



Bulletin

The Atlantic Provinces Library Association

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Where Have All the Graduates Gone?

Last May, the graduation of Dalhousie library school's class of 1996 unleashed 43 new librarians into an already crowded work force. Even before convocation, most of the 43 prospective librarians knew that we were poised to enter into a tough competition for entry-level jobs, and we had few illusions about the reality of our first few years as professionals. Most of us prepared ourselves to be flexible, bracing for the uncertainty of short-term positions and the upheaval of long-distance moves. All of us anticipated proving our mettle with contract work before landing a cherished permanent position. In an uncertain employment market, many prepared to take our skills to whoever needed them, rather than waiting around for the jobs to come to us.

Now, eight months later, and despite our sometimes gloomy musings on our job prospects, over 80% of the recent graduates are employed in the information field in some capacity. This article is meant to be a snapshot of where we, the newest members of the profession, find ourselves now, how we found the jobs we currently hold, and what the employment outlook may be like for SLIS's class of 1997 (and any other librarians who are looking for work).

Our poll of the School of Library and Information Studies' class of '96 relied heavily on the informal network developed from twenty months' shared experience at Dalhousie. The "statistics" gathered are as current as the grapevine allowed, and since the situation of one recent graduate has not been confirmed, she has been eliminated from the final tally. Of the remaining 42 members of the class, 35 are now working in the information field, two are not looking for work, two cannot yet work because of immigration requirements, and the remaining three are currently seeking employment.

About two-thirds of the 35 employed members of the class are working in traditional library settings; eleven work in academic libraries, five each in public and special libraries, and two in school libraries. The other twelve are employed in non-traditional settings. Although they do not work inside an actual library building, their jobs nonetheless require either an M.L.I.S. or the knowledge which that degree represents, and so we have graduates working in such diverse fields as web master, database designer, records manager, and freelance researcher. All but seven of the employed 35 hold term positions, with contracts ranging from a few weeks to three years. Such relatively brief periods of employment make our former classmates some-

thing of a moving target, and the picture presented above can thus shift in any given week as their contracts end and they move on to new positions.

Such quick job turn-around and a competitive job-hunting environment make it necessary to use every tool at our disposal. With all the recent coverage of the "information revolution", it will come as no surprise that the Internet has made our world smaller, and the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) has also done its bit in easing some of the barriers that previously kept us working close to home. Listservs and Web sites have made library jobs advertised in Vancouver, Florida, and Italy just as instantly accessible to us as a position in Prince Edward Island advertised in the local newspaper. Fax machines and e-mail have reduced the turn-around time between sighting a job lead and handing in a resume. NAFTA allows any Canadian holder of a professional library degree to work in the United States - and vice versa - with minimal immigration requirements, thus paving the way to a cross-border move.

Did the class of '96 take advantage of the new job-seeking tools in order to see the world? Surprisingly, the great majority did not venture far: of the 35 class members currently working in information fields, 24 work in Atlantic Canada, with a heavy concentration of them in Halifax. Four graduates are working in the rest of Canada, while six ventured further afield. Five, taking advantage of the NAFTA agreement, are currently employed in New York, Alabama, Texas, and Arizona (a sixth

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Where Have All the Graduates Gone?...

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graduate, an American citizen, has reversed the process and is working in Nova Scotia). One adventurous librarian found contract work in Europe, and two currently unemployed classmates are testing the waters in the United Kingdom and Australia. While tales of jobs in foreign locales excite interest, it is significant that most graduates have not yet ventured far from home in the quest for work.

What keeps almost 70% of last year's graduating class in Atlantic Canada, where the job market is acknowledged to be the toughest in Canada? A number of factors contribute to our desire to stay put. Many members of the class of 1996 have ties in the area - spouses with careers, school-aged children, aging parents - and thus a job would have to be especially attractive to tempt them to uproot family. Then, too, Dalhousie's library school program emphasized ties to the library community in and around Halifax, and after two years of using area libraries as our guinea pigs for class projects and work terms, we have developed the professional contacts which, for many of us, led to our first paying jobs as librarians. The 24 graduates in Atlantic Canada keep tight tabs on one another, passing on job tips and providing a support network that ensures that most of us have worked fairly steadily since convocation. Lastly, for most of us, this first year as professional librarians has provided the first real time for contemplation and re-evaluation of our career goals after the hectic rush of library school and part-time student jobs, and we are content to test the local waters for a bit before striking out for distant shores.

Regardless of where we are working or what type of jobs we currently hold, there are certain methods which have aided all members of the class of 1996 in our ongoing search for gainful employment. While media attention has recently been focused on the job hunting possibilities of the Internet, the first, and often the most effective, means of finding jobs is to exploit the personal contacts we have all made through school, prior jobs, and professional organizations. Enlisting acquaintances near and far in a job hunt can result in an avalanche of letters, phone

calls and e-mails, all with employment possibilities to follow up. Personal networks are especially important when it comes to short-term contract work, since many contract positions are never advertised, and in such cases the only way to hear of the job is to have a well-placed "informant" who will pass on the tip. For those librarians who choose to make a go of it in Atlantic Canada, a word in the ear of SLIS's Judy Dunn can be an invaluable link to prospective employers, and many members of the class of 1996 are working today through her good offices.

