

CONTINUING EDUCATION AT DAL SLIS

SCHOOL OF LIBRARY & INFORMATION STUDIES FRIDAY LECTURE SERIES

As part of its continuing education programme, SLIS presents a series of Friday lectures. These lectures are open to the public at no charge. The synopses reprinted here originally appeared on the SLIS web site at <http://www.mgmt.dal.ca/slis/con_edfr.html>

JANUARY 23, 1998

"THE BOOK AS TECHNOLOGY: WHAT McLUHAN TAUGHT AND WHAT PEOPLE THOUGHT HE TAUGHT"

DR. TERRY GORDON, DEPARTMENT OF FRENCH
DALHOUSIE UNIVERSITY

On Friday, January 23rd, 1998, Dr. Terry Gordon of the Department of French, Dalhousie University, delivered a lecture entitled "The Book as Technology: What McLuhan Taught and What People Thought He Taught". In outlining Marshall McLuhan's views on the book, Dr. Gordon hoped to explain and clarify some of the popular misconceptions surrounding McLuhan's body of work, particularly with regards to print media.

Studying the effects of new media on individuals and societies was a central preoccupation for McLuhan. Dr. Gordon, who recently completed the authorized Marshall McLuhan biography, *Escape into Understanding*, chose one of his subject's most powerful indictments for the book's title. Throughout the talk, Dr. Gordon challenged the audience, as his subject had done decades before, to join him on a voyage of discovery in which we strive to understand technologies in relation to one another and in relation to ourselves.

All media, including the book, McLuhan regarded as technologies. A technology, according to McLuhan, is any extension of ourselves, whether of our physical selves or of our minds. As new media develop, they do not replace the old technologies so much as they complicate them. McLuhan, then, was concerned with uncovering the processes by which new media interact with and transform older ones.

According to Dr. Gordon, McLuhan loved few things more than reading a book. He actually likened television to bacteria or poison. He was and still is, however, identified as

one of the most articulate heralds of print's demise. For his part, McLuhan, in seminal works such as *The Mechanical Bride* and *Understanding Media*, felt that he was describing the enemies of the book. As Dr. Gordon put it, McLuhan turned in the fire alarm only to be charged with arson. Citing passages from McLuhan's books, interviews, and his personal correspondences, Dr. Gordon underscored the ease with which his views were taken out of context and later misrepresented by a popular media incapable of understanding the subtle processes outlined therein.

One of the most important distinctions McLuhan drew was between technologies that were obsolete, and those that were obsolescent. Obsolescence implies an active process, inevitably following the advent of new technologies. Older, more established technologies subsequently undergo transformations that alter their basic functions and meanings. Returning to the book, McLuhan accordingly traced the rise of print culture and its subsequent obsolescence in the face of rapidly expanding electronic media, film and television in particular.

(continued on next page)

Inside This Issue...

| | |
|--|----|
| From the President's Desk | 2 |
| APLA Executive 1998-99 | 4 |
| Margaret William Trust Fund Award | 4 |
| APLA Conveners 1998-99 | 5 |
| APLA '98 Session Reports | 9 |
| News from the Provinces | 11 |
| Review: Electric Library Canada | 16 |
| SLIS Occasional Papers Series | 17 |
| Coming Events | 19 |
| Eileen Wallace Research Fellowship | 19 |

From the President's Desk

Ciao.... well, summer days have come and gone.... though this summer was sunny, warm and very dry, it was too short.... so I hope everyone enjoyed every minute of it with plenty of fun and adventure!

One item of importance that came out this summer is the forthcoming review of the National Archives of Canada and the National Library of Canada. Dr. John English (Department of History at the University of Waterloo) will be consulting stakeholders on the future role of these institutions. Part of the consultations will include an examination of NA and NL's mandates, collections/acquisitions, access, preservation, information management issues, organizational

structure and leadership. Dr. English will submit a report, with recommendations, to the Minister of Canadian Heritage by November 30, 1998. APLA, as a stakeholder, will be submitting a brief to Dr. English by September 15, 1998.

The APLA Executive meeting will be held in Antigonish on October 17 and 18. Among the items to be discussed are Advocacy training, Provincial workshops, and the hiring of an Executive Director for this Association. I welcome suggestions or comments from any APLA member regarding these issues or any other matter that he/she wishes to have considered at the upcoming Executive meeting.

One final word.... APLA is an

organization whose strength is derived from the commitment of its members. Not only do we survive on their financial commitment (i.e. membership dues) but also on the individuals who volunteer their time to the many activities that make APLA. In fact, while money is important, volunteers are the lifeblood of our organization. If you feel you can devote some time and energy to the many activities going on, please contact us. You can call or E-mail either myself, Penny Marshall (Vice President-President Elect), any member of the Executive, or any of the Conveners of the Interest Groups or Committees. We need your support!

- Francesco Lai

CONTINUING EDUCATION AT DAL SLIS *(continued from page 1)*

Finally, Dr. Gordon outlined McLuhan's Tetrad of Media. These, McLuhan maintained, are the essential questions, applying to any medium or technology, that need to be answered if we are to understand the processes by which new and old media interact with one another:

1. What does it extend?
2. What does it obsolesce?
3. What (older medium) does it retrieve?
4. What does it reverse or flip into when pushed to its extreme form?

Media, McLuhan held, always work in pairs. As one interacts with and supplants the other, both undergo processes that rarely, if ever, leave their respective characters unaltered.

Throughout his life, McLuhan was disturbed that we were moving towards the twenty-first century with nineteenth century perceptions. His careful and articulate insights, according to Dr. Gordon, pointed the way towards an escape into understanding -- not only of medias' effects on one another, but of their effects on individuals and societies as well.

- Marc Bragdon, first year student, 1997-98

JANUARY 30, 1998

"ON ENCOUNTERING THE DIGITAL NEWSPAPER: WHAT DO READERS EXAMINE? WHY? WHAT FACILITATES THE PROCESS?"

ELAINE TOMS

DALHOUSIE SCHOOL OF LIBRARY AND INFORMATION STUDIES

The seventh lecture in the 1997/1998 SLIS lecture series was presented by Dr. Elaine Toms of the Dalhousie University School of Library and Information Studies. Dr. Toms presented the results of her recent study which examined not digital newspapers per se, but the issues of what people read, why they read what they read, and how the reading process can be facilitated. According to Dr. Toms, people acquire information in three ways. Facts are acquired about something people can clearly define (using search engines), or about something they cannot fully describe but will recognize on sight (via lists of categories or networks of nodes), or are acquired in an accidental, serendipitous fashion. The last category, the unplanned encountering of a piece of information, was the major emphasis of this study. No systems exist at present that take the serendipitous encounter into account. In an attempt to attract readers, system developers are currently emphasizing glitz and gadgetry over content.

Dr Toms' experimental study was designed to test the effectiveness of two types of menus and two types of "Items-to-Browse" tools. The 47 participants were presented

(continued on next page)

CONTINUING EDUCATION AT DAL SLIS *(continued from page 2)*

with a Halifax newspaper in electronic form; the information contained in the paper had previously been categorized and indexed by Dr. Toms, and the graphics had been removed. The participants were divided into two groups and provided with one of two tasks; either explicitly to search for answers to specific questions, or implicitly to read the paper as the participant wished. This implicit task provided opportunities for encounters. Participants identified, rated and ranked articles of interest and stated their reasons for this. They also specified the order in which they would have liked to have seen the articles.

Dr. Toms found that people examined approximately 20 articles per session, and found about 16 items via the menus and 4 items via the "items-to-browse" category. The most popular category examined was News, with Science and Technology articles being the least popular. Those surveyed examined proportionally the same number of articles in each category as the number that were available. However, they spent approximately the same amount of time in each menu category, regardless of the number of articles examined. Therefore, whether it was a top-rated News article or one in the less popular Science and Technology section, a similar period of time was accorded to each. The most popular articles were contained in "capsule" (i.e. highly condensed) form and included those with such titles as "Canadians struggle at Olympics" and "Neighbourhood controversy centres around 10-year-old."

