



ELAN

Ex Libris Association Newsletter

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Bring Out Your Dead or Focus on Genealogy by Tom Eadie	1
Our President's Report by Jan Jacobson	2
Technology Unmasked by Stanislav Orlov	2
Ottawa Ex Libris Group Visits City Archives by Barbara Kaye	3
Introducing the ELA Board of Directors	4
ELA at OLA 2009 by Arn Bailey	4
CODE at 50! by Gwynneth Evans	5
David Weinberger Packs Bertha Bassam Lecture by Kathleen O'Brien	7
Ex Libris Tour of Osgoode Hall Great Library by Nancy Kellett	7
ELA's Advice to Students by Arn Bailey	8
Biography Project by Nancy Williamson	8
TPL's Evelyn Gregory Branch Celebrates its 40 th by Helen Flint and Grace Andrews	9
Knowledge Ontario Update by Louise Slobodian	9
Retired Librarians in Quebec by Pierre Guilmette	10
Why I Became a Librarian by Nancy Kellett	10
The Public Library and Staff Changes by Al Bowron	11
A Brief History of Canadian Library Technician Associations: Part 3 by Douglas Willford	11
Volunteering in the Third World: An interview with Betty Harris conducted by F Davidson-Arnott	13
Culinary Archives and Books at the University of Guelph by Lorne Bruce	14
Book Reviews	15
News from Canadian Library/ Information Studies Schools by Diane Henderson	15
Atlantic News by Norman Horrocks	17
News from British Columbia by Sylvia Crooks	17
News from Ottawa Public Library by Marie Zielinska	18
Songs of the Library Staff	18
Milestones compiled by Merlyn Beeckmans	19

Bring Out Your Dead or Focus on Genealogy: Report on the Annual Conference

By Tom Eadie

At the November 10, 2008 ELA Annual Conference, we were privileged to hear presentations by Sharon Murphy and Marian Press.

Sharon Murphy has 28 years of experience in genealogy. Currently, she operates her company, **Timelines Genealogical Research**, out of Cobourg, Ontario. She spoke on the topic Hiring a Professional Genealogist.

Sharon identified why one might hire a genealogist (professional knowledge of sources, experience interpreting records, etc.) and outlined ways to stay within your budget (set limits, organize materials you already have). She suggested ways to find a genealogist, (through local libraries and genealogical societies) and advised reference checks. The attentive audience learned what they could expect from a professional genealogist and Sharon gave them what amounts to a checklist for anyone considering a career in genealogy.

Marian Press is acting chief librarian at the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education (University of Toronto). She teaches online courses on using the Internet as a source of genealogical information and spoke on the topic Wired Genealogy: Where the Internet has Taken Family Historians. Marian traced the evolution of the digital world in the course of revealing a wealth of useful, often unexpected, information.

Before the web, some genealogical newsgroups ran on what was called Usenet. Subsequently, web browsers (Mosaic, Netscape, Internet Explorer, etc.) enabled access to digitized genealogical information through the websites of libraries, archives, government departments, and publishers. Web-based genealogical

resources are searchable full-text databases, among them vital and census records, wills and testaments, emigration/immigration records, military records, directories, and newspapers. There are also a host of genealogy sites, like WorldVitalRecords.com, familysearch.org, and the Canadian Genealogical Centre (www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/genealogy).

Web 2.0 arrived in 2004. (It was not a technical advance, but a change in the way the web was used.) It is populated by social networking sites, video-sharing sites, wikis, blogs, etc., and is characterized by a bottom-up approach to content, which Wikipedia exemplifies. Its genealogical equivalent is the Encyclopedia of Genealogy (www.eogen.com).

Many of the sites Marian identified are free; others charge for access to their resources. Although there is a lively debate around Free versus Fee, those using these sites may take some guidance from the rubric "Good, fast and cheap – you can have two out of three." ■



Welcome New ELA Members

Bob Dougan, Kitchener, Ont.
Bob Gibson, Wakefield, Que.
Vivienne James, Toronto, Ont.
Alice McClymont, Ottawa, Ont.
Stephen Nelson, Woodstock, Ont.
Cynthia Teitelman, Thornhill, Ont.



Our President's Report

By Jan Jacobson

As I write this, winter is drawing to a close, and it's time to look back at our accomplishments over the fall and winter seasons.

I would like to welcome three new members to our Board. Bob Henderson is on the Board of the University of Toronto Alumni Association. Lorne Bruce is on research leave this year from the University of Guelph Library; we welcome his expertise on the history of Canadian libraries. Carrol Lunau comes from Library and Archives Canada and has graciously agreed to be vice-president. I'd like to take this opportunity to thank our two retiring Board members, Phyllis Platnick and Jim Montgomery, for their hard work on our behalf. Happily, Jim has agreed to continue chairing the Website Committee.

Our Annual General Meeting took place on November 10. Many thanks to Frances Davidson-Arnott for planning an excellent program. Thanks, too, to Liz and John Warrener and Beth McLean for organizing the food, and

to Beth for arranging the tour of the Toronto Public Library and Ontario Genealogical Society collections that followed. During our AGM our Revised Bylaws were presented and passed by our members. I would particularly like to thank Norman Horrocks for his expertise in formulating our updated Constitution, and to thank Arn Bailey and other members of our Constitution Committee, Mavis Cariou and Diane Henderson, for their contributions.

ELA sponsored two sessions at the OLA Super Conference this year. For details, see the report in this issue. Both sessions were well received and attended. Thanks to Frances Davidson-Arnott and Arn Bailey for chairing them.

ELA members partnered with the University of Toronto's Faculty of Information (FI) Alumni Association in organizing the iTea for U of T Faculty of Information students again this year (reported on elsewhere in this issue). Thanks to Frances Davidson-Arnott, Liz Warrener, Bob Henderson, and other ELA members who contributed to

this event. Based on the success of this ongoing event, we have decided to stage something similar for the Faculty of Information Studies at the University of Western Ontario. Arn Bailey has made contact with Dean Thomas Carmichael.

ELA members are always eager to keep current on what's going on in the library community. One way of doing this is to visit various libraries of interest to our members. In the fall, Jean Orpwood arranged a tour of the Osgoode Hall Law Library (reported on elsewhere in this issue). She also planned a tour for April 21 of the Royal Ontario Museum Library with lunch at the C5 restaurant, which will be reported in the Fall *ELAN*. The first tour event for ELA Ottawa-region members took place on March 12. The event was arranged by Barbara Kaye. See her full report in this issue.

Continuing our commitment to support CLA's objectives and to act as an advocate for libraries, I sent a letter on ELA's behalf in support of Private

continued on page 3



Technology Unmasked

By Stanislav Orlov

Greetings! In this new column, we are going to talk about hardware and software technologies.

So it would be impossible not to discuss **Open Source Software**. The concept of openness and co-operation in creating and sharing free software is not new. It dates back to the 1950s, when scientists in North American universities started writing operating systems that they would share with colleagues, who added their own modifications, which they then shared in turn. It was not, however, until the mid-90s that the term "Open Source Software" was coined. The hacker community motivated Netscape to make its browser available for free. (It developed into Firefox.) With the advent of the Internet, millions around the world used and helped develop new free programs.

The advantages of this model are obvious. With so many users having free access to the code and submitting

their enhancements, the product is constantly improved, competing with other formats with minimal production costs. And revenue comes mostly from selling support and enterprise versions of software. Librarians are among the most active contributors and users of open-source solutions. We will look at some of these solutions in the next issue.

<http://istl.org/05-spring/article2.html>
<http://www.webpages.uidaho.edu/~mbolin/jaffe-careaga.htm>

Bluetooth is a wireless communication protocol that enables short-distance communication between portable and stationary devices. Named after a medieval King of Denmark, who united three Scandinavian countries under his rule, it joins different devices without the use of cables. Bluetooth-enabled mice and keyboards are not much different or superior to their cordless infrared ancestors (and require a Bluetooth adapter in your computer). The real advantages of this protocol become evident in data-

transmission devices. The Bluetooth microchip enables fast and reliable flow of information. It encrypts your communication and passes it between devices, using the 2.4 GHz short-range radio frequency bandwidth. You might have observed a man in a supermarket consulting with his spouse over the phone, his hands free and a futuristic earpiece flashing in his ear. Some other applications for this technology include wireless barcode scanners, medical equipment, game consoles, etc. The next version of Bluetooth will be 20-150 times faster and will use even less energy, offering new and exciting possibilities.

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bluetooth>
<http://electronics.howstuffworks.com/bluetooth.htm> ■

Stanislav Orlov, Systems Librarian at Mount Saint Vincent University in Halifax, is ELAN's new technology columnist. Please send your questions and comments to stan.orlov@msvu.ca.

continued from page 2

Members' Bill C-322. The Bill supports the reduction of the Library Book Rate.

ELA continues to have a presence at library conferences across the country. Thanks to Liz Warrener for organizing the shipment of our information brochures, t-shirts, and bags to all those venues, and to our members for manning the booths. We had a booth with items for sale at the OLA Super Conference. Norman Horrocks is arranging for us to have a presence at APLA, and we will also be attending the CLA Conference in Montreal in May.

Our committees have remained active over the winter months. Nancy Williamson's Biographical Project committee has added new items to the Biography of Librarians and Information Professionals database. The Recruitment and Public Relations Committee, chaired by Frances Davidson-Arnott, has planned networking events, organized materials for conferences, looked after the publicity for the library tours, and initiated contact with key people in library organizations. The Nominations Committee, chaired by Arn Bailey, has

found three new Board members. Our Website Committee continues to update and improve this valuable resource. The Newsletter Committee, chaired by Jean Weihs and Frances Davidson-Arnott, has found a new regional reporter for *ELAN*: Alvin Shrader for the Western/Prairies Region.

In closing, I would like to thank our Executive members, Jean Weihs, Doreen London, Arn Bailey, and Nancy Williamson, and also Frances Davidson-Arnott, who work extremely hard to maintain the success of our organization. ■

Ottawa Ex Libris Group Visits City Archives

By Barbara Kaye

On March 12, nine members of the newly formed Ottawa Ex Libris group visited the City of Ottawa Archives. Our orientation was provided by Serge Barbe, who has been community archivist since 1983.

The Ottawa Archives' mandate is to collect works of the Corporation of the City of Ottawa. This includes minutes of Council, bylaws, assessment records for tax purposes and records of various day-to-day transactions, as well as anything of permanent historical or evidentiary value. The records date back to 1842, embodying several administrative and name changes – from the District of Dalhousie, to the County of Carleton, to the Regional Municipality of Ottawa-Carleton, through to the present-day City of Ottawa.

In addition to records of official City business, the Archives also houses records of certain churches and sports and community organizations; for example, Knox Presbyterian, St. Giles Presbyterian, and First Unitarian Churches; the Ottawa Curling, Ottawa Rowing, and Rideau Canoe Clubs; the local Rotary Club, IODE, and the Centretown citizens association. Serge estimated that there are about 5,000 boxes of corporate records and three million images. There are currently about 430 items catalogued in MINISIS, their online finding tool. However, the term "item" is misleading, in that one

item may be anything from a single photograph to a collection of hundreds of boxes, such as their *Ottawa Journal* collection.