Another increasingly valuable source of employment leads is, of course, the Internet, onto which libraries and library organizations of all types are posting information, including job advertisements. There are hundreds of library-specific Web sites and distribution lists which can be of aid to the job-seeker, particularly if work is sought in a far-away location. Some good general sites to keep in mind are the Library-Oriented Lists and Electronic Serials page (<http://info.lib.uh.edu/liblists/liblists.htm>), since many listservs carry job ads; the library job-hunting pages at Ann's Place (<http://tigger.cc.uic.edu/~aerobin/libjob.html>), with innumerable links to job ads, library home pages, and library organizations in Canada and the United States; and the Online Newspapers site (<http://www.mediainfo.com/ephone/npaper/nphtml/online.htm>), which lists electronic newspapers, many with current job ads. The Internet also allows job-hunting librarians to keep in touch with far-flung former classmates, extending the network of personal contacts who can help out in a search for employment. The majority of recent graduates polled for this article mentioned the Internet as a first line of attack during a search for employment.

For all the value of personal and electronic networks, however, job-seekers should not discount the traditional print sources of employment ads. Professional journals, government employment-opportunities bulletins, and even local newspapers carry leads for the unemployed librarian. Although these advertisements are often duplicated on

electronic distribution lists or Web sites, this is not always the case, especially when libraries which are not hooked up to the Internet advertise a vacancy. At least five members of the SLIS class of 1996 owe their current employment to ads placed in newspapers or government employment bulletins.

After eight months as professional librarians, the outlook of 1996's graduating class is, overall, a positive one. After sometimes protracted searches for employment, fully 83% of the class is currently working, and we feel as if we have gained an understanding of the job-hunting process. Our advice to the class of 1997? Above all else, do not get discouraged. You will probably spend the first several years of your professional lives in short-term contracts, but this is not at all a bad thing, since term work allows you to gain a variety of experiences and broadens your network of professional contacts. Attempt to stay in touch with each other, monitor current job ads in electronic and print sources, and be a good personal contact yourself by passing on job tips that come your way, and you will soon join the class of 1996 among the ranks of the employed. □

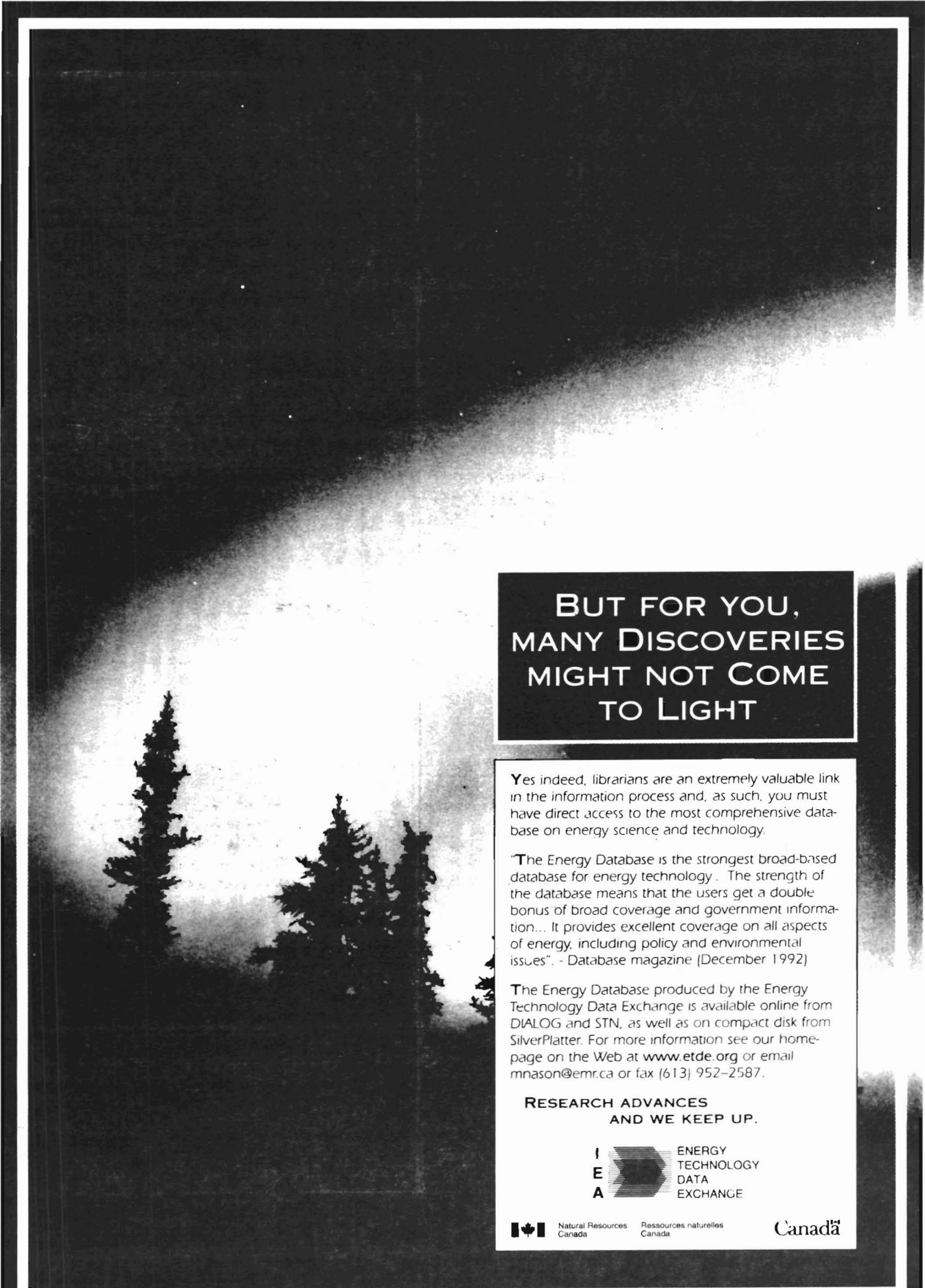
— Gordon Dutrisc and Kathleen Collins, SLIS class of 1996
(both currently working on contract in Halifax)



Use the APLA-LIST

- To post notices about workshops, seminars, and other events.
- To get information about APLA Executive actions.
- To share questions, answers, and ideas about library service.
- To post job advertisements.

