



# Bulletin

The Atlantic Provinces Library Association

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## Musings on Mr Panizzi's Interminable Catalogue, Cutter, 856, and Other Imponderables

Pssst -- come here a minute, I have something really scary to tell you. Do you know that cataloguing forms a major component of librarianship and hating it is akin to hating biology and chemistry and still becoming a doctor? No, really, and it is getting worse. It used to be -- in the good old days before the advent of the internet -- that knowing the collection in your own library was enough. After all, if your library did not hold an item, by the time you located it elsewhere and interlibrary loaned it, chances were good that your patron would no longer need it. How times have changed! Not only can librarians and patrons consult the online catalogues of the Library of Congress, Australia National University, and everywhere in between, thousands of monographs and serials are being loaded full-text on computers, making them instantly accessible -- always providing we know where, and how, to look. At its most basic, knowing where and how to look -- effectively using catalogues -- is our job. W.W. Bishop, in an address to the Albany Library School in 1915, put it this way:

*If you are to administer libraries, you must know libraries, you must be able to work your machine, you must have practical knowledge of its parts. Nothing in the craft should be foreign to you, least of all the art of cataloguing.*

The word catalogue comes from the Greek kata (by or according to) and logos (word, order, or reason). The need for to create catalogues becomes obvious whenever library collections grow too large "for any one person to keep in mind." Achieving order in the physical collection by placing items according to colour, size, or author's first name is possible but not very reasonable unless the user knows a considerable amount about the collection already. A catalogue should be designed to describe each item, physically and intellectually, in such a way as to it possible for the user to determine the item's potential value to her without physically retrieving the item. Exactly what information would appear in those records was a matter of some contention in the early years of cataloguing. For example, personal authors were almost unknown in the Orient while the Greeks were happy to use the author of the work as an entry but saw no reason to be concerned with order beyond the first letter in the last name.

True cataloguing codes came along in the nineteenth century. In 1836 the British House of Commons appointed a select committee to "inquire into the condition, management, and affairs of the British Museum" -- including the catalogues overseen by Extra-assistant Librarian Panizzi. Panizzi persuaded the authorities to give official approval for the use of his Ninety-One Rules.

Using the title page as the chief source of information, Panizzi created catalogue entries which reflected only what appeared on that page. He established rules for the form of the author's name, using, for example, the family surname of a noble author rather than the honorific (Max Aitken, rather than Lord Beaverbrook). For main entries, he created form entries, using, for example, PERIODICAL PUBLICATIONS for newspapers, magazines, and annuals. Only when all else failed, did he use the title as a main entry.

The effect on the patrons was marked. Imagine being able to look for the Saint John Times Globe only by the heading PERIODICAL PUBLICATIONS. John Payne Collier, a Shakespeare critic, dubbed the whole system "Mr. Panizzi's

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## From the President's Desk

Many things have happened since my last column. First, it is with regret that I announce the resignation of Penny Marshall from the position of Vice President/President Elect. Due to work situations beyond her control, she cannot continue in her present position with APLA. I want to thank Penny for her participation on the Executive over the last few months. I wish her all the best! Second, we have a **new Vice President/President Elect**. The Executive, at its Fall meeting in Antigonish, overwhelmingly appointed **Peter Webster** as our next VP/PE. Peter, an active member within APLA, will step down as convener of the Computers and Connectivity Interest Group and will fill the VP/PE position until the next OGM in May 1999. He can be found at the following address:

Peter Webster  
Head of Information Systems  
Patrick Power Library  
Saint Mary's University  
Halifax, NS, B3H 3C3  
Phone: (902) 420-5507  
Fax: (902) 420-5561  
E-mail: peter.webster@stmarys.ca  
On behalf of the APLA Executive and Membership, I welcome you aboard Peter!

The APLA Executive met in Antigonish on October 17 and 18. Among the items discussed were advocacy training, the hiring of an Executive Director for this Association, I'ASTED, and workshops. With regard to library advocacy, the executive moved that they

"approve an expenditure of not more than \$10,000 to finance a one day advocacy workshop to "Train the Trainers". Pat Cavill will be conducting this workshop in Halifax sometime in March 1999. Eight people will be selected amongst those who attended the initial Library Advocacy Awareness workshop (which occurred in both PEI and at the APLA '98 preconference). These eight will be asked to serve on the Communications Committee.

Another major item discussed at the meeting was the hiring of an Executive Director for this Association. The executive moved that they "approve an expenditure of not more than \$6,000 to hire a consultant to conduct a study into the feasibility of hiring an Executive Director" for APLA. A Request for Proposals will be submitted to listservs with a deadline of November 15 for responses. Subsequently, a consultant will be appointed by December 15 and will be required to present a report to the Executive by March 21. The Executive will present the results of the report to the members at the next OGM meeting in May 1999.

Other notable items at the meeting: 1) Pierre Lafrance has agreed to be APLA's representative in I'ASTED; 2) the executive moved to "approve the expenditure of \$500 from the General Activities Fund" for a Metadata Workshop to be conducted in the Atlantic Provinces

--- this workshop, presented by UNB, will serve as a pilot for a series of workshops to be conducted across the country. The Executive will be meeting again on March 20-21 in Halifax.

Regarding the forthcoming review of the National Archives of Canada and the National Library of Canada, APLA was unable to submit a brief to Dr. John English by the set deadline of September 15. However, those interested in viewing a couple of the briefs submitted can do so at the following URLs: 1) CARL (Canadian Association of Research Libraries) <[http://www.uottawa.ca/library/carl/projects/NANL/Nanl\\_Brief.htm](http://www.uottawa.ca/library/carl/projects/NANL/Nanl_Brief.htm)>, 2) CAPDU (Canadian Association of Public Data Users) <<http://datalib.library.ualberta.ca/~humphrey/capdu/>>.

The following Interest Groups and Committees have new conveners: Library Instruction I.G. (Jennifer Richard); Library Technicians I.G. (Roger Finigan); Newspaper I.G. (Charles Cameron); Intellectual Freedom Committee (Louise McGillis). I would like to welcome them and to encourage members to get involved in these and other Interest Groups and Committees. Also, we are still looking for conveners for the following groups and committees: Collections Development, Conservation of Library Materials, Computers and Connectivity, and Communications. If interested, please contact Peter Webster.

- Francesco Lai

### MUSINGS (continued from page 1)

interminable catalogue," and Thomas Carlyle angrily testified before a House of Commons Committee that:

*If you cannot find the book in the catalogue, they will not attempt to seek it. ... Like a haberdasher requiring me, if I went into his shop and asked him for a yard of green ribbon, to tell him in what drawer the ribbon was lying.*

Despite these complaints, in 1850 Charles Jewett based his code for the Smithsonian Institution on Panizzi's, making little provision for subject entry and entering books under the "real" name of the author, rather than a pseudonym, no matter what appeared on the title page.

In 1876 Charles Ammi Cutter took a different approach. When creating his Rules for a Printed Dictionary Catalogue, Cutter had three main objects:

1) To enable a person to find a book when either the author, title or subject is known; 2) To show what a library

holds by a given author, on a given subject, in a given kind of literature; 3) To assist in the choice of a book as to its edition (bibliographically) and as to its character (literary or topical).

His means to achieve these objectives included establishing:

- 1) Author entries with necessary references;
- 2) Title entries or title references;
- 3) Subject entries, cross-references, classed subject table;
- 4) Form entry and language entry;
- 5) Edition and imprint, with notes when necessary;
- 6) Notes

All other things be equal, the choice of entry, said Cutter, should be determined based on which would likely be chosen first by "the class of people who use the library."

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## MUSINGS (continued from previous page)

The goal was to make it possible for the patron to move, via the entries, from a single record to every other record in the catalogue and thus, to every book held by the library -- a truly integrated collection.

For years, Cutter's goal has been frustrated by card files and paper. Even when online catalogues came along, most, if not all, merely transferred those paper limited records onto a computer screen. There was the introduction of an added search capability known as "keyword", a promising concept but it depended on boolean and positional operators, field searching, nesting, truncation, masking, etc. to be truly useful to the average patron. Worse, it did not readily serve to illustrate the relationships among items in the library's collection. For that, we had to wait for the world wide web, hypertext links, and 856.

With properly constructed, web-based catalogues, for the first time, we have the technology to fulfill Cutter's dream. If a library holds more than one item in a series, for example, the patron need only to find a record for one of the items; the rest of the series records can be retrieved by "clicking" on the series title. Find one record on a particular subject by "guessing" or knowing a single title that deals with that subject, and the patron can "click" her way to all the other items in the catalogue that relate.

With the addition of 856, the patron can retrieve both the record of an item and the physical item itself, whether the item is physically in the library's collection or somewhere else on the internet. It only requires that the library identify the item for the patron and put the appropriate link in the catalogue record. Of course, it also means that the potential size of the library's collection has just grown phenomenally. Want to add the Federal Register or the Canada Gazette to your collection? Add a record with an 856 link to your web-based catalogue. Want to add the Jerusalem Post or the Irish Times? How about the Agricola or ERIC or Medline databases; the Perseus Project; Radio Havana?

