

What Is The Name Of The Rose?

by Umberto Eco

I have made a brief inspection of the only libraries I have had access to lately, as they are open also during night hours, namely Assurbanipal's Library in Nineveh, Polycrates' Library at Samos, Peisistratos' Library in Athens, the library in Alexandria, which already contained 400,000 volumes by the third century B.C., and later, during the first century, 700,000 volumes, including those in Serapeum's Library; further the library in Pergamum and Augustus' Library (in Constantine's time Rome had 28 libraries). I also have certain familiarity with Benedictine monastic libraries and because of these experiences I have begun to ask myself what kind of functions a library has.

In the era of Assurbanipal or Polycrates, maybe, its function simply was to collect, so that tablets, rolls or volumes would not come adrift. Later on I believe libraries came to function as treasure troves: the rolls were valuable. In the Benedictine libraries copying became the main function. The library was almost like a transit zone: the book arrives, is copied, the original or the copy is sent on its way.

I think that at one point in time, perhaps even during the reign of emperors Augustus and Constantine, the library's function was also to make people read, thus more or less agreeing with the Unesco study which states that one of the objectives of a library is to make it possible for people to read books. But since then it seems libraries have been created with the idea of not allowing people to read, but rather to disguise, to hide the book. Of course such libraries were also there to make rediscovery possible. We are constantly surprised at the ability of the fifteenth century humanists to find lost manuscripts. Where did they find them? They found them in a library, in a library which partly existed in order to hide but also made it possible to rediscover.

A library to hate

Confronted with the multitude of goals a library has, allow me to describe what would make a library bad for me. Of course this bad library is mere fiction, but I believe

each one of us can trace in this fictional library obscure memories of godforsaken libraries at home and abroad. A library that actually had all of the following features would be a true nightmare, fully occupied by demons.

- The catalogues should be divided to the maximum extent: a great effort must be made to separate book catalogues from the periodicals catalogue and the former from the subject catalogue and as well the catalogue of new acquisitions from the catalogue of the established book collection. If possible the spelling in the two catalogues (new and old acquisitions) should be different: for example, "draught report" in the old catalogues could be "draft report" in the new; "Chajkowskij" in the new catalogue could be spelled with "Ch", but in the old catalogue it could be with the German spelling "Tsch".
- All subjects in the subject catalogue should be decided by the Librarian. The books' call numbers should not contain any reference to what subjects they may be catalogued under.
- Call numbers should be impossible to copy and if possible so complex that whoever fills out a request slip will not find enough space for the last part, but considers it irrelevant, whereupon the library employee returns the slip, insisting on its completion.
- The elapsed time between request and delivery should be very long.
- No more than one book should be given out at a time.
- The books that have been requested in writing and handed out by the library employee may not be brought along to other parts of the library. The library should discourage users from cross-referencing too many books at a time as this may cause squinting.
- If possible, photocopiers should be entirely absent. If one is provided anyway, it should only be available after lengthy line-ups and other hardships. The cost should be higher than elsewhere and the copying restricted to a maximum of two to three pages at a time.
- The librarian should consider the user an enemy, a loafer (or he/

she would be at work) and also as a potential thief.

- Almost the entire staff should be physically handicapped. Here I am dealing with a very sensitive subject where I don't want to be at all ironic. It is society's obligation to offer opportunities of employment to all citizens, even to those beyond the prime of their life or no longer hale and hearty. But society also admits that hiring people for, let's say, a fire brigade, requires special selection criteria. There are libraries at American universities where the greatest consideration is afforded handicapped visitors—sloping ramps, special equipment in washrooms—to the degree that life becomes hazardous for others who are sliding along on the sloping surfaces. And yet there are jobs in a library that require strength and fitness: to climb stepladders, to lift heavy loads etc., while other duties can be offered to all citizens who want an active working life in spite of physical limitations due to age or other circumstances. Recruiting staff for a library is a problem more related to hiring for a fire brigade than a bank, a very important point as we shall soon see.
- The General Information Desk should be impossible to reach.
- Book loans must not be encouraged in any way; on the contrary they should be made as difficult as possible.
- Interloans should be made impossible or, if not, take months. The best alternative though, is to make sure nobody can find out what other libraries may have available.
- As a result of all this it should be quite easy to steal books.
- Opening hours should completely coincide with normal working hours as discussed in advance with the unions: always closed on Saturdays, Sundays, evenings and during regular meal hours. The worst enemy of libraries is the diligent student; its best friend is Don Ferrante, someone who has his own book collection and thus has no need for a public library, which instead inherits his collection on his death.
- Generally it should not be possible to partake of refreshments within the library and in particular it should not be possible to leave the library for

Conference Update

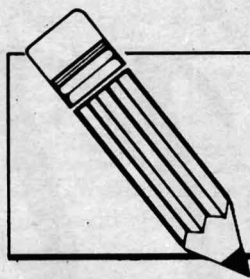
Start making plans now to attend APLA 1990 in Moncton! The dates to reserve are Thursday, May 10, to Sunday May 13. The conference session will be held at the Hotel Beausejour—just a minute's walk from the brand new Albert-Westmorland-Kent Regional Library/Moncton Public Library. During your stay, you will have an opportunity to visit this new facility as well as the recently expanded Bibliothèque Champlain at the Université de Moncton.

The theme chosen for this year's conference is "Au Carrefour des Connaissances/At the Crossroads of Knowledge", which reflects both Moncton's position at the hub of the Maritimes, and the central role of libraries in the information age.

The Program Committee has been busy developing topics for workshop sessions, and the varied selection should offer something for everyone. Two pre-conference workshops will be offered: a CLA seminar (in English) on authority control, and a DOBIS training session (in French) from the National Library. Sessions during the conference will cover (among other topics) promoting and buying the works of Atlantic authors, adapting space for library purposes, what's available on CD-ROM, the latest developments on copyright legislation, producing and evaluating instructional materials for library users, reference services to children, and how the library's image is seen by different user groups. The Moncton library community looks forward to welcoming you all next May!