Send the message
"subscribe APLA-List" to
maillserv@ac.dal.ca



**BUT FOR YOU,
MANY DISCOVERIES
MIGHT NOT COME
TO LIGHT**

Yes indeed, librarians are an extremely valuable link in the information process and, as such, you must have direct access to the most comprehensive database on energy science and technology.

"The Energy Database is the strongest broad-based database for energy technology. The strength of the database means that the users get a double bonus of broad coverage and government information... It provides excellent coverage on all aspects of energy, including policy and environmental issues". - Database magazine (December 1992)

The Energy Database produced by the Energy Technology Data Exchange is available online from DIALOG and STN, as well as on compact disk from SilverPlatter. For more information see our homepage on the Web at www.etde.org or email mnason@emr.ca or fax (613) 952-2587.

**RESEARCH ADVANCES
AND WE KEEP UP.**



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Canada

Canada

From the President's Desk

As I write this it is sunny out and almost looks like spring. It is about time. In February I attended the Provincial and Territorial Library Associations Council (PTLAC) meeting in Toronto at the invitation of the Ontario Library Association during their annual Superconference. In addition to APLA, the Nova Scotia, Quebec, Ontario and Saskatchewan associations were represented. Here are some of the main issues being tackled by those associations. Quebec libraries are monitoring the unilingual legislation being considered for the public service in that province. One of their biggest concerns is the possibility of a quota on the number of books in languages other than French which may be purchased by libraries. In Ontario, the government has tabled Bill 109, Local Control of Public Libraries Act, 1997 which would place

complete control over the composition of local library boards into the hands of municipal councils and would also relax the prohibition on fees for all services except for the admission to libraries, in-house use of collections and the borrowing of printed material. In Saskatchewan a new library act has established mandatory participation by all communities in the development and maintenance of public libraries and library boards. The Saskatchewan and Ontario governments seem to be going in opposite directions when it comes to libraries!

Here in the east, April 1 looms as the official implementation date of the new BST (oops-HST). Phase II of Copyright Legislation may be stalled until after the next federal election. On a positive note, however, the APLA Conference is draw-

ing closer, from May 23 to 25 in St. John's. I hope that you will plan to attend. Not only are APLA sessions of consistently high quality, this is a chance to unwind with others who really understand the stresses of the library workplace, who can offer sympathy, empathy and better than all those, inspiration! This will be my first trip to Newfoundland and I am really looking forward to it.

In the meantime, the APLA Finance Committee will soon be drawing up the 97/98 budget. Interest Group conveners! This is your last chance to make submissions to the Finance Committee for special project funds for the 96/97 year. Send your applications to the treasurer as soon as possible.

For new members see page 22. □

— Sara Lochhead

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Conveners, 1996-97

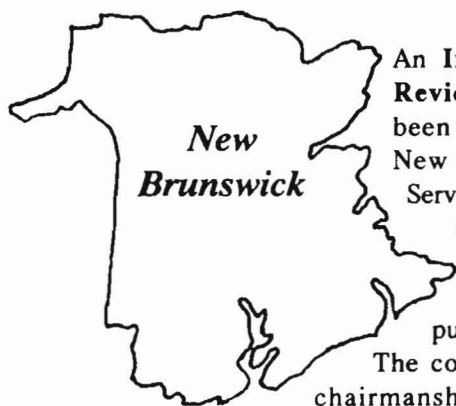
For a complete list of conveners, see v. 60, no. 2. Changes have been noted in bold.

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NEWS FROM THE PROVINCES



Public

An **Interlibrary Loans Review Committee** has been established by the New Brunswick Library Service to study the issue of loans specifically between libraries within the provincial public library system.

The committee, under the chairmanship of Jocelyne

Thompson of New Brunswick Library Service (NBSL), met for the first time on January 31 and plans to meet again in mid-March. Composed of two representatives from each of the five library regions and Susan Lovenburg and Doreen Landry of NBSL, the committee is seeking to address the ramifications of increased demand for interlibrary loan service as a result of the introduction of Vision, the New Brunswick public library union catalogue online and on CD-ROM. The committee will present a written report to the executive director of NBSL and the five regional directors no later than June of this year.

Automation is alive and well. The **recon project** begun in 1994 is over 80% finished with the completed holdings of three regions, Albert Westmorland Kent (A-W-K), Chaleur and Haut-Saint-Jean, having been added to the Inlex database. To date, all regional headquarters, sub-headquarters and the five resource libraries are online to the Inlex database. Soon more public

libraries will be networked and have access to Vision Online, thereby allowing them to obtain up-to-the minute information on public library holdings, thanks to the additional funding of \$1.3 M made available through the **Canada/New Brunswick Infrastructure Program for Phase II of library automation**. NBSL plans to complete the network for the whole province in three stages: 14 libraries will be added to the network by August 1997, 24 more libraries by April 1998 and the remaining 18 libraries and bookmobiles by April 1999. Selection of libraries for network installation is based on location, size, hardware requirements and on the principle of equitable distribution of access across the province. The network will allow for the implementation of automated circulation. Moncton Public Library will be the pilot site for the circulation module. The pilot project is due to begin in November of this year.