A preliminary analysis of reader motivations indicated that participants most frequently cited "personal" reasons for selecting an article; for example, the article related to a reader's work. Reader motivation fell into three broad categories; partially apperceptive (readers perceive the world in terms of their own interests), partially format specific (related to the specific characteristics of the newspaper), or partially curiosity and/or instinctive. In examining what facilitates the reading process, Dr. Toms found that menus were used significantly more often than the other tools, and were the top ranked tool for browsing. However, more interesting articles were identified from the list of suggestions (the least used tool) than via the search tool. Dr. Toms suggested that, in interacting with the digital newspaper, readers examine the volume of articles, scan many menu listings but make quick selection decisions, and that they require a stable, directional tool.

In highlighting the conclusions that emerged from this study, Dr. Toms stated that readers rely on diversions to unearth the most interesting information, and need textual cues to direct their focus. Choices made were both predictable and whimsical. She emphasized that readers strongly prefer to direct their own browsing, and want neither directed pathways nor controlling mechanisms.

- Andrea Talbot, second year student, 1997-98

(continued on page 6)

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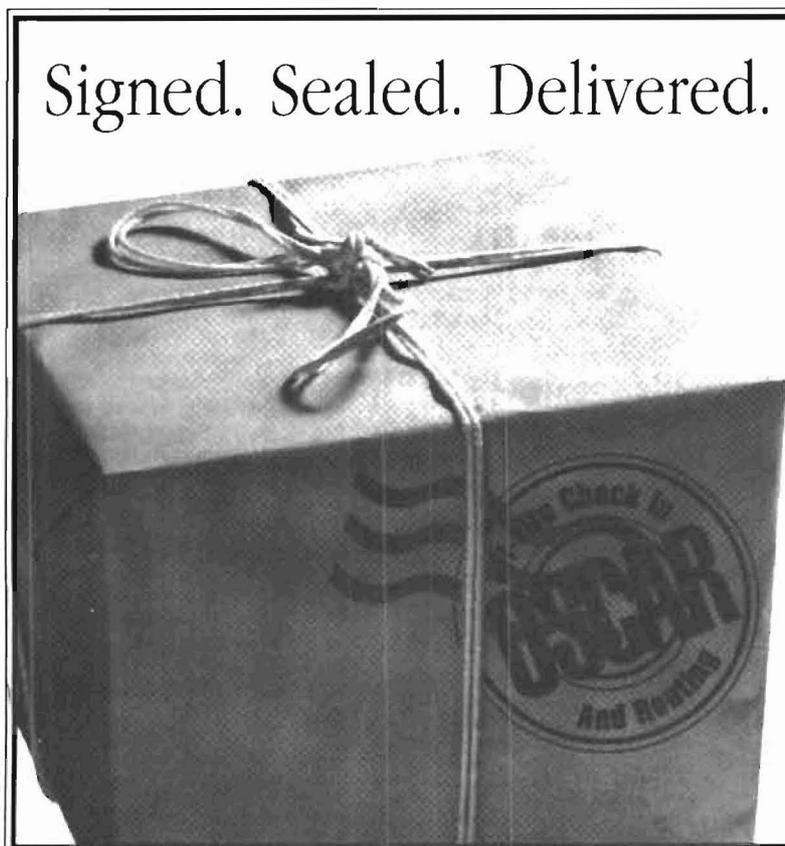
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Margaret William Trust Fund Award

The Trustees of the Margaret Williams Trust are pleased to announce that the Trust has made its 1998 award to Ms. Gwynith Evans in the amount of \$1200.

Ms. Evans, a native of St. John's, Newfoundland, holds a Bachelor of Arts (Honours) degree in History with a minor in Classical Studies (1989) from Memorial University and a Bachelor of Arts degree in Art History (1992) from Carleton University. She will be pursuing a Master of Library and Information Studies at McGill University in September.

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CONTINUING EDUCATION AT DAL SLIS (continued from page 3)

FEBRUARY 13, 1998
VIRTUALLY YOURS: CANADIAN GOVERNMENT INFORMATION
ON THE INTERNET
BRUNO GNASSI, MANAGER
DEPOSITORY SERVICES PROGRAM
CANADIAN GOVERNMENT PUBLISHING

Bruno Gnassi presented his lecture on the process and progress of placing Canadian Government Information on the Internet. The Canadian Government is fully committed to electronic delivery of its services and programs. Before 1994, the Canadian Government was barely a presence on the Internet. Many agencies and officials considered the web as a passing fad which contained mostly promotional junk. Only 11 sites were in use at that time. Since 1994, the Canadian Government has been converting much of its publishing into electronic form and making that information available on the Internet. Between 1995 and 1996, the total number of government institutions supporting Web-based dissemination of information grew sixfold. According to Bruno Gnassi, the World Wide Web offered a cheap and attractive alternative to print publishing.

Today, search and retrieval functionality has begun to make its appearance throughout the government. Under GIFT (Government Information Finding Technology) and Champlain (a test Internet retrieval package developed by industry Canada), search and retrieval capability has been developed across departmental servers. GIFT has allowed full Boolean searches with seamless and transparent retrieval. Champlain gave users keyword access to 73,000 resources distributed among 100 Federal servers. The majority of departments and agencies have Internet web sites with some 164 Federal institutions and agencies registered with the Canadian government's home page of home pages. Many of these sites support search engines and hold a substantive amount of information.

Fee for access is now beginning to make its appearance on government web sites - StatsCan is an obvious example of this trend. Other recent trends include services that are carrying large amounts of government content but who see themselves not as extensions of the government or as publishers but as Information Dissemination services. The Access to Justice Network (ACJNet) is one such service.

This move to place information on the Internet is creating a new relationship between the Canadian government and the users of its information. There are a number of challenges that this model has created for the end user. The technology must be available for use; the users must be comfortable with this technology and they must be able to use it effectively. Presently only 7 to 8 percent of Canadian households have access to the web. This small percentage is concentrated among the higher income brackets. The government is aware that the transition from print to the Internet might not always be easily achieved. However, it is

committed to this venture. The government is trying to ensure that the effort is supported and more gently facilitated by a series of initiatives such as SchoolNet and the Community Access Program (CAP).

In conclusion, Bruno Gnassi stated that this transition to the cyber-environment was neither controlled nor controllable. It was very much like taming a tiger - you either get it right or the tiger goes away smiling.

- Rosemary Loeffler and
 Jennifer Svarckopf, second year students, 1997-98

FEBRUARY 18, 1998
MANAGEMENT EVALUATION OF TRENDS IN CORPORATE LIBRARIES
DR. JAMES MATARAZZO, DEAN
THE GRADUATE SCHOOL OF LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SCIENCE
SIMMONS COLLEGE

Dr. James Matarazzo presented the results of a longitudinal study of corporate libraries, entitled "Management Evaluation of Trends in Corporate Libraries". This study, originally carried out in 1990, repeated in 1995, and due to be repeated in 1998, was interested in four major areas: why businesses start corporate libraries, why some of these libraries excel, why businesses close their libraries, and how the performance of corporate libraries is measured. The survey studied approximately 312 of the largest firms in the United States, in proportion to the size of each sector of the U.S. economy.

Dr. Matarazzo highlighted a number of significant changes identified in the second survey, completed in 1995. It was discovered that 15% of the companies studied had closed their corporate libraries since the initial study. It was also found that there was an increase in the number of smaller libraries (i.e., those with fewer than five full-time employees), indicating that libraries had been downsized, and there continued to be a significant number of firms without evaluation criteria for their libraries. Dr. Matarazzo felt that the decline in the value assigned to electronic databases by the managers supervising the libraries was also significant, indicating a change in the role of libraries within corporations. He argued that this trend reflected a need for corporate librarians to re-examine their roles within corporations.

