

News from Prince Edward Island

Robertson Library Update – April 2018 Update

Donald Moses, Interim University Librarian, Robertson Library

Institutional News

The University of Prince Edward Island announced that retired business leader, senator, and former PEI premier, the Honourable Catherine Callbeck of Central Bedeque, has been unanimously elected as the ninth Chancellor of the University for a four-year term. An installation ceremony will be held this spring.



Staffing

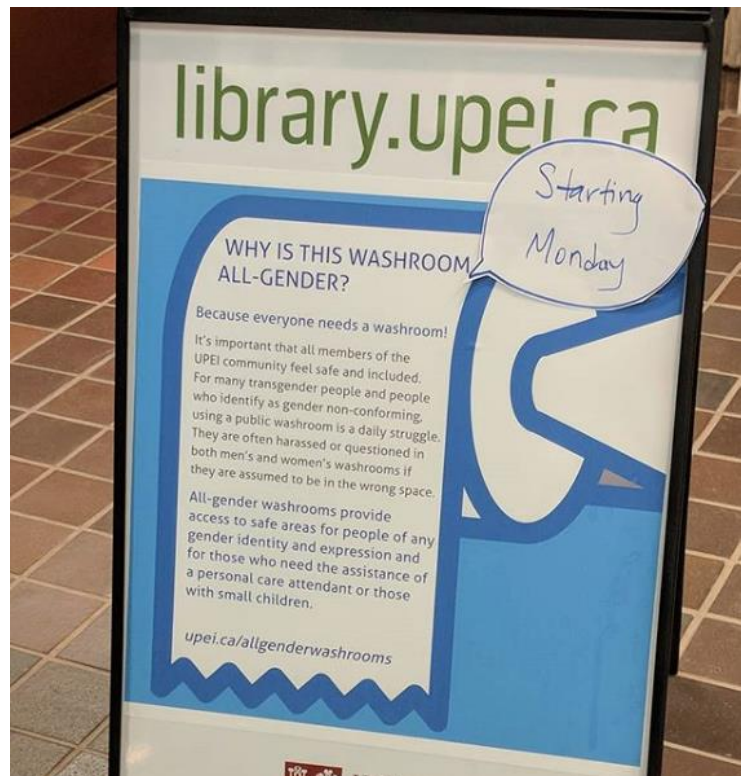
The University of Prince Edward Island has begun the search process for University Librarian at the Robertson Library. We welcomed back Alexander O'Neill to the library on a term contract with the Library's Systems unit.

Instagram

The Library worked with Dr. Kate Scarth's Digital Literacy course to help the Library improve its social media presence. The class helped us explore and establish an Instagram account and we now have 536 #robertsonlibrary followers. Further collaborations are planned.

All-Gender Washrooms

We worked with the Student Union and UPEI's Facilities Department to convert the two multi-stall washrooms on the main level to all gender washrooms. Modest renovations were completed and the washrooms were reopened in early March. To provide an opportunity for discussion, and to launch the opening of the washrooms, we hosted a Movie Talk event with the viewing of [Toilet Training](#), a documentary that "addresses the persistent discrimination, harassment, and violence that people who transgress gender norms face in gender segregated bathrooms."



Events/Programming

Movie Talks

We hosted a series of Movie Talks through the fall and winter semesters - an evening featuring a documentary from our streaming video collections followed by a panel discussion. Films have included Abegweit, Finding Dawn, UnSlut: A Documentary Film, and Toilet Training.

Other Events

A Freedom to Read Week display was set up in the foyer of the Library with books that have been challenged, banned, or burned over the years. The display, with posters explaining the reason why a book was on the list, generated much interest and the books were available for borrowing.

Students celebrated Valentine's Day with us in the Library. Students had fun taking a selfie in our photo booth and making paper valentines in our stress free zone. A selection of 3D printer valentines was also available for students to print for free. In the evening, students were treated to free pizza, treats, and the movie, My Funny Valentine.

Librarians Melissa Belvadi and Yolanda Hood participated in a panel discussion along with Wendy Shilton from the UPEI’s English Department, and Gerald Wandio from the Faculty Development Office. Panelists used the article *They Found It--Now Do They Bother? An Analysis of First-Year Synthesis* as a discussion starter related to the issues students have locating and integrating secondary sources into their writing.

Partnerships

Benevolent Irish Society

The Robertson Library is pleased to partner with the Benevolent Irish Society (BIS) to support the digitization of oral history recordings created by the BIS in the 1980s as well as recordings of lectures that happened at the BIS. We hope to have that work completed by the end of June.

PopUp Pub - PEI Public Library Service (PEIPLS)

Following a similar successful program between Holland College and the PEIPLS, Robertson Library partnered with the PEIPLS to offer more leisure reading choices to our students. Each month the PEIPLS sends 50 new books to Robertson Library and our students are able to sign out the material with their UPEI campus cards. The books are prominently displayed in our lobby and are refreshed each month with new titles.



Student Assistant Kathleen Campbell promoting our PopUp Pub offerings

UPEI’s Mawi’omi Centre and the Native Council of PEI

In collaboration with UPEI’s Mawi’omi Centre and the Native Council of PEI, the Robertson Library hosted students working toward their GED from February 5 to April 6. Students utilized the Library as their learning space and we had the opportunity to introduce students to the resources and services available to them at the Library.