News from Prince Edward Island

Robertson Library – Fall 2017 Update

Donald Moses, Interim University Librarian, Robertson Library

Staffing

On August 1, 2017 we welcomed Dr. Yolanda Hood as the new Metaliteracy & Student Engagement Librarian for the Robertson Library. Yolanda is the liaison librarian for UPEI's new Arts program Applied Communication, Culture and Leadership, as well as Catholic Studies, Classics, Education, English, Fine Arts, Music, Philosophy, Religious Studies, and Theatre Studies. Yolanda has gotten off to a quick start, coordinating the Library's New Student Orientation activities, the instruction for the first year experience courses, and collaborating with her librarian and faculty colleagues on a number of new initiatives.

On September 25, 2017 we welcomed Ms. Kim Mears as our new Health Sciences and Scholarly Communications Librarian. Kim is the liaison librarian for Applied Human Sciences (Family Science, Kinesiology, and Nutritional Sciences), Biology, Environmental Studies, Nursing, and Veterinary Medicine. Kim is getting familiar with her new role and is already a member of CAUL-CBUA's Scholarly Communications Committee.

Kim replaces former Data and Research Services Librarian Dawn Hooper, who retired in June. Dawn's career as a librarian spanned more than four decades, during which time she brought her great dedication and skill to bear on any number of new library technologies and trends, from bookmobiles to institutional repositories. Her 20 years of outstanding service to the Robertson Library and UPEI, and to the community at large, is greatly appreciated.

Library Technician Dale McClure retired at the end of September 2017. Dale is the longest serving Library Technician at the Robertson Library - 44 years - and her incredible institutional memory extends back to the move of almost 200,000 books and periodicals in late 1974 from the old Kelley Memorial Library to the newly-constructed Robertson Library. Formerly coordinator of the Library's Media Centre, Dale's skills were later applied to cataloguing: in recent years, she also worked to ensure the discoverability and accessibility of the Library's numerous electronic packages, and was an active participant in the Digitization Lab.
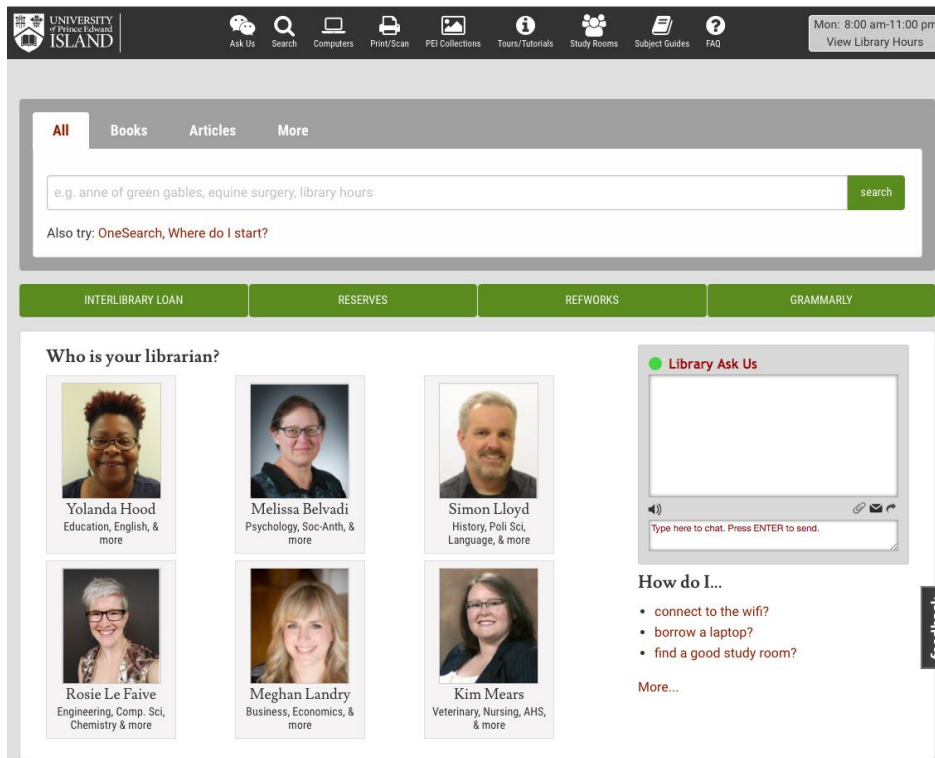
The Library wishes both Dawn and Dale all the best in their well-earned retirements!

There was another recent departure from the Library team, with Jerrad Gilbert's transfer to UPEI's Information Technology Systems and Services unit. Jerrad managed the Library's extensive installation of Macs, took care of our computer labs, kept our collection of well-used loaner laptops in operating condition, and provided support and troubleshooting for a range of other IT issues too numerous to mention. In his time with the Library, Jerrad has kindly and patiently helped scores of UPEI staff and students in meeting the IT-related demands of the 21st Century university, and we wish him well in his new role with the University.