As well as the Old City Hall location, the Ottawa Archives also maintains the Rideau Township Branch in North Gower, serving the rural community, and the Gloucester Branch in the old Gloucester Town Hall.

The Old City Hall location houses not only the City Archives collection but also the collections the Ottawa Branch of the Ontario Genealogical Society, the British Isles Family History Society of Greater Ottawa (BIFHSGO), the United Church Archives, the United Empire Loyalists (Sir Guy Carleton Branch), and the C. Robert Craig Memorial Library, devoted to rail transportation, with a special emphasis on Eastern Ontario. We were fortunate that one member of our tour group, Doug Robinson, has been deputy archivist of the United Church Archives for the past four years and was able to brief us on its collection, dating back to the 1700s.

By the end of 2010, the Ottawa City Archives and its partners will relocate to a new campus in the suburban neighbourhood of CentrepoinTE. The new location will comprise about 81,000 square feet, of which the Archives will fill about 48,000 square feet. The remaining space will be allocated to

the Technical Services Department of the Ottawa Public Library. Part of the new Archives space will be devoted to a Heritage Gateway of Ottawa Museum. This will allow the public to view interesting items that have, until now, languished in the Archives' vault. For example, during our tour of the vault, we saw some of the robes worn by mayors and City Council members (including famous mayor from the 50s Charlotte Whitton), old police uniforms, posters from old exhibits, and photographs. There are photos of weddings, car and train accidents, progress photos of buildings under construction, and extensive coverage of various royal visits. I'm already penciling in a visit to the new facility on our group's 2011 agenda! For more information on the City of Ottawa Archives and its partners' collections, visit www.ottawa.ca/residents/heritage/archives.

After our tour of the vault, several of us continued on to El Meson, a restaurant in the New Edinburgh neighbourhood close to the Archives, which justly claims to serve the best Spanish and Portuguese food in Ottawa (see www.elmeson.ca). A wonderful time was had by all! ■

Donate to Ex Libris

A tax-deductible donation or bequest helps us increase our activities.

Introducing the ELA Board of Directors

Many of you have met some of us during your careers. We welcome your contributions to *ELAN* or your suggestions for Ex Libris activities. You can contact any or all of us at the address on the last page of this issue.

EXECUTIVE

President Jan Jacobson: U of T '67; Reference Librarian, Science Library, University of Waterloo 1967-70; Agnes Etherington Art Centre Library (set-up) 1973-75; Kingston Public Library (Reference) 1975-78; St. Mary's of the Lake Hospital Library (set-up) and Charles Camsell Hospital Head Librarian, Edmonton 1979-81; Headquarters Librarian, Communications Canada, Ottawa 1983-86; Private Consultant 1986-89; Professor, Algonquin College, Library Technician Program, 1988-2006 (Co-ordinator, 1998-2006).

Vice President Carrol Lunau: U. of Alberta (BLS '76); U of T (MLS) '80; University of Western Ontario 1966-67; Carleton University Library 1967-74 & 1976-80; University of Saskatchewan Libraries 1980-83; Library and Archives Canada 1983-2006.

Past President Arn Bailey: UWO '71; Teacher-Librarian, East York Collegiate, East York Board of Education 1971-83, Head of Library 1983-91.

Recording and Correspondence

Secretary: Jean Weihs (also worked as Jean Northgrave and Jean Riddle): U of T '53; University of Toronto Library 1953-59; North York Public Library 1960-64; Scarborough Board secondary school library 1965-66; Ontario Institute for Studies in Education Library 1966; East York Board of

Education Technical Services 1967-69; Seneca College Library Techniques Program director 1969-86; consultant 1986-present.

Treasurer Doreen Sherman London: McGill '74; Champlain Regional College Library 1974-75; Metro Toronto Reference Library 1975-77; Seneca College Library 1977-2004.

Archivist Nancy Williamson: U of T '50, '64; Hamilton Public Library 1950-65; faculty, University of Toronto Faculty of Information 1965-present.

BOARD MEMBERS

Frances Davidson-Arnott: U of T '70 & '74; PhD Sheffield '93; Ontario Institute for Studies in Education Library 1970-72; Canadian Association in Support of Native People Library

ELA at OLA 2009

By Arn Bailey

ELA hosted two sessions at the 2009 Ontario Library Association Super Conference. The first, *Retire and Go Back to Work: Consulting and More*, was a panel discussion chaired by Frances Davidson-Arnott.

The first speaker, **Jean Weihs**, presented considerations before undertaking consulting work. First, your experience should be long and wide in different types of libraries and in professional organizations with their committee work and journals. Second, you should be tactful, attentive to all, and perceptive about peoples' motives – all combined with an integrity that does not submit to pressure and a general interest in working with people. Third you should also be able to handle money well. You'll need to set up the business, market yourself, survive dry spells, and do without benefits. Lastly, language skills are vital when drawing up contracts and writing reports.

Wendy Newman has had a career to match Jean's requirement for extensive and varied roles in libraries and committees. She reported that her skills were tested as President of the Canadian Library Association when CLA met



From left: Jean Weihs, Wendy Newman, Liz Kerr
Photo credit: F. Davidson-Arnott

jointly with ALA during the SARS scare in Toronto. After retirement in 2003, her passion for library advocacy became a proposal for such a course at the U of T's Faculty of Information, where she is currently Senior Fellow teaching this subject, one of the first of its type in a graduate library school. Wendy adapted the course for distance education. In all her undertakings, she has been steered by an ingrained wish for security that comes from a bank account, and experience. She has always wished to work with others and "to move the goalposts". Importantly, she has balanced her work and personal lives.

Liz Kerr, after an active career as a teacher-librarian and countless positions within professional organizations (primarily OLA, including its presidency in 2003), found new outlets for her talents. She is education director for

OLA, and her main responsibilities are the Super Conference and year-round communication with librarians about learning opportunities through the Education Institute. She maintains that the chief requirement for going back to work is a childlike wonder about one's situation and possibilities. "Creative intelligence" is the source of her continuing efforts and something she wants to foster in others. These three women were nothing if not inspiring for the audience.

In the second session, *Regional Libraries Come to Ontario*, **Lorne Bruce** discussed the genesis and development of regional library systems in Ontario from 1930 to the 1960s. These library systems, born in the early Library Institutes, grew to become today's active regional systems. Lorne noted that Lambton County developed

1973; Centennial College Library 1973-86; Seneca College Library & Information Technician Diploma Program co-ordinator 1986-2003.

Tom Eadie: UWO '72; Student library assistant Queen's & Western. Librarian, Information & Orientation, UBC 1972-74; Head, Reference & Collection Development, Waterloo 1974-87; University Librarian, Mount Allison 1987-92; Director of Libraries, Calgary 1992-97; University Librarian, Trent 1997-2006.

Bob Henderson: U of T '75; High school library assistant, Toronto Public Library page, U of T Scarborough clerk, 1965-75; International Tele-Films, 1975-76; Richmond Hill Public Library, 1976-86; Markham Public Library 1987-2007.

Norman Horrocks: Library education: Manchester 1948-50; Pittsburgh 1963-71. Work experience: Manchester Public Libraries 1943-45; 1948-54. British Army-Intelligence Corps 1945-48; British Council Library, Cyprus, 1954-56; State Library of Western Australia, Perth, 1956-63; Graduate School of Library & Information Science, Pittsburgh, 1963-71; School of Library & Information Studies, Dalhousie, 1971-86; Scarecrow Press, 1986-95; School of Information Management, Dalhousie, 1995-date; Scarecrow Press, consultant, 1995-present.

Beth (Johnson) McLean: UWO '70; National Library of Canada 1971-72; North York Public Library (until amalgamation of Toronto-area libraries) 1973-97; Toronto Public Library 1998-2004.

Peter Mutchler: MA (Librarianship) University of London '69; Fort William Public Library 1961-69; Thunder Bay Public Library 1970-76; Lecturer, Library Technician Course, Lakehead University 1966-68; St. Albert Public Library 1976-80; Alberta Energy and Natural Resources Library (later Alberta Energy, Forestry, Lands and Wildlife) 1981-89.

Elizabeth Warrenner (also worked as Mary Warrenner): U of T, '74; Etobicoke Public Library 1974-75; Toronto Public Library 1976-77; Etobicoke Public Library 1977-2001; Toronto Public Library 2001-02. ■

**2009 ANNUAL
CONFERENCE & AGM**
Mark Monday, November 2
on your calendar!



Lorne Bruce
Photo credit: F. Davidson-Arnott

Ontario's first regional library association in 1932 and that scarce resources contributed to formation of 12 library associations during the 1930s and 1940s.

The 1930s was also an active time for formation of regional libraries outside Ontario: in British Columbia's Fraser Valley; Nova Scotia and, in the late 1940s, in Saskatchewan. Lorne mentioned county libraries in the United States, particularly in Ohio, Maryland and California, and regional and rural area services in the United Kingdom.

Prince Edward Island passed the first provincial library act in 1935, but it was subsequently withdrawn. Ontario's public library act was passed in 1936.

Lorne ended his talk by stating that the regional library system in Ontario has been a great success, systematically delivering services and equalizing those services in all regions. ■

CODE at 50! Congratulations from ELA

By Gwynneth Evans

The Context

Most of us remember the 50s and 60s, when Canadians said "Yes we can", and bursts of euphoria rang from the citizens of new, independent states: Ghana in 1956, Senegal in 1958, Tanzania in 1961 and Belize in 1964.

Roby (J. R.) Kidd and others from the YMCA first met in 1959. They set up depots across Canada to select, sort, and ship books to schools, libraries, and universities across the developing world in response to the cries of Canadian teachers, who found almost no educational materials in the institutions they had travelled to serve. The idea took hold; before long there were committees of volunteers from Halifax to Vancouver. And packing and shipping companies and the services of the Canadian Forces joined the collective effort called Books for Developing Countries, then the Overseas Book Program (OBP), under the aegis of the Overseas Institute of Canada.

Partnerships

Partnerships have been an integral component of this program. New Canadian NGOs (CUSO) and older

ones (CTF), provincial education departments and federal government grants helped make the Overseas Book Program the largest book-sending agency in the world. In 1966, over 1 million books were shipped to 550 centres in 52 countries, arriving free of charge at the ports of entry. UNESCO has also been an important partner, both through the work of Canadians and its headquarters. In 1969, the Overseas Book Centre (OBC) was incorporated.

Travel, Training, and Readjustment

From the outset, the OBC leaders recognized the importance of visiting their partner institutions in the developing world. While they wished to meet the demands and support literacy and education for development, they recognized that countries and institutions had different needs, which changed over time as the local infrastructure for education developed. By the mid-70s, a project fund allowed organizations to apply. Increasingly, annual reports spoke of self-sufficiency and an emphasis on work-oriented literacy and education programming, health and preventive medicine, and

technical training.