The appropriateness of such links, how each link should appear, the information the link should contain, the determination of the value and worth of items selected, the criteria used to select such items, are all subjects of much discussion at conferences, in library journals, and in technical services meetings. If the discussions seem too technically oriented, if we wonder sometimes why we are spending time and resources to identify appropriate links, if this seems like an awful lot of work -- it might be nice to remember that we are carrying on a long tradition of librarians doing their jobs, knowing where and how to look in order to provide patrons with the ability to access and retrieve needed material.

- Linda Hansen

University of New Brunswick-Saint John

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## APLA CONVENERS 1998-99

### STANDING COMMITTEE CONVENERS

**Communications Committee**  
Vacant

**Intellectual Freedom Committee**  
Louise McGillis  
Public Services Librarian  
Ferriss Hodgett Library  
Sir Wilfred Grenfell College  
Corner Brook, NF A2H 6P9  
Work: 709-637-6236  
Fax: 709-639-8125  
E-mail: mcgillis@beothuk.swgc.mun.ca

**Memorial Awards Committee**  
Sheila Pearl  
14 Crescent Drive  
Truro, NS B2N 1N6  
Home: 902-895-6203  
Fax: 902-893-5610  
Envoy: ILL.NSTT

**Public Relations Committee**  
Suzanne Sexty  
see Secretary - APLA Executive

### INTEREST GROUP CONVENERS

**Collections Development**  
Vacant

**Computers and Connectivity**  
vacant

**Conservation of Library Materials**  
Vacant

**Continuing Education**  
Darlene Tan  
Regional Librarian  
Canadian Forest Service, NRC  
P. O. Box 4000  
Fredericton, NB E3B 5P7  
Work: 506-452-3541  
Fax: 506-452-3525  
E-mail: DTan@NRCan.gc.ca

**Francophone Interest Group**  
Johanne Jacob  
Provincial Library Service  
Rotary Regional Library  
192 Water Street  
Summerside, PE C1N 1B1  
Work: 902-888-8370  
Fax: 902-888-8055  
E-mail: jxjacob@gov.pe.ca

**Library Instruction**  
Jennifer Richard  
Academic Librarian  
Vaughan Memorial Library  
Acadia University  
Wolfville, NS B0P 1X0  
Work: 902-585-1549  
Fax: 902-585-1748  
E-mail: jennifer.richard@acadiau.ca

**Library Technicians**  
Roger Finigan  
Library Technician  
Vaughan Memorial Library  
Acadia University  
Wolfville, NS B0P 1X0  
Work: 902-585-1770  
Fax: 902-585-1073  
E-mail: roger.finigan@acadiau.ca

### Newspaper

Charles Cameron  
Manager  
Provincial Resource Library  
Arts and Culture Centre  
St. John's, NF A1B 3A3  
Work: 709-737-3946  
Fax: 709-737-2660  
E-mail: ccameron@publib.nf.ca

### Trustees

Judy Heron  
New Brunswick Library Trustees Association  
105 Scarlet Drive  
Gondola Point, NB E2E 1S3  
Home: 506-847-7208  
E-mail: heron@nbnet.nb.ca

### APBR SOCIETY BOARD REPRESENTATIVES

Laura Jantek  
Halifax Regional Library  
5381 Spring Garden Road  
Halifax, NS B3J 1E9  
Work: 902-490-5823  
Fax: 902-490-5747  
E-mail: ljantek@nsh.library.ns.ca

Hedy Armour  
5632 Morris Street  
Halifax, NS B3J 1C2  
Home: 902-425-3877

### ASTED REPRESENTATIVE

Pierre LaFrance

### APLA '99 CONFERENCE CONVENERS

Susan Collins  
Director of Information Services & Systems  
Ward Chipman Library  
University of New Brunswick  
Saint John, NB E2L 4L5  
Work: 506-648-7500  
Fax: 506-648-5701  
E-mail: collins@admin1.csd.unbsj.ca

Ian Wilson  
City Librarian  
Saint John Free Public Library  
1 Market Square  
Saint John, NB E2L 4Z6  
Work: 506-648-1191  
Fax: 506-658-2903  
E-mail: ian.wilson@city.saint-john.nb.ca

### FINANCIAL EXAMINER

Peter Glenister  
Bibliographic Services Librarian  
Mount Saint Vincent University  
166 Bedford Highway  
Halifax, NS B3M 2J6  
Work: 902-457-6402  
Fax: 902-457-6445  
E-mail: peter.glenister@msvu.ca

### LIBRARY SCHOOL STUDENT ASSISTANT

Amber Butler  
School of Library and Information Studies  
Killam Library, Room 3621  
Dalhousie University  
Halifax, NS B3H 3J5  
E-mail: abutler2@is2.dal.ca

## Publication Information

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The editors can be reached at the following addresses:

### Editor:

**John Neilson**

Government Documents, Data, and Maps  
Department  
Harriet Irving Library  
University of New Brunswick  
Fredericton, NB E3B 5H5  
Fax: 506-453-4595; Voice: 506-648-4752  
e-mail: [neilson@unb.ca](mailto:neilson@unb.ca)

### Assistant Editor:

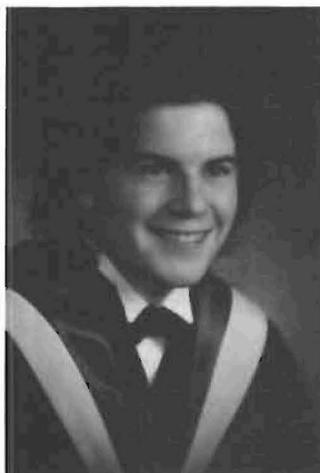
**Linda Hansen**

Ward Chipman Library,  
University of New Brunswick  
Saint John, NB E2L 4L5  
Fax: 506-648-5701; Voice: 506-648-5788  
e-mail: [lhansen@unbsj.ca](mailto:lhansen@unbsj.ca)

### Advertising Editor:

**Brian McNally**

Systems Librarian  
Ralph Pickard Bell Library  
Mount Allison University  
Sackville, NB E0A 3C0  
Fax: 506-364-2237; Voice: 506-364-2617  
e-mail: [bmcnally@mta.ca](mailto:bmcnally@mta.ca)



## Carin Alma E. Somers Scholarship Recipient Jan MacIntyre

Having completed his undergraduate degree in English at the University of Prince Edward Island, Ian is in his first year of Dalhousie's MLIS programme. During his undergraduate years, he worked part-time at the Confederation Centre Public Library in Charlottetown, an experience which confirmed his interest in the profession. After completion of his graduate degree at Dalhousie, Ian wishes to pursue the areas of systems, database management and web-page design. Outside of his studies, he enjoys music, reading and writing poetry.

## APLA EXECUTIVE 1998-99

### Past President

John Teskey, Director of Libraries  
University of New Brunswick  
Work: 506-453-4740  
Fax: 506-453-4595  
Email: [jteskey@unb.ca](mailto:jteskey@unb.ca)

### President

Francesco Lai, Manager  
Library and Information Services  
Atlantic Food and Horticultural Research Ctr  
Work: 902-679-5508  
Fax: 902-679-2311  
Email: [laif@em.agr.ca](mailto:laif@em.agr.ca)

### Vice President, President Elect

Peter Webster  
Head of Information Services  
Saint Mary's University  
Work: 902-420-5507  
Fax: 902-420-5561  
Email: [peter.webster@stmarys.ca](mailto:peter.webster@stmarys.ca)

### Treasurer

Elaine MacLean, Head, Technical Services  
St. Francis Xavier Library  
Work: 902-867-2221  
Fax: 902-867-5153  
Email: [emaclean@stfx.ca](mailto:emaclean@stfx.ca)

### Secretary

Suzanne Sexty  
Library Instruction Co-ordinator  
Memorial University of Newfoundland  
Work: 709-737-7427  
Fax: 709-737-2153  
Email: [ssexty@morgan.ucs.mun.ca](mailto:ssexty@morgan.ucs.mun.ca)

### Vice President (Newfoundland)

Stephen Field, Information Services  
Librarian  
Memorial University of Newfoundland  
Work: 709-737-3165  
Fax: 709-737-2153  
Email: [sfield@morgan.ucs.mun.ca](mailto:sfield@morgan.ucs.mun.ca)

### Vice President (Prince Edward Island)

Moira Davidson, Systems Librarian  
Provincial Library Service  
Work: 902-961-7323  
Fax: 902-961-7322  
Email: [mcdavidson@gov.pe.ca](mailto:mcdavidson@gov.pe.ca)

### Vice President (Nova Scotia)

Cathy Chisholm,  
Information Services Librarian  
University College of Cape Breton  
Work: 902-563-1675  
Fax: 902-563-1177  
Email: [cchishol@sparc.uccb.ns.ca](mailto:cchishol@sparc.uccb.ns.ca)

### Vice President (New Brunswick)

Charlotte Dionne, Chef du catalogue  
Bibliothèque Champlain  
Université de Moncton  
Work: 506-858-4012  
Fax: 506-858-4086  
Email: [dionneca@umoncton.ca](mailto:dionneca@umoncton.ca)

### Vice President (Membership)

Barbara McDonald, Head of Lending  
Services  
Memorial University of Newfoundland  
Work: 709-737-3189  
Fax: 709-737-2153  
Email: [barbaram@morgan.ucs.mun.ca](mailto:barbaram@morgan.ucs.mun.ca)

## Northern Light Revisited

[ <http://www.northernlight.com/> ]  
by Andre Gionet

For those of you who may remember, I did a review of Northern Light back in early 1998. But the Web is a dynamic place and change comes quickly. Barely a few months ago, Northern Light was revised and augmented with new features, including a Power Search.

