

News from Nova Scotia

News from Dalhousie University Libraries

Marlo MacKay, Communications Coordinator

Dal Libraries Making Wikipedia Better One Citation at a Time



Launched on January 15, the #1Lib1Ref campaign is uniting libraries around the world. Supported by Wikipedia Library and a number of Wikimedia Affiliates, the campaign aims to make Wikipedia better for all by encouraging information professionals to add citations to Wikipedia entries.

Libraries of all types and sizes hosted activities and the Dalhousie Libraries was no exception. Lindsay McNiff and Margaret Vail hosted a 90-minute Wikipedia Edit-a-thon for the Dal Libraries on January 24.

“We put out a call to Dal librarians, Libraries’ staff whose work involves reference shifts, and Libraries’ staff who have or are working on a Master in Library and Information Studies degree to join us in improving the mighty but flawed Wikipedia,” said Lindsay. “Many people use Wikipedia, but if the entry they’re using isn’t backed up by a reliable source, that’s reason enough to question the information.”

“Despite the stormy weather, we had nine participants and we edited 28 different citations during our edit-a-thon,” said Margaret.

Wikipedia aims to be the “sum of all human knowledge.” On English Wikipedia alone, more than 380,000 articles are in need of citations and another 210,000 have no references at all. (*Source: The Wikipedia Library/1Lib1Ref*)

“In this post-truth era, the ability of information professionals to provide access to reliable, verified sources of information, and when possible, to contribute to the development of these impartial, accurate sources, is more important than ever,” said Donna Bourne-Tyson, University Librarian.

The #1Lib1Ref campaign ended February 3.

A Fortuitous Find

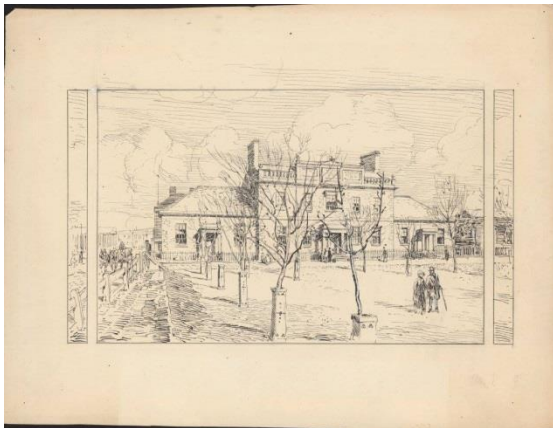
It's not every day that drawings by a Group of Seven artist are discovered — but that's what happened when Dalhousie University Archives assistant Jennifer Lambert recently went searching for something in the oversize collection.

"When I opened the lid and saw the word 'Lisner,' I knew I had found something very special," says Lambert.

Inside the box were more than forty pen and ink drawings of various Dalhousie buildings, professors, presidents, and members of the Board of Governors — all drawn by prominent Canadian artist and Group of Seven member Arthur Lismer (1885-1969).



The drawings were executed in 1918 when Lismer lived in Halifax and was serving as Principal of the Victoria College of Art (now NSCAD University). Lismer was commissioned by Dalhousie to create a series of illustrations for the book *One Hundred Years of Dalhousie 1818–1918*.



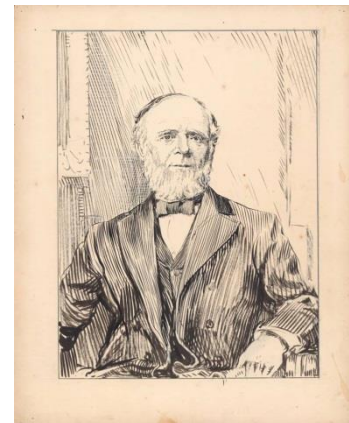
"The timing of this find, with Dal 200 right around the corner, is nothing short of remarkable," said Donna Bourne-Tyson, University Librarian. "As soon as the illustrations were found, we began a series of consultations to assess the value of the drawings and determine the best place to house these treasures, while providing access for researchers and the appropriate level of security."

part of the Dal Libraries collections.

Staff in the Archives quickly got to work digitizing them and creating a finding aid so they will be discoverable as

Because the illustrations were done by such a well-known artist, questions about the value of the pieces immediately come to mind.