Dr. Matarazzo made a number of recommendations for corporate librarians. These included:

- Given the smaller sizes of corporate libraries, be selective in the services offered. Instead of offering a more diffuse service to many, offer stronger service to a more select audience.
- Find a 'sponsor' for information management. There is no concept of information management in most firms, and the library will need management support.
- Demonstrate the value of the library, library staff, and services to a particular manager/unit in order to garner

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CONTINUING EDUCATION AT DAL SLIS (continued from page 6)

- allies in the struggle for limited resources.
- Align with what is strategically important to the firm.
 - Understand the client's work.
 - Become client-centered, not library-centered.
 - Organize information for use. It is no longer sufficient to provide information for the client: collect the information, but also digest and interpret it.
 - 80% of the demand at most firms is for internal information. Focus on the internal information of the corporation, controlling the content rather than the container.
 - Manage the 'knowledge' of the firm.

- Rainey Morehouse, second year student, 1997-98

MARCH 5, 1998

"DIGITAL LIBRARIES: RESEARCH AND PRACTICE."
 DR. EDIE RASMUSSEN, CHAIR OF LIBRARY SCIENCES
 SCHOOL OF LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SCIENCES
 UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH, PITTSBURGH

On Thursday, March 5th, 1998, Dr. Edie Rasmussen presented a lecture entitled "Digital Libraries: Research and Practice", based in part on her own experiences working on digital library projects at the University of Pittsburgh. Her emphasis throughout was less on the technological aspects of building digital libraries than on the politics and sociology of community building, and how the community of individuals interested in digital libraries in the United States formed alliances.

A definition of the digital library, said Dr. Rasmussen, depends very much on what people want it to mean—particularly what the funding agencies believe it should mean. However, a few common characteristics can be applied across the board. A digital library is not a single entity but a distributed repository of objects in many locations. Linkages, as such, are transparent to end users. There is also a wide-spread belief that universal access to information is one of the principle goals or missions of the digital library. Information contained therein need not be limited to documents and document surrogates. It may include digital artifacts such as video, image, and sound. Most importantly, she stated, is the idea that some form of organization, whether human or automated, is necessary to ensure maximum usability for any digital library.

After touching on both the growth of the digital library idea, beginning with Vannevar Bush's ground-breaking work in the 1940s, and the technological driving forces that pushed the idea beyond mere speculation, Dr. Rasmussen spoke about the Digital Library Initiative in the United States. Supported by the National Science Foundation (NSF), the Advanced Research Project Agency (ARPA), and NASA, the Digital Library Initiative made twenty-five million dollars available to six different projects over a period of four years. Successful funding applicants had to

satisfy two notable requirements. First, they had to be test-beds addressing the needs of a user community apart from the one to which the project members belonged. Second, they had to be collaborative in nature. Partnerships with various types of organizations (school, governmental, etc.) were encouraged. Cooperation among the projects themselves was also encouraged.

The projects that were finally selected turned out to be quite different from one another. One thing they did share in common, however, was the realization that, in building a research team, there was an acute need for a wide variety of expertise. Input from team members with backgrounds in library science proved to be particularly useful. Consequently, there has been a fundamental change in attitudes in the digital library community regarding the place of traditional librarianship in the future of library service.

While the projects in question were only test-beds, other projects have subsequently attempted to create real, useable digital libraries. The Digital Library Federation in the United States has as its mission the bringing together of digitized material for scholars, students, and citizens. Federation members share the common belief that problems and issues inhibiting the development of digital libraries are best resolved through collaborative, practical activity rather than through further theoretical research.

Some of the outstanding problems that must be resolved before further progress is made include intellectual property rights, revenue streams and pricing models, scalability, interoperability, and, increasingly, sustainability. The Pendore Digital Library Project, with which Dr. Rasmussen is herself involved, has lately come up against this final problem. One of the funding requirements is that the team eventually make their project self-sustaining. How this requirement will be met is still under consideration.

Despite, or perhaps because of the hurdles lying ahead, concluded Dr. Rasmussen, people of all backgrounds, technical and non-technical, have a role to play in the future of the digital library. It is increasingly recognized as a project involving much more than scientific information for scientific users.

- Marc Bragdon, first year student, 1997-98

MARCH 20, 1998

"LIBRARY AND INFORMATION PROVISION FOR A SOUTH AUSTRALIAN CITY: IS THE ANSWER COMBINATION, RELOCATION, OR INTEGRATION?"
 DR. LARRY AMEY
 DALHOUSIE SCHOOL OF LIBRARY AND INFORMATION STUDIES

Dr. Larry Amey has been a professor at Dalhousie University since 1976. In this lecture he presented the findings of a study he conducted during his recent sabbatical. One of his areas of continuing interest has been School-Community libraries. From his earlier research, Dr.

(continued on next page)

CONTINUING EDUCATION AT DAL SLIS (continued from page 7)

Amey has determined that school-community libraries work best in small towns with populations of 3000 or less. In addition, these libraries must be centrally located, and accessible to the public from outside the school building. To make this sort of venture work, the needs of both the public and students must be met through a well-thought out and agreed upon plan that must be in place prior to the library's opening.

Dr. Amey travelled to South Australia at the request of the city of Whyalla in order to determine whether a school-community library would best meet the needs of this particular community. Whyalla has several libraries in place, including the Spence Institute of TAFE, the University of South Australia satellite campus library, and two branches of the public library. However, the city feels that these resources are not meeting the needs of its 24,000 residents.

Dr. Amey examined the existing library and information structures available in Whyalla and reviewed them in order to determine if joint use was feasible. During the course of a literature search, Dr. Amey found that a study on the status of the libraries had been presented to the leaders of Whyalla in 1977. This study found that the libraries were under-

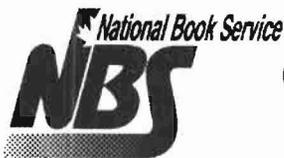
staffed, under-stocked, and poorly located. Unfortunately, Dr. Amey was unable to locate anyone who had heard of this earlier study.

Dr. Amey then re-examined the library services available in Whyalla in light of this earlier study. He found that there had been many changes since 1977. The libraries were linked electronically to resources throughout South Australia and all together gave the residents of Whyalla access to more than 2.5 million items. But, because the various libraries are not connected to each other and their systems are not compatible, the public was unaware that these improvements had been made to their libraries.

As a result of his own study, Dr. Amey recommended that Whyalla not attempt to implement a school-community library system. Instead, he believed that the needs of the community would best be served by:

- Relocating the two branches of the public library to a single, central location at a major shopping mall.
- Integrating the electronic systems of all the libraries systems in the area.
- Explain, publicize, and promote all the library and information systems available in Whyalla.

- Mary Thornton, second year student, 1997-98



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7pm - 9pm in the Regency Room

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APLA '98 Reflection / Réflexion Wolfville, Nova Scotia Conference Reports (continued)

THE FUTURE OF LIBRARY TECHNICIANS

The 1998 APLA Conference was held in beautiful Wolfville, Nova Scotia. The conference was host to many informative and interesting sessions. The exhibitors at the conference gave us a wonderful opportunity to network with those who provide libraries with specialized services and technology.

The conference provided a unique opportunity for library technicians/assistants. There were two sessions hosted by Roger Finigan, program support, Acadia University that were specifically geared to Library Technicians.

The first session was entitled "The Role of Library Technicians in Various Types of Libraries". Roger opened the session with a general overview of where library technicians started and what we have become. In the beginning library assistants were trained in the simplest of tasks with limited exposure. We have certainly evolved and become library/computer technicians. It was best put by Roger who said we were the "micromanagers" of the library. In a constantly changing technological environment we have learned to thrive on our adaptability. We need to focus on promoting ourselves and making people aware of what we do. We have a vast array of skills to offer. The marketing of our skills becomes more important than the names that are attached to the positions. It was felt that there is a need for a better relationship between support staff and librarians. Through our discussion it was evident that there is a need for a professional association of Library Technicians.

The hour discussion was not nearly long enough to discuss our many varied roles in libraries. Roger emphasized that we need to create job opportunities for ourselves by promoting our vast array of skills. We are very adaptable and this becomes essential in our fast changing environment. We need to focus on marketing our skills and give less focus to the names put on the positions.

The second session entitled "Support Services and Professional Development Opportunities for Library Technicians" continued the previous day's discussion. We were joined by Harvey Ratchford, Director, Library/Info Techs NSCC, Kingstec Campus.