### The Search Language

This is an area where the changes have been dramatic, as Northern Light now supports all Boolean operators as well as field searching.

- "...": use double-quotes to find documents in which the words appear in the exact order.  
Example: "cross-country skiing"
- AND, + : to find documents in which both words/phrases appear. There should be no space between the plus sign and the word/phrase you wish to include.  
Example: paris AND museum  
"flight 111" +crash
- OR : to find documents in which at least one word appears.  
Example: diving OR "scuba diving"
- NOT, - : to find documents in which a word or phrase does not appear. There should be no space between the minus sign and the word/phrase you wish to exclude.  
Example: "pasta sauce" NOT meat  
diving NOT scuba
- (...): use the parentheses to nest your queries.  
Example: investigation AND ("flight 111" AND (crash OR accident))
- \* : use the asterisk to replace letters in a word. It can be used anywhere in the word.  
Example: bicycl\* to find bicycle, bicycles, etc.
- % : use the percent sign to replace only one letter.  
Example: gene%logy to find gene within one letter of logy, to find either genealogy or geneology.

Searching by fields is the great new thing about Northern Light. This feature should help users get more precise search results.

- URL: to search for a Web site with a particular URL, or to limit a search to a particular Web site.

Example: (*URL:wired OR hotwired*) to find documents on the Web sites having the words *wired* or *hot-wired* in their URL.  
(*URL:sciam.com*) to find documents on the Web site of *Scientific American*.

- TITLE: to search for a document title or partial title.  
Example: *TITLE:(petrol\* OR oil OR gas)* to find documents with these words in their titles.
- PUB: to search for Special Collection documents by publication title.  
Example: (*PUB:canadian business*) to find Special Collection articles from publications with the words *canadian business* in their titles, including *Canadian Business* magazine.
- COMPANY: to search for information about a particular company. This type of search is limited to some items that are indexed in the Special Collection.  
Example: *COMPANY:petro canada* will find Special Collection articles about Petro Canada.
- TICKER: to search for information about a company based upon the company's stock ticker. This type of search is limited to some items that are indexed in the Special Collection.  
Example: *TICKER:gou* will find Special Collection articles about Gulf Canada.
- TEXT: to search within the text of the document or website. A very good complement to the other field searches.  
Example: (*TEXT:atlantic canada*) AND (*COMPANY:shell*) to find articles about Shell in Atlantic Canada.  
(*TEXT:sable island*) AND (*PUB:financial post*) to find articles about Sable Island from the Financial Post.

### Power Search

This is one of the new features of Northern Light that was not available at the time of the first review. You can use the same search language described above, plus you can use a form to enter your search criterias. To access the Power Search module, simply mouse click on the Power Search tab at the top of the main Northern Light screen.

The first part of the form asks you to select where to search. You have to fill at least one of the following:

*(continued on next page)*

## Northern Light Revisited *(continued from previous page)*

- *Words anywhere* to search for words in the documents (titles, URLs, abstracts, Web pages)
- *Words in title* to search for words in the titles of the Web pages or Special Collection documents (see also the *TITLE:* tag)
- *Words in URL* to search for words in the URLs (Web addresses) of Web pages (see also the *URL:* tag)
- *Select Special Collection Publication* to limit your search results to Special Collection sources that contain that word or phrase you entered.

You can also limit your search results to one of the following: *All Sources*, *World Wide Web*, or *Special Collection*. The default is *All Sources*.

Other options that are part of the Power Search mode of Northern Light.

### SELECT DATE RANGE

Fill in one date field or both to narrow your results by date. The dates must be entered in the format mm/dd/yy. For example, *September 12th, 1997* should be entered as *10/12/97*. A checkbox lets you choose to have your results sorted by date, with the most recent documents appearing first.

### SELECT SOURCES

This section lets you narrow your search by source, language, or a country. If you make no selection, your search will be executed in all sources. Here are some noteworthy items about Select Sources:

- News Archives will search for articles from news sources in the Special Collection. The options to search other types of Web site (eg. commercial, non-profit, educational) will search for Web sites by domain name (eg. *.com*, *.gov*, *.org*, etc.).
- Documents written in: menu allows to limit search results language to English or French.
- *Web sites from:* menu allows to limit search results to one country, including Canada.

### SELECT SUBJECTS

This list lets you select one or more topic area(s) in order to help you get more focussed search results.

### LIMIT DOCUMENTS TO:

This list lets you select at least one document type.

### **Publication Search**

This another new feature from Northern Light. Publication Search lets you search for a publication title in the Special Collection. Previously, to see if a publication was part of the Special Collection, you had to browse a list. Now you search

that list by keyword. The same search language can applied to do a publication search.

### **Industry Search**

This new feature lets you limit your search to industries. You can enter keywords in the search line, and then limit your results to one industry segment, a date range, and a documents type. NOTE: because of indexing, your Industry Search results will be limited to Special Collection documents only.

### **Current News**

This feature lets you search a set of newswires amalgamated by Northern Light. The search line lets you type in keywords for the topic you are researching. You can then limit your search by time (last two hours, today, last two weeks), sort your search results (relevance or date), and limit to a subject area (eg. business, weather, etc.). The same search language applies to Current News searching.

### **Conclusion**

As you can see, Northern Light underwent a significant overhaul since last it was covered in this column. The searching language and the Special Collection features have been greatly augmented with new features. In my opinion, Northern Light clearly tries to attract business from the corporate libraries, by focusing on business information services. However, it remains a useful tool for the general public as an all-purpose Web search engine and general magazine index.

Also, the page layout is still simple and clear, with a pleasant white background and publicity is kept to a minimum. The search results, unless you choose otherwise, still integrate Web pages and Special Collection documents, and the Custom Search Folders still group search results into related topics.

As well, the Web database of Northern Light has gone through significant expansion since the last review. According to the *Search Engine Report*(1), Northern Light now ranks third for the size of its database. In October 1998, the following results were obtained in a mini-showdown, searching for the phrase "scuba diving".

AltaVista = 99,855  
**Northern Light = 70,797**  
 Infoseek = 50,388  
 Hotbot = 40,508  
 Excite = 21,955  
 Webcrawler = 2,659  
 Magellan = 2,388

(1)*Search Engine Report*, comparison of search engine sizes: <http://searchenginewatch.com/reports/sizes.html>

Send comments or suggestions to Andre Gionet  
 mailto: <agionet@dynix.parkland.lib.sk.ca>

## NEWS FROM THE PROVINCES



### Public Libraries

**Bibliothèque régionale du Haut-Saint-Jean - La Bibliothèque publique Mgr-W.J.Conway** d'Edmundston est au nombre des récipiendaires du Prix de la lieutenant-gouverneure pour l'alphabétisation de la petite enfance, catégorie Bibliothèques, décerné le 8 septembre à l'Assemblée législative. Elle est récompensée pour son nouveau programme "Heure du conte" présenté aux enfants âgés de quatre ans et plus tous les samedis matin.

La Bibliothèque régionale du Haut-Saint-Jean a organisé une tournée de l'auteur **Florian Levesque** (Monsieur Flo) dans quatre bibliothèques publiques de la région. À l'aide de son livre et de ses complices, Vanessa ti-ged dap ha ha, Pépère Georges et Pitoche le petit bonhomme de la grange, Monsieur Flo a fait découvrir aux enfants le monde rural des années 40. Les rencontres ont connu un grand succès!

**Saint John Regional Library** - While the state of the collection and staffing issues continue to be the major concerns of the Saint John Regional Library, its Annual Book Sale in May raised \$15,871.62 for collection purchases. At the local level, several Boards initiated and organized book sales to raise funds for their libraries. The Adopt-A-Book Programme, introduced in December, 1997 has raised \$5,500.00 to date. *Ongoing Book Sale Proposal* - A proposal to hold an ongoing book sale at the **Saint John Free Public Library** is under consideration. Tentative start date for the sale of donated material is November 2, 1998.

The **Kennebecasis Public Library** was nominated for - and won! - a Lieutenant-Governor's Early Childhood Literacy Award in the library category (September 1998). Loss of library materials due to theft necessitated the installation of a 3M Security System at the Saint John Free Public Library in May. Trustees in St. Stephen negotiated with the Town regarding the moving of the **St. Croix Public Library** from its historic location, keeping the needs of the library and its users in the forefront. **Campobello** celebrated the 100th anniversary of the building on Canada Day, holding a fund raising auction and serving a special anniversary cake. SRC '98 (Summer Reading Club) was highly successful in the **Sussex Regional Library** where children read over 10,000

books this summer! (Regional Statistics 31,623 items read!)

All libraries of the Saint John Regional Library closed on September 16th to hold the annual Employee Development Day. Eight library employees have applied to continue French language training on their own time, one evening per week, 130 training hours from September to June. Automation Project - Patron recon in preparation for automated circulation is underway and in some branches almost completed. On-line circulation is expected to go live in all locations by March 1999. The Regional Library participated in the International Literacy Day event - **Read Across New Brunswick Challenge** in co-operation with the Saint John Learning Exchange on September 8th. Employees from the West Branch took advantage of the second industry Canada sponsored student Internet training.