Sue Libby,
Conference Convenor

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From the EDITOR'S DESK

You will notice in this first issue of the new year—and the new decade—an article by Umberto Eco. How it comes to be here is in itself something of a bibliographic adventure (though not on the order of *Name of the Rose*), beginning with the delivery of a speech in Milan, moving through a Swedish transcript of the speech in a Stockholm newspaper, and finally coming to us by way of a pair of sharp-eyed Toronto librarians (one of whom is the English translator, Irina Hedman) and the OLA's *Focus* magazine, which the *Bulletin* receives on an exchange basis. There are a number of reasons why we decided to reprint the article. First and foremost we thought our readers would be interested in Eco's thoughts on libraries. Secondly, we thought the wider world might be interested as well, and hoped to provide a service by making the article more accessible (APLA *Bulletin* is quite well indexed, unlike most other provincial/regional library journals, including *Focus*). Finally we had hoped to lead off the year and the decade with an article which was both a summing up of things past and a thought-provoking glimpse at things as they might be. Although we had intended, naturally enough, to have this come from one or more of the better known librarians in the region, perhaps it is just as well that the plan didn't work out, for Eco's article in many senses serves much the same purpose. As professional librarians each of us could no doubt think of reasons why Eco's ideal library is less than ideal, and suggest mitigating reasons for the drawbacks of the one he imagines at the other ex-

treme, the one "fully occupied by demons." But the fact remains that these are the perceptions of one of the most highly regarded writers of the past decade and one who is no stranger to libraries and their long history. If we have managed to meet his expectations, then we surely have cause to celebrate our work over the last decade and reasons for optimism as we enter a new one; if we haven't, then perhaps the problem lies deeper than a simple dearth of funds for the latest CD ROM and fax technology, and we really should be looking at the kind of radical solutions which will take a decade to bring about.

In any case, welcome to the 90's.

Bradd Burningham

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

First, a REMINDER. If you have not already done so, please mail your Don't Tax Reading postcard. We are enclosing another copy of the card with this issue of the *Bulletin*. Although the percentage of the GST has changed since the card was printed, the basic issue has not. If you have already mailed your card, why not pass this one on to a colleague. APLA has been asked by CADAPSO, Canadian Association of Data and Professional Service Organizations, to participate in a professional devel-

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outside refreshments without first returning all the books you have received so that when you return after your cup of coffee you have to reorder them.

- One should not be able to put a book on hold for the next day.
- One should not be able to find out who has borrowed a missing book.
- If possible, no washrooms.
- And, as last point: The ideal situation would be that the user cannot enter the library at all. If he or she manages to get in anyway, by using, in a petty and unpleasant manner, the rights the individual has gained through the principles of the French Revolution (although not yet part of our collective consciousness) he or she should in any case never be able to get access to the most sacred parts of the shelves, except when swiftly passing through the reference book area.

Two libraries to love

Are there libraries like this? You will have to judge for yourselves. Instead, I would like to describe to you two custom-made libraries, two libraries I love and which I try to visit as often as I can. This does not mean that they are the best in the world or that there are no equals, but they are the libraries I visited, for example last year, with a certain regularity, one of them for a month, the other for three months. They are Sterling Library at Yale in the U.S.A. and the Robarts library at the University of Toronto in Canada.

These libraries are open until midnight, even Sundays. (Sterling is not open mornings, but from noon to midnight; it's closed Friday evenings.) Toronto has excellent catalogues, as well as a number of microfiche readers and computerized catalogues, easy to handle. At Sterling, however, catalogues are still organized the old way, but author and subject are kept together. Under a certain main entry one thus will find not only works by Hobbes but also works about Hobbes. Moreover, the library also contains information about what is available in other libraries in the area. But the best feature of these two libraries is that they, at least for certain categories of users, allow access to the stacks, that is you do not request the book but using a little card you pass an electronic watchdog, whereupon you take the elevator and disappear into the inner regions.

You do not always return alive. In Sterling's stacks, for instance, it is very easy to commit a crime and to hide the corpse under the map shelves. It will take decades before it is discovered. The floors and the mezzanines are mixed up in such a clever way that you never know what level you are on and as a consequence you will never find the elevator. The lamps only light up if the visitor turns them on, so if you can't find the right button you might be groping around in the darkness for a long time. This differs considerably from the Robarts library, which is brightly lit.

But the researcher walks about, looking at the books, whereupon he or she takes them down from the shelves and, in Toronto, proceeds to lounges with nice easy chairs in which to sit and read. At Yale they are not quite so comfortable but, in any case, you can move freely within the library and you can make photocopies. There are a great number of photocopiers. In Toronto

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New from Micromedia

Gallup Canada Press Releases on Microfiche

Available to the public for the first time, the collection of Gallup Canada's weekly poll press releases from 1941 to date constitute a significant resource for research in history and social science.

Public opinion polls have covered every conceivable issue and subject from abortion to capital punishment to free trade and provide a revealing look at Canada's national conscience and attitudes as they have changed over the decades.

A chronological list of releases accompanies the collection.

Backfile: \$500
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Individual poll: \$ 15


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opment steering committee. The committee will review a course proposal aimed at persons using online and CD-ROM services. The program will be offered by Ryerson Polytechnical Institute in Toronto, and would hope eventually to go on the road. Andrea John, Saint Mary's University, and Elaine Toms, Dalhousie School of Library and Information Studies, have been appointed to represent APLA on the Committee. At the last Executive meeting, the Intellectual Freedom Committee reported it had increased participation in Freedom to Read Week. APLA has since been in touch with the Book and Periodical Development Council, the Canadian Booksellers Association and the Atlantic Booksellers Association to clarify their roles in promoting the week. All are enthusiastic about APLA contacting the bookstores. Letters from APLA will go out with Freedom to Read posters in January.

Best wishes to all for a happy and peaceful New Year.

Susan McLean

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there is a change machine which will change Canadian dollar bills into small coins so that the user can approach a photocopier with kilos of coins and thus copy books with seven or eight hundred pages. The other users' patience is endless; they just stand there waiting for page 700 to turn up.

Of course you can also borrow the book to take home. The formalities are handled extremely quickly: after having freely browsed through the eight, fifteen, eighteen floors of stacks and chosen the desired books, one writes the titles down on a request slip, puts it on a desk and leaves. And who is allowed to come in? Whoever has a card, and even that is easy to arrange in a hour or two. Sometimes references can be arranged over the phone.