"These illustrations, while interesting, are commercial art, not fine art," said Peter Dykhuis, director of the Dalhousie Art Gallery. "Arthur Lismer did the drawings for a specific purpose; you can see the areas where he used gouache to remove some of the lines he drew in preparation for the publication process, so they're not the kind of thing you'll see hanging in the gallery. Having said that, the illustrations are certainly interesting to researchers and Arthur Lismer fans."



For those reasons, the drawings will stay in the Archives. However, this time, their exact location will be duly noted. Researcher Alan Ruffman, a Dal alumnus, honorary

research associate, as well as adjunct professor in the Department of Earth Sciences, and School of Planning, was convinced the Archives had the drawings and had been searching for them since 2015. “I was glad I indulged my curious inclination that day in the oversize collection and opened the lid, finally solving the mystery of the location of the Lismer drawings,” says Lambert.

Since the illustrations have been found, Lambert and her colleagues at the Archives have been collaborating with staff from the Dalhousie Art Gallery and Mr. Ruffman for details to include in the finding aid.

Discussions are underway to possibly exhibit the illustrations in the Dalhousie Art Gallery as part of its exhibition program in 2018. Digitized versions of the illustrations will appear in the publicly searchable University Archives catalogue soon.

For now, a selection of the illustrations is available to view on the [Dalhousie Archives’ Facebook page](#).

Dal Libraries Annual Report Now Online

To read more about what we were up to in 2015/16, check out our [annual report](#).

W. K. Kellogg Library Reopened in the Tupper Building

The W. K. Kellogg Health Sciences Library celebrated their reopening in the Tupper Building this January with an open house to welcome students and staff into their renovated space.

The renovated Kellogg Library features 40 new individual study cubicles and compact shelving, as well as stylish new lighting and flooring. The Kellogg Library is connected to the new Kellogg Library Learning Commons in the Collaborative Health Education Building.



Bringing Joy to a Common Seasonal Chore: The Snow Shoveler Bhangra



Just before Christmas, the Maritime Bhangra group went viral, this time to capture another essential Maritime experience: snow shovelling. The group had their first viral video just a few months ago featuring bhangra dancers on the rocks at Peggy’s Cove.

The group posted the [Snow Shoveler Bhangra](#) on December 15 and it was viewed more than 25 million times in only six days. Filmed using an iPhone, in minus 30-degree weather while

gripping dollar store toy shovels (for their lightness and ease to dance with), the dancers wore matching Dalhousie T-shirts that were sourced from what troupe members already owned. “We wanted them to be in matching shirts and that was the only shirt we had three of,” says Hasmeet Singh Chandok, spokesperson for the group and IT Help Desk navigator at the Dalhousie Libraries. “We like to keep our videos simple, using resources we already have or can easily get,” he says.

Three members of the troupe, Kunwardeep Singh (Dal alumnus), Bikramjit Singh (Mohawk College alumnus), and Davinder Singh (SMU alumnus) are in the video, which opens with them shoveling snow in an apartment building parking lot. They then toss the snow playfully into the air and turn around to face the camera, incorporating the shovels into their dance. Kunwardeep, the dancer in the middle, and fondly known online as #guywithlongbeard, does all of the group’s choreography.

“We did this video to raise awareness about ALS,” says Hasmeet. “The local ALS charity had been in touch with us about doing something with them and that is why we made this video. Within two days, it had raised more than \$4,000 for ALS,” he says. At the end is a call to action, asking people to donate to the ALS Society of Canada if they liked the video. ALS is also known as Lou Gehrig’s disease. It is terminal, with most people dying two to five years after being diagnosed.

As spokesperson for the group, Hasmeet can’t even keep track of which news outlets he’s spoken to in the days just after the video was posted, but he does know that NBC, BBC, CTV, SBS (Australia), the *Globe and Mail*, Global TV and the *Huffington Post* have all covered the story. It has also made big news in India, which is where Hasmeet and all the members of the Maritime Bhangra Group were born and raised.

