

News from Prince Edward Island

News from Robertson Library, University of Prince Edward Island

Donald Moses, Robertson Library, UPEI

Staffing

Keltie MacPhail began her new library technician role supporting public service and digital collections at the Robertson Library. The Library has also been seeking to fill two Librarian positions this Spring - Metaliteracy and Student Engagement Librarian as well as Health Services and Scholarly Communications Librarian. We are hoping to have those positions filled by the Summer.

Research

Librarians Melissa Belvadi, Dawn Hooper, and Rosie Le Faive surveyed UPEI faculty about their use of video in their teaching and whether there were gaps in our collections.

Term librarians Meghan Landry and Mark Cousins were successful in obtaining an internal research grant for their ongoing work digitizing a large collection of PEI postcards and using those materials to experiment with various methods of engaging the public.

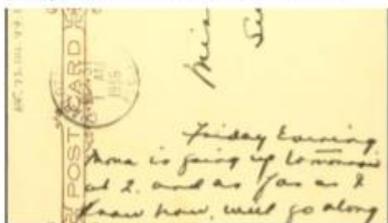
Melissa Belvadi and Rosie Le Faive have also partnered with UserTesting.com to develop, record, and analyze the results of testing eight undergraduate students on how they approach our website when they need to search for a topic or a known item. Analysis of the results as well as changes to our website as a result of this study will be under development this coming summer.

Digital Collections

Crowdsourcing the cursive: UPEI turns to social media to decipher old postcards

35 postcards were among 400 already transcribed

By Gail Harding, CBC News Posted: Jan 25, 2017 2:15 PM AT Last updated: Jan 25, 2017 6:16 PM AT



UPEI is looking for help to decipher the handwriting on 35 vintage postcards. Angela Holm/CBC

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Librarians at the University of Prince Edward Island's Robertson Library are getting some help from the public via social media to decipher the strongest words and loops of cursive handwriting on vintage postcards. Project librarian Mark Cousins and digital initiatives librarian Meghan Landry have been working on a project to make the vintage postcards more accessible to transcribe and genealogists but needed some assistance.

#KindredSpines: UPEI's Lory Wood Montgomery collection

Meghan Landry and Mark Cousins worked with the PEI Museum and Heritage Foundation to digitize, describe, and transcribe over 1,000 PEI related postcards. They partnered with a prominent Island history Facebook group to crowdsource some of the more difficult transcriptions as a way of engaging with the public and to promote the collection and discussion.

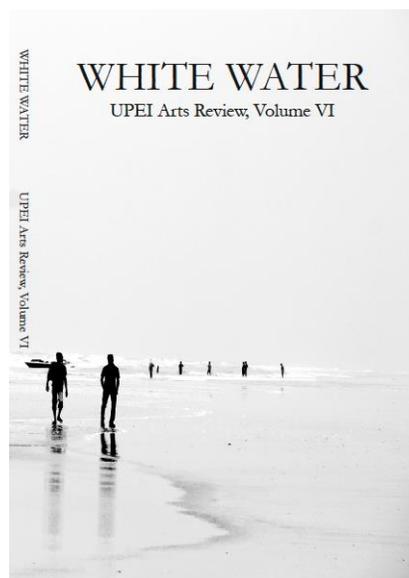
In honour of Heritage Day, the City of Charlottetown bestowed a Heritage Award to the Robertson Library in recognition of its IslandArchives.ca project. This initiative serves as a portal to several digital collections and tools that provide access to Charlottetown's and the Island's collective heritage. The Library is currently in the process of reimagining IslandArchives.ca. It is also upgrading the current legacy Islandora framework, and migrating and consolidating content to improve discovery and user experience of its digital collections.



Student Collaborations

UPEI Arts Review

The Robertson Library has collaborated with the editors of the *UPEI Arts Review* again to print the sixth volume in the series. The new volume launched in April 2017.



School of Sustainable Design and Engineering Students

We are collaborating with 2nd year Engineering students on a project to create a self-check kiosk using inexpensive hardware and Evergreen's native self-check software.

Students prepared several designs/prototypes during the Fall semester and built as well as integrated the electronic components into the kiosk this Winter. We hope to take possession of the unit soon to conduct further testing and integration with our integrated library system.



NSCC Student Work Term

During November and December, we hosted an intern from NSCC's Library and Information Technology program. Selena Fournier Winn had the opportunity to work with special collections, digitization, public service, and cataloguing.

Computer Science Capstone

Rosie Le Faive worked with a 4th year Computer Science group on their capstone project - an application that matched student volunteers with potential opportunities.

Library Space

The E-Learning Office and the Faculty Development Office both moved into the Robertson Library this Winter semester. We are hoping that by co-locating these units in the Library, we'll be able to provide improved support for faculty teaching and learning.

We've made use of our multipurpose space this Winter and have used it for our ongoing series of author talks intitled *Open Pages* and to host our Stress Free zone during midterms and exams.



John Cousins introducing his book *New London: The Lost Dream*.



Stress Free Zone setup during final exams - Winter 2017

We've also been thinking about ways to address the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action and have begun modestly by providing a space that includes a display case with artifacts and memories related to the Shubenacadie Indian Residential School created by the Aboriginal Survivors for Healing group, a photographic display and timeline, and book and other materials that highlight survivors' stories and the work of the Commission.



Exhibit case of artifacts and other materials related to the Shubenacadie Indian Residential School prepared by the Aboriginal Survivors for Healing group.



A place to read and reflect.