Susan Lovenburg joined the permanent staff of the NBSL as senior cataloguer in October and, after a maternity leave, returned to work full-time in January. Susan has been at NBSL in part-time and contract positions since 1993. She previously occupied the position of coordinator of the Library Assistant Program at the University of New Brunswick and also developed and delivered the distance course entitled "Using New Brunswick Libraries" that was offered out of UNB and co-sponsored by TeleEducation N.B. Susan has a B.Sc from Cornell University and an M.L.S. from Syracuse University.

David Campbell is on secondment to NBSL in the position of French cataloguer. David was head of the New Brunswick Department of Supply and Services Library for several years and holds a library degree from the University of Western Ontario.

Amnesty day won't work this time, according to **Belva Brown**, branch manager of the **Doaktown Community Library**. The library, located in the Doaktown Consolidated High School, has been broken into three times since mid-November; the most recent break-in took place in early February right after a snowstorm. The library's CD player and VCR were missing, but it was only after staff noticed an open vent in the bathroom, and the janitor confirmed that there were indeed footprints on the roof of the garbage shed and breezeway leading to the library roof that the means of access was discovered. Thankfully, Mrs. Brown reports, there was little damage done to the library and its contents.

Bibliophiles will be glad to know that the **York's Great Annual Book Sale** will take place June 14 and 15 at the Armouries in downtown Fredericton. This change of venue will allow book sale customers to

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Publication Information

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NEWS FROM THE PROVINCES

shop on Saturday and Sunday when ample parking is available in the downtown area.

York Regional Library will be merging its two bookmobiles, following the announcement made Friday, December 13 in the Legislature by Minister of Municipalities, Culture and Housing, Ann Breault. The upriver bookmobile which operates out of Woodstock to cover Carleton and Victoria counties will cease to operate. The downriver bookmobile which covers the counties of York, Sunbury and Queens will pick up bookmobile stops the Fredericton side of Woodstock; stops above Woodstock will be handled by direct service from the six upriver branches and by the library's extensive Books on Wheels service.

In January, the **Moncton Public Library** hosted a program on "Security on the Internet" which focused on times when security is most needed in both business and personal situations and reviewed available security software as well as built-in security that is accessible from the Internet.

After much thought and planning to put in place a regional fundraising campaign, the **A-W-K Regional Library Board** has cancelled the campaign. Since the regional library board is dissolved as of April 1, 1997, the Regional Trust fund cannot continue to exist. Local boards which contributed to this fund will be reimbursed and the remaining funds will be transferred to the current materials budget.

Mary Hibbert's history of Petitcodiac, *Village of Fire*, was launched at the **Petitcodiac Public Library** in late November. Many local residents attended the book launch and were anxious to purchase a copy in time for Christmas.

Moncton artist, Neil Martin, who is "attracted to soft, pastel-like colours and has an interest in drafting", has created a large mural depicting the Moncton to Bouctouche train in 1910. The mural is currently housed at the **Moncton Public Library** where it can be seen not only from within the library but also from the bridge which connects the two buildings

of the Blue Cross Centre.

In January, **Jocelyne LeBel**, Director of NBLs and Jim Morell, Assistant Deputy Minister of Municipalities, Culture and Housing, visited the A-W-K Regional Library to explain to trustees and staff the new structure under which libraries will operate. Many questions were asked and concerns expressed but many details remain unclear.

Martha Edwards, **Henry Meinhardt** and **Anne Jeffries** have been re-appointed to the **Board of Commissioners of the Saint John Free Public Library** for a term of three years.

On February 8, Saint John City Librarian **Ian Wilson** and **Jean Cunningham**, Public Relations/Development Librarian joined their fellow team members from the Atlantic Health Science corporation and the University of New Brunswick for the 10th annual fundraising event for mental health in the community. The Moosehead Skate to Care '97 and the Board of Mindcare New Brunswick celebrated a "Decade of Caring" with this popular fund-raiser held at Lily Lake.

Irene Neate and **Barbara Holms** have been appointed to the **Saint Croix Public Library Board**. The Library also received a gift of six framed prints of heritage buildings in St. Stephen from the Heritage Gallery in recognition of the Town's 125, and the Library's 25th anniversaries, in 1996.

Kennebecasis Public Library staff hosted their 2nd annual Pancake Breakfast on February 12 at the central library. Complete with door prize and draw, this fun event was a perfect cure for the February blahs.

Saint John Free Public Library, West Branch Manager, **Barbara Mackay** announced another successful Knits for Kids program. She thanked the many patrons for their kindness and generosity in knitting several boxes of colourful hats, mitts, slippers and headbands which in turn were passed on to Hestia House, a home for battered women and their children.

In recognition of Heritage Week, the

Saint John Free Public Library, the Saint John Preservation Review Board and Heritage Resources hosted, "Discovering Your Past". The program on February 15 featured special speakers Harold E. Wright, who spoke on "Heritage in Context", Jim Bezanson, Saint John Heritage planner spoke on "Discovering your Building's Story"; Jackalynne Murray, landscape horticulturist spoke about "Historic Garden"; historian Bob Elliott spoke on "Understanding Family Heirlooms" and historian David Goss spoke on "Folklore - How to Understand and Use It". A video on beginning genealogy entitled, "From Roots to Branches" was featured before the lunch break.

On February 17 the **Saint John Free Public Library** featured slide presentations about two new Saint John books by Harold E. Wright entitled, *Saint John's North End* and *Lancaster and Her Neighbours*.

On January 30 Saint John librarians **Diane Buhay** and **Barbara Malcolm** conducted an all day Internet training session for staff of the Central Library Information Centre.