To discover books you didn't know existed

Why is it so important to get in amongst the shelves? One of the misunderstandings attached to the perceptions of a library's functions is that you go there to obtain a book, the title of which you already know. In many instances this is so, but the most important function of a library—at least this is how my own library and those of my friends' work—is to let one discover books one didn't know existed and which turn out to be of great personal significance. It is certainly true that this kind of discovery can be made by leafing through catalogues, but nothing is as revealing and fascinating as exploring bookshelves, maybe containing everything on a particular subject, something not easily found in the author catalogue and next to that book you came to find there is another book you didn't come to find but which turns out to be of great importance. In other words, a library's ideal function is to be a little bit like a bouquiniste's stall, a place for *trouvailles*, and such a function can only be made possible through a free access to all those shelf-lined corridors.

That kind of library is tailor-made for me; I may decide to stay there the whole day and enjoy its paradisaical pleasures: I read newspapers, I bring books to the cafeteria and then I go back for more, I make discoveries. Maybe I did go there to occupy myself with British Empiricism, but instead I find myself tracking down various interpreters of Aristotle, I end up on the wrong floor, I enter a subject area—medicine—I never thought I would tread upon but then by coincidence, I find a couple of works by Galenos, complete with philosophical references. The library thus becomes an adventure.

There are disadvantages too but...

What, then, are the disadvantages of this type of library? Theft and vandalism, of course; no matter how many electronic control devices there are, I think it is easier to steal books from libraries of this type than libraries of our type.

On the other hand, just the other day a representative for an Italian municipality with a famous library said that a person who for twenty five years had been carrying home the finest incunabula, had been caught. He would bring into the library volumes with stamps from distant libraries, empty them of their contents, remove the cover of the volume he intended to steal, insert its contents into the cover he had brought along, and leave. In twenty five years he apparently acquired a wonderful library.

To steal is obviously possible everywhere, but I believe the criterion of a library we can call a free one, with a free circulation, is that the loss is repaired by purchasing a new copy of the book even if it has to be done through an antiquarian book store. It is a costly criterion, but it is still a criterion. When the choice is between allowing people to read books or not, one buys a new book when the old copy has been stolen or destroyed. Books from, for example, Aldus Manutius in Venice must of course be kept in the specially protected rare books room.

disadvantages of this human scale library where I am happy to linger anyway, whenever I can. But the worst will happen when a computer screen and microfiche culture has completely replaced the book as a source of information. Then maybe we will remember with regret libraries protected by watchdogs despising the user, stopping him or her from finding books, but where at least once a day you could touch a bound volume. Therefore we also need to include apocalyptic scenarios like this in the analysis in order to be able to weigh the pros and cons of our idea of a library on a human scale.

Protect the books or let people read them?

The basic problem is this: we must decide whether we want to protect the books or let people read them. I am not saying that either we choose to let people read books without protecting them, or we choose to protect books without letting people read them. Nor am I saying that we must find a middle road. One of the two ideals must be in the foreground and then one must settle



Umberto Eco at Foucault's Pendulum in Paris.

The other disadvantage with this kind of library is that it allows, facilitates, encourages the Xerox Culture. This is the culture of photocopying, which above all signifies a catastrophe for the copyright holder. With the Xerox culture we are approaching a future where publishers publish almost exclusively for libraries and this is a fact we should pay attention to.

In addition we develop, on the personal level, a photocopying neurosis. The photocopy is, by and large, an immensely useful tool, but often it also constitutes an intellectual alibi: one leaves the library with a bunch of photocopies, certain that one will never be able to read them all. One will not even be able to find them, because they end up in disorder, but through the act of photocopying one gets the feeling of having acquired the contents of the books. Before the Xerox Culture one wrote long excerpts by hand in the huge reference libraries and something was always retained in one's memory. With the photocopying neurosis goes the risk that days will be spent photocopying books which will never be read.

I could go on demonstrating the

the account with reality by accommodating the ideal that comes second. If the ideal is to let people read the book, one must try to protect it as much as possible, but keep in mind the risks involved. If the ideal is to protect the book you should still try to let it be read but keep in mind the risks involved.

In this respect a library's problem is no different from a bookstore's. Nowadays there are two kinds of bookstores. There are the very serious ones which still have wooden shelves and where as soon as you enter you are met by a gentleman who says: "Can I help you?", whereupon you feel embarrassed and leave. Few books are stolen in those book-stores. Then there are the large bookstores with plastic shelves where, in particular, the young move about, browse and examine what has been published and in these stores many books are stolen, even after installation of electronic security controls.

You may encounter a student who says: "Oh, this book is interesting, tomorrow I'm going to pinch it". And they pass on information, e.g.: "Watch out, at Feltrinelli's bookstore they don't spare you if you are caught". "Well,

then I'll pinch it a Marzocco's, they have just opened a new superstore". And still those in charge of organizing large chains of bookstores know that up to a certain point bookstores with a high frequency of theft are the same that sell the most books. Many more thefts occur in a large supermarket than in a small corner store, but the large supermarket is part of a major capitalistic business concern, while the corner store may be a small business with a very limited turnover.

Economic returns vs cultural returns

If we now transform these problems dealing with economic returns into problems dealing with cultural returns, social costs and benefits, libraries encounter the same problems: to run larger risks in terms of protecting books but to keep the social benefits of a larger circulation. If a library, as Jorge Luis Borges has said, is a model of the universe, we are trying to change it into a universe of human dimensions. And I want to remind you of the fact that human dimensions also mean the possibility of having a cup of cappuccino, or for two students to sit down one afternoon on a sofa for some mild flirting—and I underline mild—while perusing some interesting scientific works sampled from the shelves—in other words a library you want to visit and which is gradually transformed into a large leisure time machine, as the Museum of Modern Art in New York, where people go to the movies, walk in the garden, look at the sculptures and have a complete meal.

I know that Unesco agrees with me: "The library should be easily accessible and its doors wide open to all members of society who may freely use it, regardless of race, colour, nationality, age, sex, religion, language, civil status and level of education".