Shipments not only consisted of books, both used and new, but also educational materials and support for local printing and publishing: paper, typewriters, duplicating machines, etc. OBC shifted emphasis towards the poorest of nations and their rural parts. By 1974/75, the OBC was charging other organizations \$15 per book to ship their donations.

New Directions for the 80s

In 1977 William Teager, the first OBC director, retired after 10 years. He had moved OBC from 250 recipients to over 1,000 and the Project Fund from \$10,000 to \$100,000. CIDA was involved. Robert Dyck from CUSO became the new national director.

In many ways, CODE's history is decadal. For the next 10 years, OBC, which changed its name to Canadian Organization for Development through Education (CODE) in 1983, diversified its programs. The core set of services mentioned above continued, but change was in the air. UNESCO and CODE supported a twinning program between northern and southern schools. CODE's first regional office opened for East Africa in Dar es Salaam, the second in Bamako, West Africa. A Canadian worked with local staff to explore partnerships at the local and regional levels. CODE was recognized by UNESCO not only for its provision of books and paper, but also its spirit of co-operation and respect for participating countries, its initiative and imagination in "converting donations and volunteer services into effective support". Now CODE was better known in the developing world than in Canada, where many of the book depots had closed.

By the mid-80s, Africa was experiencing its second decade of independence; many countries were in difficulty or in recovery. Literacy was not only the formal ability to read and write but the capacity to use information for personal and community development. The importance of women and girls in their societies and the need to support their literacy were highlighted; materials in mother tongues were funded and training for local publishing (beyond the textbook industry) and community libraries provided. In 1987,

for example, about 30 associations in 21 nations received a total of \$440,871 in grants for basic education materials for adults and children. In that same year, CODE hosted a meeting of five book-donation agencies in Canada. The goals of learning from experience and creating a network led to the acquisition of the International Book Bank (IBB) in Baltimore, USA and eventually to a meeting of 95 donors and recipients from 43 countries in 1992. The proceedings, *Donated Book Programs: A Dialogue of Partners Handbook*, were published by the Center for the Book at LC in 1993. By then, CODE focussed on 17 core countries, mostly in Africa, while new books from publishers were shipped to 20 countries, 10 of them in Africa. Canadian teachers and students had been invited to support CODE's partners by sending classroom kits on St. Valentine's Day to schools in Africa and the Caribbean through the program Project Love, which celebrated its 20th year in 2008.



The 90s

CODE's newsletter *Ngoma* and the annual reports reveal both expansion and contraction in this decade. CODE opened offices in Europe and Japan to harness the association of like-minded agencies in book donations, local publishing and fundraising. CODE's funding from CIDA was reduced in the economic downturn, and accountability through monitoring and evaluation emerged as a critical issue. CODE set up a private company, CODE Incorporated, to raise money for its core programs and the CODE Foundation, to establish long-term financial sustainability and to decrease its dependence on CIDA. These latter associates, with IBB, continue to make up the CODE family. The regional offices were closed in 1995 and replaced by national partners, while CODE reduced the number of active

country partners. The key words were diversification, decentralization, results-oriented programming, partnerships, and communication. To achieve these goals, training was necessary, and workshops were held on the various topics, hosted by a partner. New technologies also played a role in local publishing and such initiatives as the multi-country development of *The Visual Dictionary*, which could be printed in local languages.

The Last 10 Years

Consolidation and realignment were the hallmarks of Yvonne Appiah, Executive Director from 1999 to 2007. CODE's mission did not change, but it was carried out within the context of globalization, the convergence of technologies, and the country fluctuations of its long-term partners. Innovation has been the key to international recognition of certain CODE-led programs: the Tanzania Children's Book Program and the work of Mozambique's Associação Progresso, for example, have received UNESCO's International Literacy Award.

Scott Walter, a former WUSC and CODE employee with experience at the International Reading Association (IRA) and CIDA, became Executive Director in August 2007. He is reinforcing the power of partnerships in training for local publishing and the development of reading, and is working in countries rebuilding after civil war.

Ex Libris Connections

Several of our members have been closely associated with CODE in its early committees and on the Board. CODE plays a vital role in supporting literacy and education for development and will likely celebrate its 75th in style! Please visit www.codecan.org. ■

When You Move

Please remember to send your new address to:

Ex Libris Association
Faculty of Information
University of Toronto
140 St. George Street,
Toronto, Ontario M5S 3G6

David Weinberger Packs Bertha Bassam Lecture

By Kathleen O'Brien

Best-selling author and Internet marketing expert Dr. David Weinberger (www.hyperorg.com/blogger) delivered a fascinating talk to a packed house at the Faculty of Information, University of Toronto, as the Bertha Bassam Lecturer on October 23, 2008. The series honours Bertha Bassam (Director, Faculty of Information, 1951-64) and coincidentally happened the same year as the iSchool's 80th Anniversary celebrations.

Dr. Weinberger discussed the tremendous changes effected by the

digital age and offered some candid reflections on education, corporate heed, and the future of librarians.

Titled *Knowledge at the End of the Information Age*, his talk focused on the age of the hyperlink, and how society is confronting the fact that the nature of knowledge has been silently shaped by the limitations of its physical means of communication and preservation. He said the new knowledge is social, dependent on metadata, and far less settled. As a result, he contended,

this movement is transforming the institutions that have relied on an older sense of authority, unsettling the foundations of our culture – for better and for worse.

If you weren't able to attend, you can view the video at http://epresence.ischool.utoronto.ca/website_archived.aspx?c=1&dir=35. ■

Kathleen O'Brien is Communications and Development Officer at the Faculty of Information, University of Toronto.



Photo credit: F. Davidson-Arnott

Ex Libris Tour of Osgoode Hall Great Library

By Nancy Kellett

On November 7, 2008, 20 Ex Libris members were treated to a tour of one of the treasures of Toronto architecture, the Great Library at Osgoode Hall.

After assembling in the leafy grounds on a beautiful sunny autumn day, we proceeded into Osgoode Hall and up the magnificent staircase to the Great Library. Led by our two entertaining and informative guides, librarians Theresa Roth and Jeanette Bosschart, we visited the many rooms and collections and were given an insiders' look at this most interesting law library.

Established originally to serve the Law Society of Upper Canada in the mid-19th century, the Great Library remains a resource for lawyers and others in law-related professions. Described by some as one of the most beautiful libraries in the world, it contains a huge array of materials and, although privately funded through lawyers' fees, is open to the public during business hours.

We began our tour in the stately Reference Room, which started life as a Queen's Bench Courtroom in 1842. With its huge domed ceiling, original light fixtures, and former judges'

chambers and waiting rooms now converted to reference offices, it is still a grand space. Librarians here maintain a traditional reference desk, serving lawyers, law students, judges, paralegals, and clerks.

The Periodicals Room, built as a courtroom in the 1840s, the Textbook Room, and the historic Vault Room are all still heavily used, and contain a wide breadth of legal information, from early British materials to current loose-leaf textbooks.

The main Reading Room, dating from 1832, is a magnificent example of classical architecture, its majestic floor-to-ceiling etched glass windows flooding the room with natural light. The many decorative features, including the huge ornamental fireplace, the 1920s cork flooring, the distinguished portraits lining the walls, and the two splendid brass-railed galleries, provide an august setting for its extensive collection of laws, statutes, case reports, etc.

One of the highlights of the Library is the American Room, its iconic black wrought iron spiral staircase leading to an impressive book-lined mezzanine,

topped by an enormous skylight. The historical nature of the room is balanced by an addition, a computer classroom for instruction and research.

Our final stop on the tour was the elegant and spacious restaurant, where we enjoyed a wonderful lunch prepared by chef Jean-Michel Gron.

Although the Great Library was fascinating, what impressed us as librarians was how the staff have met the very real challenges of providing professional and up-to-date library services in such historic surroundings. We were treated to a number of amusing anecdotes about leaking pipes and skylights, rampaging squirrels, etc., demonstrating that the limitations of working inside a heritage property are significant. Not daunted by such trifles, library staff continue their tradition of excellent service to the legal profession, as they modify and adapt the old to handle the new. We thank the librarians of Osgoode Hall's Great Library for giving us such an enlightening tour. ■

Nancy Kellett is president of Friends of Toronto Public Library.

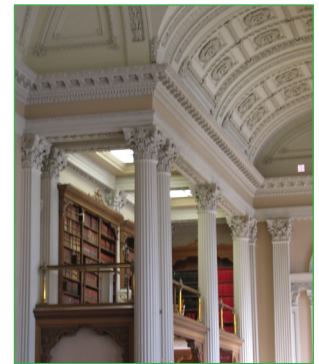


Photo credit: F. Davidson-Arnott

ELA's Advice to Students

By Arn Bailey

The Ex Libris Association, in partnership with the University of Toronto's Faculty of Information Alumni Association (UTFIAA), hosted an iTea, now an annual event for the faculty's students. Frances Davidson-Arnott chaired a panel on the topic of Membership in Professional Associations. On the panel were Robyn Stockand, Co-ordinator of Corporate Library at National Bank Financial; Clair Lysnes, Portal Manager of PwC Knowledge Management Group; Virginia Van Vliet, Library Service Manager, Toronto Public Library, and Tom Eadie, retired chief librarian at Trent University.

Robyn Stockand joined a professional organization as a student on the advice of a professor. She wanted to have a voice in setting the standards she would be using. She admitted that it can be difficult to become involved in a large organization, but expressing one's willingness to contribute can lead to information and direction. Robyn saw herself as one of the 20% of organization members who do 80% of the work, and members responded by asking her to take on responsibilities. Even difficult tasks, such as budgeting, are made easier

by a safe and supportive environment. Not only did the organization gain from Robyn's involvement, but she gained, too, by improving and increasing her skills.

Claire Lysnes has found involvement in organizations a valuable way of giving back what her education gave her. As a member of UTFIAA and its current president, she maintains a connection to the Faculty. Within this large organization Claire found she could move from one interest group to another. But, before saying yes to a position, she advised asking about the likely time commitment.

Virginia Van Vliet said that organizational membership is important early in one's career. You can learn (or even "steal") approaches and ideas. You can network and become known. It's helpful to move into a milieu wider than your job. Offer whatever help is needed, whether the task is small or large. Virginia suggested going to annual meetings, because the key people are there. By being active in organizations, your employer is more likely to give you time to attend conferences than a colleague who just wants to attend. Although your employer may pay your time and expenses, do not expect this. Memberships and conferences are worth

your own donation of money and time. Free membership may be available for students or volunteers at conferences.

Tom Eadie joined a faculty association when he learned that remuneration was lower at one institution than at another. He saw it as the way to change this situation even if the effort was frustrating. Tom suggested looking through your collective agreement to find out whether you can claim expenses on professional organizations.

From the floor came other ideas for involvement in organizations. Joyce Sowby suggested seeking a small interest group in a large organization. Harry Campbell recommended going international, through ALA and IFLA, to realize the power of large numbers in our profession. Peter Hajnal noted that relationships formed in an organization can last into retirement and that associations not exclusively for librarians can be helpful, too. Jean Orpwood said that, if the responsibility you accept becomes too onerous, you can learn how to delegate authority.