Harvey discussed programs available at Kingstec for LTs and where they hope to go in the future. He stressed the

importance of our soft skills; the attitude we bring to a job. Our field is a difficult and challenging one in which job opportunities have to be found by ourselves. You can visit their website at <www.kingstec.nsc.ns.ca/~ratchfhg/>.

There was further discussion involving forming some type of organization for Library Technicians. It was suggested that this could be done as part of APLA. We are receiving great support from our colleagues in this matter. Roger stated that it had been definitely made clear that library technicians wanted and needed a vehicle of communication that would cover the Atlantic provinces. There is a need for advocacy, continuing education and collective wisdom.

The conference was a very useful learning experience and I look forward to the 1999 conference to be held in Saint John, NB. I feel we should start thinking now of what we would like to see for library technicians at this conference.

For those who have not joined the Library Technicians listserve, and I encourage you to do so, here are the instructions:

1. Address an email message to : listserv@rs6000.nshpl.library.ns.ca
2. Leave the subject area blank
2. In the body of the message type only: subscribe lt-1 your name (PLEASE NOTE its LT-1, not #1)
Cancel any signature files and send
3. Shortly a confirmation email will arrive in your mailbox. That's it you are on the list!

Here are two articles that you may be interested in reading:

- St.Lifer, Evan. "We are the library! : support staff speak out". LIBRARY JOURNAL. 1995, November 1; 30-34.
- Makinen, Ruth H. "Paraprofessional staff: a review and report on current duty assignment in academic health sciences libraries in North America". BULL MED LIBR ASSOC. 1993 April 81(2):135-140.

- Karen Darrach
South-East Health Care Corporation
Health Sciences Library

(Continued on next page)

Conference Reports...continued

IN-CITE-FUL SURFING: FINDING AND EVALUATING THE BEST ON THE WEB

Speakers: Doug Vaisey and Joyce Thomson

Some of the critical factors for effective presentation and audience participation in a workshop are prior preparation, handouts and checking of vital resources. Doug Vaisey and Joyce Armstrong of Patrick Power Library, Saint Mary's University had obviously prepared well.

Each participant was given an envelope with handouts dealing with topics such as "Key terms for Internet Work", "Electronic References and Scholarly Citations of Internet Sources", a selection of sheets outlining the characteristics of 6 major search engines such as Alta Vista, Infoseek, and others, Evaluation Criteria and 2 sets of exercises for hands-on practice. In addition, we each had our own disc which had been formatted to allow us access to the Web and to the search engines that Doug and Joyce wanted us to use.

After some general talk about the web and its problems for the searcher, its vast number of sites and vast amount of information we started to discuss how one evaluates a web site. What is it that makes one site a good reliable source of information while another one turned up in that same search should be regarded with doubt and suspicion? One of our handouts listed 5 traditional print evaluation criteria and then applied them to a web site.

We looked at Accuracy, Authority, Objectivity, Currency and Coverage. Having discussed them in general, we were given exercises to go through and apply them to particular sites and particular topics.

Sites that we were asked to look at included the following: Inventing the AIDS Virus, Women and HIV, the Cattle and Beef Handbook, Animal Welfare, the Great Taste of the West, Joe Boxer Homepage, Facts about Growth Hormone, Border Enforcement Facts, Illegal Immigration is a Crime, the Burmese Mountain Dog, Coalition to Ban DiHydrogen Monoxide. We had a sheet that asked us pertinent questions about the site after we had decided which of 5 types of web page it was.

Was it: 1) an advocacy web page, 2: a business/marketing web page, 3) an informational web page, 4) a news web page, 5) a personal web page? Having decided that, we were told to look at Authority, Accuracy, Advocacy, Objectivity, Currency and Coverage.

Looking at each site carefully with the above criteria in mind allows one to decide whether to use that page as a reference or not. While most of us had already been using some of the evaluation criteria, it was most useful to see them written down in a handy format and to realise that there were other aspects we should take into consideration

as well. On one of the handout sheets, it said "When in doubt, be doubtful".

Having a better understanding of how to evaluate a web site should help us when we have to try and convince our patrons that they should be a little more sceptical of what they find on the web. As a matter of interest all did not go completely well in the session. One or two computers acted up, we lost our connection for a time but on the whole the computer gods smiled upon us and allowed Doug and Joyce to conduct a very worthwhile session.

- Bill Kerr

University of New Brunswick-SJ

THE RENAISSANCE OF INTERLIBRARY LOAN PROTOCOL

Speaker: Barbara Shuh

In recent years major library vendors have developed a new generation of ILL management systems which are compliant with the ISO interlibrary loan protocol. This session focused on the role and benefits that these systems have for libraries, as well as the history of the ILL protocol, including early Canadian implementations, IPIG implementations, and NLC's role in current developments.

ILL protocol is a set of rules for system to system communication, regardless of hardware used to run systems, the design of software used by the requester or the supplier, and communications services used to transmit messages. The protocol is very complex, however, with a well designed interface, it should be transparent to the end user. A good management system will provide detailed tracking of ILL processes, and support 21 different kinds of messages that go back and forth between sender and receiver.

There has been a 'rebirth' of the the ILL protocol due to a perceived need to identify and to control the rise in costs associated with interlibrary loan. Use of the protocol allows a library to widen their community of borrowers/lenders, reduce the costs of staffing ILL service, have more efficient turnaround time, and better manage the ILL/DD process.

The National Library of Canada has been very active in the development of the ILL protocol, and has been designated by the ISO as the Interlibrary Loan Application Standards Maintenance Agency. NLC also works closely with IPIG, the ILL Protocol Implementors Group, on the standards. Differences between the Canadian and IPIG include modes of communications, encoding systems, protocol versions and field length. The gateway, or transponder at Cisti provides an interim solution in that it will convert ILL messages between Canadian and IPIG profile systems. For further information, visit website: <<http://www.nlc-bnc.ca/usi/ill/>>.

- Faye Hopkins

Cape Breton Regional Library

NEWS FROM THE PROVINCES



Academic Libraries

The Royal Bank of Canada has donated \$50,000.00 to the **Global Access Centre** located in the **Vaughn Memorial Library** at Acadia University. The Global Access Centre gives students access to learning materials worldwide through the Internet.

Public Libraries

Halifax Regional Library - The Job Evaluation Process has been completed. The completion of this project means all jobs with the library system will now be rated on one scale and standard job titles will apply. An appeals procedure has been established for any staff member wishing to have their position re-evaluated. The next phase will be to apply one salary scale system-wide. Currently a market study of local and national institutions is being done in order to develop the new salary scale. The final decision on salary scales will be brought back to the Library Board.

At its June 25 meeting, the Library Board gave the CEO authority to develop a Request for Proposal for Architectural Design Process for the new **Central Library**.

The Regional and Branch Services Priorities for **Halifax Regional Library** have been completed. This represents an internal scan of the library system allowing individual branches and departments to prioritize their resources in order to improve service to

their customers. This represents an ongoing process, the next step being a Community Scan. **Nova Scotia Regional Libraries** will receive a copy of the document.

JazzEast has donated 200 jazz Cds to the Halifax Regional Library's music collection. Jazz East's relationship with the library was established a few years ago when local educator and saxophonist, Don Palmer started his "Journey Through Jazz" spring library workshop series. Its popularity prompted JazzEast to donate Cds for the enjoyment of local jazz fans. The first donation was made in the Spring of 1996. (Halifax Chronicle Herald, July 2, 1998).

Provincial Library System

The official launch of the **McLennan's of Petersfield** web site was held at the **McConnell Library**, Sydney on June 11. The launch included online demonstrations of the site, and an exhibit of paintings, photographs, and research papers of the McLennan's that can now be examined at <<http://www.cbri.ns.ca/mclennan/project.htm>>.

Cape Breton Regional Library is participating in three new CAP sites. Access to the Internet is now available at the **Sydney Mines and Dominion Branch Libraries**. The **Baddeck Public Library** will be connected in the near future.