Associations

At their November meeting in Saint John, the **Council of Head Librarians of New Brunswick** agreed to establish a standing Committee on Staff Training. The initiative is a result of the Provincial Library Forum's recent report on staff training entitled *Learning to Serve*. The report recommended the establishment of a consortium on staff training to deal with the ongoing training issues identified as part of the Forum study. It was felt that this "consortium" or committee could best operate under the umbrella of a long-standing body such as the Council of Head Librarians. Terms of reference for the committee are currently being finalized and two co-chairs (one anglophone and one francophone) are being sought. **If anyone is interested in serving as one of the chairpersons or simply as a member of the committee**, please contact Jocelyne Thompson at NBLs, tel.:

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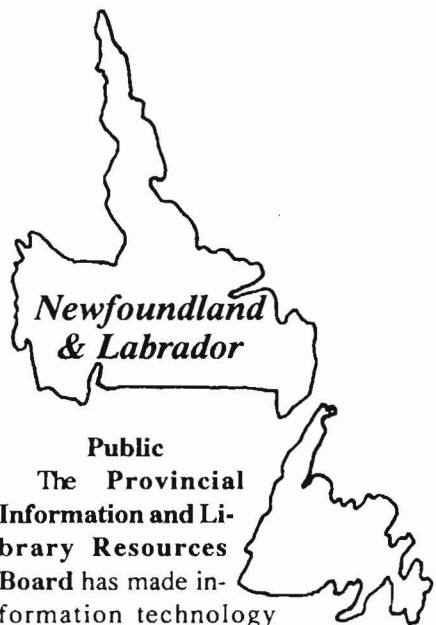
NEWS FROM THE PROVINCES

453-2354, fax: 453-2416, e-mail: jthompson@gov.nb.ca.

The **New Brunswick Library Trustees Association** is very concerned as to where the public library system in New Brunswick is headed with the dissolution of regional boards as of April 1, 1997. Trustees across the province are awaiting decisions on how the trustees within the different regions will be asked to work together in carrying on the close regional cooperation that they have had for so many years. The other news announced by the Minister in December was very welcome: the new act, to be ready very soon, and the formation of a provincial foundation. The foundation will provide funds for materials that are very much needed in the entire system. The Minister had also announced that a provincial board would be appointed on which one trustee from each of the five regions would serve.

The **New Brunswick Teachers' Association Library Council** is to be dissolved in June of 1997. It is not clear yet if it will be replaced by another body. □

— *Marilynn Rudi*
Vice President (NB)



eo, audios, CD-ROM resources and Internet access. In 1995/96 twenty-nine libraries made Internet access available to the public. In 1997/98 at least 24 additional libraries will provide this service. Funding sources have been the Provincial Public Library Board budget, Industry Canada's Community Access Program and funds raised by local libraries.

The Provincial Online Catalogue and Circulation system located at the A. C. Hunter Library in St. John's is accessible to certain libraries over the Internet. Plans are in place to upgrade the catalogue to a Z39.4 compliant system and make it available to the general public in 1997.

The library home page provides information about the provincial library system, government, business and employment, community information, education, other libraries, reference links and a kids page. Its URL is: <http://www.stemnet.nf.ca/Community/PublicLibrary>

A series of **videos and resource kits for parents and early childhood educators** was launched in St. John's on February 8. Katherine Grier, author of the written material in the kits, told a story; library staff demonstrated storytelling with some of the props created for the story time kits, and consultant Judy Peckham, who developed the package for new parents, introduced the "Your Loving Words" video and the "Baby and Me" kit. (*Editor's note: Judy Peckham and children's librarian Heather Myers will be talking about this project at APLA '97*)

The video and the first three of ten "Stories Every Day" story time kits are now available to borrow. The remaining kits will be completed by the summer. An identical set of ten story time kits will be produced for each of the three library regions across the province. All were produced as part of projects funded by the National Literacy Secretariat, Human Resources Development Canada. These programs promote early language and literacy skills through the delights of language play.

The **National Film Board (NFB) collection**, transferred to the Provincial Public Libraries Board in 1994, is now much more accessible to borrowers throughout the province. The collection has been mounted on the public library's home page and is searchable by title. Borrowers can e-mail a request for a video directly from the page to the public library in St. John's. This service is particularly aimed at schools, all of which are being notified of the new service. A \$10 annual membership fee is charged to borrow NFB and other videos in the Public Library collection. The URL for the site is: <http://www.stemnet.nf.ca/Community/PublicLibrary/NFB>

A renewed sense of hope has come to the Placentia area with the November 29 announcement by the Voisey's Bay Nickel Company that they would build a smelter/refinery complex at the former U. S. Naval Base in Argentia. The **Placentia Public Library** has been, and will continue to be, an integral part of the community. Within its first year in its new location, library usage has increased substantially. The recent addition of a CIRC further enhances the library's available resources. Due to a steady increase in clients seeking information on employment opportunities and training options at the smelter complex as well as general job searches, resume writing and business plans, two full-time staff were required to extend hours of access and enhance overall service.

"**Reading the Signs: an Exhibit About Literacy**", has been touring Western Newfoundland. Through a variety of photographs, artifacts and interactives, the visitor is provided with insights about the various skills that Newfoundlanders have employed to survive. For example, one panel features traditional cures used by healers who were able to "read" the woods and find remedies. The exhibit also features a short video and opportunities for visitors to record their own stories. The exhibit is sponsored by Laubach Literacy of Canada, the Newfoundland and Labrador Committee for

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NEWS FROM THE PROVINCES

Literacy and Culture and The Newfoundland Museum.