Such good ideas and tasty food – a rewarding session organized by Judy Dunn, Frances Davidson-Arnott, Bob Henderson, Doreen London, and Liz and John Warrener. ■



From left:
Robyn Stockand, Claire Lysnes,
Virginia Van Vliet, Tom Eadie.

Photo credit: Doreen London

Biography Project – Progress but You Can Help

By Nancy Williamson, Committee chair

The Biography Project is gaining some momentum. We have recently recruited three new and enthusiastic members for our Committee. One of them, Carrol Lunau, is examining the biography files at Library and Archives Canada to identify data that might be useful in our searches. We now have a partial list of early university and public librarians from across Canada, and we would like to be able to add these to the database. As Ex Libris members, you may be able to help us with these or know of

someone else who could help.

We are looking to add to the database such university librarians as Dean Halliwell (Victoria), John Riddington (UBC), David Baird (Simon Fraser), Eugenie Archibald (Alberta), Sydney Harland (Regina), and Frank Nuttal (Manitoba) as well as such public librarians as Alexander Calhoun (Calgary Public), Heather-Belle Dowling (née Singer) (Edmonton), Fred McIntosh (Lakehead), and many more.

Can you help us with these or other

important librarians in our history? Shortly, you will see some examples of our renewed efforts in the addition to the database of such profiles as Sherrill Cheda, Katharine Ball, Nora Bateson, Ethel Auster, Effie Asbury, Shirley Elliott, Katherine Packer, Anne Hart, and Margaret Beckman.

If you can help in any way, with new additions or information that will add to or improve on the database, please get in touch with Nancy Williamson (nancy.williamson@utoronto.ca). ■

TPL's Evelyn Gregory Branch Celebrates its 40th – Recreates a 1960s Coffee House

By Helen Flint and Grace Andrews

On February 16, 2008 the Evelyn Gregory Branch of the Toronto Public Library celebrated the 40th anniversary of its opening. Music from the 60s played throughout the day, and hippies impersonated staff. Customers were encouraged to share their memories of the time.

In the afternoon, nearly 100 guests and performers enjoyed a nostalgic coffee house. Manager Fabienne Fox cut the birthday cake, and long-time customers and staff remembered former chief librarian Evelyn Gregory, while reminiscing about the library as it used to be. Customers were entertained by local musicians and dancers.

The library was built by the former York Township/Borough of York in 1968 and named after the city's chief librarian. In 1945 Evelyn Gregory was the first librarian to be hired by York and remained its chief librarian until her retirement in 1969. While no one who had actually worked with Miss Gregory



From left:
Helen Flint, Branch Head, and
Fabienne Fox, Library Services Manager.

Photo credit: Sam Pizzirusso

was able to attend our celebration, Silvi Marriott and Margaret Dyke sent warm wishes and their memories.

Those who remember Miss Gregory tell of a kind and gracious lady who led by example. The word "gracious" is mentioned many times, both by the people we spoke to and in the few newspaper clippings we have about her. In fact, Peggy Dyke likened her to Queen Elizabeth in manner and style.

Silvi Marriott recalls that Miss Gregory gave her a job straight out of library school. She lived near Miss Gregory for a time; whenever the weather was bad, Miss Gregory would call and offer her a ride. She would invite staff for dinner or for tea and cakes. She loved red shoes and wore them often. She had a sense of humour and a quick wit. It is a shame that we do not know more about this exemplary librarian and manager. ■

Knowledge Ontario Update: Databases, Digitization, and Bridging the Digital Divide

By Louise Slobodian

Connect, Discover, Learn ... digitally. Knowledge Ontario's five projects continue to push ahead to inspire, inform and involve.

In January, the second Ontario-wide negotiation for a common, core suite of databases was completed. All the new products are now available to public, school, university, college, and government libraries. The strategy of the Resource Ontario committee, which negotiated the licenses, was to widen the offerings to provide something for every Ontarian, at every stage of life. Teen Health and Wellness, Auto Repair Reference Centre, Career Cruising (which was already in the schools), and Canadian Points of View Reference Centre are just some of the acquisitions sure to be popular. There's also access to a terrific set of French-language current affairs resources and an additional 20 Ontario newspapers.

So how do libraries seize every opportunity to introduce these new databases to their populations?

Knowledge Ontario is working closely with each database vendor to tailor materials aimed at every kind of library client, from those who come in often to those who aren't aware they can access materials from home, work, and school.

A district-hub model is being introduced to the Ask Ontario online-chat reference help services askON and ONdemande, to allow smaller northern libraries to participate when they wouldn't otherwise have enough staff resources. Knowledge Ontario's services all aim to bridge the digital divide that can isolate rural, northern, remote, francophone, and Aboriginal communities. Ottawa Public Library joined in January, making for 23 public libraries involved and increasing the amount of French-language service available to roughly 30 hours a week.

Here's a running look at the other three projects: LearnON's first pilot project is underway, supporting teachers to build digital literacy and evaluating the Atomic Learning tools

for use in Ontario. Phase 2 begins in September, and more than 27 school boards have already expressed interest. Connect Ontario is working with BiblioCommons to see 12 to 15 public libraries become early adopters of their new discovery layer OPAC, which Oakville is already running with great success. And Our Ontario's work of making digital collections easy to create, display, search, and access continues to thrive. It is also partnering with SOLS and OLSN, as part of the \$15 million fund from the Ministry of Culture, to create a project to help libraries digitize important collections and a pilot project to create a First Nations repository centre, using Our Ontario to collect records and archives.

Our revamped website (www.knowledgeontario.ca) will be launched in early May and promises to be a rich source of information, tools, videos – and tips to become techno savvy. Visit us now and watch the transformation! ■



Retired Librarians in Quebec

By Pierre Guilmette

The trend towards retirement among librarians in Quebec has become evident during the last two decades. This growth in the number of retirees has been reflected in the professional association. ASTED (Association pour l'avancement des sciences et des techniques de la documentation) started a column in 2003, *Nos retraités* (Our Retirees) in its quarterly review, *Documentation et bibliothèques* available at www.asted.org.

This column was first proposed by Gaston Bernier, a retired librarian from the Quebec National Assembly. Eight librarians agreed to participate in the series between 2003 and 2008. Each of the articles presents an interview in which the librarians summarize their careers by answering general questions, such as:

- You had a long career in the information world. Tell us about the positions that you held.

Which achievements are you most proud of? How do you compare the context and means at your disposal at the start of your career to today's reality?

- You were active within professional associations. Tell us about the role of these associations in the development of the profession. What are your perceptions regarding the current evolution in work (digitization, networking, etc.)? How do you perceive the future of the world of librarianship? Which convictions or ideas excited you throughout your professional work? Are there models that inspired you and that you would recommend to those who are taking over? And retirement?

Eight librarians participated in this series: Denis Simard (49, 1, January March 2003), Jean-Jacques Leblanc (49, 3, July September 2003), Jean-

Rémi Brault (50, 3, July September 2004), Réjean Olivier (50, 4, October December 2004), Pierre Guilmette (52, 4, October December 2006), Gilles Caron (53, 4, October December 2007), Gilbert Lefebvre (54, 1, January March 2008), and My Loan Duong (54, 3, July September 2008). In addition, Jean-Rémi Brault published a memoir, *Regard sur l'évolution des bibliothèques québécoises : récit d'un itinéraire professionnel* (Montréal, Les Éditions ASTED, 2004, 282 pages).

The content of these articles illuminates the recent history of library science in Quebec. These retired librarians share with readers their interesting professional experiences and perspectives. We see in this series a diversity of opinion on, and sensitivity to, controversial questions. Points of view on, for example, the evolution of libraries in the digital age are not the same across the board. ■

Pierre Guilmette is ELAN's new Quebec columnist. Bienvenue Pierre!

Why I Became a Librarian

By Nancy Kellett

This year marks the 20th anniversary of the sudden and untimely death of my sister, Wendy Patrick, a senior librarian at McGill University. In thinking about why I became a librarian, I knew that my answer would have to be Wendy.

As the eldest of four sisters, Wendy often paved the way for the rest of us and, having discovered the joys of library school, began her campaign to convince me to follow her lead. I'll admit I needed some convincing.

Through her enthusiasm and genuine excitement about the various library jobs she undertook, Wendy turned my perception of librarianship on its head. She insisted that this was indeed the perfect profession, full of endless possibilities and unimagined scope. We need librarians, she stressed, and good ones, to open up information to everyone and get people thinking about the tremendous intellectual resources that librarians could help them understand and take advantage of.

Throughout her career at McGill, Wendy held many positions, including Botany/Genetics Librarian; Head of Reference and Head of Public Services, Medical Library; Special Projects Librarian, Director's Office; and, finally, Nursing/Social Work Librarian. At the time of her death, she was on sabbatical leave from this last position and excited about her plan to establish a health information network, an innovative project to serve nurses, patients, their families, and the public. Before the magic of the Internet, this was an ambitious, challenging undertaking, and Wendy had just done extensive work to obtain funding, to implement the plans she had carefully laid.

Wendy loved being a librarian. She relished her professional involvement in both the university and the larger community, serving on boards of directors and countless committees. Although her professional accomplishments were recognized and respected by her colleagues

and friends, these are not the only reasons her death at 43 was such a tragedy. To quote from the *QLA Bulletin* (of which she had just become editor when she died): "Wendy had the kind of vision which made her stand out among fellow librarians ... She enriched the library community immeasurably with her ideas and contributions. She had that rare ability to touch the lives of those around her and those who worked with her."

Although the Nursing/Social Work Library at McGill is closed, the Wendy Patrick Reading Room remains open, and her portrait hangs over the fireplace.

Time passes, and many of those who worked with Wendy, or knew her, have retired and moved on. Her memory may have faded, but I felt I owed it to Wendy to mark this anniversary in a special way. I think she would have approved. ■

Nancy Kellett became a librarian, and so did her youngest sister Susan Patrick, who is a senior librarian at Ryerson University.



The Public Library and Staff Changes

By Al Bowron

I remember how intimidated I was by the head librarian of the Hamilton Public Library. I've forgotten her name, but she certainly had a dampening presence on me as a child when I was devouring G. A. Henty, Lewis Carroll, *The Adventures of Tom Swift*, or any books about ships and sailing. Silence and rules of behaviour were enforced. Her presence was all that was required. The assumption by staff and users at that time (before the 1939-45 conflict) was that libraries should be places of silence and orderly behaviour, with a staff to match. Now the click of computers, hustle and bustle, conversation, and even music are normal.

I could speculate that the advent of more male librarians after the war and beyond was responsible for better salaries and a gradual change to a more relaxed atmosphere in all types of libraries; however, that would be untrue and somewhat sexist. The real answer is more complex.

In my view, it was broad social changes that did the deed. An increase in population, technical development, prosperity, larger government grants, and improved library organizations all served to bring public libraries

into the mainstream of modern social institutions. The days of the plain, poverty-stricken public library gradually ended.

In the "good old days", meager salaries, low municipal appropriations, and provincial grants were gradually improved. Library boards reflected these changes and became more progressive.