A revolutionary thought. The reference to level of education also presumes a contribution to education, counselling and preparation. And then there is this other thing: "The public library should be centrally located, easily accessible also for the handicapped and with opening hours to suit the needs of all. The building and its interior should be of pleasing design, be comfortable and welcoming; and it is essential that the readers have direct access to the shelves".

Will we ever succeed in transforming this utopian scheme to reality?

Umberto Eco is the author of *The Name of the Rose* and a professor in the Faculty of Letters and Philosophy, University of Bologna. His new novel, *Foucault's Pendulum*, was released in English this fall and is already on U.S. and Canadian bestseller lists. This article is based on an address given by Umberto Eco on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of the Biblioteca Comunale di Milano nella Sede di Palazzo Sormani. It was originally published, in Swedish, in *Dagens Nyheter*, a Stockholm newspaper, and subsequently translated into English for publication in *Focus*, the magazine of the Ontario Library Association. Our first issue of the 1990's seems a particularly relevant spot in which to include these thoughts on libraries by a writer of Professor Eco's stature, and we thank him, *Focus*, and the translator, Irina Hedman, for granting us permission to publish the article.—Editor.



NEWS FROM THE REGIONS

NEWS FROM NEW BRUNSWICK/ NOUVELLES DU NOUVEAU-BRUNSWICK

PUBLIC LIBRARIES/ BIBLIOTHÈQUES PUBLIQUES

The National Film Board of Canada and New Brunswick Library Service signed a joint agreement for the distribution of videocassettes in the public libraries of the province.

The five library regions continue to be preoccupied by funding and staffing problems. In November, a public meeting was held in Florenceville with the Minister of Tourism, Recreation and Heritage and five provincial MLAs in attendance to discuss the situation of five of the York Regional libraries that have only one person on staff. Meanwhile, at NBSL, work on the study concerning library standards continues. It is expected that the report will be completed by the Spring of 1990.

The new INLEX automated cataloguing system was installed at NBSL in December and the personnel have completed their training in the use of both the Hewlett-Packard hardware and the INLEX/3000 software. The old database was closed at the beginning of the month. Cataloguing with the new system began at the end of December.

The Moncton City Council approved the necessary funds to complete the historical collection room in the new Moncton Public Library. Work is expected to begin in March. Once completed, the historical room will provide a good environment for the collection, which consists of local history materials and railway periodicals donated by CN to the library some years ago.

Staff of the Moncton and Riverview public libraries and the Extension Department attended a workshop given by Moncton Employment and Training Services on interacting with people with disabilities to enable the staff to better serve the needs of this group of library users.

UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES/ BIBLIOTHÈQUES UNIVERSITAIRES

Mount Allison University Library will be using InfoTrac on a trial basis during February and March. Users will have access to the CDROM database Academic Index during this period. Diane Buhay, Information Transfer Co-ordinator, has published the *Directory of New Brunswick Researchers in Science and Technology*. Diane has recently accepted the position of Audio-Visual Librarian at St. John Regional Library and may be reached there for further information regarding the *Directory*.

GROUPE D'INTÉRÊT FRANCOPHONE/ FRANCOPHONE INTEREST GROUP

Le mandat et les objectifs du Groupe d'intérêt francophone de l'APLA seront présentés à l'exécutif de l'Association lors de leur prochaine réunion en février. Le Groupe prévoit tenir une première rencontre pendant le congrès annuel de l'APLA à Moncton.

Claire Dionne

NEWS FROM PEI

PEI now has a School Library Policy Statement. The Minister of Education officially released this new document in September.

The Department of Education is still working on a set of guidelines for school libraries in the province. Another draft was circulated in December for reaction by the end of January 1990.

Carol-Ann Haycock returned to the Island in November for two days of workshops. More than 50 teacher-librarians, teachers, principals, and consultants attended a half-day session on resource-based learning and information skill development sponsored by the PEI School Library Association.

Ms. Haycock presented a workshop for the instructional staff of the twelve schools that make up Regional School Unit 2 based in Summerside. The topic for the one-day session was Partners for Effective Education. Both sessions were well received. The Provincial Library of the Department of Education shared in the costs of the workshops.

Regional School Unit 2 has created a new position, Department Head for Libraries for the unit. Marlene Noye, teacher-librarian at Three Oaks Senior High School, Summerside, has been appointed to the position.

The PEI School Library Association held its semiannual meeting and workshop in November. Eve Williams, McNaughton High School, Moncton, provided ideas for teacher-librarians re setting up learning stations for junior and senior high school students. Meredith Mackeen, teacher-librarian for the Souris family of schools, talked about the role of the teacher-librarian and her experiences with cooperative program planning in her six schools.

The Association launched its new newsletter, *Teacher-Librarian*, in October. Vice-President, Meredith MacKeen, is acting as editor with assistance from Cathy Horne and Nan Bailey. The second issue is scheduled for the winter.

CD-ROM technology has come to Island libraries. The Provincial Library processing centre has acquired a N.E.C. player with which they will be using *Books in Print*, with reviews. The librarian at the

Agriculture Canada research station, Barrie Stanfield, has acquired a player to use with specific databases such as Agricola. He outlined the uses to which this system will be put at a recent meeting of the P.E.I. Prof. Librarians Association held at the Research Station library.

Children's Book Week was celebrated in November with the visit of noted author Robin Muller who gave a total of 23 readings in various school and public libraries.

Don Scott, Provincial Librarian, participated in the opening of the Coin de Lecture at Abram Village public library branch in the heart of P.E.I.'s Acadian region. Robert Tremé, Attaché General for the French Consulate in the Atlantic Region, made a presentation of a large collection of French books to the library.

Summerside Public Library is actively continuing its search for larger, more suitable quarters. The friends of the library group have been given a commitment that the old C.N. Railway Station is available to them. The committee is now seeking funds to carry out a structural study of the building and as a longer term project is seeking support from the Summerside Rotary Club in spearheading a fundraising campaign to raise \$800,000.00 to fund the project.

Don Carter

NEWS FROM NEWFOUNDLAND

The provincial report *Literacy in a Changing Society*, which was released in November, included among its recommendations a call for increased funding for public, school and post-secondary libraries in order to update and enhance current levels of service. It also recommended additional funding for public libraries to purchase materials for adults with intermediate reading levels. The Provincial Libraries Board's Literacy Committee is pursuing funding for collection building in this area.