The **Corner Brook City Library** hosted **Science at the Library**, an initiative of Innovators-STEPS (Scientist, Technologist and Engineers Placed in the Schools) Jan 17-Feb 7. The program involved children in Grade 4-6 in four after-school programs with the intent to promote student interest and involvement in science and technology. The program featured hour long sessions in astronomy, animal and veterinary medicine, geology and mineral exploration, and chemistry. Innovators-STEPS now has 85 volunteers from a variety of organizations and government institutions. The organization is sponsored by the Association of Professional Engineers and Geoscientists of Newfoundland, Science Culture Canada and Sir Wilfred Grenfell College.

Academic

There was a memorial service for **Elaine Delaney** on January 27 at the Dr. H. Bliss Murphy Cancer Centre. Elaine was the former Head of Technical Services, Health Sciences Library, Memorial University of Newfoundland. The Centre's Patient and Family Resource Library was named the Elaine Delaney Patient and Family Resource Library in her honour. A picture with a name plaque commemorating Elaine was presented to the Centre by her co-workers.

Janice Adlington who has worked on contracts at the Queen Elizabeth II (QEII) Library since 1992 has accepted a permanent position at Trinity College, Hartford, CT. She starts March 1 as Network Resources Librarian. **Chris Dennis** has left the Centre for Newfoundland Studies and is now a full time member of the Collections Division, QEII Library. **Colleen Field** is working three contracts at the University: in the Curriculum Materials Centre, the Centre for Newfoundland Studies at the QEII Library and at the Dr. C. R. Barrett Library of the Fisheries and Marine Institute. **Dorothy Milne** has been appointed Head of the Collections Division, QEII Library. **Bill Tiffany**, Staff Development Librarian,

is now working part-time in the Cataloguing Division of the QEII Library.

The merging of administrative operations of the regional colleges into a provincial college continues with the recent appointment of directors (of various functions) and some district administrators. **Dorm Chipp**, from Corner Brook Campus of Westviking College, is now responsible for the provincial college's Student Services Department. Libraries/Learning Resource Centres are included in student services. Mr. Chipp has appointed a committee of representatives from each division within the department. Representatives will chair sub-committees of their respective divisions. The sub-committee for Libraries/Learning Resource Centres, chaired by **Lynn Cuff** of Clarendville Campus, Eastern College, will discuss various issues related to the function within a provincial college.

Associations

The **Newfoundland Library Association** has a home page on the WWW; its URL is: <http://www.infonet.st-johns.nf.ca/provider/nlla/nlla/html>. On February 5 the NLA and the Association of Newfoundland and Labrador Archivists co-sponsored a workshop: "Copyright Law and Unpublished Materials" presented by **Dick Ellis**, University Librarian, Memorial University of Newfoundland.

Newfoundland and Labrador Library Week will be April 28-May 4. **Sandra Halliday**, **Diane Mann**, **Heather Myers**, **Katie Lawton** and **Jenny Rumboldt**, committee members, have their plans well under way.

The members of the **Newfoundland and Labrador Teachers' Association**, **Learning Resources Council**, affected by the provincial moratorium on professional development, were not able to arrange an annual general meeting this past year, hence the executive incumbents have had a prolonged term of service. A recent newsletter included a proposed slate for a new executive. A call for further nominations was still open at date of this printing. In the interim, the

executive has met a few times to discuss the further direction of the Learning Resource Council. □

— *Beverley Neable*
Vice President (NF)



Public
A strategic planning conference was held January 24-25 at the **Nova Scotia Provincial Library**. Co sponsored by the Nova Scotia Provincial Library, the Library Boards Association of Nova Scotia, and the Council of Regional Librarians, the workshop was attended by library directors, library board chairs, library staff members from Nova Scotia's regional libraries, representatives from NovaNet, NSLA, and other stakeholders from the library community in Nova Scotia. Sharon Horne and Raymond Clark of People Development, Ltd. facilitated the work of the delegates in charting the course for regional libraries into the next century.

The two day session was spent working through various issues which the regional libraries face now and in the near future. Among these were the question of what library services should look like by the year 2000 and what steps will be necessary to take to take in the future. Questions regarding access, funding and fund raising, governance and the relationship among regional libraries and their closest partners in delivering quality service to Nova Scotians were discussed in various groupings of delegates. The goal was to achieve a consensus on broad principles of regional library service and to get a clear indication of where further discussion is need to allow the libraries to move forward and be all that they can be for the new millennium.

(Continued on next page)

NEWS FROM THE PROVINCES

The next step will be for the facilitators to synthesize the results from the delegates' work into a draft strategic plan for regional libraries. The draft will be circulated by mid-February to the conference delegates for their input. It is anticipated that the final plan will be ready for implementation in the new fiscal year.

Keith Cole, who has worked in the Nova Scotia Provincial Library's shipping unit for almost 30 years, officially retired at the end of January. A joint retirement party for Keith and Ron Merrick of Learning Resources and Technology was held in the classroom at the Provincial Library on January 13th.

Elizabeth Parnell has recently commenced working in the Technical Services Section of the Provincial Library. Elizabeth is working for the Colchester East-Hants Regional Library on the retrospective conversion of their manual records, a necessary prerequisite to the automation of this library.

The Provincial Government recently announced a funding grant of \$163,500 for the **Colchester-East Hants Regional Library**, for library automation. Library

branches in Truro, Elmsdale, Tatamagouche and Stewiacke will be linked into the provincial system, providing users with greater access to library materials.