Up until the 40s and 50s, women working in public libraries were exploited. Salaries were low, reflecting the status of institutions employing mainly women in the community. These dedicated women in many cases fit the stereotype that exists today. Unmarried, plain, hair in a bun, corrective shoes. With prosperity and improved salaries in the 50s and beyond came a flood of younger men and women seeking a new profession. The library profession became attractive to a wider demographic.

In 1948-49, my year at the U of T School of Librarianship, there were eight men in a class of 52. The change had begun. The administration, not yet in line with the more liberal trend, required us to sit in alphabetical order. It was my pleasure to sit beside Margaret Beckman (Armstrong). The King Cole Room of the Park Plaza Hotel provided

after-class relief for some of us.

The increase of male staff after the war was the result also of the general increase of graduates in all fields seeking work and the growing attractiveness of librarianship as a profession for both men and women. In addition, urban expansion required more library buildings. Many of the book temples donated by Carnegie became inadequate. New central and branch libraries, designed by architects, appeared in cities and towns across Canada.

When Charles Brisbin was appointed as the first-ever male head of the Hamilton Public Library, he became the victim of discrimination. There was no washroom in the building for male staff. When nature called, poor Charlie had to leave his office to use the facilities of the gas station across the road until a men's washroom was installed.

When I retired in 1992 after 43 years in this fascinating profession, I realized that change was the chief characteristic of my time. The progress of the Information Age altered the use, resources and importance of the public library. This process will continue. The male and female staff will have major challenges to overcome, but free access to ideas, literature, and information must survive. ■

A Brief History of Canadian Library Technician Associations: Part 3

By Douglas Willford

The past two issues of *ELAN* contained the brief histories of the British Columbia Library Association Library Technicians and Assistants Interest Group, the Alberta Library Technician Association, the Saskatchewan Association of Library Technicians, the Manitoba Association of Library Technicians and the Nova Scotia Association of Library Technicians.

This concludes the series with the history of the remaining association, the Ontario Association of Library Technicians/Association des bibliothécaires de l'Ontario. As stated in the previous articles, in some instances material has been copied from the associations' websites, with permission.

Ontario Association of Library Technicians/Association des bibliothécaires de l'Ontario (OALT/ABO)

The Early Years to 1974

The beginnings of OALT/ABO can be traced back to a workshop held at Lakehead University in Thunder Bay, Ontario on May 8-9, 1970, entitled *The Library Technician At Work: Theory & Practice*. This workshop was coordinated through the work of graduate library technicians and the School of Library Technology at Lakehead and sponsored by the Canadian Library Association.

As a result of the 1970 workshop the Canadian Library Technician Association (CLTA) was formed in

Thunder Bay, Ontario in June 1972. The president was Charlotte Elwert, who worked as a lab assistant in the School of Library Technology. Charlotte was a very dynamic individual who fought very hard for the survival of CLTA. Unfortunately, CLTA survived for about two years and then was forced to fold due to the following factors: they tried to undertake too much at one time (bit off more than they could chew); the membership was primarily based in Ontario; lack of funds; and other provincial associations were beginning to form that catered to their own members. CLTA did produce about two or three newsletters, some of which are housed in the provincial archives.

A seminar entitled *Where We Are Going and Why*, sponsored by the

Provincial Consultative Committee on Library Technician Training (PCCLTT), was held at Queen's Park on May 9-10, 1973. This seminar was chaired by a very dynamic individual named Vic Whatton, who served as secretary of the PCCLTT. One of the strong overriding messages that emerged as a result of this seminar was that library technicians must organize themselves into an association.

A meeting of approximately 25 to 30 graduate library technicians and a profession advisor (Dan Sudar, Director, School of Library Technology, Lakehead University) met at Humber College on October 26, 1973, to discuss the idea of forming a strong provincial association. OALT/ABO's interim elected executive consisted of Douglas Willford, President; Micheline Overall, Secretary-Treasurer; and Charlotte Elwert, Programming and Publicity. Two major objectives were established at this initial meeting: drafting a constitution and organizing a conference.

Shortly after this meeting five regional chapters emerged consisting of Lakehead Library Technicians Association (Thunder Bay), Northern Library Technicians Association (Schreiber), Ottawa Regional Branch (Ottawa), South Central Library Technicians Association (Hamilton), and Toronto Regional Library Technicians Association (Toronto).

A meeting was held in Ottawa on February 23, 1974 to bring together ideas and begin drafting the constitution, which was to be presented at the first conference, to be held at the Leslie Campus of Seneca College in Toronto on October 18-20, 1974.

Another brainstorming session to deal with the constitution and the drafting of two resolutions – the Committee on Qualifications and Certification and the Membership Committee – was held in Schreiber, Ontario, in July 1974. Also, planning for the first conference was well underway by the planning committee.

OALT/ABO's first conference, called Impact '74, was held on October 18-20, 1974 at the Leslie Campus of Seneca College in Toronto, with approximately 175 delegates in attendance. At this conference the association was formally founded with the passing of the

constitution. Also the two resolutions, Committee on Qualifications and Certification and the Membership Committee, were approved and passed. Two more regional chapters were announced, located in Sudbury and London. A new executive was elected consisting of President Eleanor Miller (Ottawa), Past President Douglas Willford (Toronto), Secretary-Treasurer Campbell Leckie (Hamilton), and Planning and Publicity chair Barbara Sibley (Oakville).

Ottawa Regional Branch announced that they would be hosting the second annual conference, to be called Information – The Name of the Game.

Post-1974 (from an article written by Janet Scheibler, January 1993)

By 1975, there were eight regional branches: Hamilton Regional Branch, Lakehead Regional Branch, London Regional Branch, Niagara Regional Branch, Northern Regional Branch, Ottawa Regional Branch/Section regionale d'Ottawa, Sudbury Regional Branch, and Toronto Area Library Technicians Association. Halton-Peel Regional Branch was formed in 1976 and Huronia in 1979. London Regional Branch suspended operations in 1981, to be reborn again as LOHANIA Regional Branch in 1983. This new region incorporated the former regions of London, Hamilton, and Niagara. Also, Northern Regional Branch was incorporated into the Sudbury Regional Branch.

February 1, 1979 was a landmark day, when we received the Letter Patent officially incorporating the association.

In or about 1980 a committee, under Betty Choquette (Gore) and Paulette Burton, produced a document entitled *A Proposal For Change*, which looked at revamping the organization of OALT/

ABO. Although well written and researched, the document did not go far.

In 1983, OALT/ABO celebrated 10 years as an association with a conference in Sudbury, with the theme Decade 1. In 1993, in celebration of the 20th year, the conference was held in Ottawa with the theme Reflections.

In May of 2003 a revised constitution was presented and approved at the annual conference. The main significance of this revised constitution was a change in both the executive structure and in the make-up, from regions to chapters. As a result new chapters have come on board (Book Chapter and School Chapter) but, at the same time, some of the former regions have folded: Huronia, LOHANIA and Sudbury. At the writing of this article, the Halton-Peel Region is undergoing a review. With the new chapter structure, perhaps a morphing process will evolve to continue where the former regions have left off.

Our accomplishments are many: every year OALT/ABO hosts a successful conference, our membership is constant, we are and have been since our inception officially bilingual, we have produced many publications by and about library technicians, our salary surveys are becoming a tool used by employees and employers alike to establish fair remuneration packages, our Constitution and Policy Statements on Standards and Certification are regularly being updated, and we have sponsored essay contests and established Presidential and Innovative Awards that are presented annually at the conference.

Our future looks bright. We need the ongoing support of dedicated individuals such as those first 25 to 30 technicians who saw the need for an organization that can foster and promote the skills and ideals of library technicians. Visit the website at www.oaltabo.on.ca. ■

Write for ELAN

We welcome contributions from our members. 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.

Volunteering in the Third World: An Interview with Betty Harris

Conducted by Frances Davidson-Arnott

Q. When did you first start doing volunteer work in libraries, and what prompted you?

A. Before I was old enough to go to school, my mother, who was a librarian, was a volunteer in a community library in Northern Rhodesia (now Zambia). I used to help her glue pockets into books, so I guess you could say I started 70 years ago! But the latest iteration was when my husband, Robert, and I retired in 1998 and decided we would offer our services to any overseas libraries that could use our experience.

Q. What organizations have you been working for, and how did you get to know about them?

A. When my parents retired many years ago, they volunteered around the world with CESO (Canadian Executive Services Organization, an NGO that provides volunteer assistance to developing countries and aboriginal communities in Canada) for about 20 years, so it was natural that we registered with them. And, as Robert is a member of Rotary International which funds projects all over the world, it made sense to also register with them. As well, we've done two projects that came about through fortuitous personal contacts and didn't involve either funding organization.

Q. What countries have you been to, and what types of libraries have you worked at in those countries?

A. Guyana, Haiti, Hawaii, Honduras, India, Lithuania, and the Philippines – some of them two and three times. The libraries have been in government departments, such as Fisheries and an Agricultural Research Institute, hospitals and medical schools, universities, and churches.

Q. Have all of the projects been automation oriented, or what sort of projects have you done?

A. No, they haven't all been automation projects, although many of them were, or started out as that but expanded to include many other aspects of library work. We've also helped start a library from scratch (with shelves made from cattle grating that tore the skin off human fingers and the bindings off books and a total collection of

moldy, 30-year-old, Canadian fisheries journals); advised on organization and work flow; tried to teach people with no library background how to catalogue, etc., etc.

Because Robert is a computer systems consultant as well as a librarian, we sometimes get assignments which are not library related at all. So we've also done projects such as automating a hospital administration and automating a bakery's accounting and inventory-control operations.

We have an ongoing commitment in Haiti, where Robert goes twice each year, to an organization which runs a census-based, public-health project involving over 200,000 families.

Q. I understand that the usual routine is that the host organization puts you up. What is the variation in the accommodation you've had? How challenging can they be?

A. The system varies. CESO, for instance, requires that the client provide volunteers with basic accommodation and food. This can be anything from a nice hotel room with dining room to a room in the client's own house, or an apartment in which we cooked our own meals. In some countries where they have many volunteers on a regular basis, CESO runs its own boarding houses. But CESO controls the whole assignment, arranges flights and accommodation and monitors conditions and results.

Rotary, on the other hand, only maintains databases of volunteers and clients wanting help so that they can find each other, then funds any projects which meet their criteria. It is left to the volunteers and clients to negotiate what help, if any, is given and what the living and food conditions will be like.

We have experienced everything from extremely comfortable quarters with excellent food down to living, eating (really awful food but the best they could provide), and sleeping all in one room in a hospital – which we were not allowed to step out of because of the danger of terrorists shooting us. They did take us to a nice hotel on the weekends – to and from which we travelled by ambulance!



Photo credit: F. Davidson-Arnott

In India we suffered through 43-degree heat with no air conditioning at work or at home. In Lithuania we suffered through extremely cold weather and lived surrounded by wet laundry for nine weeks, because there was nowhere to dry it except in the living room.

Q. Have all of the libraries been keen to have your help, or has there been some reluctance to accept the help of someone from the "developed" world?

