

News from Nova Scotia

News from Dalhousie Libraries

Marlo MacKay: Communications Coordinator, Dalhousie Libraries.

Open Access Week 2016 (October 24-30)

The principles of Open Access are founded on ideas of public access to publicly funded research, author rights, availability of educational resources, and affordable access to materials for educational institutions. The Dalhousie Libraries are pleased to be using these principles to bring the research activities of Dalhousie to the world.

To mark Open Access Week, the Dalhousie Libraries presented two workshops about creating a data management plan and a screening of *The Internet's Own Boy*, a film about internet activist Aaron Swartz.

Dancing with Purpose: The Maritime Bhangra Group's Joy is Infectious (and Viral)

Hasmeet Singh Chandok takes a moment to collect his thoughts and catch his breath before speaking. An average week in Hasmeet's life is exhausting enough — he's a full-time Dalhousie graduate student, working for the Dal Libraries as a navigator, all the while maintaining a 4.0 GPA and doing countless hours of community work that have resulted in thousands of dollars being raised for charities over the last few years. But, the past couple of weeks have been even busier for Hasmeet because he's the cofounder/manager and spokesperson for the Maritime Bhangra Group, a local dance troupe whose video of two dancers at Peggy's Cove has gone viral since being posted on September 23.

The 55-second video of the men dressed in traditional Punjab clothing while joyously dancing in the Bhangra style on the iconic rocks has been viewed more than nine million times in less than three weeks. The group has been featured on Yahoo Canada's main page and over the past few weeks, Hasmeet has done interviews with BBC, Euronews and NPR, as well local and Canadian media such as The Huffington Post Canada, BuzzFeed Canada, *Halifax Metro*, Global, CTV, and CBC.

"It was just a short, fun clip, but people are really relating to the video. There are so many emotional comments that sometimes when I read them I just want to cry. People have told us things like, 'I have to

work many hours to cover my expenses. When I am in tears, I watch your video and smile in tears.’ Someone else said, ‘I just found you and I never want to lose you,’” says Hasmeet.

Bhangra dancing comes from the Majha region of Punjab. It started as a martial arts dance and was traditionally performed by men, but women do it now as well. Each dance is carefully choreographed. Hasmeet’s brother, Kunwardeep Singh, is the Maritime Bhangra Group’s chief choreographer.

“[In Punjab] Bhangra is a part of life. For any happy occasion, we dance. You just see everyone around you dancing at gatherings and that’s how you learn. Every person has a set of moves they are very good at. I only have one or two, my brother has many,” says Hasmeet.

The troupe was just formed in July and has six principle dancers, plus Hasmeet, who is more on the managing/booking side of things. He sometimes dances as well. “My brother had been performing Bhangra at events at Dal and other places for the past four years. I sometimes danced with him. But we always did it in a volunteer capacity. Then we got the idea to make it a professional group so we could tour around Nova Scotia and the Maritimes,” he says. Hasmeet is always looking for new ways to spread awareness about the Sikh community and culture.

The group did not realize they had done anything special or different when they created the Peggy’s Cove video — they had been posting videos on their Maritime Bhangra Group Facebook page since they’d formed in July — so they were immediately surprised by the initial reaction to the video. “From day one, it got a lot of views. Most of our videos get 2,000, to 5,000 views. I can’t remember how many we got in the first couple of days, but it was more than double what we normally get. At the time, we just thought it was good; we had no idea what was coming,” says Hasmeet.

“The video is most popular in Canada, then in the US, then in Thailand. It was not a part of our dream to become famous. I don’t know how this is happening, but it is happening,” he says.

Hasmeet has already figured out that he can use his newfound fame to give a platform to his passions, which include charity work/fundraising and interfaith harmony. “So far the group has done an appearance to raise funds for the IWK Foundation,” he says. “We do as many charity appearances as we can.” Upcoming appearances for the United Nations and Big Brothers Big Sisters are in the works.

His fellow troupe members have been coping well with their new stardom, too. “They’re very happy. Their lives have changed from this experience. People stop them on the streets and stop them at work. Recently, we went to buy food and the person wouldn’t accept money from us,” says Hasmeet.

The immediate future plans of the dance troupe include the many appearances that they have recently booked and more charity events. “The days I do charity are the days I feel good. I live by what my dad, Surjit Singh Chandok, who passed in 2012, used to say, ‘Anything you achieve today, it should just be for today. The next morning when you get up, you should think about what difference you can make that day,’” says Hasmeet. Not one to rest on their laurels, the troupe is also planning another video, one that will include a message with the hope of “changing something in the world.”