The Saint John Regional Library recently received positive media coverage on key issues. **Pamela Stevens Rosolen** was interviewed twice on Global TV news on New Brunswick Literacy statistics and the effect of the falling Canadian dollar on library acquisitions. Both **Joann Hamilton-Barry** and Pamela Stevens Rosolen were interviewed on CBC radio re: SRC '98. Pamela Stevens Rosolen chaired the 1998 CLA Book of the Year Award for Children. The winning author was Kenneth Oppel for the novel Silverwing.

**Bibliothèque régionale AWK Regional Library** - In early June, New Brunswick writer, **Herb Curtis** gave a reading of his most recent work, "The Silent Partner", at the **Peticodiac Public Library**. **Jerry Walford** of the **Moncton Public Library** was awarded a Certificate in Library Studies from Memorial University of Newfoundland.

A **Lieutenant-Governor's Early Childhood Literacy Award** was presented to **Gabrielle LeBlanc** of the **Shediac Public Library**, for the initiative in producing a video called "Page Visits the Library", as well as for having developed a reading club for preschool

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## NEWS FROM THE PROVINCES continued...

children, I Love Books, a program which has since been adopted by libraries throughout the province.

The Summer Reading Club was very successful in the **Albert-Westmorland-Kent Region** with 2,760 children registering and reading together approximately 50,000 books. Noteworthy is the fact that **Honorable Marilyn Trenholme-Counsell**, the Lieutenant Governor of New Brunswick, came to the Moncton Public Library two nights in a row to attend the closing ceremonies of the Club. She spoke about the importance of reading and read a story.

**Bibliothèque régionale York Regional Library** - The Literacy for kids program was successfully offered in Boiestown, Chipman, Fredericton, McAdam, Nackawic, Plaster Rock, Hartland and Médiathèque Père-Louis-Lamontagne via NBLA. Harvey and Perth-Andover also participated thanks to other job creation programs.

The summer reading club was very popular this year. Staff were very innovative with programs and decorations. 1578 eager readers registered for the summer reading club and 666 for the Read-to-Me club for the younger soon-to-be readers. A total of 50,793 books were read.

In an effort to increase public awareness of the Region's Talking Books Service, almost 250 brochures were distributed to health care professionals throughout the Region's geographic area.

The Regional Forum (one trustee of each of the 19 public library boards) will meet October 15th to discuss issues and share information.

**Perth-Andover Public Library** has reopened following extensive expansion and renovations over a one-month period. Staff and patrons are happy to be in their "new" home.

**Stanley Community Library** hosted their second annual fundraising Fall House Tour on September 26th, 1998: 126 people visited a selection of four local homes - included a lake, a church and returned for tea and a luncheon at the library, which was transformed into an indoor garden for the day.

In a presentation to officials of the Department of Municipalities & Hous-

ing, some of the issues of the region were identified as staffing levels, improved collections and public-school libraries (9 of the 10 public-school libraries of the province are in York region - the 10th being in Saint John at Centre Samuel-de-Champlain).

**La Bibliothèque publique de Memramcook** quittait ses locaux le 26 août et déménagera dans des locaux plus spacieux et modernes d'ici quelques semaines. Expansion of libraries are contemplated in five communities of the area: Dieppe, Hillsborough, Riverview, Saint-Antoine and Shediac. It shows that these communities are eager to see better library facilities to meet the various needs of their citizens more appropriately.

The Literacy for Kids Program was successfully offered in Moncton, Petitcodiac, Richibouctou, Riverview, Sackville, Salisbury, Saint-Antoine and Shediac. This program aims at providing children an opportunity to improve their literacy skills over the summer months. Over 100 children took advantage of this program.

The Albert-Westmorland-Kent Regional Forum held its October meeting at which trustees Jacqueline Léger (Shediac), **Maurice LeBlanc** (Moncton) and **Cathy Cormier** (Saint-Antoine) received the Regional Certificate of Achievement in recognition of their contribution to their local libraries.

### *Academic Libraries*

**Université de Moncton** - Dans le cadre d'un projet fédéral d'embauche pour étudiantes à l'été 1998, **Mélanie Moreau** et **Sylvie Marquis** ont réalisé l'indexation du journal *Le Madawaska* pour la période couvrant les années 1946 à 1950. Cet inventaire est disponible en format PDF au site Internet de la bibliothèque de l'Université de Moncton - Campus d'Edmundston, à l'adresse: <<http://www.cuslm.ca/cuslm/biblio/index.htm>>. Cliquer sur l'item NOUVEAUTE; puis sur l'Indexation.

Dans le cadre d'un même projet, à la Bibliothèque Champlain, une étudiante a construit une page Web permettant d'envoyer des demandes de PEB jusqu'à

AVISO, via le courrier électronique.

Le campus d'Edmundston a fait l'acquisition de six nouveaux ordinateurs Pentium destinés aux usagers. Ils sont utilisés à plein régime.

Au campus d'Edmundston, de même qu'à la Bibliothèque Champlain de Moncton, une télévisionneuse a été installée pour les personnes ayant une déficience visuelle. Ces appareils de marque Smartview sont couplés à des moniteurs de 18 ou 21 pouces et le tout est branché à l'Internet. On peut y raccorder son ordinateur personnel.

### *Others/Associations*

**New Brunswick Library Trustees Association** - At its Annual General Meeting, held in Fredericton on September 26, the New Brunswick Library Trustees Association elected a new executive: president, **Ray Watson**, Chairman of the Sussex Public Library; secretary, **Aurèle Thériault** of Tracadie; treasurer, **Roseline Maillet** of St. Antoine. The association is looking forward to a busy year of improving communications within the organization, briefing the new minister of the needs of the public library and speaking out for the system: "As trustees we must make the public aware of the state of the library collections in New Brunswick and encourage the Minister to bring library staff up to a reasonable level."

The 1998 NBLTA Merit Award winner was **Judy Heron** of Kennebecasis Public Library. She has served for ten years on her local board, and in such positions as Chair of the Saint John Regional Board, President of the New Brunswick Library Trustee Association and Secretary of the Canadian Library Trustees Association.

Trustee Judy Heron, Past President, New Brunswick Library Trustees Association attended the APLA and CLA Annual Conferences representing the Region's trustees at the one day "Library-Advocacy Now" workshop at APLA and presenting a paper on the governance of libraries in New Brunswick at the National Conference.

**ABPNB / APLNB** - L'Association

(continued on next page)

## NEWS FROM THE PROVINCES continued

des bibliothécaires professionnel(le)s du N.-B./Association of Professional Librarians of New Brunswick a tenu son Assemblée générale annuelle et un congrès très réussi les 2 et 3 octobre dernier. Marilyn Trenholme Counsell, lieutenant-gouverneure du N.-B. et **Gwynneth Evans** de la BNC ont traité du sujet toujours brûlant de l'alphabétisation, et Suzanne Alexander de Goose Lane Editions et Phillip Lee, rédacteur en chef du Telegraph-Journal ont donné le point de vue des éditeurs et des journalistes. **Jean Ann Ledwell**, bibliothécaire et directrice générale de l'INCA, division NB, a parlé des problèmes propres aux personnes atteintes de déficience visuelle et **Francesca Holyoke** (UNB) et **Ella Fairley** (NBLs) nous ont entretenu de leur travail respectif. Plus de 40 des quelque 80 membres ont participé à cette conférence. Toutes les communications étaient retransmises par un service de traduction simultanée.

At its October 2nd annual general meeting, the following people accepted to serve on the executive: **Malcolm**

**MacBeath**, president **Charlotte Dionne**, vice president, president-elect **Anita Cannon**, secretary **Sarah Hill**, treasurer **Mireille Mercure** and **Marjorie Sinclair**, members-at-large

The next day, over 50 librarians gathered together for the annual conference, listened to various speakers, discussed the human element in access to information, literacy, networked and bid for books, visited libraries and some even visited Old Government House (to open to the public June 6th 1999). Marilyn Trenholme Counsell, Lieutenant-Governor of the province began the day with her literacy initiative and her view of the role of libraries and librarians in society.

**Musée du N.-B./NB Museum - The Library & Archives of the New Brunswick Museum** has just completed the production of a new resource for middle and high school teachers. "Researching Canada's past: an archival journey" is an educational kit containing reproductions of original documents, maps, photographs, and ephemeral items from the NBM archival collections. The material is organized into research files

which are self-contained. These files include an overview of the documents in the file, typed transcripts where applicable, a supplementary list of books on related topics available in the NBM Library holdings, plus suggested classroom activities, and a glossary or terms. A similar kit, containing documents in French, is currently under production.

**Provincial Archives of N.B./ Archives provinciales du N.-B.** - Upcoming exhibits at the Provincial Archives of N.B. include: "Women at Work": Official opening at 4:00 p.m. on Wednesday, October 7. Marking Women's History Month this exhibit explores the changing nature of work for women in New Brunswick from the late 19th to the mid-20th century. Through photographic images and archival documents, it will show the broad range of work - professional careers, jobs in factories and stores and as proprietors of a variety of businesses - which has engaged women over the years and thereby challenges the idea of "women's work" being very limited in scope.