A. Early on, we spent eight weeks in very uncomfortable conditions wondering why we just couldn't seem to accomplish anything. It turned out that the library staff had been ordered by the chief librarian not to co-operate with us, because we had been invited over his head. Since then, we have been very careful to establish contact with the people we will actually work with before we accept an assignment. In most cases the people have asked for the help and are delighted that we have come. We've never met any animosity just because of being from the developed world.

Q. What training have the staffs of the various libraries had?

A. That varies immensely from library to library and from country to country. In some of the government libraries, for instance, there was no one with any library training at all. At the other end, there were very large staffs of librarians with masters' and PhDs but who had no practical experience of library work and considered standard library tasks beneath them. In some countries the degrees mean nothing and/or can be bought by anyone with the money. In other countries, librarians were "certificated" by some process we never could figure out, but a university library would pay a certificated person, who knew nothing useful, as a figurehead, while excellent and well-trained librarians did the actual work and got half the salary. Very few of the library staff, particularly the ones with library degrees, have any concept of being there

to serve users.

Q. Have you been able to achieve all of your goals, or some of your goals, in these various projects?

A. We were well taught in our original briefing before our first assignment with CESO not to have unrealistic goals. Developing countries are overwhelmingly process oriented, not results oriented. (It doesn't matter if that filing cabinet is so rusty it can't be opened. It was bought from the director's cousin, and we would never dream of complaining. Surface friendliness is much more important than actually accomplishing anything.) It's hopeless to imagine that you are going to turn their libraries into efficient organizations, particularly on a short-

term assignment. The best you can hope for is that a seed might be planted which will bear fruit 20 or 30 years from now. The junior clerk today may, possibly, become the prime minister in the future and remember your help.

Our goals are modest. To do what we can to improve service to users in these libraries and to help train the workers if they show any signs of wanting to learn. And enough of them have been eager to make it seem worthwhile to us.

Q. What personal benefit to you is there in doing this sort of volunteer work, both practical and emotional?

A. The practical benefit is being able to travel and get to know other countries, particularly ones you wouldn't normally visit on a holiday. Emotionally,

it has enriched our lives – even in the most difficult conditions life is full of interest and adventure. We've met wonderful people who remain good friends. And it's satisfying to feel you're helping – however little it may be – and usually it's very much appreciated. ■

W. E. (Betty) Harris retired in 1998 from her 25-year position as founding Director of Libraries at the University College of the Fraser Valley in B.C. Before that she worked at Queen's University, Algonquin College and the National Library of Canada. She lives in White Rock, B.C. with her husband, Robert, who was head of circulation at UBC Library, then chief librarian of BCIT before starting his own computer-systems-consulting business.

Culinary Archives and Books at the University of Guelph

By Lorne Bruce

The University of Guelph Library's Culinary Collections, located in Archival and Special Collections of the McLaughlin Library, feature an impressive variety of books as well as some manuscript materials. The entire holdings number almost 6,000 volumes, some of which date as far back as the 17th century. At present, there are four major sections: the Una Abrahamson Collection, the Helen Gagen Collection, the Edna Staebler Collection, and the Canadian Cookbook Collection. These collections include publications from many countries and highlight the development of cookery in Canada and around the world. They have proved to be a valuable historical and sociological resource for understanding food habits, nutritional ideas, medical remedies, social customs, and scientific and technological progress. They are also a delight for book lovers who have their own favourite cookbooks.

A website is available for everyone to examine some of the features of Guelph's culinary holdings (www.lib.uoguelph.ca/resources/archives/culinary). You can visit the University of Guelph Library in person; it is not necessary to be a student or staff member to use the culinary collections. All you need is personal identification.

University of Guelph Library has spe-

cialized in food and culinary collections for many years. In the early 20th century, the Library supported the Macdonald Institute's interest in home management and cuisine, but books for the Canadian Cookbook Collection officially became part of the Library's holdings in 1993. Over the past 15 years, many items and new collections have been generously donated by individuals interested in the preservation of Canada's culinary past. More recently, to heighten interest in Canadian books, the Canadian Culinary Book Awards were established, in conjunction with Cuisine Canada, to recognize excellence and creativity in food and beverage writing and publishing, while at the same time promoting our unique Canadian culinary food culture.

The Canadian Cookbook Collection is a general one for cookbooks of imprints used by Canadians and currently consists of about 2,000 cookbooks. The Una Abrahamson Collection of cookery books and social histories ranges from the 17th to 20th centuries, and it includes more than 2,800 recipe books as well as never-published manuscripts. The Edna Staebler Collection includes magazine articles, correspondence, diaries, travel journals, research material, personal photographs, numerous newspaper clippings, galleys, publicity and promotional materials, books, posters, and

manuscripts written by Edna Staebler. Staebler's literary papers include correspondence with friends such as Pierre Berton and W. O. Mitchell. The Helen Gagen Collection includes manuscripts, recipes, pamphlets, typescripts, magazine articles, newspaper articles, *Toronto Telegram* and *Shopping Basket* articles by Helen Gagen, personal photographs, food photographs, menus, speeches, scrapbooks, cookbooks written by Helen Gagen and others, correspondence, telegrams, and postcards.

It is not necessary to visit the Library to explore its holdings. Titles, authors, and subject headings for books are available for searching on Trellis, the library's online catalogue (<http://trellis3.tug-libraries.on.ca/>). Materials can also be searched using keywords (e.g., the phrase "Canadian Cookbook Collection") and by using the advanced searching page.

Almost all of the culinary collections are housed in the Archival and Special Collections section, which is open Monday to Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Retrievals take place throughout the day. Only a few circulating copies of books are located on the open shelves of the library on the fifth floor or at the library's storage facility. This allows some items to be interloaned without permission from Special Collections staff. ■

Artist: John Warrenner



Book Reviews

Dewey: The Small-Town Library Cat Who Touched the World

by Vicky Myron
Grand Central

Publishing (Canadian agent: H. B. Fenn), 2008, 288 p, \$21.95
Reviewed by Shirley Lewis

This charming little book, expected to appeal to a limited audience, took everyone by surprise when it became a best-seller in both the United States and Canada. It's the story of a kitty that was dropped, on a freezing night, through the book chute of the public library in the small town of Spencer, Iowa. The librarian-author Vicki Myron took the utterly abandoned, almost dead kitten to her heart and rescued it with tender care. She restored this marmalade cat to health and made it the mascot of Spencer's public library. Naming it Dewey Readmore, Myron set about making the cat a welcome fixture in the library. She recounts, chapter by chapter, not only the story of Dewey but also the history of Spencer and its environs, pointing out all the benefits of small-town American life.

Vicki Myron is a beacon of warm-heartedness and positive thinking as she brings out the goodness in people, in cats, and the world in general. She gives details about her clientele and recounts the sturdy moral values among Spencer's citizens, brought about by having to adjust to circumstances over the years.

Unless you are a genuine cat lover, you may become weary of the loving details, such as Dewey's eating habits, love of elastics and good-natured tolerance of all the library's patrons. Myron's consistent optimism may be the reason why this book is so popular a selection for so broad an audience. It certainly is a nice change from the grim realities of our modern world. Not overly challenging, however. Just a very pleasant read.

Books By Ex Libris Members

ELAN welcomes news about books by ELA members. Send a brief description to jean.weihs@rogers.com.

Dear Lila: Life on an Alberta Farm in 1925 as Recorded in the Letters

Saved by Lila Blackburn by Robert H. Blackburn. Available from the author at 5300 Drenkelly Court, Mississauga ON L5M 2H4. \$10. Most of the letters were written by Bob's father to his sister, Lila.

Book Guy, A Librarian in the Peace by Howard Overend. Victoria, BC, TouchWood Editions, Horsdal & Schubart, 2001. \$18.95.

Set in a simpler age, *Book Guy* is an ex-librarian's tale that transports its readers to the remote Peace River and Alaska Highway regions of northern British Columbia, where Howard Overend and his true-grit predecessors helped establish an extensive mobile library service to tiny schools and communities well back of beyond.

Books that May Be of Interest

House Beautiful: Decorating With Books: Use Your Library to Enhance Your Décor

by Marie Proeller Hueston (New York: Hearst Books, 2006) is a book for those needing to find a way to house their books in some attractive manner.

Reading the OED: One Man,

One Year, 21,730 Pages by Ammon Shea (New York; Toronto: Penguin, 2008) describes reading through the 20 volumes of the *Oxford English Dictionary*. He lists his favourite words in each letter of the alphabet, together with humorous comments. ■



News from Canadian Library/Information Studies Schools

Compiled by Diane Henderson

For this ongoing feature on our schools of library and information studies, we have invited contributors at each school to provide a short account of recent and forthcoming highlights. Our thanks, again, to them!

UBC School of Library, Archival and Information Studies

By Sylvia Crooks

SLAIS faculty members have been recent winners of prestigious awards. Associate Professor **Judi Saltman** and SLAIS MLIS graduate **Gail Edwards** are recipients of the Frances Russell

Award for research in Canadian Children's Literature. The award, from IBBY-Canada, honours their research for their forthcoming book *Picturing Canada: A History of Canadian Children's Illustrated Books and Publishing* (University of Toronto Press). Adjunct faculty member **Shirley Giggey** won the web-based Information Science Education (WISE) Faculty of the Year Award for Excellence in Online Education in 2008. The award is given to faculty nominated by WISE students from institutions other than the faculty member's home institution. Giggey teaches a web-based course at SLAIS on international issues and innovations.

University of Alberta, School of Library and Information Studies

By Ann Curry

The School's 40th anniversary celebrations included a Celebration

of Teaching held in newly renovated Henderson Hall on October 24, 2008. We invited all 132 of the present and past full-time and sessional instructors, who have taught the 1,372 graduates at the School since it opened in 1968, to celebrate good teaching with an evening of music, wine and good food. Fifty instructors were able to attend, and many others now living in other provinces and countries sent best wishes. Attendees were entertained with stories about classroom experiences told by **Keith Turnbull** (grad. class of 1969), **Alison McMillan** (grad. class of 2009), and instructors whose teaching spanned the four decades of the School's history: **Shirley Wright, Leslie Lafleur-Aitken, Merrill Distad and Gail de Vos**.

The School's first annual career fair was held on February 27. Employers from libraries across Alberta set up displays and talked with over 100 SLIS students who wanted general informa-

tion about employer expectations and specific information about summer and full-time jobs. The Fair was an overwhelming success.

University of Western Ontario, Faculty of Information and Media Studies

By Kristen Romme

On January 1, Professor **Pam McKenzie** was appointed Associate Dean, Research, for a three-year term. This is a new position in FIMS, in which Professor McKenzie will help support individual and collective research success. In other news, Professor **Gloria Leckie** was appointed to the London Public Library Board as a representative of the City of London. FIMS would like to congratulate doctoral candidate **Marc Koscieljew**, who was awarded a Doctoral Student to ALISE grant this year. Marc's presentation at the conference was a poster entitled *Apartheid's Documentation: The Role of Documents and Documentary Practices in Constructing South African Racial and Ethnic Identities*. Finally, there are two recent publications by FIMS faculty: *Information Technology in Librarianship: New Critical Approaches*, edited by Professor Gloria Leckie and Professor John Buschman (Georgetown University) and published by Libraries Unlimited, and *Mediating Health Information: The Go-Betweens in a Changing Socio-Technical Landscape*, edited by Professors **Nadine Wathen** and **Roma Harris** with colleague Sally Wyatt (Maastricht University) and published by Palgrave Macmillan.