“Some people are calling us ‘internet superstars’ but we are still just regular people with 9–5 jobs,” says Hasmeet. The success of their videos continues to surprise him, and he is still making sense of why his dance troupe’s videos have touched such a chord with the world. “Perhaps people can relate to us because we try to keep the videos simple. We make videos with a message of embracing diversity and giving to others. Many people think that what they know is not big enough to contribute, but whatever you know just do it and put yourself out there, and you never know how big of a difference you can make,” he says.

Jennifer MacIsaac Completes Certificate in Museum Studies

In 2009, Jennifer MacIsaac was asked to take care of the Agricola Museum, Archives, and Special Collections at the MacRae Library on the Agricultural Campus. As a cataloguer with a diploma in Library and Information Technology, she thought it seemed like a close fit; the collections were similar to what she worked with every day, the materials were just older.

While the management of archives and museums is comparable to library practices, some aspects of the work are worlds apart. “With 30 years of accumulated artifacts, records, and book collections to sort through, policies to update and create, services and programs to develop, and a community to engage, I was soon feeling overwhelmed!” said Jennifer.



Luckily, Jennifer is no longer feeling overwhelmed and library users can expect great exhibits and well cared for artifacts thanks to the training she has undergone since then.

Elaine MacInnis, Head of the MacRae Library and Associate University Librarian, Library Services, suggested that Jennifer enrol in the Council of Nova Scotia Archives (CNSA) core curriculum. CNSA is the body that promotes good archival practices throughout the province. They offer six two-day courses in archival studies; all six courses must be completed and the assignments passed to receive an Archival Certificate of Completion. Jennifer finished the program and received her certification in 2014.

Then, a conservator suggested to Jennifer that she look into the Association of Nova Scotia Museums (ANSM) program in Museum Studies to complement her archival certification. Elaine MacInnis and University Archivist and Associate University Librarian, Research and Scholarly Communication, Michael Moosberger, were wholly supportive of Jennifer developing these skills to better manage the 400–500 artifacts in the MacRae Library.

“Management of museums is as different to libraries as archives are, if not more. ANSM offers eight core two-day courses in Museum Studies in a three-year cycle. In 2014 I began working toward my certification and finished last year,” said Jennifer.

In all, Jennifer has had training in arrangement and description, Rules for Archival Description (RAD), preservation, acquisition, appraisal and accessioning, access and reference, museums and community (engagement and responsibilities), museum management and governance, public programming, collections management and curatorship, exhibitions, facilities management, and marketing and revenue generation.

“Participating in these programs has had an incredible impact on my knowledge of archival practices,” said Jennifer. She has also had the opportunity to network and collaborate with new colleagues, some now mentors, in the cultural heritage sector. With Jennifer’s archival and museum certifications now complete, the Agricola collection is more accessible than ever and under excellent care for long-term preservation.

“I can now teach others archival practice and have had the privilege of training several people on archival projects. I also get to speak in the community about archival records and artifacts. One Grade 5 class that I spoke to linked my presentation to their curriculum. They were so engaged and interactive! This spring I’ll be taking a course through ANSM for creating school programs for Canada’s 150th anniversary. The development principals I will learn will apply to all program creation and evaluation,” said Jennifer.

Blind Date with a Book

This Valentine’s Day, find love in the library.

Those looking for mystery, fantasy, poetry, romance, or... science fiction, found what they were looking for in the Killam and MacRae libraries this February. Blind Date with a Book tables were designed to set users up with the book of their dreams.



Many curious students were drawn to the display of discreetly wrapped books and descriptive tags with sharp and witty profiles better than those on Tinder.

More than 100 books were checked out for Blind Date with a Book. “We noticed that many of the students participating in Blind Date with a Book were registering their cards with the Libraries for the first time, so we're thrilled that this event brought in so many new users,” said Lindsay McNiff, the librarian who spearheaded the initiative.

Recalibrating Technology Support in the Classroom

When technology fails in the classroom, everybody suffers.

A University Senate forum held late last year brought university administrators and academic support units together to provide input on some of the challenges that arise when audio visual and video conferencing technologies don't function as expected. The basic message: these technologies are critical to fulfilling Dal's academic mission and supporting learning and teaching.