"Dordrecht during World War II": Official opening at 5pm on Sunday, November 8. This series of photographs records the impact of World War II on life in Dordrecht, the Netherlands, from the first military activity on May 10, 1940 to the city's liberation by Canadians on May 8, 1945. The exhibit was prepared by the Dordrecht Municipal Archives as a token of honour to all the Canadian soldiers as well as those at home who sacrificed so much to liberate cities such as Dordrecht. The opening will convey this tribute to veterans who experienced the war in the Netherlands and their families, as well as highlight the contributions of the Dutch who have made New Brunswick their home since the war.

**New Brunswick Library Service / Service des bibliothèques du Nouveau-Brunswick** - All 61 public library branches will have direct connections to Vision.Online (the Provincial OPAC) by the end of December. This completes the first phase of automation and our attention will now focus on the implementation of automated circulation.

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## NEWS FROM THE PROVINCES continued...

Acting Provincial Librarian **Jocelyne Thompson** attended the Gates Library Foundation launch of the grant process for Canadian libraries in Montreal on October 1, 1998. Gates intends to provide "public libraries in low income communities with the computer hardware required for community access to the Internet".

The Youth Employment Strategy Internet training project is progressing well. Over 150 staff members will receive training by project end in December.

NBLS is currently benefiting from the talents of two casual librarians. **Sarah Hill** and **Cynthia Losier** will be with us through July and September 1999 respectively.

- *Charlotte Dionne*  
Vice President (New Brunswick)



### Academic

**Robertson Library** at the **University of Prince Edward Island** has received 100 books as a gift from the Embassy of Ireland in Ottawa. These books reflect Irish history and culture. The titles were selected by the Library from a lengthy list provided by the Embassy. The University offers a minor in Irish Studies. These books are a valuable addition in support of this field of study.

**Elizabeth Hamilton**, Government Documents Librarian at the University of New Brunswick presented a workshop for Robertson Library reference staff on October 19 on the Data Liberation Initiative. This project provides enhanced access to statistical data and is only available to the university community.

**Holland College** recently opened the **Atlantic Welding and Fabrication Institute** in Georgetown. **Brenda Brady**

was responsible for setting up the unstaffed resource centre that will provide for the information needs of those in the program. Also, the Holland College Foundation made a donation to the Holland College library which will go toward new computer equipment.

### Associations

The **Prince Edward Island Professional Librarians' Association** hosted a workshop entitled "Government documents and the Internet" presented by Elizabeth Hamilton on October 19. Elizabeth took participants on a tour of useful Web sites and focussed on practical ways to answer reference questions involving government information. The session was sold-out.

The **Prince Edward Island Teacher-Librarian Association** is once again hosting a Technology Marketplace at the annual Teachers Federation conference. This feature includes several groupings of computers where new software is demonstrated and teachers and teacher-librarians are encouraged to get make a hands-on evaluation of the software. The marketplace is staffed by members of the Department of Education, Sympatico employees, student-teachers from UPEI and teacher-librarians.

The PEITLA is still reaping the benefits of the joint conference of the Association of Teacher-Librarians of Canada and PEITLA held on the Island last spring. Issues raised during the conference are providing topics for workshops and professional development days. The new Executive of the PEITLA consists of: **Ray Doiron** (Past-President), **Carol Fitzpatrick** (President), **Joan Forbes** (Vice-President) and **Anne Galle** (Secretary/ Treasurer).

### Public

The **Rotary Regional Library** in Summerside, located in the old train-station, is sporting a new mural on its outside walls. Painted by artist Greg Garand, the mural is taken from five old black-and-white photographs depicting railway scenes. The unveiling of the mural took place on Sunday, October 4.

French Services Librarian **Johanne**

**Jacob** is travelling to the Iles-de-la-Madeleine as a part of an agreement between Prince Edward Island and Quebec to promote French-language services. The islands are home to seven libraries and Johanne will be touring the libraries, meeting staff and exploring commonalities and possibilities for sharing programming and other resources.

For Canadian Children's Book Week, authors **Julie Johnston** and **Denise Paquette** will be visiting the Island. Julie Johnston is from Ontario and will be giving four public readings during her stay as well as school readings. Denise Paquette will be visiting the French-language libraries.

The **Provincial Library Service** participated in the pilot project of a summer literacy project. The **Confederation Centre Public Library** hosted the launch of "The Adventures of Word Monster", a cartoon strip about family literacy. This featured a performance of "Begin with the Word", a family literacy musical. The Provincial Library Service is putting a percentage of its materials budget into new literacy material in an attempt to rejuvenate the literacy collection.

### Special Libraries

The **Canadian Association of Law Libraries** will be holding their year 2000 conference in Charlottetown at the CP Prince Edward Hotel in May of that year. The local contact person is Pam Borden of the Law Society of Prince Edward Island Library. The law library has moved out of the downtown courthouse while structural renovations to the building are completed. The library should be able to move back next spring into new quarters wired for Internet access.

- *Moira Davidson*  
Vice President (PEI)

*More News from the Provinces  
on next 3 pages...*

## NEWS FROM THE PROVINCES continued...

*College Libraries*

Budgetary constraints at the **College of the North Atlantic** have resulted in a number of measures designed to cut costs. Among these measures has been a freeze on filling nonteaching positions (including library positions) and operating budgets that are not related to course delivery. Libraries in the College of the North Atlantic system have experienced reductions in staff and concomitant reductions in service hours. The good news is that the Library Technician II position at the Placentia campus has just been filled, although the name of the person filling it is not available at this writing. In other news, **Michelle Walters** is the new librarian at the Gander campus, replacing **Cathy Browne**; **Alexandra Goff**, Learning Resources Specialist at the Carbonear campus, has taken on the position of Vice-Principal at St. Peter's Elementary School in Upper Island Cove; **Robert Giles**, the librarian at the Bay St. George campus has accepted a part-time position at Regina High School in Corner Brook.

All library staff at the College of the North Atlantic now have a common e-mail address: <username@northatlantic.nf.ca>.

*Public Libraries*

The 1998 Summer Reading Program at the **St. John's Public Libraries**, under the theme "Take Flight - Read" attracted nearly 300 participants. All participants who finished the program received a reading kit and certificate. As part of the program, there was a contest and six

prize drawings. Prize winners received reading kits, and the grand prize winner at each branch received a glider kit.

The Guide to Genealogical Materials in the Newfoundland Collection, 3rd ed., produced by the Newfoundland Collection of the St. John's Public Libraries has been placed as a web document at <www.publib.nf.ca/genealogy>.

In other news in the St. John's area, children's writer Ed Kavanaugh gave 2 presentations in August. The presentations, sponsored by the Canada Council, were held at the **Marjorie Mews Library** on August 20 and at the **A.C. Hunter Children's Library** on August 26. Large, enthusiastic groups of parents and children attended both events.

Outside the St. John's area, there were other developments: The **Western and Labrador Division's Happy Valley** branch has a new web site has been created with support from Industry Canada's SchoolNet Digitization program. The site is titled "Them Days: An Oral and Photo History of Labrador". The Western and Labrador Division also had two authors visiting branch libraries during Children's Book Week. Laurel Dee Gugler was in Labrador, while Ron Lightburn visited branch libraries in western Newfoundland.

*Special Libraries*

**Sandra Halliday** has left her position at the **Grace Hospital** in St. John's to take on a Health Sciences Librarian position at Queen's University in Kingston, Ontario.

*University Libraries*

Budgetary constraints coupled with a poor U.S. exchange rate on the purchase of library materials at **Memorial University** have resulted in the observation of various economies at the **Queen Elizabeth II Library**. In addition to a recent round of journal cancellations involving about 815 journal titles, the library has initiated restrictions on monograph purchases until the end of December.

On the personnel front at Memorial University, **Barbara Porrett** of the Information Services Division and **Doro-**

**thy Milne** of the Collections Division are both on sabbatical leave from their respective positions. **Chris Dennis** is presently the Acting Head of the Collections Division. **Suzanne Ellison** is the new Acting Head - Bibliographic Control Services.

**Karen Lippold** and **Barbara McDonald** recently obtained and spent \$10,000.00 in funding from the University Endowment Fund. The monies received went to the purchase of 2 scanners and Ariel Version 2.1 software to improve inter-campus loans over the web to both the Corner Brook and Harlow, England campuses.

- Steve Field  
Vice President (Newfoundland)

*Academic Libraries*

**DalTech Librarians Present at Engineering Education Conference** - The 11th Annual Canadian Conference on Engineering Education was held in July on DalTech campus. DalTech librarians, **Helen Powell** and **Donna Richardson** presented the paper, "Technology Bytes: the Computer in Technical Communication Courses". **Mark Bartlet** and **Sharon Murphy** offered, "Buying and Shelving Electronic Journals: Implications for Teaching and Learning in Engineering".

**DalTech Staffing Changes** - **Pat Lee** is the new Slide Curator at DalTech Faculty of Architecture Slide Library; **Lesley Brann** is the new part-time catalogue librarian at the DalTech Library.

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## NEWS FROM THE PROVINCES continued...

### Public Libraries

#### Halifax Regional Library

##### Job Evaluation Process Completed

- On September 21, 1998 Halifax Regional Library Board accepted and approved the job evaluation compensation report and recommendations which completes unification of the classification system and brings parity to library employees. The new salary scales became effective September 10th.