Colchester East-Hants Regional Library has been working to broaden the public's awareness of the Library's branches, services, and potential. In the past six months the community relations department and staff have been examining methods of distributing information, particularly to the very rural areas.

CEHRL's "Friends of the Library" had a very busy Spring. The Silent Book Auction focused on books selected and donated by "important" personages in town. This intrigued the public - they wanted to see what books their community leaders chose - and

prompted decision makers to stop and think about the library.

Cafe.com is the new community access site located at the **Strait Area Education and Recreation Centre (SAERC)** which also houses the **Port Hawkesbury Branch Library**. Cafe.com is a joint project of the Strait Regional School Board, Human Resources Development Canada, Industry Canada, SAERC, and Eastern Counties Regional Library. These organizations work together to introduce computers to school and library patrons, offering both walk-in service and service by appointment. Two new computers and a laser printer are available for the public during school and public library open hours.

Port Hawkesbury Branch Library staff have noted a 60% increase in Internet usage in the last 12 months. With tourist season in full swing, many visitors are using the Internet to investigate their past in local lists and genealogical collections. Internet access has been beneficial to their research.

The 1998 Summer Reading Program "Kids Connect @ the Library" was a success! Summer student, Amanda Fraser, hired under a CLA Canadian Heritage Grant, worked with over 100 children. Activities included puppet shows, crafts, games and much more. For the first time, we had our own web site for the program so kids participated on line as well. An added dimension to this summer program for kids was the Virtual Exchange Program. Children from **Pictou-Antigonish Regional Library** were linked with children in Hay River, NWT via web sites. The children shared experiences and information and learned about each other's community.

Launched on April 3, the **Western Counties Regional Library's** Adopt-a-Book campaign has received tremendous support in Digby, Shelburne, and Yarmouth counties. This third annual campaign came to a close on June 30

(Continued on next page)

NEWS FROM THE PROVINCES continued...

and has more than exceeded its goal of 1,000 new books!

WCRL found that the region exceeded its 1997-98 circulation goal. An estimated figure of 5% was actually low! When statistics were compiled the figure resulted in a 7.25% increase. Plans are now well underway for staging the first "Library Card Month" for the region. The objective of this initiative is to double membership during the month of September. WCRL is in the process of securing sponsorship from regional newspapers, radio, and cable TV stations.

Nova Scotia Library Association

The annual **Nova Scotia Library Association** Conference will be held September 26 and 27 at Pictou Lodge, Pictou, Nova Scotia, hosted by **Pictou-Antigonish Regional Library**.

The theme of this year's conference - Rural Library Services for the 21st Century - will be addressed in many of the workshops and opening

address by theme speaker, **Jim Lotz**. Workshops will present topics ranging from "Programming for Children", involving seasonal themes and music; a reading by author **Linda Little**; Library Service in the 21st Century from the Library Technician perspective; to a round table discussion on taking NSLA into the 21st century.

We invite everyone to join us in the serene surroundings at Pictou Lodge for an enlightening and refreshing weekend as we celebrate the 25th anniversary of the Nova Scotia Library Association. We encourage those planning to attend to book accommodation early by calling Pictou Lodge at 1-800-495-6343.

Miscellaneous

In conjunction with Centre Bras d'Or's 14th Annual Festival of the Arts (Baddeck, Nova Scotia), a Writer's Ceilidh featuring well known authors **Alistair MacLeod**, **Sheldon Currie**, and **George Elliot Clarke** took place

on Sunday, August 9. The stories of our region and the music that has grown from them were heard to the delight of the audience.

- *Cathy Chisholm*
Vice-President (Nova Scotia)



The **Atlantic Institution Library** reopened in its new location on June 1. The old library was needed for offices because of changing correctional policy. The new library, although smaller, is much better designed for a prison facility.

Bibliothèque régionale York Regional Library - The provincial literacy for kids program took place in 9 branches of York Region. The program has been so popular that 2 libraries were able to hire staff through other programs and follow the guidelines developed by NBLs. Education students provide one on one literacy tutoring for young people so that skills are learned and not forgotten during the summer.

The regular Summer Reading Club attracted many children across the region and sparked the imagination of staff and children. In Florenceville, "Sir Andrew" recruited his guard to build the road (one cobblestone equals 5 books read) that would lead him to the fair "Lady Laura".

Nashwaaksis Public School Library underwent a major facelift, thanks to renovations at the school and a major contribution from the City of Fredericton. The library is planning to

(Continued on next page)



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NEWS FROM THE PROVINCES continued...

reopen September 1st: new paint, new carpet, some new books, new circulation desk in order to better serve the public.

Perth Andover Public Library will be closed September 7th to 21st. Thanks to funding from the three levels of government, the expansion is well under way and patrons will reenter a larger brighter more spacious library.

Aficionados of movies must see *Ricky Six*, a suspense thriller or horror movie directed by Peter Filardi, filmed partially in the **LP Fisher Library** (Woodstock). The library has been transformed for effect, repainted in darker colors, books changed, windows darkened. Will we recognize it?

Decentralized from NBLs, Interlibrary loans for the **York Region** will now be handled at the Headquarters, thanks to InterLend, a software package supplied by NBLs and our own subscription to Amicus.

During the next year, all 20 branches will be going online for circulation starting with **Fredericton Public Library** November 17th and the last branch connected by September '99!

Bibliothèque régionale du Haut-Saint-Jean - Le Club de lecture d'été 1998 sous le thème de l'époque médiévale avec pour slogan "Les Chevaliers de la lecture", s'est terminé le 14 août dernier dans toutes les bibliothèques publiques et bibliobus de la région du Haut-Saint-Jean. Cette année encore, le Club de lecture d'été a connu un immense succès dans la région du Haut-Saint-Jean : - Inscriptions : 2, 093 - Livres lus : 72, 310 - Contrats terminés : 1, 413.

Lors de la fête de clôture, un public nombreux (parents et enfants) a assisté au spectacle des artistes Nadine Walsh et Jean-François Blais de la célèbre troupe montréalaise, "La Compagnie Médiévale". Les deux artistes ont présenté un spectacle ayant pour thème le Moyen-Âge. Le spectacle a été fort apprécié par le public. Humour, jeu théâtral et scènes d'action se sont co-

toyés durant ce spectacle. De nombreux jeunes ont reçu plusieurs prix d'encouragement. Félicitations aux jeunes pour leur grande participation à cette activité provinciale!

La première réunion du Forum régional de la **Bibliothèque régionale du Haut-Saint-Jean**, s'est tenue le 16 juin 1998, au bureau régional, sous la présidence de **madame Jocelyne Le-Bel**, directrice régionale. La prochaine réunion du Forum régional aura lieu au mois d'octobre prochain. Dans le cadre du Programme Alphabétisation dans les bibliothèques publiques, une journée de formation a été organisée le 5 juin dernier, au bureau régional de la Bibliothèque régionale du Haut-Saint-Jean. Les coordonnatrices du programme dans la région, responsables de bibliothèque, directrice régionale, et le bibliothécaire aux Services d'extension, ont assisté à cette journée de formation. De nombreux échanges et discussions entre les participants(es) ont eu lieu. **Madame Reinelde Thériault**, Agente pédagogique au District scolaire no 3 a donné une présentation très intéressante ayant pour titre : "Les stratégies pour apprendre à lire". Cette journée de formation a permis aux participants(es) de vivre une expérience de ressourcement très enrichissante.

New Brunswick Library Service / Service des bibliothèques du Nouveau-Brunswick - We are pleased to welcome **Sylvie Nadeau**, who assumed the role of Regional Librarian for the **Chaleur Regional Library** in Campbellton on September 14, 1998. **Connie MacLeod** left her position as Senior Systems Analyst at NBLs as of August 28. **Peter Chase** joins our staff as her replacement October 1, 1998.

An important automation milestone will be reached this fall as both the **Campbellton Centennial Library** (October) and the **Fredericton Public Library** (November) move to automated circulation.