An open house was held at the **Yarmouth Library** on December 6 to honour Madge Chatelois on her retirement as a senior clerk at the branch. Madge worked at the library for 21 years and will be missed by her co-workers and the public.

Academic

Cathy Chisholm will resume her work with the University College of Cape Breton on March 3.

Dalhousie University Libraries has published a beautifully illustrated guide to its special collections. "Vessels of Light: a Guide to Special Collections in the Killam Library" by **Karen Smith**, Special Collections Librarian, makes clear the strong connections between Dalhousie, its dedicated scholars, and its fine collections. Each chapter is devoted to an author or theme collection and contains a description and history of the bibliophile/collector as well as the collection. Copies may be obtained from

Killam Library Administration for \$10.00 including taxes. (Dalhousie University, Halifax, NS B3H 4H8)

Web surfers are invited to visit the **Dalhousie libraries' Web page** (<http://www.library.dal.ca>). Comments, questions and suggestions are welcome, contact e-mail addresses are indicated on the respective Web pages.

School

The Shirley Coulter Award for excellence in the field of teacher-librarianship was awarded to **Bryan Savege**.

Dr. **Larry Amey** has been awarded an honorary lifetime membership in the Nova Scotia School Libraries Association. The membership is in recognition of his support and dedication over the years.

Other

The **Cobequid Community Network** is a recipient of funding through Industry Canada's Community Access Program. The funding will allow a network to be established for the Cobequid region.

Heather MacKenzie represented the Nova Scotia Library Association at the Ontario Library Association's conference in Toronto, held February 6-9. Heather participated as a speaker in the cross country check up session.

The **Working Committee on the Common Standard Format** for the bibliographic records of all member libraries of the **Nova Scotia Government Libraries Council** presented the first draft of the standard to the council on December 4. The adoption of a standard format is necessary to forming a special libraries union catalogue for resource sharing purposes.

Mary Veling and **Elizabeth Kelley** will share the Presidency of **CASLIS (Atlantic Region)** for the remainder of this year's term. Michelle Clairmont, who was serving as President, has accepted employment out of this region. □

— Faye Hopkins,
Vice President (NS)

(Continued on next page)



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NEWS FROM THE PROVINCES



Public

The **Provincial Libraries System** is continuing with the barcoding of books in its branch libraries. This has allowed it to resume branch book exchanges after a year without exchanges.

Work has been completed on a new library in the community of **Hunter River**. The new facility provides three times as much space as there was in the older building. An official opening is being planned for the near future.

Academic

The **Robertson Library** at the University of Prince Edward Island is advertising for two reference librarians (see the advertisement in this issue of the *Bulletin*). The positions are to begin July 1, 1997 and will replace retiring librarians **Frank Pigot**, Reference Librarian responsible for the P.E.I. collection, and **Jennifer Taylor**, Reference Librarian responsible for veterinary medicine.

Special

Marion Macarthur and Dawn Hooper report that a learning centre with two computer stations is being established at the **Frank J. MacDonald Library**, Queen Elizabeth Hospital. The learning centre will allow staff and physicians in the Queen's region Internet access to health science resources on the WWW. CD-ROM resources will also be made

available.

Associations

The **P.E.I. Professional Librarians' Association** is planning two continuing education workshops for this spring. In cooperation with the P.E.I. Teacher-Librarians' Association and APLA, they have asked Penny Marshall to do a one day workshop entitled *Advocacy Now!* The tentative date for this workshop is March 15. On March 25, Mark Leggott will be giving a half day multimedia presentation of key developments in information and communication technologies, and their impact on society. He has entitled the presentation "Tripping into the New Millennium; the Promises and Pitfalls of Cyberspace." □

— *Norine Hanus*
Vice President (PEI)



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THE UNIVERSITY OF PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND ROBERTSON LIBRARY

The Robertson Library at the University of Prince Edward Island invites applications for a **Reference Librarian - Responsible for the Prince Edward Island Collection** and a **Reference Librarian - Responsible for Health Sciences**. These positions are under the general direction of the Head of Library Information Services.

Responsibilities for the **Reference Librarian - Responsible for the Prince Edward Island Collection** include: providing reference service at the Information Desk on a regularly scheduled basis; providing orientation and bibliographic instruction tours; assisting in general collection development; collecting and maintaining a large collection of publications relating to Prince Edward Island; preparing analytics for Prince Edward Island books, maintaining an index of local newspapers; and collecting, processing, and maintaining a collection of faculty publications, theses, yearbooks, policy projects, newsletters etc. pertaining to the University. Qualifications include an ALA accredited MLS or equivalent with a minimum of three years relevant experience in an academic or research library and an extensive knowledge of the history of Prince Edward Island.

Responsibilities for the **Reference Librarian - Responsible for Health Sciences** include: providing reference service at the Information Desk on a regularly scheduled basis; providing orientation and bibliographic instruction tours; assisting in collection development in the sciences; serving as a liaison between the Library and the Atlantic Veterinary College; conducting on-line bibliographic searches on MEDLARS and DIALOG; representing the Library on the Atlantic Veterinary College Library Committee; preparing reports and collecting statistics for major projects and monitoring the Atlantic Veterinary College book and journal budget. Qualifications include: an ALA accredited MLA or equivalent with a minimum of three years experience; a M.Sc. (Life Sciences) would be an asset; and extensive experience in on-line searching in MEDLARS.