Hasmeet came to Canada from India in 2013, when he arrived at Dal to study in the faculty of computer science. Despite living here only three years, he already has a strong connection to Nova Scotia, which shows in a number of the videos made by the Maritime Bhangra Group.

“We want to show this beautiful province to the whole world. The respect I get here and the love I get from people here makes me want to give back to this community. But, we are seven men wearing turbans and beards, we still get stares. We want to educate people. We came here so it’s our responsibility to do that; I can’t expect people to go and read about me when they don’t even know who I am. So, this is a way of telling them who I am, where I come from and why I do this.”

The Maritime Bhangra Group Are:

Hasmeet Singh Chandok (Dal student and Dal Libraries employee)

Kunwardeep Singh (Dal alumnus)

Harpreet Singh (Dal alumnus)

Bikramjit Singh (Mohawk College alumnus)

Davinder Singh (SMU alumnus)

Deepinder Singh (Dal student)

Chirag Sharma (Dal alumnus)

Creighton Barrett Presents in Germany

Creighton Barrett, Digital Archivist at the Dal Archives, recently spoke at a Scientific Archives Workshop held at the European Molecular Biology Laboratory (EMBL) in Heidelberg, Germany. The workshop was organized by Anne-Flore Laloë, Archivist at EMBL.

The workshop brought together about 40 archivists from Europe and the USA who are “responsible for capturing, preserving and sharing the advances of science as they are happening and changing our understanding of the world around us” (from workshop website). Creighton was the only speaker from Canada.

His presentation was called *Beyond the research data: Acquiring and preserving the personal archives of Canadian scientists*. He presented three case studies:

Elisabeth Mann Borgese: <http://findingaids.library.dal.ca/elisabeth-mann-borgese-fonds>

Ransom Myers: <http://findingaids.library.dal.ca/ransom-myers-fonds>

Bill Freedman: Recent acquisition, no finding aid yet

Creighton talked about some of the general challenges with acquiring and preserving scientific archives and then presented a model (see the diagram below, click on it to enlarge) that integrates research data management (RDM) activities with digital preservation activities defined in two ISO standards: the “Open Archival Information System” for digital preservation and the “Producer-archive interface — methodology abstract standard” for acquisition of digital material.

The model suggests that personal archival material can be considered during the process of identifying and transferring research data that requires permanent preservation. If digital preservation systems are scaled up to accommodate large sets of archival research data, the infrastructure will be able to accommodate the additional acquisition and preservation of personal digital archival material that helps give important context to the research data.

Creighton's slides are [available in DalSpace](#).

GIS & Data Services Launch Newsletter: Layers

Recently, the GIS Centre and other data services at the Dalhousie Libraries were brought together with the goal of supporting a wider variety of teaching, learning, and research activities. In conjunction with the Esri Canada Centre of Excellence (ECCE), GIS & Data Services at the Dal Libraries have launched a newsletter, *Layers*.

The first issue provides updates on Geospatial data, GIS at Dal, the ECCE, ArcGIS, and upcoming events. Contributors included James Boxall, Jennifer Strang, Julie Marcoux, Claudio Aporta, and Gwen MacNairn. To subscribe, contact gis@dal.ca

Here's the first issue: <https://dalspace.library.dal.ca/handle/10222/72284>

Meet the Dalhousie Libraries Resources Team

Allison Fulford: Associate University Librarian, Resources & Discovery, Sexton Design & Technology Library

The Resources Team at the Dal Libraries plan for, purchase, organize, and deploy the print and electronic books, journals, databases, and all the other varied materials provided by the Dalhousie Libraries. They work diligently to make sure all those resources needed for research and study are available.

This team performs its magic in all five of the Dal Libraries, working with managers Karen Chandler, Gail Fraser, and Alice Stover, Collections Strategy Librarian Heather MacFadyen, and Associate University Librarian, Resources & Discovery, Allison Fulford.

Whether you stop by Dal Libraries to pick up a print book or use a journal article database to download an article, chances are very high that someone on this team was involved in getting that information to you.



Front row (l-r): Sarah Davis, Debbie Bangay, Lisa Drew, Jennifer MacIsaac. 2nd row (l-r): Audrey LaPierre, Anne Gaetz, Denise Irving, Allison Fulford. 3rd row (l-r): Gina Coates, Heather MacFadyen, Linda Saunders, Verna Mingo. 4th row (l-r); Linda Aiken, Penny David, Andre Richard. 5th row (l-r): Echo Dyan, Mollie Thompson, Jason Lee, Karen Chandler, Alice Stover. 6th row (l-r): Paul Duffy, Kyoo Lee, Andrew Wood, Karen Tarum. Missing: Gail Fraser, Erin Winchcombe, Asmeret Gheabreab, Carolene Robertson, Darlene Hazel, Susan Hagen.