NBLs has been awarded a second

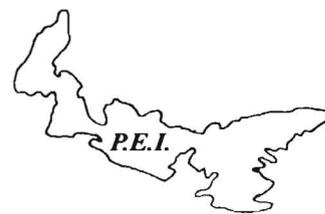
Youth Employment Strategy Grant through Industry Canada. **Stacey Grant** and **Jan Ferguson** have been hired to train public library staff in the use of the Internet. The project will continue through mid-December.

Association of Professional Librarians of New Brunswick

The annual meeting and conference is set for October 2nd and 3rd in Fredericton. The theme "Library links: the human element in access to and provision of information" will be presented by 7 speakers from various backgrounds: **Suzanne Alexander**, Goose Lane Editions, **Philip Lee**, editor-in-chief Telegraph Journal. Responding librarians are **Jean Ann Ledwell**, **Francesca Holyoke** and **Ella Fairley**. The Governor General will speak of her literacy initiative for NB and **Gwynneth Evans** (NLC) will provide the national and international perspectives on literacy. For the first time, simultaneous translation will be provided on site.

La 6^e assemblée annuelle et conférence de l'**Association des bibliothécaires professionnel(le)s du Nouveau-Brunswick** aura lieu à Fredericton les 2 et 3 octobre 1998. "La bibliothèque branchée au service des gens: un maillon essentiel dans la chaîne de l'information" présente diverses perspectives.

- *Charlotte Dionne*
Vice-President (New Brunswick)



Academic

Lynne Murphy took up her new position as University Librarian at the **University of Prince Edward Island**

(Continued on next page)

NEWS FROM THE PROVINCES continued...

on August 17. She comes to the Island from McGill University. Welcome back to the Maritimes, Lynne! Also, **Betty Jeffery** of Acadia University has extended her exchange with **Janet Arsenault** of UPEI for another year.

Holland College has revised its library web pages to include a section on searching the CBCA database and an expanded section on searching the Internet which includes a glossary and instructional pages. The URL is <<http://www.hollandc.pe.ca/info/info.htm>>.

Public

The Summer Reading Club "A good knight's read/Les chevaliers de lecture" has had a very successful turnout on the Island. Over 300 children registered in Charlottetown alone. Some of the projects initiated by Children's Librarian **Barb Kissick** and her student staff include the library's own Bayeux Tapestry, the Magna Carta colouring book, the Domesday book and medieval fashions. Participation was also very high in many of the rural branch libraries. For example, the public library in Souris had 43 participants from Grade 1 to 6 and the program included making almond cardamon cakes and jousting!

The **Provincial Library Service** has incorporated the holdings of the **Department of Education's Media Centre** into the AbbyCat system. The Media Centre has approximately 7,000 videos in VHS format which are primarily intended for classroom use in the school system but which are now available for borrowing to anyone with a library card. The Media Centre is moving from the Dymaxion system, MediaNet, for booking and circulation videos to Dynix's Media Scheduling module.

A pilot project modeled after the New Brunswick summer literacy program was initiated on PEI this summer. Through a multi-partnership of the PEI Family Literacy Advisory Committee, the **PEI Professional Librarians'**

Association, the National Literacy Secretariat, a division of H.R.D.C. and the Provincial Library Service, five Education students were employed to offer one-on-one literacy tutoring in eight library locations.

Over 100 participants were referred from local schools and 97 have completed the nine weekly sessions. The five tutors have worked enthusiastically with each of the children. Positive results are seen in the excitement and regular attendance, the good responses from the parents and the progress observed by the tutors. The program offers a number of benefits for children with reading difficulties, including making reading a fun activity and introducing the children to the public library.

School libraries

School libraries have an additional 4,000 non-fiction volumes in their collections this fall thanks to the Department of Education's decision to grant \$4.00 per student for library materials. The grant is to be matched from each school's operating fund. The Provincial Library Service ordered and processed the additional volumes during the summer.

- Moira Davidson
Vice President (PEI)



College Libraries

The **College of the North Atlantic** has experienced departures at two of its campuses: **Kelli Bellew** has left her position with the Topsail Road campus

and has moved to Toronto to work with the CBC Radio Archives. **Cathy Browne** has left the Gander campus to take a position with Environment Canada.

Public Libraries

The **Provincial Information and Library Resources Board** and the **District 7 School Board** have partnered to create a new school-public library service in Burin. The new **Burin Memorial Public Library** officially opened on July 8, and it is located in the former Integrated School Board office building. The new facility is over 4 times the size of the old public library, and it boasts 8 new computers provided through the Community Access Program, which is funded by Industry Canada.

Enhanced computer services, including extended public Internet access, have been added to **Western and Labrador Division** branch libraries including Churchill Falls, Cartwright, Woody Point, Ramea, Wabush, Norris Point, Port au Port, and Burgeo. The last three locations are new school-public library joint services. Other news from Labrador comes from Happy Valley, where two local students have been hired to develop a website for Labrador oral and photo history using the *Them Days* magazine archives. This project was done with support from Industry Canada's Schoolnet Digital Collections Program.

Staff of the **St. John's Public Libraries** held a 1 day workshop on June 15 on the theme of "Team and Change" at the Boat House, Quidi Vidi Lake, St. John's. The session, conducted by 2 individuals from the provincial government's Employee Assistance Program, concentrated on dealing with change, stress management, and team work.

Public Internet access has been set up at the **Marjorie Mews and Michael Donovan** branches in St. John's. One Internet machine has been set up at each location.

(Continued on next page)

NEWS FROM THE PROVINCES continued...

In other news, a Young Canada Works in Heritage Institutions grant has been obtained by **St. John's Public Libraries** to hire a student to work with Newfoundland Collection Librarian **Brenda Parmenter** on the creation of a web page for the Guide to Genealogical Materials in the Newfoundland Collection, and to place selected genealogical materials on the web.

Library collections and services are being promoted in the St. John's area through the introduction of a new column in the "Lifestyles" section of *The Evening Telegram* newspaper every fourth Friday.

The **St. John's Library Board** has received a hooked mat entitled *Union Mine at Tilt Cove* from well-known Newfoundland mat maker **Lois Saunders** as a prize for its October 30 ticket draw. The proceeds for the draw will be used for the purchase of talking books.

The website entitled 1880's Newfoundland: A Pictorial, which was developed by the **Provincial Information and Library Resources Board** and **Memorial University's Centre for Newfoundland Studies**, was recently accorded recognition by Yahoo! Canada, who selected the site as their pick-of-the-week for June 29-July 3.

Special Libraries

Ron Knowling has been hired by the provincial Department of Human Resources and Employment Policy Planning Division, where he is working as a database administrator in connection with the Churchill Falls power project. **Karen Halliday** has taken a new position with the Salvation Army's College for Officer Training in St. John's. **Kim Hammond** has been temporarily reassigned from her position with the provincial Department of Justice to the Labrador Hydro project, where she is working in an information management capacity.

University Libraries

Three new appointments have been made to Memorial University's Centre for Newfoundland Studies. **Joan Ritcey** is the new Head of CNS, replacing the recently retired **Anne Hart**. **Colleen Field**, meanwhile, has been hired to fill the tenure-track position of Public Services Librarian. **Laura Scott** will be working part-time at the Centre, while continuing some of her duties in the **Queen Elizabeth II Library's** Collection Development Division. In other staff development news, Joan Ritcey and Archivist **Linda White** were elected as Vice-Presidents of the **Newfoundland Historical Society**, while **Bert Riggs** was elected Treasurer of the **Association of Newfoundland and Labrador Archives**. **Paul Hebbard**, who has worked at the CNS Archives since 1995, was awarded the CLA's H.W. Wilson Scholarship of \$2,000.00, and is now embarking upon a two-year MA program in archival studies at UBC's Green College with an accompanying fellowship of \$10,000.

The Centre for Newfoundland Studies held a reception on July 8 to celebrate the acquisition of the German-language Moravian Archives Papers relating to Labrador from 1750 to 1908. These papers, obtained through arrangements made with the Archiv der Brueder Unitait in Germany by Dr. Hans Rollman of Memorial University's Department of Religious Studies, complete the collection of

correspondence pertaining to the Moravian Mission in Labrador which was begun several years ago with the Centre's acquisition of British and North American papers on the topic.