Faculty members at Memorial University are now able to access the library's SPIRES database from their offices through the university's computer network. In addition, students in the residences have 2 SPIRES terminals available. Wallace McKenzie joined the Collections Division in January as Science Librarian for a one year period.

The provincial School Library Symposium II was held on January 21-24, 1990 in St. John's. A follow-up to the successful one in 1987 for educational leaders, this symposium focused on district library coordinators and school principals. The theme is "Resource-Based Learning—District and School Leadership" and Ken Haycock of the Vancouver School Board was symposium leader.

The Labrador City campus of the Labrador Community College began offering first year university courses on January 15, 1990. First and second semesters will be completed by August and students should be able to attend second year at MUN in September. The campus has appointed Andre Vietinghoff, formerly of Info Globe and a graduate of Western, as librarian.

Katie Lawton, a graduate of Dalhousie Library School, has been appointed to the medical library at St. Clare's Mercy Hospital. She is replacing Valerie Benson who has gone to the Newfoundland and Labrador Hydro library.

Alison Mews

NEWS FROM NOVA SCOTIA

Construction has begun on the new 5.3 million dollar library building for the University of King's College. The 22,000 square foot building will contain the climate-controlled Treasure Room for the College's large collection of old and rare books, and a Gallery for the public display of some of these treasures. For the first time in decades, all of the Library's general collection will be housed in open stacks where it will be accessible to browsers, including the handicapped. A much-needed increase in study space for the College's growing undergraduate population will also be made. It is anticipated that the King's Library will soon join Novanet, and share its bibliographic records with other academic libraries in Halifax. The Director of the Library, Dr. Wayne Hankey, has indicated that the King's community can look forward to the opening of the new library during the winter term of 1991.

The Thomas Raddall Public Library was officially opened on Sept. 19, 1989 with a program featuring greetings from Mrs. Mary Cooley, Chairman, Halifax City Regional Library Board, His Worship Mayor Ron Wallace, the Honourable Ronald Giffin, Minister of Education and the Honourable Joel Matheson, Minister of Advanced Education and Job Training and M.L.A. Halifax-Bedford Basin. The guest speaker was Dr. Malcolm Ross, O.C., Professor Emeritus of English at Dalhousie University and Honourary Life Member of the Writers' Federation of Nova Scotia. Presently located in 10,200 square feet of main floor leased space in the new Clayton Professional Centre, the library offers a circulating and reference collection of over 23,000 volumes plus circulating collections of magazines, films and records, compact discs and audio and video cassettes. Branch facilities include a program room with a seating capacity of over 200, a puppet theatre for performances and story

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ILL Patterns in the Atlantic Provinces

by Diane Buhay and Tom Eadie

The mandate of the National Library Document Delivery Working Group is to improve the speed of document delivery. Members of this group were asked to describe document delivery in their region. This resulted in the distribution of a questionnaire to all Envoy interlibrary loan (ILL) addresses in the Atlantic provinces. The following describes the ILL patterns in our region based on an analysis of the data in the responses.

The response rate was 44%—27 out of a possible 62 libraries responded. The percentage response rate of those libraries contacted in each province is outlined in Table 1.

The response according to type of library was: university—41%; public—22%; government—26%; and other—11%.

Since not all of the responding libraries categorize their ILL requests into the four categories which we used in this survey some of the data was inadmissible. Data was requested for a 12 month period during the years 1988/89. Based on

Province	Total*	Response**	Percentage
New Brunswick	15	6	40%
N.S.	33	16	48%
P.E.I.	7	3	43%
Nfld.	7	2	28%
All	62	27	44%

* Total number of libraries contacted
** Number of libraries responding to survey

those libraries which provided data in the appropriate categories, it was calculated that: a) 36% (7,967) of ILL items came from within the respondent's province; b) 22% (4,791) came from other Atlantic provinces; c) 21% (4,732) came from CISTI/National Library; and, d) 21% (4,602) came from other sources.

The length of time to have an ILL request supplied was divided into three areas: a) in-province, b)

Atlantic region, and c) Ottawa area (Table 2).

It was also interesting to note that 15 of the 27 reporting libraries had fax machines.

We would like to thank the staff of those libraries who participated in this survey.

Diane Buhay is Audio Visual Librarian at St. John Regional Library. Tom Eadie is University Librarian, Mount Allison University Library.

Region	Mean	Median	Range
In-province	9 days	7 days	1 day to 2 months
Atlantic	12 days	10 days	2 days to 1 month
Ottawa	11 days	10 days	2 days to 5 weeks

Bibliographic Access in Europe

by Gwendolyn Creelman

The First International Conference on Bibliographic Access in Europe was held 14-17 September 1989 at the University of Bath, England. It was organized by Philip Bryant, Director of the Centre for Bibliographic Management, and his colleagues. Approximately 200 participants attended. Delegates came from most European countries, including Poland, Yugoslavia, Bulgaria, Italy, Portugal, Spain, Greece, Malta, Iceland, Denmark, Finland, Norway and Sweden, as well as the United Kingdom, France, Luxembourg (CEC), Belgium, Austria, Switzerland, West Germany, Netherlands. Also present were delegates from Australia (1), Brazil (2), United

States (3), South Africa (3) and Canada (2).

The Conference began with three papers on the subject of OPACs, followed by nine papers on networks and networking. The remaining papers focused on the subject of bibliographic contents of databases and covered the various formats of databases, current research and innovations regarding bibliographic records, and bibliographic standards. It became very clear during the presentation of the 31 papers that there is a strong desire for enhanced bibliographic access on an international level.

In the area of bibliographic contents of databases, quality, timeliness, quantity, type of material and creation of data were all discussed. In order to achieve a successful European Library there needs to be more material of all

types in each country's databases including software databases and full text databases. The quality of the data needs to be high and standardized. It was suggested that we can't wait for agreement on all standards before starting to work towards this goal but that standards could be achieved in parallel with the creation of the databases.

It was agreed, though, that the most crucial problem to be solved is the complex one of good access to the information in the databases. If a user is not successful in a search because of a lack of accessibility rather than from lack of available information, then we have failed. We need good databases, user friendly OPACs, and standards that allow for easy networking and exchanging of information, but most of all we need good access to the information. An urgent call for

research in this area was the conclusion of many at this conference.