**CAP for North End** - Industry Canada through a Community Access Program (CAP) is providing the Halifax North End Community with free access to the Information Highway. The official opening was held September 18th. A long with access to the Internet, the community will have free access to e-mail, Afrocentric software, and other information software and services.

**Central Library Fundraising** - Fundraising for the new Central Library and the marketing campaign will be undertaken by RBR Developments Associates Ltd. Negotiations are continuing in regards to the acquisition of land at the corner of Spring Garden Road and Queen Street.

**Strategic Plan Completed** - The Halifax Regional Library has completed its strategic plan. The Board initiated a strategic planning process to tackle long term library development challenges and to provide the newly formed system with unified vision and direction. The strategic plan is an ambitious and proactive blueprint, charting the Halifax Regional Library's course towards a shared vision.

**Branch Profiles Completed** - The 1997/98 edition of the Halifax Regional Library Branch Profiles has just been completed. Profiles represent useful information such as demographic trends, catchment areas, branch use trends, information on the facility itself, types of equipment, collections, staffing, etc. Information is continually updated during the year as new data becomes available and analysed.

### Provincial Library System

#### Cape Breton Regional Library

New Children's Librarian - The Cape Breton Regional Library is in the process

of hiring a new Children's Librarian. This is a new position and is the first time the Children's Department will have a full time librarian. The position should be filled by mid-October.

**Increased Hours** - Five branch libraries within the Cape Breton Regional Library System have increased hours. Watch for new hours in Ingonish, Baddeck, North Sydney, New Waterford, and Sydney Mines.

#### Eastern Counties Regional Library

##### Rural Services Delivery Reviewed

- Over the past few months, the Eastern Counties Regional Library has examined its rural service delivery. In particular, a complete review of bookmobile routes and schedules was conducted. In view of declining use, the library's aim was to realign service to better match current community needs. With no major population concentration (the largest community, Port Hawkesbury has a population of 3,800) and an extensive geographic region (with only seven branch libraries), mobile library service is an integral part of service delivery.

Information was gathered from other regions, both within and outside of

the province; provincial and international bookmobile standards were consulted and 250 residents surveyed. With this information and an evaluation of the area to be served, and of the resources available, a new map was created for the mobile services. A transition from householder to community stops was established. A home bound service will support the needs of users unable to travel to the library or bookmobile. Where home delivery is impossible, mail service is used. For more information regarding this study or scheduling changes, please contact **Linda Travis**, Eastern Counties Regional Library at (902) 747-2597.

#### Pictou-Antigonish Regional Library

##### Information more Accessible for Public

- The Pictou-Antigonish Regional Library is making information more accessible to its public. All branches now have "Information Express Computers". These high speed computers are linked to the Internet and allow easy access to NcompasS, Novanet, and InfoTrac, a full text magazine database. These computers are for "walk-in" use.

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## NEWS FROM THE PROVINCES continued...

### Western Counties Regional Library

**Adopt-a-Book Campaign Successful** - The second bi-annual Adopt-a-Book campaign (April 3- June 30) sponsored by CJLS radio station, reached new heights this year with a total of 1536 books adopted in Digby, Shelburne, and Yarmouth counties. This exceeded the set goal of 1000 adoptions! The dollar amount for this fund raiser stands at \$22,775.00.

**First Library Card Month for WCRL** - September was declared "Library Card Month" by Western Counties Regional Libraries. The endeavour, sponsored by Cameron Publications, was a first for the region and a first in the province. A total of 885 new members signed up during the month. The long term goal of Library Card Month is to double the membership. Organizers will move in the direction of this goal by setting a percentage target for subsequent campaigns.

**WCRL Charitable Association Participating in "Leave a Legacy" Program** - The WCRL Charitable Association is one of 59 organizations registered with the recently formed "Leave A Legacy" program in Nova Scotia. Leave A Legacy is a collaborative effort between non-profit organizations, estate planning professionals, community foundations, corporate funders and the media. The program provides information to the public about estate planning and encourages the provision of gifts, as part of estate planning, to non-profit organizations of choice.

This program first established in Ohio, is growing throughout the USA and Canada. To date, 84 organizations have held, or are planning to hold, the program within the next year. The Nova Scotia Round Table of the Canadian Association of Gift Planners (CAGP) is the first group in Canada to host the program.

October 24-31st is "Leave A Legacy Week" in the Maritimes. For more information on LAL check out their web site at [www.mic.ns.ca/leavealegacy/](http://www.mic.ns.ca/leavealegacy/).

**Sponsoring Toastmasters Startup-**

WCRL is sponsoring the startup of a Toastmasters group for the Digby, Shelburne, and Yarmouth county areas. The program is being introduced through an 8 week Speechcraft Workshop designed to develop, or enhance speaking skills, listening skills, and self confidence. The workshop facilitator and Toastmaster organizer is Bryon Merrett, Advanced Toastmaster, Gold.

### Nova Scotia Library Association

**NSLA Conference** - The Nova Scotia Library Association's Annual conference was held September 25-27th at Pictou Lodge, Pictou, Nova Scotia, hosted by the Pictou-Antigonish Regional Library. This year's theme was "Rural Library Services for the 21st Century". Keynote speaker Jim Lotz, a respected community development writer, spoke on the origin of the Nova Scotia Regional Library System and the role of libraries in community development.

Workshops included a talk by Dr. Allan E. Marble on "Exploring Nova Scotia Genealogy"; Dr. Marble gave participants a practical overview of sources and research strategies used in genealogical research. David Hayward, owner/operator of North Shore Internet Services, spoke on Internet service in rural areas while Linda Little, rural writer, spoke on her experiences. Jacqueline Van Hartingsveldt and Helen Owen demonstrated seasonal themes used at their private preschool.

True to the conference theme, a round table discussion focussed on the Nova Scotia Library Association and its future direction. There was a lively discussion regarding the Association and its role as we move toward the 21st century.

On Sunday a workshop moderated by **Marlene Mortimore**, instructor with the Library Technician's program (Nova Scotia Community College, Halifax Campus) focussed on the future of library service as perceived by Library Technicians. A session exploring new approaches to Mobile Services was con-

ducted by **Cathy MacDonald** of **South Shore Regional Library** and **Charlotte Janes** of the **Annapolis Valley Regional Library**. They discussed changes in service with respect to changing demography and new technology. A tour of the River John CAP site was arranged as well.

The conference was enhanced by the beautiful surroundings of Pictou Lodge. Conference participants also enjoyed a river boat ride with Jiggs and Reels East River Boat Tours.

### And more.....

**A Tribute to Shirley Coulter, 1926-1998** - **Shirley Coulter** passed away on September 16, 1998 at 72 years of age. Her passing marks the end of an era in the evolution of school libraries in Nova Scotia. Shirley enjoyed a 30 year career as Provincial Co-ordinator of School Libraries. In this capacity she travelled the province discussing and promoting school libraries with school boards, superintendents, teachers, and parents. In 1971 she was influential in the formation of the "SLA" (now, NSSLA) and she chaired the 1981 Minister's Task Force on School Libraries. Shirley retired in 1989. Following her retirement, she established an award to recognise excellence in Nova Scotian School Librarianship. Aptly called the Shirley Coulter Award, this honour has been given thus far, to three recipients.

**Promotional Video** - Developments are quickly unfolding in the production of a video to promote libraries in Nova Scotia. Testimonials, collected from patrons from all Regions, are presently being reviewed by the Video Sub-Group. A script outline has been prepared by Ray Whitley, Co-ordinator, Media Production, Learning Resources & Technology, Nova Scotia Department of Education and Culture. A schedule for "lights, camera, action" will be established during the Fall.

-Cathy Chisholm  
Vice-President (Nova Scotia)

## National Consultation for Libraries & Resources Centres Involved in International Development

On October 3-4, 1998 a group of Canadian documentalists, information specialists and librarians from organizations and institutions involved in international development work met at the Coady International Institute in Antigonish, Nova Scotia for a consultation on Linking Resource Centres. The consultation, initiated by Sue Adams, Librarian at the Coady International Institute, and by Eva Kupidura, ICAE Resource Centre Coordinator, included representation from the Arusha Centre Society, Calmeadow Resource Centre, Canadian Consortium for International Social Development, Global Community Centre of Waterloo Region, International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD) Information Centre, ICAE's J. Roby Kidd Resource Centre, Jules Leger Library Department of Foreign Affairs & International Trade's (DFAIT).

Marie Michael Library of Coady International Institute, North-South Institute Library, L.B. Pearson Canadian International Peacekeeping Training Centre Library, Saskatchewan Indian Federated College Library, Telecampus Online Course Database, and Victoria International Development Education Association (VIDEA) Resource Centre. Several other resource centres, representing the remaining provinces were not able to attend.

During the course of two days this diverse group, representing academic institutions, research institutes, government agencies, NGOs and community education centres, shared information on their resource centres, collections, services, and publications; discussed their particular challenges, as well as the strategies and plans to overcome them; and explored the possibility of forming a network. To this end they were joined, through teleconference links, by Judith Dueck of CUSHRID and HURIDOCs, as well as by Gwynneth Evans, Director of National and International Programs at the National Library of Canada; who shared their experiences, successes and caveats of network formation.

