Divisions of Pediatrics, Oncology/Hematology, and Obstetrics & Gynecology. Following several leaves from Dalhousie, she became Head of Public Services in the W. H. Kellogg Library and, in 2017, was appointed Associate Dean Scholarly Communications and Head of the W. K. Kellogg Health Sciences Library. Melissa Helwig is the new Associate Dean, Research and Scholarly Communications, and Head of the W. K. Kellogg Health Sciences Library.

**Heather King** retired at the end of 2021, after eight years as CEO of the Norfolk County Public Library, Ont. Prior to her appointment as CEO in 2013, Heather held various positions, over 20 years in the Town of Simcoe and Norfolk County's recreation department. Over the last eight years, the library has greatly increased the number of card holders, and established programs and partnerships with more than 20 organizations and agencies. All five branches have makerspace equipment, literacy-based programs, and current collections, and the Delhi branch has had a major renovation. The Interim CEO is Richard Anderson.

**Carol MacDonald**, Head, Systems Development and Implementation, retired from the University of Regina Library, after more than 40 years. During her career, Carol launched numerous automation projects including the CANPLAINS database for the Canadian Plains Research Center, as a nationally accessible resource of

Prairie research; the university's first major automation project and formation of the RegLIN consortium consisting of URL, the Saskatchewan Legislative Library, the Gabriel Dumont Institute, the Regina General Hospital Library, Pasqua and Wascana hospital libraries, and the Saskatchewan Department of Health Library; and state-of-the-art integrated library discovery systems. In 2016, she served as project manager for the Alma/Primo Discovery system implementation by the Consortium of Academic and Special Libraries (formerly RegLIN). She also developed and managed the library's first website, the Relais interlibrary loan system, CONTENTdm for the first digital project, EZproxy authentication, and the Springshare suite of services (LibGuides, LibApps, mLibCal) for enhanced research assistance.

**Mary Ann Mavrinnac**, Vice Provost and Andrew H. and Janet Dayton Neilly Dean, River Campus Libraries, University of Rochester, Rochester, NY, retired on October 31, 2021. She initiated the Rush Rhees Library Revitalization Project, a 10-year facilities and master plan, and a five-year strategic plan to transform the River Campus Libraries into a collaborative hub for innovation. In 2007, selected as one of the 23 fellows for the Association of Research Libraries (ARL) leadership program, she served on ARL's board from 2013 to 2019, becoming president in 2018. Prior to joining the University of Rochester in 2012, Mary Ann was chief librarian at U of T Mississauga for 11 years, where she was responsible for planning and building the Hazel McCallion Academic Learning Centre. She served as president of the Ontario Library Association in 2010, and received a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Ontario College and University Library Association in 2014. Mavrinnac has BA and B.Ed. degrees from U of T, an MLS from Western University, and a doctorate in educational leadership and

change from the Fielding Graduate University.

**Linda B. McIntyre** retired as Provincial Archivist of Saskatchewan in 2021, after more than 12 years in the position. She joined the Provincial Archives of Saskatchewan in 1987, holding several specializations during 22 years as archivist and chief archivist, including government records, private records, maps and architectural drawings, and records-processing and descriptive-standards officer. She also managed several projects during her career including backlog reduction, ministerial records, and MINISIS implementation. The new provincial archivist is Carol Radford-Grant, effective September 20, 2021.

**Michael Moosberger**, Associate Dean Archives, Records Management, and Special Collections and University Archivist, retired at the end of January 2022, after 21 years at Dalhousie University Libraries. Highlights of Michael's tenure include significant growth in collection holdings and accessions, the transition from print to digital records, publicly accessible, web-based finding aids and images, as well as successfully advocating for increased staffing to match the support for new and varied archival initiatives. Sarah Stevenson is the new associate dean of Archives, Records Management, and Special Collections. She will also continue as Head, Killam Memorial Library.

**Lisa-Jane Watson** retired from EBSCO Canada at the end of December 2021, after 32 years as an EBSCO vendor. She earned a B.Ed. from Red Deer College in 1985 and an MLIS from the University of Alberta in 1989.

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

## Ādisōke: a bold experiment in co-operation

By Barbara Clubb, with Aynsley Morris, Communications, Ottawa Public Library

*This is the third in a series of combination ELAN newsletter/ Ex Libris Association feature articles highlighting exciting and inspiring new and renovated branch-library spaces — which began in ELAN No 61/Spring 2017).*

**A**disōke (phonetic spelling: ɑdɪsɔ:kə), the joint facility between the Ottawa Public Library (OPL) and Library and Archives Canada (LAC), is set to open its doors in 2026. A ground-breaking venture, Ādisōke is designed to be a landmark destination built on the shared values of the two partner institutions.

The OPL-LAC Joint Facility Project Team worked in partnership with the Anishinābe Algonquin Nation, via the work of Elders and members of Kitigan Zibi Anishinābeg First Nation and the Algonquins of Pikwākanagān First Nation, to name the facility and develop a unique and creative facility that is welcoming to all.

The total project cost, \$326 million, is divided among the City of Ottawa, OPL, LAC, and Ottawa's parking authority. A fundraising campaign, Unlock Potential, aims to raise \$10 million of the total cost. The award-winning team of Diamond Schmitt and KWC Architects was selected to design the facility.

Facing the Ottawa River and the Gatineau Hills, and just minutes from downtown Ottawa, the building will comprise 216,000 square feet (OPL 61 percent and LAC 39 percent). The facility is on the LRT line and will welcome 5,000 people a day, 1.7 million people a year.

Special OPL features include The Children's Discovery Centre, with a Children's Wigwam Room for Storytime and a collection of more than 20,000 items, and the Teen's Centre, with makerspaces, and areas for performances, group gatherings, and quiet study.

For more information, go to [exlibris.ca/doku.php?id=occasional\\_](http://exlibris.ca/doku.php?id=occasional_)

[papers:adisoke:a\\_bold\\_experiment\\_in\\_cooperation](http://papers.adisoke:a_bold_experiment_in_cooperation).

*Barbara Clubb, now retired, was Ottawa City Librarian, (1995–2022).*



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