It is hoped that a second conference will follow sometime in 1991. A location and an organizing committee have yet to be established. In my opinion, the conference was a resounding success and should be the first of many on the topic. It was an excellent source of information on research presently underway in all aspects of bibliographic access. If you would like further information on the papers do not hesitate to contact me.

Gwen Creelman is currently on sabbatical leave from Mount Allison University Library, but can still be reached through the Library.

News from Nova Scotia continued from page 4...

hours and a computer room with two Apple microcomputers and an IBM PC for the library's extremely popular computer literacy program.

A number of Library Board and staff members were involved in Challenge for the 1990's, the Nova Scotia Library Boards Association WILL Workshop at Rodd Grand Hotel, Yarmouth, N.S. from November 23 to 25. Mary Cooley was Convenor of the WILL Program Committee. Alderman Arthur Flynn, talking on the Art of Lobbying, was one of the keynote speakers. Ann Millard, Doris

Steeves, Philip Vaughan and the Community Services Coordinator, Joan Brown-Hicks, took part in panel discussions or introduced speakers.

Peter Lambly, a 1989 graduate of the Dalhousie School of Library and Information Studies, is taking Ms. Janice McDonald's place as a Librarian I, Reference and Technical Services until her return from maternity leave in January 1990.

Tracey Jones has been appointed Acting Branch Head, North Branch Library, while Terry Symonds is on sick leave. The Extension Services Coordinator, Adelia Amyoony, is taking Ms. Jones' place as Mainland South Branch Head.

Gwyn Pace

Student Receives H.W. Wilson Foundation Award

Linda Schroeder is the 1989/90 recipient of the H. W. Wilson Foundation Award given each year by Dalhousie University's School of Library and Information Studies. This Award of \$1,000 (U.S.) is made to an outstanding incoming student each year through the generosity of a grant from the H. W. Wilson Foundation, New York.

Linda Schroeder has a Bachelor of Music degree from the Curtis Institute of Music and a Master of Musical Arts from Yale University. She has taught music at the American University in Washington, D.C.. She is a flute instructor at the Maritime Conservatory of Music in Halifax and has performed at the Carnegie Recital Hall in New York.

In 1987-88 Ms. Schroeder was a Visiting Research Associate at the Judah L. Magnes Museum, Blumenthal Library in Berkeley, California. In Halifax, she has worked on a project for the Book and Periodical Development Council. She has also been a part-time Library Assistant for the Halifax District School Board.

Memorial Awards Report

Marilynn Rudi, librarian for the Department of Fisheries and Oceans in St. Andrews, New Brunswick was the recipient of a 1989 APLA Memorial Award. The purpose of the award was to assist Rudi in completing a guide to sources of information on Atlantic Canadian literature in English. This project has now been completed and will be published as a monograph in the Occasional Papers series of the School of Library and Information Studies, Dalhousie University.

The guide contains reference sources such as bibliographies, bibliographies, indexes and dictionar-

ies. Anthologies based on the Atlantic region are included, as well as literary and cultural periodicals published in the area. The format is an annotated checklist.

Preliminary research for the guide was carried out in Montreal as a requirement for an independent study at McGill's School of Library and Information Studies. The APLA award permitted Rudi to visit libraries in Fredericton and Halifax where she verified her information and tracked down several elusive titles.

Rudi's guide will be a valuable resource for students of Canadian literature.

Report on 1989 Nova Scotia Library Association Conference

The 1989 NSLA Conference was held September 29 to October 1 at Cole Harbour Place—a new multi-service facility which also houses the Cole Harbour Branch of the Halifax County Regional Library system. The theme of the conference was "Multiculturalism: Libraries Linking with the World" and many of the sessions dealt with such topics as collections development for serving ethnic populations, racism and how libraries can combat this, and specialized topics such as black Children's Literature and French-language services in public libraries. In the program "Racism in Nova Scotia", Burnley (Rocky) Jones, a member of the Afro-Canadian Caucus of Nova Scotia, said that libraries must do more than just passively issue books if they are to play a responsible role in fighting racial prejudice and inequality.

The keynote address was given by Sylvia Hamilton, former Assistant Regional Director for the Secretary of State. Her presentation was highlighted by a screening of her critically acclaimed film "Black Mother, Black Daughter" which celebrates the contribution of women to Black Nova Scotian society. She urged delegates to work actively against both overt and covert racism and to make sure libraries provide materials/services to all segments of the population.

Two authors whose work deals with distinct population groups were also featured speakers. Kevin

Major discussed his newest work, *Blood Red Ochre*, which deals with the extinct Beothuk tribe of Newfoundland. Marlene Nowbese Philip—a West Indian-Canadian writer—read from her young adult novel *Harriet's Daughter* and discussed the problems she encountered having her book published in Canada as it was felt there was not wide enough audience appeal. She urged librarians and publishers to be more open to minority writers.

Delegates relaxed Saturday evening at a dinner featuring a wide variety of multicultural food and entertainment (song, dance, and theatre) representing various cultural groups.

An Intellectual Freedom Interest Group was formed at the conference.

A resolution was passed opposing the proposed Goods and Services Tax and \$100.00 was donated to the Canadian Library Association campaign against the tax.

The program convenor was Mary Duffy of the Halifax City Regional Library and the N.S.L.A. President for 1989-90 is Hope Bridgewater, also of the Halifax City Regional Library.

The 1990 Conference will be hosted by Cape Breton Regional Library.

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Blind Without Ears

by Neal Bowers

My father has always been fond of paradox—the truth standing on its head in order to draw attention to itself.

Once, watching a little league baseball game, he pointed out a particularly scrawny right fielder who was squinting at the score-keeper as they tallied up another run against his team.

"See that kid?" asked my dad. "He couldn't see a thing if it weren't for his ears."

"Whaddya mean?" I gave back, knowing my duty in supplying the straight line.

"Well, his hat is way too big for him and his ears are keeping it from coming right down over his eyes. If it weren't for his ears, he'd be blind."