The Centre for Newfoundland Studies Archives has been the recent recipient of a number of archival collections, including those of the Scandinavian Society of Newfoundland. The CNS Archives has also received a \$6,000.00 grant from the Control of Holdings program of the Canadian Council of Archives to carry out arrangement and description of the papers of former Newfoundland Premier Thomas G. Rideout.

Other News

A letter dated June 23 was sent by the APLA Vice-President (Newfoundland) to Ms. **Luanne Leamon**, the Chair of the Literacy Strategic Planning Unit recently created by the provincial government in Newfoundland to investigate the allocation of resources to combat illiteracy in this province. The purpose of the letter was to remind Ms. Leamon of the importance of libraries in the struggle to eradicate illiteracy, and to urge that the libraries in Newfoundland and Labrador be considered when decisions are made as to allocation of resources. At the time of this article, there had not yet been a reply from Ms. Leamon.

- Steve Field

Vice-President (Newfoundland)



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PREMIUM CONTENTS WITH ELECTRIC LIBRARY CANADA

HTTP://WWW.ELIBRARY.CA

BY ANDRÉ GIONET

Electric Library Canada operates on the Internet, but it is not a regular search engine. It searches only in a collection of copyrighted materials, and ignores Web sites. Electric Library Canada is operated by Rogers Media Inc., under license from U.S. firm Infonautics Corporation, creator of the original Electric Library. Electric Library Canada aims at being "your personal online research centre", and to deliver "100% full text articles" from newspapers and magazines.

Pricing

The complete pricing structure is not outlined in the general information pages. For an individual account (e.g. for your personal use at home) the rates are \$12.95 a month or \$89.95 per year. These rates are a flat-fee, unlimited use model. Information about corporate subscriptions (e.g. schools, libraries, businesses) was not available, but it is stated that an institution can purchase a license allowing for varying numbers of simultaneous users.

Contents

The Canadian version expands the original Electric Library by including Canadian content. At the time this article was written, Electric Library Canada claimed to have the following holdings:

- ▶ 9,149,875 newspaper articles
- ▶ 829,889 magazine articles
- ▶ 427,390 book chapters
- ▶ 1,103 maps
- ▶ 96,218 television and radio transcripts
- ▶ 58,519 photos and images

Despite its name, the content of Electric Library Canada is overwhelmingly American. In their launch release, Rogers Media Inc. said that the portion of Canadian content was to be augmented in the upcoming months. In addition, the following information was available on Electric Library Canada's Web site:

Canadian content consists of over 50 Canadian magazines including such trusted names as Maclean's, Canadian Business and Canadian Geographic. Additional Canadian content includes The Toronto Star, Gage Canadian Dictionary and Thesaurus, The Canadian Global Almanac, The Canadian Encyclopedia, Colombo's All Time Great Canadian Quotations, Canada and the World Backgrounder and many more.

For a complete listing of Canadian sources, you can visit the following link:

<<http://welcome.elibrary.ca/test/about/content-list.html>>

Basic Searching

The basic search screen has a blank line in which you can type in a query. The line that says *Ask a question and click Go!* means that you can type your query in natural language, or, if you prefer, as if you were asking a questions to a person. A check list lets you limit your search to certain contents: *Magazines, Maps, Books & Reports, Newspapers & News-wires, Transcripts (Radio, TV & Govt.), or Pictures*. Another check list lets you choose if you want to search all content or limit your search only to Canadian content. Finally, a pull-down menu lets you limit your search to one particular subject area.

For example, a search with the query "Information about oil and gas exploration in Atlantic Canada" (without the quotes), limited to Canadian content, retrieved 5 documents. The first citation was:

Well begins 'exciting' oil play in Quebec.;

Score: 80; Oilweek; Harvie, Will; 06-08-1998; Size: 5K; Reading Level: 7.

Clicking on the title of the article will give you the full-text of the article. We learn that Shell Canada drilled for oil on Anticosti Island, and bought 24,000 hectares of possibly oil-rich lands in New Brunswick.

Interestingly, the natural language query "oil and gas exploration in Atlantic Canada" (without the quotes) yielded 87 documents.

When looking at a document, tabs allow us to return either to the result list or to move straight back to the search screen.

More Advanced Searches

A more advanced search mode is available by clicking on the link that says *Search Options*. You get the same options as with the basic search, plus:

- ▶ Select Search Type: *Natural Language Search* or Boolean Search (and, or, not)
- ▶ Select a publication date range:
- ▶ Limit your search by bibliographic information: *Author.*, *Title.*, *Publication:*

(continued on next page)

HTTP://WWW.ELIBRARY.CA (continued...)

Natural Language Search: Electric Library recommends that you enter your keywords in a meaningful order, just like a question you would ask another person.

Boolean Search: the Boolean operators are AND, OR, NOT. Although this is not documented, Electric Library supports the use of double-quotes for phrase searching. The following shows Boolean queries and the results obtained on all content:

- ▶ atlantic canada = 17 documents
- ▶ "atlantic canada" = 10 documents
- ▶ atlantic canada and "oil and gas" and exploration = 8 documents
- ▶ oil and gas and exploration and atlantic canada = 150 documents
- ▶ "oil and gas" and exploration and "atlantic canada" = 17 documents*

*It is interesting to note that this query yielded 17 documents on August 23, but gave a "No Documents Found" message on August 28.

However, the use of parentheses for nesting queries does not work. The following examples show the results obtained with nesting queries:

- ▶ scuba diving AND (gear OR equipment) = 30 documents
- ▶ scuba diving AND gear OR equipment = 30 documents

After consulting Electric Library's documentation on Boolean searches and making several trials, it makes no difference whether or not you enter your Boolean operators in capitals.

CONCLUSION

Electric Library Canada seems more like a work in progress than a mature product. Its target seems to be more the general consumer than the professional searcher, despite promises of an upcoming business edition and an evident desire to attract libraries. This would be consistent with the history of Infonautics Corporation, the owner of the Electric Library concept. From the start, their target market was consumer online services (eg. Prodigy, AOL, Compuserve) instead of institutions.

Electric Library Canada has a lot of interesting content, with a growing Canadian presence. However, the awkwardness of its search engine doesn't make it an efficient tool for libraries and information services. Natural language and Boolean searching seem temperamental, to go by the results obtained during testing. Also, the lack of query nesting, either by using parentheses or a form makes it harder to do genuine advanced searches.

Overall, Electric Library Canada may be an interesting service for the home user who is easily satisfied or with time to try different searches. However, it is not so good for the professional librarian who is expected to deliver answers in a minimal time. Time will tell, and we'll have to see how this product develops.

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Occasional Papers Series No. 60

MIDWIFERY IN CANADA, 1980-1997: A BRIEF HISTORY AND SELECTIVE BIBLIOGRAPHY OF PUBLICATIONS IN ENGLISH - LISE L. HACKETT

"I would recommend this for purchase by health libraries and also to my students as an excellent example of health sciences bibliography." (Dr. Joanne Marshall, Faculty of Information Studies, University of Toronto.)

The resurgence of midwifery as an alternative to medical intervention during childbirth has inspired considerable debate in medical and political circles over the past decade. This is the first comprehensive annotated bibliography on midwifery in Canada. Lise L. Hackett, a former Community Health Nurse in Montreal and currently responsible for Reference Services at the Education Library of McGill University, has assembled an impressive collection of over two hundred relevant items. While much of the material is scholarly or professional in nature, several lay publications are included in order to provide the most complete overview possible. Apart from empirical and descriptive studies, other types of material the author considers to be important to the midwifery debate, such as articles, books, dissertations, and government publications and reports, are included as well. Whatever kind of information a student, researcher or legislator might require on the topic, the chances of finding them here are excellent.

The careful annotations and index are equally impressive. For each item, the author provides a succinct description of the contents, thus aiding researchers in assessing a given item's relevance. While entries are conveniently arranged in chronological order by date of publication, and then sub-arranged by author or title, she also includes a comprehensive author/title index. All

this makes for a very searchable, useful resource.