Library Website

After reviewing the results of usability testing conducted during the Winter 2017 semester, Melissa Belvadi and Rosie Le Faive worked with the Systems Unit during the Summer to update the Library's website - https://library.upei.ca/
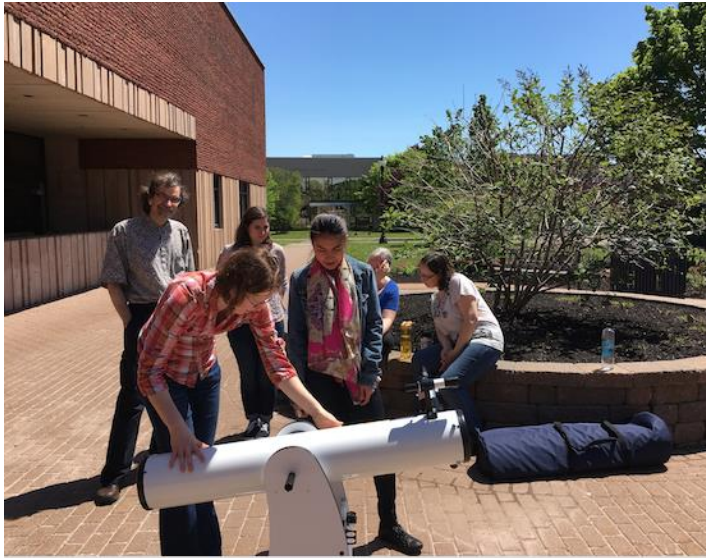

The changes focus on improving the user experience by updating the home page with simplified search options and results, providing clear connections to librarian and other support, and revising how notices and events are displayed.

Telescope and 3D Printing Service

Telescope

Following a very successful program at the PEI Public Library Service, Keith Cooper and the Sidewalk Astronomers of Charlottetown offered a 6 inch Dobsonian Sky-Watcher telescope to the Robertson Library that it could loan out to borrowers. We introduced the telescope during a well-attended public

talk, provided training for library staff, and have been loaning the telescope out ever since. More information here: https://library.upei.ca/telescope

Staff getting introduced to telescope operations from Megan Glover, UPEI Physics Department.

3D Printing Service

Yolanda Hood and Keltie MacPhail are a heading a Library working group developing policies and documentation for a 3D printing service. Three workshops are planned prior to the launch of the service in early November. The printer is a dual extruder Flashforge Creator Pro.

Keltie MacPhail and UPEI mascot Pride the Panther with the Library's 3d printer during New Student Orientation.

Digital Collections

Father Charlie Cheverie Interviews

Father Charlie Cheverie taught in the Biology Department at the University of Prince Edward Island (and its forebear, St. Dunstan's University) for many years and is recognized as a pillar of the Island fiddling community, most especially for his leadership role in establishing the *Queens County Fiddlers*. From the 1970s through the 1990s, Father Cheverie interviewed scores of Island fiddlers, recording their stories, tunes, and music. The resulting collection of over 100 audio cassettes has been loaned to the Library for digitization, and we hope to have the collection loaded and available by the Spring of 2018.

Father Charles Cheverie, 2006
Source: Bowing Down Home -
https://bowingdownhome.ca/islandora/object/bdh:243

PEI Postcards Collection

During the summer of 2017 Librarians Meghan Landry and Mark Cousins worked with student Saleh Alhakeem to digitize and describe a collection of over 3,000 historic Prince Edward Island postcards and tourism related materials loaned by donor Ed McKenna. Saleh was able to digitize the postcards over the summer and many have descriptions. Meghan and Mark continue to improve the metadata and work with social media networks to crowdsource some of the transcription work.

Canada 150 Newspaper Project

To celebrate Canada's 150th anniversary, we digitized a variety of newspapers from the 1860s. Titles included the Royal Gazette, the Charlottetown Herald, and the Summerside Journal. The digitized issues can be viewed through IslandNewspapers.ca http://islandnewspapers.ca

Events/Programming

Virtual Reality Experience and Launch

Photo: *Alan Edwards, New Brunswick College of Craft and Design introduces a visitor to their first VR experience*

As part of the UPEI Reunion Weekend in July we partnered with the L.M. Montgomery Institute by hosting an event that included a virtual reality experience "The Wreck of the Marco Polo" and a reception with guest speakers including Dr. Betsy Epperly, past-president of UPEI and founder of the L.M. Montgomery Institute.

The virtual reality experience, which attracted more than 200 visitors, features a five-minute adventure where participants are transported back in time, through virtual reality headsets, to the July 1883 wreck of the *Marco Polo* as witnessed by eight-year-old Lucy Maud Montgomery. Participants heard Montgomery's words, which were chronicled eight years later in her essay, "The Wreck of the Marco Polo", describing how the ship came within 300 metres of the Cavendish shoreline and ran aground off PEI's north shore. The experience was supplemented with artifacts from the *Marco Polo* and exhibits of publications, documents, and other materials from the Library's L. M. Montgomery and PEI Collections.

Several L.M. Montgomery related books had their Prince Edward Island launches as well and there were readings from the works and author signings. The new Chair in L.M. Montgomery Studies & Communication, Leadership and Culture, Dr. Kate Scarth, was also introduced as part of the event.

More about the event including pictures here:

http://lmmontgomery.ca/exciting-news-lmmi-new-chair-announced-book-launches-and-more

Celebrating Science Literacy Week @ Robertson Library

We celebrated Science Literacy Week by featuring a talk on Fluorescent Chemistry by Dr. Brian Wagner, UPEI Chemistry Department. Dr. Wagner illustrated his talk with a number of demonstrations including this experiment with turmeric. Follow Dr. Wagner on Instagram @fluorescent_chemist and Twitter @DrummerBoy2112

Source: https://www.instagram.com/p/BZWa6G_nXDW/?taken-by=fluorescent_chemist