In response to the feedback gathered at *The Future of Dal's Technology Enabled Learning Environment* forum, and as recommended in a review led by Susan Spence Wach, Vice-Provost Planning; and Donna Bourne-Tyson, University Librarian; the consolidation of two teams of A/V professionals will result in the new Classroom Technologies unit — increasing capacity to support audio visual equipment in classrooms and video conferencing equipment.

This change, effective April 1, brings the responsibilities of technical support for the physical and virtual classrooms together under one unit, based in the Dalhousie Libraries' Academic Technology Services (ATS) department. The new unit comprises three staff members from Information Technology Services (ITS) and three staff members from the Centre for Learning & Teaching (CLT).

The unit will be based out of the Dalhousie Libraries as part of ATS (previously named Library IT Services or LITS) which will continue to provide all the services they have been known for, such as Help Desk support, 3D printing, NetID management, Brightspace administration and training, and statistical software licensing and support.

“There is a high level of co-operation among CLT, ITS and the Dal Libraries, and all three will continue to play key roles in integrated planning initiatives related to classroom design, in conjunction with the Provost’s Office and Facilities Management,” says Spence Wach.

Prioritizing user-centric services

“We’re very happy to welcome six experienced Dalhousie staff members to our team,” says Marc Comeau, who will move into the role of ATS director from his current position as director of LITS. “The delivery of A/V support requires more IT knowledge than ever before, and these staff members will be surrounded by other IT professionals in our unit who are also providing critical, user-centric services.”

Employees David George, Jeff Langille, Richard Payne, Graham Denman, Spencer Cantley, and Roger Brush will be moving into the new unit. In addition to the six staff members, there are part-time student assistant positions that will be joining ATS and the Classroom Technologies team.

ATS will receive some additional resources to improve A/V and video conferencing services in the form of training for staff and student assistants, some infrastructure money, and an additional position that did not previously exist at Dalhousie to coordinate video conferencing support. Hiring for that position will take place later this year.

The funding from the administration will have a positive effect on the delivery of these services. A major challenge ATS will face is the significant deferred maintenance of A/V equipment in classrooms, so improvements to the services will, at first, be incremental, but continuous.

“ATS will develop collaborative relationships with CLT, ITS, MedIT, and Facilities, ensuring a service rooted in best practices. This is a positive change for Dalhousie that faculty will experience first-hand. Students will also feel the benefits of having reliable, functioning technology in the classrooms,” says Bourne-Tyson.

Knowing who to turn to

Early on, the team will be improving the communication between those who install equipment and those who support it, increasing training for full-time and student staff, and streamlining processes to report technology problems. Issues that will be addressed over the longer-term include standardization of equipment, remote monitoring to improve response times and to avoid technology failures, and closer integration with the classroom scheduling system Infosilem.

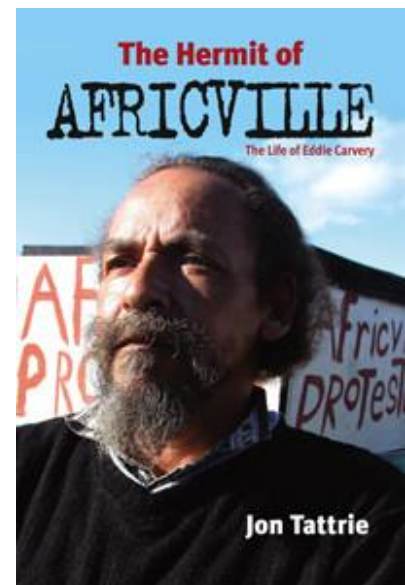
“The biggest improvement that should be felt from the start is that faculty will know where to turn for technical support in the classroom and will feel confident that support will be reliable and effective,” said Comeau.

Working with the Provost, Vice-Provost, Planning, and through the Classroom Planning Committee, the Senate Learning & Teaching Committee and the Academic IT Steering Committee, ATS aims to identify challenges earlier by consulting users for new and emerging requirements, and employing strategies such as scheduling regular maintenance of A/V equipment in classrooms.