All the participants acknowledged that this meeting was an enriching experience which allowed them to expand their knowledge of each other's collections, work and services, and offered a tremendous resource in terms of informal networking and support. The group decided to form the Canadian Ad Hoc Network of International Development Knowledge Centres to which end a small Steering Committee was formed to prepare, based on input from other group members, a discussion paper on the definition and scope of the network, its potential value to the international development community, objectives, level of formality and future activities. A directory of participants, with profiles of their resource centres was generated. Future activities include the exploration of possible links with existing Canadian and international networks, the mode of a follow-up meeting, and the development of a website featuring the network.

The thanks and appreciation of all participants goes to the Atlantic Provinces Library Association, the Canadian Consortium for International Social Development, and the Coady International Institute for their sponsorship of this event.

-Lana J. Kamennof-Sine  
Pearson Peacekeeping Centre



## APLA 1999

Before you read another page of the *Bulletin*, get out your calendar for 1999. Flip to May and in **BOLD** capital letters mark **APLA CONFERENCE** under the dates from the **27<sup>th</sup> until the 30<sup>th</sup>**. Write in the place as **SAINT JOHN, NEW BRUNSWICK** and the event as **SHORE LEAVE '99**. Make sure you fill in the following remarks: pack your *notebooks* to capture the wisdom provided by the guest speakers, and your *dancing shoes* to kick up your heels in 'down home' Maritime fashion.

The conference committee, under the direction of **Ian Wilson** of the Saint John Free Public Library and **Susan Collins** of the University of New Brunswick in Saint John, are diligently working to plan an informative and fun event.

A little taste of what might be in store for you involves librarians and the movies. We've all seen a librarian depicted here and there out of the thousands of moving pictures that have been produced over the past century. The APLA committee has been fortunate enough to find a movie buff who (happens to be a librarian and) has been documenting our image from the silver screen and is brave enough to present it to us. We think it will generate lively discussion and entertain us at the same time.

The program committee with co-chairs **Leslye McVicar** and **Joann Hamilton-Barry** are now in the final planning stages of organizing the various sessions. If anyone has any good ideas for workshops or panel discussions, please contact either of these librarians at (506) 643-7220 (for Joann) or (506) 849-05315.

Letters have been sent out to all potential exhibitors, and according to the *APLA Conference Handbook* the planning is where it should be at this particular time. More information will be forthcoming. Until then, make sure those dates are marked on your calendar!! As was mentioned, the committee looks forward to demonstrating Saint John hospitality.

## Y2K – TOO CLOSE FOR COMFORT

By Art Rhino, Leddy Library, University of Windsor

Editor's note: This article originally appeared in the fall issue of OLA's *Access*.

### The Problem

It is a problem that has several names and is enough to strike fear in even the most hardened system administrators. Most commonly known as the "millennium" or "Y2K" bug, the problem generally concerns the almost universal practice over the years of using two digits rather than four to designate the calendar year (e.g., MM/DD/YY). This means that January 1, 2000 would be stored as 01/01/00 and interpreted as January 1, 1900- not 2000. To get a sense of the Y2K bug, imagine checking out books in December 1999 that are due in 2000. If the library system interprets the '00' as 1900, your patrons could suddenly be facing 99 years of late fees!

To be fair to the software designers of the past, the two-digit notation of specifying dates has the advantage of saving storage space and data entry time, and for many programmers, seemed very compelling when disk storage was at a premium and the turn of the century seemed far away.

Unfortunately, many applications in your library could be decades old or work with data from aging systems that are not immune to the Y2K bug. The problem will cause incorrect dates for arithmetic operations, comparisons or sorting involving years later than 1999. It is estimated that the Y2K problem likely affects about 80 per cent of the world's computer systems, and will cost many billions of dollars to correct.

To make matters worse, the problem is far from limited to PCs and laptops. In fact, the number of devices that may use an electronic date is truly startling. A partial list would include parking cards, clocks and timers, door locks, safes, televisions and VCRs, copiers, fax machines, answering machines, and elevators. Even non-electronic items, such as the library's rubber stamps and pre-printed stationery may be rendered obsolete on January 1, 2000.

Large financial institutions and governments all over the world have sounded the alarm that the Y2K bug is not being addressed by the majority of entities that use computers and other electronic devices. If you have not started to assess your library's Y2K readiness, your only consolation may be that you are not alone.

### Preparing for Y2K – A Suggested Checklist

The time to prepare for the Year 2000 is now. If you have always wanted to put together a comprehensive list of every system and piece of hardware in your library, this is your opportunity to do so. This checklist will help get you started:

- 1) Create awareness – it will take staff time and resources to get ready for the year 2000. Make sure everyone understands the seriousness of the problem.
- 2) Conduct a detailed inventory of all computers, both hardware and software, as well as any other electronic appliances in the library. Remember that this includes timers, security systems, and elevators.
- 3) Identify the most critical and the most date-sensitive applications. A date-sensitive application is one that manipulates dates in some way or operates differently depending on the date. All systems should have up to date vendor information on file and many vendors have Y2K information on their web sites. For example, the OTIS Elevator Company addresses Y2K concerns on their web site.
- 4) If you do not have a backup system for mission critical data, put one in place. It may be possible to roll some systems back to December 31, 1999 in order to extract needed data. January 1, 2000 would be a very poor time to find out that this data has never been backed up.
- 5) Contact each vendor to find out if the product is Y2K ready. You will still want to test each application if at all possible but some vendors may already have an upgrade option for systems that are not Y2K capable.
- 6) Assess each application in the library that is date sensitive, beginning with the most critical and working towards less used applications. Does the system allow you to use 4 digits for entering the year ? What happens if you enter "00" or "01" ? Can you process dates after 2000 ? Each application may require different types of testing depending on its function, for example, the Y2K problem may be the most serious if it impacts reports or causes the system to improperly assess financial data.
- 7) Test the BIOS (Basic Input/Output System) of every PC individually. Create a bootable test diskette and allow the PC to boot from the diskette. After bootup, DOS usually displays the date. If not, type "date" at the "A:>" prompt. At the "Enter new date" prompt type **12-31-1999**. If the time is not automatically displayed after entering the date, type "time" at the "A:>" prompt. At the "Enter new time" prompt type **23:55:00**. Turn off the power of the PC and wait at least 10 minutes, otherwise DOS will appear to set the date correctly. The date that should appear when you reboot is **Sat 01-01-2000**. There are a number of utilities (see links at the end of this column) that can save you from some of these steps if you prefer.

*(continued on next page)*

## Y2K – TOO CLOSE FOR COMFORT...

- 8) (see links at the end of this column) that can save you from some of these steps if you prefer.
- 9) Don't assume that you are Y2K compliant if your system recognizes January 1, 2000. The year 2000 is also a leap year ! Repeat step 7, but this time using the date **02-28-2000** and the time **23:55:00**. If the date displayed after the reboot is **Tue 02-29-2000**, your PC's BIOS is ready for the millennium. Set the date and time back to normal. Unfortunately, this does not mean the software on the PC is Y2K compliant.
- 10) Are the maintenance systems for security, as well as the heating and cooling of the library, based on usage or are they date dependent? Will some of them shut down if it is determined the current year is 1900, which will be the case if the date is calculated improperly on 01/01/2000. Specialized systems with embedded microchips may require help from the vendor in order to be tested and assessed properly.
- 11) No library exists in a vacuum. In a campus environment, are institution-wide plans in place to ensure systems that supply mission-critical information, such as student records, are year 2000 ready? Do the library's main suppliers have Y2K plans and are they prepared to discuss the state of their year 2000 readiness?
- 12) Some companies and institutions are making plans to print all financial and other records in hard copy throughout 1999 in order to provide a paper trail if a failure occurs in the year 2000. Assess your comfort level in the library's systems and make contingency plans.
- 13) Buy only products that are Y2K compliant. Most software licenses now include a clause similar to the following:
 

Product Y is year 2000 compliant. This means that it will not fail to function normally as a result of the rollover between 23,59 on 31<sup>st</sup> December 1999 and 1<sup>st</sup> January 2000. Should Product Y fail to work after 1<sup>st</sup> January 2000 due to programming errors in the delivered code, this will be corrected free of charge.
- 14) Begin using four-digit years in all date entries and correct as many dates as possible that have only 2 digit entries.
- 15) Non-compliant equipment may continue to be useful in the year 2000, and some devices may simply need the internal clock set back 28 years to 1972 when the calendar dates and days of the week fell into the same sequence that they will in 2000. Don't assume that everything that is not Y2K compliant will have to be replaced.
- 16) Try to avoid air travel and keep your fridge well stocked on New Year's Eve, 1999. The Y2K bug may not cause as much chaos as reported in the media but why take chances!

### Where To Go For More Information

There are a vast number of resources on the Y2K problem, both in print and online. One of the best sites on the Internet is Yahoo's Year 2000 section:

[<http://www.yahoo.ca/Computers\\_and\\_Internet/Year\\_2000\\_Problem/>](http://www.yahoo.ca/Computers_and_Internet/Year_2000_Problem/)

The Canadian Government Year 2000 Information Site also contains a worthwhile collection of resources:

[<http://www.info2000.gc.ca/Welcome/Welcome.asp>](http://www.info2000.gc.ca/Welcome/Welcome.asp)

Both of these sites contain links to hundreds of Y2K web sites around the world as well as to sites with utility software to test everything from the BIOS in your PC to inspecting the internal date format of various application programs.