I think of that story whenever school librarians tell me about the unusual functions their libraries occasionally perform. As ears are to sight (at least for certain scrawny right fielders) so are libraries to smooth-running schools. They are rarely designed to contribute to the purpose, but, paradoxically, they sure as heck play an important role.

The school library comes in handy frequently to prop up ill-fitting accessories to the basic school program. For example, when the photographer shows up to do individual and group photos—he uses the library. When the board of trus-

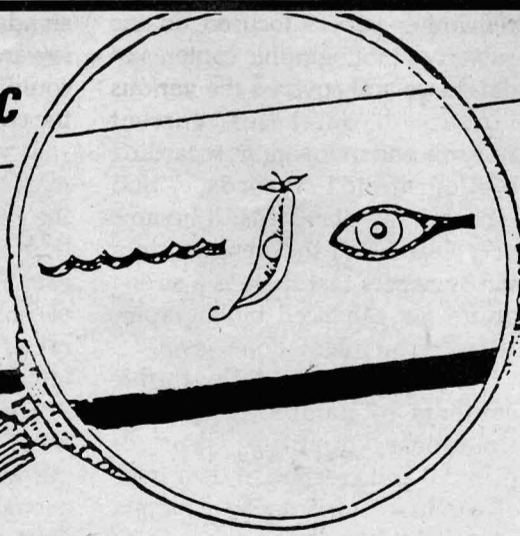
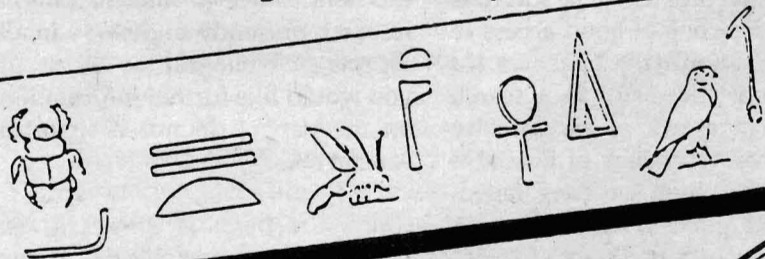
tees meets on the second Tuesday of every other month—they use the library. Immunization centre for the school nurse? Changing room for the visiting basketball team? Dressing room for the school play? Right times three. Some of this I've seen; some of it I've only heard about.

To be blunt, the school library is sometimes taken advantage of. It takes on the role of a front parlour—a place to use on special occasions because it has such a warm ambience of learning. It's a study hall when a teacher is unexpectedly absent. It's a tutoring or counselling room when no other space is available. It's the escape valve on what can sometimes be a pressure cooker system of expectations. None of this is necessarily bad. School library personnel are nothing if not adaptable. Being recognized as such and able to serve the greater good is part of what makes school library work so rewarding.

I hear teacher-librarians saying that it's gratifying to be recognized for the work they're hired to do—provide library services and deliver resource-based teaching. But it is sublime when it is recognized that they simultaneously, paradoxically and often without damage to their designated purposes, provide support for the extras, the frills and the last minute details that make schools more than factories for teaching the basics. They are the ears that help keep the sun out of your eyes

Neal Bowers, a teacher-librarian at New Germany Rural High School, Nova Scotia, was recently seconded to the N.S. Department of Education to be Co-ordinator of School Libraries.

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Quebec Agreement Signed on Photocopying

New Regulations on photocopying are in effect at Quebec's universities.

The Conference of Rectors and Principals of Quebec Universities (CREPUQ) and the Quebec Writers' union (UnEQ) reached an agreement earlier this year on copyright and photocopying printed materials. Under the agreement CREPUQ member institutions may photocopy all works contained in UnEQ's directory, so long as the photocop-

ies are for teaching purposes. Universities are limited to copying less than 10 per cent or 25 pages of any work.

The UnEQ directory lists about 26,000 Quebec titles, along with works by Belgian, Swiss and French authors.

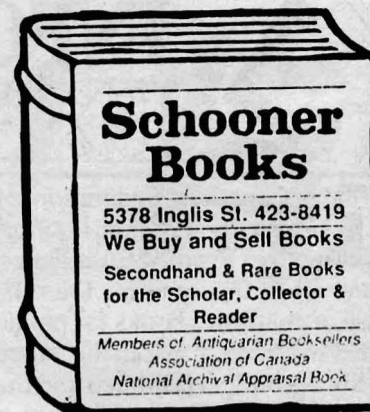
UnEQ authors will be reimbursed for the use of their work by the Quebec government, which has set up a similar copyright collective for the province's elementary and

secondary schools and CEGEPs.

University teachers will be required to keep track of the number of photocopies used throughout the academic year. CREPUQ officials, meanwhile, will be responsible for submitting regular reports on university photocopying activities to UnEQ.

The agreement between the universities and the writers took effect October 1 and will run until the end of June 1993.

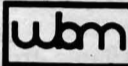

(Reprinted from University Affairs, December 1989)



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INFORMATION EXCHANGE

The Canadian Federation of University Women is offering two Reading Stimulation Grants of \$1,000 each for the purchase of children's books for public library use in areas in Canada where the library budget is limited and the need is great.

CONDITIONS: The staff member in charge of the children's department must be a qualified librarian, or an experienced children's library assistant, working under a qualified librarian; or the library must be, or be in the process of becoming, a member of a regional library system directed by a qualified regional librarian.

Application forms will be sent when request is made to:

Miss Edith Patterson
28 Whitman Court

Truro, Nova Scotia, B2N 3G3

Please indicate whether forms are required in English or in French. The closing date for receipt of completed applications is March 31, 1990.

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE AND EXPERT SYSTEMS: WILL THEY CHANGE THE LIBRARY? is the theme of a conference to be held by the Graduate School of Library and Information Science, University of Illinois, March 25-27, 1990. The 27th Annual Clinic on Library Applications of Data Processing, which will be held at the University Inn, Champaign, Illinois, is designed to give a balanced picture of present and potential capabilities of artificial intelligence/expert systems in a wide range of library applications, including factual reference service, database searching, descriptive cataloging, document delivery, and subject cataloging/indexing.

For further information write or call Annetta Holt, Graduate School of Library and Information Science, University of Illinois, 410 David Kinley Hall, 1407 W. Gregory Drive, Urbana, Illinois 61801, 217-333-3280.