University of Toronto, Faculty of Information

By Kathleen O'Brien

In January, we were thrilled to welcome our new dean, Professor **Seamus Ross**, to the Faculty. He has been busy meeting with various leaders in the profession and touring parts of Ontario to meet alumni/ae and discuss his plans for the iSchool, its initiatives, and to get feedback from our graduates. At the end of his first month, Dr. Ross joined nearly 60 alumni/ae at a reception on January 29 during the OLA Super Conference, hosted by the Faculty of Information Alumni Association (FIAA). Guests

had the opportunity to meet the new dean and catch up with classmates. That same evening, distinguished Senior Fellow **Wendy Newman** (MLS '85) was presented with an Ontario Public Library Association Lifetime Achievement Award by the OLA. The first issue of the student online Faculty of Information *Quarterly Journal* was launched. It comprised original scholarly pieces by iSchool students and members of the broader information community.

University of Ottawa, School of Information Studies

By Kenneth-Roy Bonin

Approval of the information Studies program by the Ontario Council on Graduate Studies on December 12, 2008 launched formal efforts to attract students. On January 6, 20 part-time applicants began their studies as special students attending classes in three courses:

ISI 5502 Organisation de l'information

ISI 5103 Management Foundations for Information Professionals

ISI 5104 Human Aspects of Information Systems

Pending construction on the main campus that began March 2, the School is located in the renovated B wing of the former Algonquin College campus at 200 Lees Avenue. Successful recruitment efforts now in the final stages assure an initial full-time complement of four faculty members for the 2009/10 academic year, augmented by eight confirmed, cross-appointed professors from Communications, Law, Management, and Translation. Applications are currently being accepted for the first full-time cohort of 30 students to be enrolled for September 2009.

McGill University, School of Information Studies

By Peter McNally

The School is currently compiling its self-study report for an accreditation site visit in September. McGill received its first accreditation from the American Library Association in 1927 and has Canada's longest continuously accredited program in library and information studies. The School is also in the

throes of organizing its move from the McLennan Library building, home since 1969. The new quarters will be several blocks away on Peel Street, next door to the Faculty of Education, under whose jurisdiction the School was placed in 1996. In faculty news, **Elaine Ménard** joined the faculty in November; she will focus on teaching cataloguing and classification and in summer 2009 will offer an introductory course in museology. **Eun Park** and **Peter McNally** will be on sabbatical in 2009/10.

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

By Ethel Gamache

Introduction aux sciences de l'information, by the School's director **Jean-Michel Salaün** and teacher **Clément Arsenault**, will be out later this year. **Elaine Ménard**, who completed her PhD in information science, is now Assistant Professor at McGill's School of Information Studies. Seventeen EBSI students received grants, including **Vincent Audette-Chapdelaine**, who received the Bourse Édouard-Montpetit Standard-Life. Our job board has been a success, with more than 200 jobs posted since its beginning last June. Our first online course has been given, and we look increasingly to becoming more of an iSchool. In Fall 2009, we will admit 120 students. The increase in applicants is needed to respond to a dynamic market, and the creation by the provincial education department of 20 openings for school librarians each year for the next 10 years. We welcomed Swiss students into the first year of our international option, in collaboration with the Haute école de gestion de Genève, filière Information documentaire.

Dalhousie University, School of Information Management

By Fiona Black

Dalhousie's third annual **Information without Borders** MLIS student-led conference was a great success on February 16. These annual conferences are designed to emphasize the central role of information management to individuals, organizations and society. The interdisciplinary topics this year included two

wonderful keynote addresses: the first by **Dr. Ted Bowdway** (consultant with the Canadian Medical Association) on an information tool to measure the health and economic costs of air pollution and the second by **Mark Leggott** (University Librarian, University of Prince Edward Island). He was superbly provocative concerning the Open Source Software movement and organizational effectiveness, notably in libraries. Panel sessions addressed the timely subjects of geospatial information management and how IT continues to change the way professionals work and serve clients in such fields as health informatics, law, and public libraries. The conference therefore appealed to a wide cross-section of students and professionals. ■



Atlantic News

By Norman Horrocks

Sacred Heart School of Halifax

opened in 1849 as both a boarding school and day school for

girls. Now it also offers a co-ed school for primary and elementary students. Since 2005 it has also added the Boys' School, with a curriculum for Grade 6 and beyond. In September 2009 Sacred Heart will open a new wing housing the only all-boys middle and secondary school east of Montreal. It will be known as Fountain Academy in honour of Margaret and David Fountain, who donated \$1.18 million to Sacred Heart's Family Campaign. The Fountain Academy will include a new library to be named for **Patrick Power**, whose Trust was also a major contributor to the Family campaign. This will be the second Patrick Power library building in Halifax. The first is that at Saint Mary's University.

Patrick Power (1815-1881) was a wealthy Halifax merchant. Born in Kilmacthomas, Ireland (as was Tyrone Power, the great-grandfather of the Hollywood star of the same name), Patrick Power was twice elected to Parliament – in 1867 and 1874 – as an Anti-Confederate member.

Donald Moses, Librarian of the Charlottetown Centre campus of Holland College, was seconded to the Robertson Library of the University of PEI for nine months, to supervise the

IslandLives project. This will begin by digitizing community histories from the mid-1800s to the present day. Users will be able to search content by the name of the community, time period and keyword. For more information check the IslandScholar Repository at <http://islandscholar.ca>.

The PEI Provincial Library Service changed its name to Public Library Service, saying that “the new name better reflects who we are and what we do, which is the delivery of public library service to residents of PEI”.

The 2008 Nora Bateson Award for Excellence in Library Service was presented by the Hon. Carolyn Bertram, PEI Minister of Communities, Cultural Affairs, and Labour, to **Mary Lou Hansen**, manager of the Children's Loft at Confederation Centre Public Library. This was the first year for this award, which was created in recognition of the 75th anniversary of the Public Library Service of PEI and in honour of the province's first librarian, Nora Bateson.

Peter Glenister, Bibliographic Services Librarian, Mount St. Vincent University Library, Halifax, was given the Bateson Award for his work as an authority in cataloguing and classification. He has taught those subjects in Halifax, Moncton, Montreal, and Toronto. On December 9, 2008, his university honoured him for his 40 years of service.

News from British Columbia



By Sylvia Crooks

In September, 2008 the B.C. Minister of Education launched a legislative review of the **Library Act**, to take into account economic challenges facing libraries, the rapid pace of technological change, a changing framework for local governance and service delivery, and the government's new relationship with First Nations. In the first stage of the review process, the government is inviting public submissions from stakeholders.

At the same time, a project called **BC Library 2020** is moving forward, to further collaboration between libraries. Its steering committee issued a “draft vision document” and is seeking feedback from

libraries and the public. The project began in 2007 when over 150 leaders from public, postsecondary, school, health, legal and special libraries, and affiliated organizations met to discuss a future for BC libraries. The document can be viewed online at <http://library2020.bclibrary.ca/next-steps>.

The last issue of the *BCLA Reporter* was published in June/July 2008. The publication was replaced by the *BCLA Browser*, an electronic, open-access quarterly covering BCLA and library-related activities around the province. Its inaugural issue went online in February.

The **University of Victoria** is offering a Graduate Professional Certificate in Library Sector Leadership, which has been designed for mid-career librarians. This five-course, part-time graduate program is offered by the School of Public Administration, in partnership with the Division of Continuing Studies and the UVic Libraries.

Vancouver Public Library, in cooperation with Library and Archives Canada, launched a wiki-based project to portray the early Chinese-Canadian community in Canada by collecting and sharing the stories of individuals who were born in Canada to parents of Chinese origin before 1901. For those of us who are still catching up on the lexicon of the web, a wiki is a collection of web pages designed to enable anyone who accesses it to contribute or modify content, using a simplified markup language.

In February, Vancouver Public Library announced a new partnership with the Genealogical Society of Utah that offers VPL card holders access to the extensive collection of microfilmed genealogy records at Salt Lake City's Family History Library. Users can search the Family History Library online and order items of interests for a small fee. ■

Corrections

In the Fall 2008 issue, the credit for the photo of ELA members at IFLA was incorrect. The photo was taken by Fiona Bradley. Also, the Contents incorrectly listed Doug Willford as the author of the Ottawa report. Marie Zielinska was the report's author.



Ottawa Library News

By Marie Zielinska (with contributions by Mary Collis and Jan Jacobson)

The most shocking news to hit Ottawa's scientific and library community lately was a memo from National Research Council President **Pierre Couombe** that NRC will eliminate three research groups and downsize another, affecting 300 employees. **CISTI**, the national science library and a leading publisher of scientific information, is to be streamlined. The Research Press, the publishing arm of CISTI, could be turned into a private company. These changes will have significantly affect Canada's entire scientific community.

Ottawa Public Library also expects some cuts in personnel but plans to make them through attrition. The one group that's growing is the Friends

of the Ottawa Public Library. Kudos to its chair and moving spirit, Lori Nash. The Friends recently developed a new governance policy, which divides FOPLA into seven local committees, each represented on the Council, that relate to library branches and FOPLA bookstores (see the November 2008 *FOPLA Bulletin* for more details). The Friends manage five second-hand bookstores and seven self-serve bookstores. An eighth will open soon.

Professor Helena Merriam reports some very interesting projects undertaken by the Library Technician program at Algonquin College in conjunction with the Ottawa Public Library. The first one is evaluating the effectiveness of Teen Zones, a young adult programming innovation. The second is evaluating how effective OPL's business collection and services are at reaching small businesses owners in the Ottawa region and helping them. The third is in partnership with Algonquin's Nursing Faculty,

a project in which library-technician students teach a session on a medical database and then partner with nursing students to teach them how to search the database effectively. The nursing students then search for two articles (one quantitative, one qualitative) on two different topics and submit them. The fourth project, Algonquin Reads!, is a literacy awareness campaign based on the Big Read project in the United States (put on by the National Endowment Fund for the Arts).

From April 20 to 22, Ottawa will host the 18th annual MASC Young Authors and Illustrators Conference. Six hundred delegates aged nine to 13 from Ottawa and environs will attend workshops given by Canadian children's authors and illustrators, including **Charles de Lint, Jacqueline Guest, Joanne K. Jefferson, J. Fitzgerald McCurdy, Judith Christine Mills, Alice Priestley, Bill Slavin, and Tim Wynne-Jones.** ■



The Songs of the Library Staff

Sam Walter Foss, a librarian at the Somerville (Massachusetts) Public library, wrote *Songs of the Average Man* in 1907. Five of these songs were about library staff members. This is the third of these songs with the accompanying original pictures published in *ELAN*.