This title is strongly recommended for health care professionals, policy makers, students, and researchers alike. Its balanced approach and careful annotations make this a model health sciences bibliography, one that will be consulted extensively by those with an interest in the ongoing midwifery debate.

Occasional Papers Series No. 61

THE FAR NORTH AND BEYOND: AN INDEX TO CANADIAN SCIENCE FICTION AND FANTASY IN GENRE MAGAZINES AND OTHER SELECTED PERIODICALS OF THE PULP ERA, 1896-1955 - JOHN BELL

English Canada's tradition of fantastic literature remains both one of the least explored and most fertile areas of study for literary and cultural historians alike. Up to now the absence of relevant historical treatments has obstructed research in the field. With the publication of John Bell's comprehensive bibliography, *The Far North and Beyond: An Index to Canadian Science Fiction and Fantasy in English-language Genre Magazines and Other Selected Periodicals of the Pulp Era, 1896-1955*, a detailed picture of English-Canadians' contribution to the development of the genre is finally emerging.

Mr. Bell, co-founder of the national science fiction convention, *Convention*, and the Canadian Science Fiction and Fantasy Award (now the Aurora Awards), focuses on one of the most colourful yet neglected periods in North American publishing, the so-called "Pulp" era. For six decades the inexpensive and extremely popular pulp magazines inundated newsstands all over the continent, leaving their mark on popular consciousness while defining much of the appeal the genre holds for its contemporary readership. In many ways, Bell relates in his compelling introduction, these magazines created modern science fiction and fantasy.

His careful research reveals a far greater degree of Canadian participation in the "pulp" than has hitherto been recognized. *The Far North and Beyond* details the contributions of eighty-one Canadian writers and artists to six hundred issues of seventy-six different English-language magazines. This bibliographical information is presented in five separate indices: author, title, artist, magazine, and series. The author and artist indices also provide, where possible, a biographical source reference for each creator entry.

This title is a must for scholars, researchers, and libraries concerned with Canadian science fiction and fantasy in particular and Canadian genre studies in general. Ever careful to err on the side of inclusiveness, *The Far North and Beyond* succeeds in going where no Canadian index has gone before.

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COMING EVENTS

The Nova Scotia Library Association annual conference is set for September 25-27 at the Pictou Lodge. Complete conference information is available on the Internet at: <<http://www.parl.ns.ca/nsla98/>>. From this web site, you can register online or print off a registration form to mail in. If you are planning to stay at the Pictou Lodge you should book immediately, as rooms are going quickly. This message is being posted to several internet addresses, we apologize for any cross postings. Please pass on this information to anyone interested. If you need more information, contact Peggy Hiscock at 902-755-6031 or <phiscock@nsngp.library.ns.ca>.

NAWeb 98, The Virtual Campus, Fredericton, NB, Canada, October 3-6, 1998, sponsored by the WWW Courseware Developers and the Department of Extension and Summer Session, University of New Brunswick. For more information: <<http://www.unb.ca/web/wwwdev/naweb98/>>.

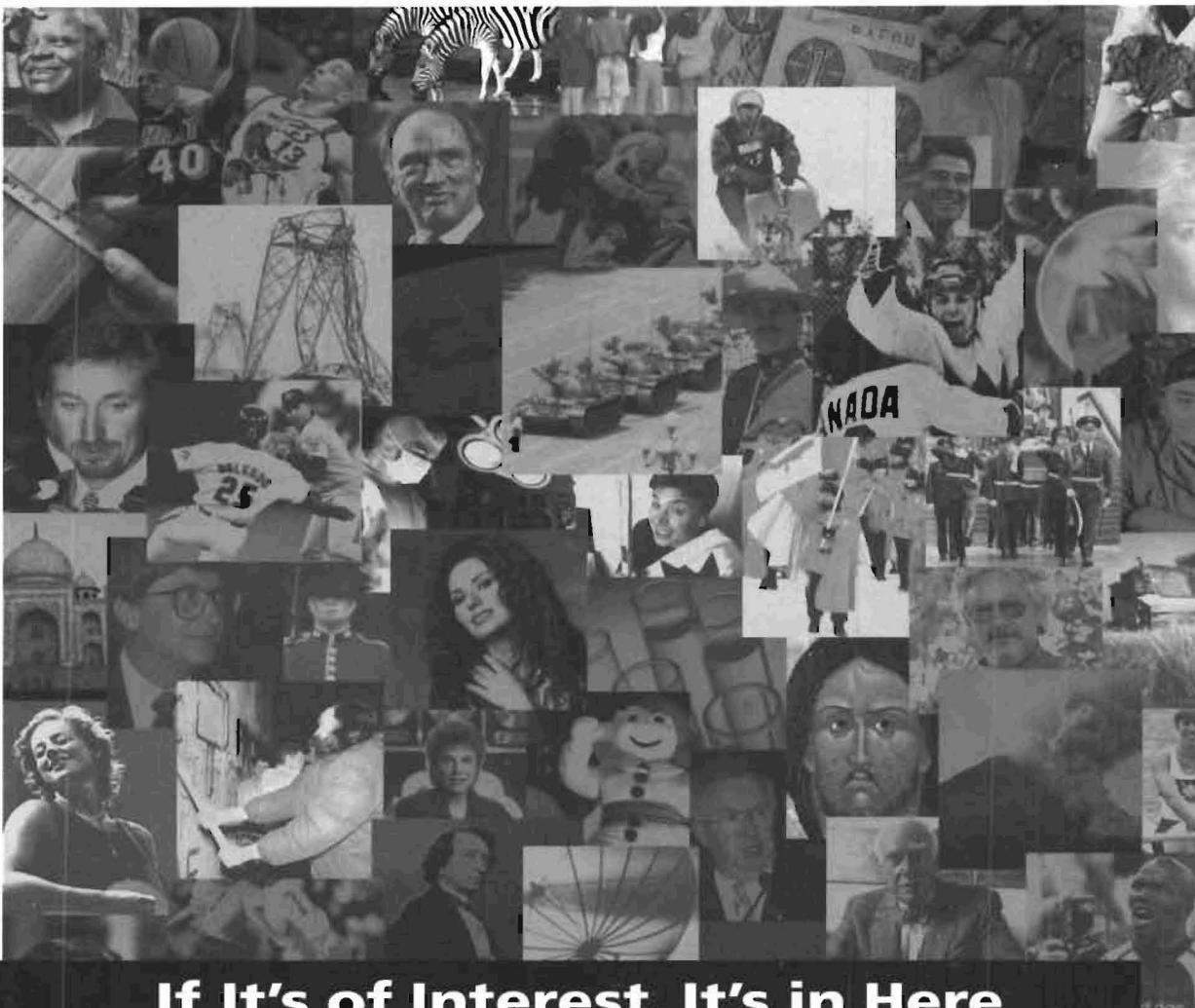
1998 Conference on the State of Higher Education in the Maritimes, "Transitions - Strategies for Working Together". Hotel Beauséjour, Moncton, New Brunswick, November 18-20, 1998. Sponsored by the Maritime Provinces Higher Education Commission. For further information: Louise Grady at <gradyl@mphec.ca>. / **Conférence 1998 sur l'état de l'enseignement supérieur dans les Maritimes**, "Transitions - Stratégies pour travailler ensemble". Hôtel Beauséjour, Moncton, Nouveau-Brunswick, 18-20 novembre 1998. Pour de plus amples renseignements: Lousie Grady à <gradyl@mphec.ca>.

Integrating Government with New Technologies: How Policy Drives Technology, December 7 and 8, 1998, Government Conference Center, 2 Rideau St., Ottawa. Co-sponsored by Treasury Board Secretariat, the National Archives of Canada and Public Works and Government Services Canada. For full program and registration details: <<http://www.rileyis.com/seminars/dec98/>>.

APLA '99, May 27-30, 1998. Saint John Trade and Convention Centre, Saint John, New Brunswick. For more information: Susan Collins at <collins@admin1.csd.unbsj.ca> or Ian Wilson at <ian.wilson@city.saint-john.nb.ca>.

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