MICROLINK

by Mark Leggot

Well here it is. The APLA Microcomputer Interest Group is official (well kind of, I think, soon), and following this you will find the Terms of Reference for the group. If you are interested in joining just drop me a line, and I will be glad to add you to the list (you have to be a member of APLA first!). You will find me at

OPTIM Corporation
338 Somerset St. W.
Ottawa, ON, K2P 0J9
613-232-3766 (Voice)
232-8413 (FAX)
MA.LEGGOTT (Envoy)

If you are interested in microcomputer technology, and have a favorite program, or just need to get something off your chest, let me know and you may well be eligible as a guest MICROLINKS columnist! You can also send me your articles/reviews, and if they do not fit into MICROLINKS I may be able to put them into an upcoming issue of the MIG Newsletter.

APLA Microcomputer Interest Group

Status: Interest Group

Terms of Reference:

To bring together all those members of APLA interested in microcomputers and related technologies.

Goals:

To establish, maintain and foster communication between these individuals and others in the library community. Some of the activities would include:

1. Exchange information about the group, its activities and interests, in the APLA Bulletin, a newsletter (quarterly) and possibly an electronic bulletin board.
2. Coordinate workshops and

other events of interest to be held at the annual APLA Meeting, and other regional venues where appropriate.

3. To develop and maintain a directory of microcomputer databases and software in libraries in the Atlantic Provinces, which may be of interest to other libraries in the region and Canada.
4. To make available on request quality public domain software for distribution to members, and to promote the use of other microcomputer groups in the US and Canada.
5. To establish a list of regional representatives in the Atlantic Provinces with some expertise in the use of microcomputers.
6. To investigate the possibility of group purchasing, or discounted rates through membership in OLAM, for microcomputer hardware / software / services.

Relationship:

The Interest Group will inform the Association of their activities through the APLA Bulletin.

Membership:

Membership is open to APLA members interested in microcomputers and related technologies.

Method of Operation:

Regular communications will be effected via a newsletter and the APLA Bulletin, with an electronic bulletin board for more informal communication. A round table discussion may be held at the annual general meeting.

Reports:

A written report on the year's activities will be presented to the general membership at the general meeting of the APLA conference, and published in the APLA Bulletin and the Interest Group newsletter.

1990 APLA Memorial Awards

Travel and Study Funds Available

Do you need financial assistance to study or do research? Awards are available from the APLA Memorial Trust. To apply, send a letter outlining your proposed programme and estimated costs and a copy of your *curriculum vitae* to:

Jane Archibald, Convenor
APLA Memorial Awards Committee
Killam Library, Dalhousie University
Halifax, Nova Scotia, B3H 4H8

Deadline for applications is April 6, 1990.

Donations to the APLA Memorial Trust Fund are welcome. Please forward them to: Peter Glenister, **APLA Treasurer**, Mount Saint Vincent University Library, Halifax, Nova Scotia, B3M 2J6

Report From The Convenor of The Standing Committee On Intellectual Freedom

By the time this item is in print "Freedom to Read Week" will be only a couple of weeks away. I hope all libraries in the region are planning to mark this occasion with appropriate activities.

The American Library Association sponsors a similar event in September. Their 87 page booklet of materials challenged by would-be censors in 1989 is compiled from the *Newsletter on Intellectual Freedom*. The booklet also contains a longer list of books and other materials challenged throughout the ages; an essay on the value of diversity in libraries; ad slicks; quotes on the First Amendment; title, geographic, and subject indexes; sample press releases; and suggestions for Banned Books Week displays and activities. A number of posters are available.

The posters, save one, are not overtly American. They do not contain dates and so can be used at any

time during the year.

The booklet, printed on pH neutral paper with a sturdy binding, will be useful in any library at any time.

The package is available from ALA headquarters in Chicago for \$20.00 US. Contact me or any member of the committee for further ordering information. The package is well worth the money.

On another note, I hope everyone has read the article which appeared in *Atlantic Insight* (November 1989, on p. 11) concerning *Themes for All Times*, the Grade 12 textbook which was censored in Newfoundland.

It appears, if things go as planned, that the theme speaker for APLA 90 will be one suggested by the Standing Committee on Intellectual Freedom. Since details are still being completed, I can not reveal the name of the speaker, but it should be a very interesting afternoon.

Brian McNally

Publication Information

The APLA Bulletin is the official organ of the Atlantic Provinces Library Association. The Association seeks to promote library service in the provinces of New Brunswick, Newfoundland, Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island, to serve the professional interests of librarians in the region, to serve as a focal point for all those in library services in the Atlantic Provinces, and to cooperate with library associations and other organizations on matters of mutual concern.

Personal membership in the Association costs \$25 and includes a subscription to the APLA Bulletin, which is published six times a year—September, November, January, March, May and July. An Institutional Membership costs \$75. Institutions may subscribe to the Bulletin only for \$25. For more information contact the Atlantic Provinces Library Association, c/o The School for Library and Information Studies, Dalhousie University, Halifax, N.S. Single copies of the Bulletin are available for \$4.25.

Submissions for the Bulletin (typed, double-spaced), news and correspondence should be sent

to the Editor, Bradd Burningham, Ralph Pickard Bell Library, Mount Allison University, Sackville, N.B., E0A 3C0, or may be sent by Envoy to: B.BURNINGHAM. The phone number is (506) 364-2571. The deadline for submissions is the 15th of the month preceding the month of issue (i.e.: August 15, October 15, December 15, February 15, April 15, and June 15). All correspondence regarding advertising should be addressed to the Advertising Editor, Gwen Creelman, Ralph Pickard Bell Library, Mount Allison University, Sackville, N.B., E0A 3C0 or may be sent by Envoy to: G.CREELMAN.

The Bulletin is indexed in Library and Information Science Abstracts, Canadian Periodical Index, and the Canadian Magazine Index and is available online in the Canadian Business & Current Affairs Database. Back volumes are available from University Microfilms, Ann Arbor, Michigan, U.S.A., 48106.

Bradd Burningham is the Editor of the Bulletin, Moira Davidson is the Managing Editor, Gwen Creelman is the Advertising Editor, and Nancy Cohen is the News Editor.

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