The Hermit of Africville: Author Reading & Panel Discussion in Truro

Author **Jon Tattrie**; activist and Truro native **Lynn Jones**; and Truro resident **Tawnya Barrington** took part in a reading and panel discussion about the 2016/17 Dal Reads selection, *The Hermit of Africville*. Published in 2010, *The Hermit of Africville* is the story of Eddie Carvery and his struggle for justice. The event also featured a solo a cappella performance by Truro native, Ashton Jacklyn.

Dal Reads is the unity reading program of Dalhousie, designed to encourage people in the Dalhousie community to share their love of books. Launched in 2009, the program brings the Dalhousie community together through the shared experience of reading the same book and taking part in programming related to the book.



Student Input & Feedback Team

The Dal Libraries refreshed their approach to student outreach this year, holding open meetings on each campus where students could grab a slice of pizza and talk about their experience with the Libraries.

Discussions were guided by three major themes: spaces, collections, and services. Each meeting had a great turnout and students provided valuable input to the Dal Libraries.

Reading with R.W. Gray

R.W. Gray's poetry and prose have appeared in numerous journals and anthologies. He has published two books of short stories and he is an award-winning filmmaker and screenwriter with over ten short films produced. He is also a professor of film and screenwriting in the English Department at the University of New Brunswick.

We were thrilled to welcome R. W. Gray as he read from his Thomas Raddall Atlantic Fiction Award-

winning collection of stories, *Entropic*. <https://vimeo.com/209721112>

Intro to Arduino – Add Lights, Motion, Automation to your Next Project

Imagine creating a simple machine that will automatically water your plants. Maybe you want to add some lights, sound, or motion to a costume project. Artists, designers, hobbyists, and tinkerers are learning new and easy techniques to bring such projects to life.

Halifax Makerspace, in partnership with Dalhousie Libraries, offered free workshops in March to get people started in the basics of electronics and the Arduino platform. Arduinos are a piece of technology that you can fit in the palm of your hand, connecting your project to electronics, giving it “life.”



Bust Your Stash! (And your Stress)

Engaging in a creative and skilled craft can improve cognitive ability, reduce stress and improve your mood.* So the MacRae Library hosted exam stress buster sessions, encouraging students to bust out their crafting stash and get creative in the library.

In addition to crafting at the MacRae, healthy snacks are distributed to students in all Dal Libraries and locations during exams.

*Riley, J., Corkhill, B., Morris, C. (2013) The benefits of knitting for personal and social well-being in adulthood: Findings from an international survey. *British Journal of Occupational Therapy*, 76(2), 50-57. <http://dx.doi.org/10.4276/030802213X13603244419077>

Killam Library to Host Zuppa Theatre Production

This May, the Killam Library will be hosting a very special production by Zuppa Theatre Co. called *The Archive of Missing Things*.

Zuppa describes the production as, “An online scavenger hunt in the middle of an immersive, undercover performance that happens in libraries.”

Imagine it: You're at a table in a library with a wireless headset and an iPad, you get to be a sleuth in an online mystery. You choose your own path, and clues are everywhere — in the library all around you and in the live conversations you overhear in your headset. You have exactly 90 minutes to solve the puzzle. Can you do it?

The Archive of Missing Things was created with Trillium-Award-winning writer Kate Cayley, award-winning sound designer Brian Riley, and computer programmer Ned Zimmerman. It is a theatrical scavenger hunt through the big ideas and little tragedies of the past.



The inaugural run of this innovative production will run May 15–27, as part of the Stages Theatre Festival. They have already been invited to perform this at other festivals such as the International Agatha Christie Festival in Torquay, England in the fall of 2017.

Check out the [trailer](#) for the production; The Killam makes many appearances. Tickets are available [here](#).

Dalhousie Libraries Welcomes New Staff



On January 3, we welcomed Lachlan MacLeod as our new Copyright Services Coordinator.

On April 3, we welcomed Courtney Boudreau as the new Dalhousie Medicine New Brunswick (DMNB) Librarian, covering a maternity leave.



In Memory



We said goodbye to our friend and colleague, Janet Larsen, who passed away on April 7, shortly after being diagnosed with cancer. Janet worked at the Dalhousie Libraries for 32 years, most recently as the night-time supervisor in the Killam Library. Janet will be greatly missed not just by her colleagues, but also by the many students she has worked with during her years with the Dal Libraries.