Dal Reads Author Reading & Panel Discussion

On Wednesday, November 23, we hosted a fascinating reading and panel discussion as part of this year's Dal Reads program. Jon Tattrie, author of *The Hermit of Africville*, the 2016 Dal Reads selection, first read a passage from the book. Following that was a panel discussion with faculty member and Director of Dalhousie's Transition Year Program, Dr. Isaac Saney and Executive Director of the Africville Museum Sunday Miller. Thank you to everyone who came to this event.

The Kellogg Library is on the Move Again!

by Ann Barrett: Interim Head, W. K. Kellogg Health Sciences Library

Renovations in the Tupper Building are coming to a close and the Kellogg Library is moving back! Are we happy? *Oh yes!*

The new Kellogg Library will open in January 2017. The new space will have 40 quiet study spaces for students, the print collection, and all our diasporic staff back together.

Upgrades to Archives Catalogue and Online Collections

by Creighton Barrett: Digital Archivist, Dalhousie Libraries

The University Archives is pleased to announce some major upgrades to the [Archives Catalogue and Online Collections](#). The catalogue has several new features to help researchers find and request access to archival material, including:

- Clipboard module to “pin” search/browse results for printing or export
- Inventory list to sort and view file- and item-level descriptions by title, date, or reference code
- “Full-width” view of the hierarchical structure of each finding aid
- Improvements to basic and advanced search options

The catalogue also features new content, including:

- 6,717 archival descriptions
- 5,554 digital objects
- 75 geographic headings and all 1,073 geographic headings now organized by continent

New digital content includes [317 photographs](#) taken by Barbara Hinds and Rosemary Gilliat in Iqaluit and other northern communities in the early 1960s (MS-2-130), and over [1,300 photographs](#) from the Dalhousie University Photograph Collection (PC1). The catalogue also includes [2,739 digitized full-text issues of the Dalhousie Gazette](#) that have been available in DalSpace since 2013. Dalhousie faculty, students, and staff can request free digital scans of archival material using the [Libraries’ archives document delivery service](#).

The Archives Catalogue and Online Collections is built using an open-source archival description tool known as [Access to Memory \(AtoM\)](#). The catalogue was launched in January 2015 and has become the primary tool for providing access to unique archival material held by the Dalhousie Libraries.

New Dal Libraries Committee & Working Group

The Dal Libraries have a new Diversity & Inclusion Committee. This committee has been formed from a recommendation in the [Belong Report](#). The committee’s role will be to better understand and support proactive engagement to improve inclusion and diversity.

The Dal Libraries have also formed a new working group based on a recommendation from the external review that was conducted in the winter of 2016.

This new working group has representation from a wide spectrum of Dal Libraries staff and their tasks will be to:

- broadly survey staff needs,
- identify a short set of annual training and development priorities with close links to our mission,

- support a combination of technical skills training,
- and support broad-based development opportunities

Whenever possible, they will leverage campus resources to accomplish these tasks.

Thanks to Sandy Dwyer for leading on these important initiative, and to all staff on the working group and the committee. Their first meetings will be in January.

Lawfully Generous

by David Michels: Law Librarian, Sir James Dunn Law Library.

Each year during November and December, the Dalhousie Law Students Society and the Law Library team up to collect food and cash for FEED Nova Scotia. Students, staff, and faculty engage in a friendly competition to see who can collect the most donations. After a marathon counting event in the Sir James Dunn Law Library, we are pleased to announce that this year, the Law School community collected 5,416 items of food, doubling last year's efforts.

Special thanks to Anne-Marie White and all the library staff for their work collecting, shopping, sorting, and counting.

The Shoebox Project "Schulich LawDancing with Purpose": The Maritime Bhangra Group's Joy is Infectious (and Viral)

by David Michels: Law Librarian, Sir James Dunn Law Library.

Kudos to the Dalhousie Feminist Legal Association and the generous students at the Schulich School of Law on collecting items for 25 shoeboxes, a total donation value of \$1,250. [The Shoebox Project for Shelters](#) collects and distributes gifts in the form of shoeboxes to women who are homeless or at risk of homelessness in communities. Each shoebox is filled with items valued at \$50. The Sir James Dunn Law Library is pleased to be a partner in the Shoebox Project.

Christmas Party Generosity

At the Dal Libraries Christmas party this year, staff donated cash, Tim's gift cards, bus tickets, dry goods, clothing and outerwear, personal care items, and backpacks for two homeless shelters: Out of the Cold in Halifax and Hub House in Truro. Thanks to the Dal Libraries Health & Wellness Committee for organizing this initiative!