The Head Librarian

*Now, my Muse, prepare for business. Plume your wings for loftier flight
Through the circumambient ether to a superlunar height,
Then adown the empyrean from the heights where thou hast risen,
Sing, O Muse! The Head Librarian and the joy that's her'n or his'n.
See him, see her, his or her head weighed with the lore of time,
Trying to expend a dollar when he only has a dime;
Tailoring appropriations – and how deftly he succeeds,
Fitting his poor thousand dollars to the million dollar needs.
How the glad book agents cheer him – and he cannot wish them fewer
With "their greatest work yet published since the dawn of literature."
And he knows another agent, champing restive to begin
With another work still greater, will immediately come in.
So perfection on perfection follows more and more sublime
And the line keeps on forever down the avenues of time –
So they travel on forever, stretching far beyond our ken,
Lifting demijohns of wisdom to the thirsty lips of men.*

*See him 'mid his myriad volumes listening to the gladsome din
Of the loud vociferant public that no book is ever "in";
And he hears the fierce taxpayer evermore lift up the shout
That the book he needs forever is the book forever "out."
How they rage, the numerous sinners, when he tries to please the saints;
When he tries to please the sinners, hear the numerous saints' complaints;
And some want a Bowlered Hemans and an expurgated Watts;
Some are shocked beyond expression at the sight of naked thoughts,
And he smoothes their fur the right way, and he placates him or her,
And those who come to snarl and scratch remain behind to purr.
Oh, the gamesome glad Librarian gushing with his gurgling glee! –
Here I hand my resignation, – 'tis a theme too big for me.*

Milestones

Compiled by Merlyn Beeckmans



Obituaries

M. Eleanor (Lowry) Algie died on October 24, 2008 at the age of 101. Her first career was as a dietitian. Her second was as librarian and bookmobile driver for the McLennan Travelling Library of McGill University.

Margery Allen died on November 24, 2008 in Ottawa at the age of 86. She was head of Technical Services at Sir George Williams University (now Concordia University) and held a senior administrative post at the Metropolitan Toronto Library.

Helen Elizabeth (MacDonald) Armstrong died on January 13, 2009 in Dartmouth, N.S. at the age of 61. She held a library science degree from Dalhousie University. She worked as a librarian in Woodstock and Fredericton, N.B. and then at the Nova Scotia Provincial Library for 27 years. In 2005 she retired as Provincial Librarian.

Khin Lin (Daniel) Boen died on February 1, 2009 in Port Moody, B.C. at the age of 75. He held a library science degree from the University of Western Ontario and worked at the Paul Martin Law Library, University of Windsor.

Margaret Burke died on October 10, 2008 at the age of 87. She was an administrative assistant at the UBC School of Library, Archival and Information Studies for 20 years. She won the Helen Gordon Stewart Award, the highest honour given by the British Columbia Library Association.

Bertha Currie died on December 10, 2008 at the age of 69. Her B.Ed. and MLS degrees were from Dalhousie University. Prior to retirement in 1995, she was supervisor of Library Services for the City of Halifax School Board.

Adelaide Margaret (Bissonneau) Dennis died on February 22, 2009 at the age of 88. She was director of Public Relations for Scarborough Public Libraries from 1970 to 1985.

Wendy Anne Duggan died on September 21, 2008 in Toronto at the age of 52. She was manager of U.S. Law Information Services with Manulife Financial and later acting librarian at the Ontario Securities Commission.

Julia Ettinger died on October 12,

2008 in Seaforth, Ont. at the age of 84. A graduate of Queens University, her career as a librarian took her to towns in Ontario and England, and to Edmonton.

Mary Hall passed away in December 2008. BLS '46 and MLS '65, she was on the faculty of McGill University from 1966 to 1980. Her specialities were selection and research methods. From 1966 to 1968 she was also librarian at the Library Science Library.

Elizabeth Miriam Hamilton died on October 4, 2008 in Toronto at the age of 101. She graduated from the University of Toronto in 1928 and worked as a librarian at the University Library and the Banting Institute.

Jean (Davies) Hamilton died on October 7, 2008 in Halifax, N.S. at the age of 93. She had a BA from Mount Allison University and a library science degree from the University of Toronto.

Luella Margaret Hendershot died on October 16, 2008 in Toronto. She held degrees from the University of Saskatchewan and the University of Toronto. She became a senior figure in the audiovisual department of the Ministry of Education. Later, she was director of the Ontario Film Library.

William Howard died on October 21, 2008. He was university librarian emeritus at the University of Regina.

John Patrick King died on October 22, 2008 in Toronto at the age of 43. He held an MA from University College Cork, Ireland and an MIS from the University of Toronto. He worked for Revenue Canada and then for the Ontario Ministry of Finance.

Siobhan Lane died on October 8, 2008 in Halifax, N.S. at the age of 44. After receiving an MLS (Dalhousie University '89), she worked at the Dalhousie Law Library, the N.S. Barristers' Society and two law firms, before becoming co-ordinator of research grants in the Office of Research Services at Dalhousie.

Jeannie Patricia Newman died on December 6, 2008 in Ottawa at the age of 99. She held an MLS from the University of Cleveland ('68) and did undergraduate studies at the University of Winnipeg in the 1930s. She was

research librarian for Lever Brothers in Toronto and founding chief librarian of the Centre for Industrial Relations Library at the University of Toronto. She wrote *The Canadian Business Handbook*, published by McGraw-Hill Ryerson in three editions (1964, 1967 and 1979).

Mary Catherine Percival died on November 20, 2008. She graduated from Queen's University and held an MLS from the University of Toronto.

Tamara Puthon died on November 18, 2008 in Guelph, Ont. Her fluency in six languages enabled her work as a translator for the Allies in Vienna. She worked for many years as a reference librarian at the Guelph Public Library.

Mary Louise (Stock) Sanders died on January 23, 2009 in St. Thomas, Ont. She was librarian at Alma College and then at Central Elgin Collegiate Institute. While working there, she earned an MLS from the University of Western Ontario. After retirement from CEGI, she worked part-time at St. Thomas Public Library.

Elizabeth Ann (Gough) Shaw died on December 3, 2008 at the age of 71. She worked in the Film Library at the University of Western Ontario.

Retirements

Dr. Anna Altmann, long-time faculty member and former director, retired from the School of Library and Information Studies, University of Alberta in June 2008.

Therese Arseneault, head of Reference Services at Moncton (N.B.) Public Library retired on November 29, 2008. She joined the staff of the Albert-Westmoreland-Kent Region in 1974, having just graduated from McGill Library School.

Bernie Conran, a reference librarian with the Information Services Division of the Queen Elizabeth II Library, will retire in May 2009.

Michael Keaschuk retired as director of Chinook Regional Library (Saskatchewan) in 2008.

Karen Lippold, a reference librarian with the Information Services Division

Milestones, continued

of the Queen Elizabeth II Library, will retire in September 2009.

Michael Lonardo, a collections librarian at the Queen Elizabeth II Library, retired in April 2009.

Ralph Manning retired as manager of Initiative for Equitable Library Access (IELA) on December 18, 2008. He had a 36-year career as a librarian.

Lucy Pana retired as CEO of The Alberta Library at the end of February. She received the 2008 Ken Haycock Award for Promoting Librarianship at the CLA/ACB conference in Vancouver in May 2008.

Barb Phillips, formerly head of Reference and Research Services at Angus L. Macdonald Library, St. Francis Xavier University in Antigonish, N.S., retired in May 2008 after 41 years of service.

Mona Pierce retired as director of Alberta Law Society Libraries in 2008.

Donnie Ward, reference librarian and local history expert, retired in April 2008 from the McConnell Library, part of Cape Breton Regional Library, after 34 years of service.

Appointments

Fay Hjartarson was appointed manager of IELA.

Kelly Moore is the new executive director of the Canadian Library Association. She has worked at Library and Archives Canada and at International Federation of Library Associations (IFLA). She earned an MLIS from the University of Toronto.

Allison Nussbaumer, current president of the Canadian Association of College and University Libraries, was appointed university librarian at the University of Lethbridge effective August 1, 2008.

Heather Scoular was appointed director of Library Services at the North Vancouver District Public Library. She was director of the Port Moody Library. Her career also included positions at the Vancouver, Richmond, and Calgary Public Libraries. She has an MLIS degree from UBC.

Sarah Singh was appointed director of the Irving K. Barber Learning Centre at the UBC Library. She graduated from

UBC's School of Library, Archives and Information Studies and was previously director of Systems and Special Projects at Vancouver Public Library. She also worked in public libraries in Calgary and Abilene, Texas.

Christina Wilson, former president of the Ontario Library Association, was appointed director of the Lois Hole Campus Alberta Digital Library, part of The Alberta Library (TAL) in November 2008.

Awards

Merrill Distad, associate director of libraries at the University of Alberta, received the 2008 CLA/YPB Award for Outstanding Contribution to Collection Development and Management.

Patricia Jobb, who retired recently from her position as associate director of Public Services at the Edmonton Public Library, received the 2008 CAPL/Brodart Outstanding Public Library Service Award.

Joanne Kemp, library director at Grant MacEwan College, received the 2008 Canadian Technical and College Libraries (CTCL) Award for Outstanding College Librarian.

Margaret Law, former president and interim NEOS manager, received

the 2008 Canadian Technical and College Libraries (CTCL) Award for Outstanding College Librarian.

The Lois Hole Campus Alberta Digital Library Initiative received the 2008 CACUL Innovation Achievement Award, recognizing academic libraries that contribute to the advancement of academic librarianship and library development.

The Ontario Library Association's 2009 President's Award for Exceptional Achievement was shared by Regina Public Library, Vancouver Public Library, Toronto Public Library, and Halifax Public Library for their efforts on the **Working Together Project**.

The Saskatchewan Health Information Resources Partnership received the 2008 CLA/OCLA Award for Resource Sharing Achievement.

News

The National Summit on Library Human Resources was held in Ottawa during October 2008. Representatives from library schools, library associations, and all types of libraries began developing a national strategy and action plan to ensure a supply of information professionals to meet Canada's knowledge and information needs. ■

ELAN

Number 45/Spring 2009
ISSN 1709-1179

Published twice a year by:

Ex Libris Association
c/o Faculty of Information
University of Toronto
140 St. George Street
Toronto, ON M5S 3G6
<http://exlibris.ischool.utoronto.ca>

Editor: Margaret Oldfield

Production:

Ontario Library Association

Newsletter Committee:

Merlyn Beeckmans,
Frances Davidson-Arnott,
Diane Henderson, Vivienne James,
Shirley Lewis, Jean Weihs

Send contributions and suggestions to:

Frances Davidson-Arnott
3 Rodarick Drive
West Hill, ON M1C 1W4
frances.davidson-arnott@senecac.on.ca

Please include ELA or *ELAN* in the subject line of your e-mail.

Deadline for next issue:

August 10, 2009

ELAN reserves the right to edit contributions. We use Canadian Press style and the *Canadian Oxford Dictionary*.

Ex Libris Association acknowledges with thanks support from the Ontario Library Association, Canadian Library Association, Faculty of Information at University of Toronto and the Library Services Centre.