## From St. Jerome's Den

Do you ever wonder how your patrons really feel about the library? Every now and then one of them lets you know in no uncertain terms. This letter is real, only the names have been changed - not to protect the guilty, but rather ??? Please share your stories, letters, and any other forms of appreciation with us all. Send your comments to me, St. Jerome, via the *Bulletin* editor.

- St. Jerome

Dear Mr. Q...

For the past two and a half years I have been taking books out of your library - over 1000, in fact. Now that I have my degree I think it's time I got a few things off my chest. First of all, your staff is...*great*. No, "great" is too mild a word. They are *magnificent*! Furthermore, during the course of checking out and returning those over 1000 books I did not experience one single unpleasant moment. Even when I had accidentally accrued \$156.00 in fines, I was treated with exemplary fairness and consideration followed by (whew!) a reasonable settlement. And even on occasions when I made a bit of a nuisance of myself due to my chronic absentmindedness, or just plain stunness, I was still treated with utmost respect. I demand an explanation! Why should a library, of all places, give such outstanding service? After all, you are not in private business. You do not work on an incentive plan. You have an underpaid staff in a money-crunched University. Why, then, should they

be so assiduously attentive to the needs of pain-in-the-nether region students like me? Why just the other night I checked out 137 books. You had five people on staff, and they all pitched in to check them out and bag them. If you don't believe me, ask D.... Why does your staff have to be so darned responsible? Don't they know that their exemplary behaviour is setting a good example for all who care to see? And don't you realize that if this attitude of helpfulness, courtesy, and professionalism continues it may catch on all over the University! What are you going to do about this incredibly wonderful situation? I'd say, GIVE THEM A RAISE!

Well, I'm off to the University of [not a university in the Atlantic provinces] where I expect to be properly treated with disregard and rudeness. However, I will be back here over Christmas. In fact, when I come home, I plan to take out a bunch of books just for the pleasure of being served by your marvellous staff. Now Mr. Q..., if you don't like what I'm saying, that's too bad. I think that your staff is terrific - that's all there is to it. And there's nothing you can say or do to make me change my mind.

Sincerely,  
M...

P. S. Did I say thank-you.

### TECHNICAL SERVICES LIBRARIAN - (Continuing, Full-Time Position)

Truro Campus

Competition No. 98-292

**RESPONSIBILITIES:** Reporting to the Manager, Learning Resources, the Technical Services Librarian is responsible for the implementation and management of a centralized technical services operation to serve the needs of the College Learning Resource Service. Responsibilities include the implementation of the Novanet system and the establishment of a centralized technical services function, including acquisition, cataloguing and classification, and processing of resources. Ongoing responsibilities also include monitoring trends in technology and planning for its adoption; becoming the College expert on Novanet procedures and usage, supervising and coaching technical services staff members, monitoring the effectiveness and efficiency of the function and developing processes and procedures to continually improve the service.

**QUALIFICATIONS:** Master of Library and Information Science from an ALA accredited university; recent, extensive, progressive experience, a minimum of five years of which has been in a technical services function, preferably within a consortium environment; in-depth knowledge of cataloguing, classification and automated technical services systems and processes.

Application review will commence January 8, 1999

Please submit a cover letter and a resume to:

The Coordinator, Staffing  
Nova Scotia Community College  
Human Resource Services  
5685 Leeds Street  
Halifax, NS B3J 2X1  
Fax: (902) 491-4829

## COMING EVENTS

**January 21-23, 1999** - Ontario Library Association's "Super Conference '99" at the Toronto Convention Centre, Crowne Plaza Hotel, Toronto, ON. For more information <<http://www.OLA.amlibs.ca/super99>>, phone 416-363-3388 or email <[infor@accessola.com](mailto:infor@accessola.com)>.

**March 4-6, 1999** - Dalhousie University. The Creation, Dissemination and Preservation of Literature: A Conference of Professionals from the Maritime Provinces and St. Petersburg, Russia. March 4: Library Day. Morning Papers and Afternoon Roundtable on the State of Archival Preservation in Canada and Russia. March 5: Literature Day. Morning Papers and Afternoon Roundtable on the Nature of Literary Processes in the Maritimes and St. Petersburg. March 6: Journal Day. The Dissemination of Creative Literature in Canada and Russia. Readings will be given on several occasions by at least six guest members of the Writers' Union of Canada and the Writers' Federation of N.S. Russian guests include: Iakov Gordin, editor of "Zvezda;" Natali'a Kraineva, head twentieth-century archivist, Nat. Library of Russia (St. Pbg); Mikhail Eremin, poet; Valerii Sazhin, Nat. Lib. of Russia and editor of "Russian Studies". Those wishing to give papers, participate or attend should contact David MacFadyen, Russian Studies Dept. tel: 902-494-3817/3679, fax: 902-494-1997 or e-mail: <[dmacfady@is.dal.ca](mailto:dmacfady@is.dal.ca)>.

**March 29-30, 1999** - The Canadian Online Information Summit will be a two-day event held in Toronto at the Toronto Convention Centre (North Building). For further information, please contact the Canadian Online Information Summit at 416-488-7373 or email <[subs@tce.on.ca](mailto:subs@tce.on.ca)>. The Canadian Online Information Summit is a special event of INFORMATION HIGHWAYS Magazine.

**May 19-21, 1999** - 29th Annual Workshop on Instruction in Library Use - McGill University, Montreal. WILU '99 will focus on the growing interest in building a culture of information within the curriculum. For more information, e-mail <[wilu@libl.lan.mcgill.ca](mailto:wilu@libl.lan.mcgill.ca)> or contact a member of the Steering Committee. See our web page at [www.library.mcgill.ca/wilu](http://www.library.mcgill.ca/wilu) for details.

**May 27-30, 1999** - APLA 1999, Saint John, New Brunswick. Conference committee: Ian Wilson, Saint John Free Public Library and Susan Collins, University of New Brunswick in Saint John; Program co-chairs: Leslye McVicar and Joann Hamilton-Barry. (See page 15 in this *Bulletin* for more details.)

**Le 19-21 mai 1999** - 29e atelier annuel sur la formation documentaire - Université McGill, Montreal. Le prochain Atelier annuel sur la formation documentaire portera sur une question qui suscite de plus en plus d'intérêt: le développement d'une culture de l'information en milieu académique et son intégration au curriculum. Pour de plus amples information, faites parvenir un message a <[wilu@libl.lan.mcgill.ca](mailto:wilu@libl.lan.mcgill.ca)> ou communiquez avec un membre du comité d'organisation (liste et coordonnées disponibles sur le site web de l'Atelier: <<http://www.library.mcgill.ca/wilu>>).

**Juillet 1999** - L'Assemblée parlementaire de la Francophonie - Région Amérique a tenu une réunion sur le thème «L'évolution des bibliothèques publiques dans le maintien de la langue et de la culture françaises en Amérique», le 21 août près d'Ottawa, suite à une suggestion de Sylvain Lavoie (Médiathèque Père-Louis-Lamontagne de Miramichi). Après une allocution convaincante de Sylvain, le président de la section canadienne a annoncé son désir d'amener le thème à la réunion internationale qui se tiendra en juillet 1999.

### FIRST TIMER'S CONFERENCE GRANT



*Have yo never been to an APLA annual conference?  
Do you want to go to Saint John, but cannot afford it?  
Why not apply for APLA's First Timer's Conference Grant?*

To be eligible, an applicant must be a personal member of APLA, residing in an Atlantic province, and planning to attend her/his first APLA annual conference.

Grants are allocated, consistent with general APLA guidelines, to help meet conference related expenses. If more applications are received than can be met by the fund, money will be awarded by drawing from the names of all eligible applicants.

Recipients will be expected to write a short report, for the Executive and the *Bulletin*, summarizing their conference experience.

Applications should include name, business address, chosen means for contacting (mail, e-mail, telephone, fax) estimated costs (travel, accommodation, meals, registration), and a signed statement acknowledging compliance with eligibility requirements.

Applications should be submitted by March 31, 1999 to:

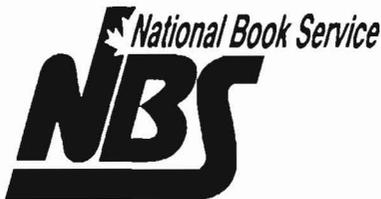
Francesco Lai  
President, APLA  
Manager, Library and Information Services  
Atlantic Food and Horticultural Research Ctr  
Kentville, Nova Scotia  
Phone: (902) 679-5508  
Fax: (902) 679-2311  
Email: laif@em.agr.ca

### 1999 APLA Merit Award

The Atlantic Provinces Library Association invites nominations for the Association's Merit Award. The Award is conferred on an individual who has made an outstanding contribution to library service in the Atlantic Provinces. Nominations with the appropriate accompanying documentation of the nominee and her/his contribution(s) should be send by January 31, 1999:



John Teskey, Past-President  
c/o Harriet Irving Library  
University of New Brunswick  
P.O. Box 7500  
Fredericton, NB E3B 5H5  
Fax: 506-453-4595  
email: <jteskey@unb.ca>



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