General requirements for both positions are experience in an automated library environment and with various information formats. In addition, the successful applicants will possess demonstrated interpersonal, organizational, communication and reference interviewing skills, a commitment to professional and scholarly activity and the ability to work in a team environment. Subject to budgetary approval and depending on qualifications and experience, the positions will be filled at the Librarian I or Librarian II level and will be available July 1, 1997. These are two year term positions with the possibility of renewal. Applications, including curriculum vitae and the names, addresses, telephone numbers and e-mail addresses of three references, should be forwarded to:

Mr. Daniel A. Savage
University Librarian
Robertson Library
University of Prince Edward Island
550 University Avenue
Charlottetown, PE C1A 4P3

Telephone: (902) 566-0460; Fax: (902) 628-4305; E-mail: dsavage@upei.ca

The closing date for applications is April 30, 1997.

In accordance with Canadian Immigration requirements,

priority will be given to Canadian citizens and permanent residents.

The University of Prince Edward Island is an equal opportunity employer.

So You Have to Make a Presentation

Tips for Survival

As we approach the conference season here are a few tips for those of you have managed to get talked into making a presentation, but get sweaty palms and palpitations at the mere thought of public speaking.

BEFORE THE PRESENTATION

Define your objectives

- * what do you want the audience to go away knowing

Let the session planners know what you will be doing

- * make sure that the description of your presentation includes information about who will benefit and what will be covered
- * if you expect the audience to have a certain level of knowledge, include that in the description

Outline your presentation

- * an outline will give structure to your talk and allow you to present in a clear, concise manner
- * here is some good advice from ancient times:
 - tell them what you are going to tell them
 - tell them
 - tell them what you told them
- * with an additional thought from today's speakers
 - find out if what you wanted them to hear is what they actually heard

Limit the content

- * in most cases, less is more
- * one rule of thumb is to cover a maximum of 3 new concepts in a 50 minute presentation **(less if the chairs are uncomfortable)**

Tie the content to what the audience knows

- * it helps to know your audience
- * if the ability and knowledge of those in the audience are mixed — assume a basic knowledge
- * build on the familiar — use analogies, cartoons, and shared experiences

Accommodate diverse learning styles

- * people learn in different ways
- * some are left-brain learners — prefer situations that allow them to analyse, problem solve or implement procedures, they like
 - handouts, definitions, point outlines
- * others are right-brain learners — prefer creative approaches and interpersonal relationships, they like
 - visuals to demonstrate a concept

Allow participants, and yourself, to test the effectiveness of your presentation

- * allow for active participation, activities, discussion and questions

Make it enjoyable

- * think of having to listen to yourself
- * keep your projections (transparencies and electronic) clear
 - don't try to communicate too much information at one time
 - be sure that visuals can be easily read from a distance
- * have a script, but be prepared to depart from it if you are losing the audience

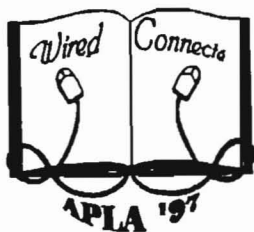
Avoid unpleasant surprises

- * listen to yourself (through a tape or the ears of a friend) and eliminate repetitive speech patterns — "ers" and "ums"
- * **practice, practice, and then practice some more**
- * if you are unfamiliar with the venue, check it out ahead of time
- * if you are relying on equipment, make sure it works
- * have a backup in case there is unexpected equipment failure

PRACTICAL TIPS FOR THE ACTUAL PRESENTATION

- * If you use 3x5 cards, punch a hole in them and put a ring through it to keep them in order if you drop them
- * Use a highlighter pen to highlight the important points in your notes
- * Include variety in your voice
- * **Maintain eye contact** with different people in the audience
- * Don't allow excessive hand movements to distract your audience
- * Don't move all about unless you want a seasick audience
- * **KEEP BREATHING**
- * Just remember, half the audience wouldn't dare do what you are doing and the other half would never be asked to

The above tips have been gleaned from the Memorial University *Communicator* (October 1996) and the Ontario Library Association Children's Services Guild *Update* (Autumn 1995) — and some personal experiences.



APLA 1997

May 23 - 25, 1997

Memorial University of Newfoundland
St. John's, Newfoundland

Look for your registration package!

Registration packages are being mailed out in March. Paper copies of the registration form can also be obtained from Charles Cameron. Or you can print a registration form off our conference web site and send it with your cheque. To go directly to the conference web page, type in the following URL: <http://www.stemnet.nf.ca/Conferences/apla> or you can access the page from APLA's home page at <http://www.stmarys.ca/administration/library/apla/apla1.html>

The conference web page will be updated as plans are finalized and if any of the printed information changes, so we suggest you bookmark it and keep checking the site.

Please remember that Newfoundland is celebrating the Cabot 500 anniversary this year, and hotel accommodations are going fast. You are well advised to make your reservations as soon as possible. We have also arranged accommodations in the residence at Memorial, which is where the conference will be located.

Don't forget that you must be a current member of APLA (as of March 31, 1997) in order to qualify for the reduced registration rate. Membership forms can be obtained from Elizabeth Browne.

We are very excited about the programs we have planned for you, and hope to see you in May. □

— Alison Mews
Local Arrangements Committee
APLA '97

Gwynne Dyer to Deliver APLA '97 Keynote

Gwynne Dyer will be the keynote speaker at APLA's 1997 conference - Wired/Connecté. In keeping with the conference theme, Mr. Dyer will be speaking about the information society, human nature and what librarians have been, and can be, to both. He will be talking about the present day reality of information access - the availability of a massive volume of information that can be moved faster, and at less cost, than ever before. He will address the three levels at which we respond to this information - the personal, the professional, and the grand scale (i.e. social, political, and economic).

It should be expected that Mr. Dyer, a columnist and histo-

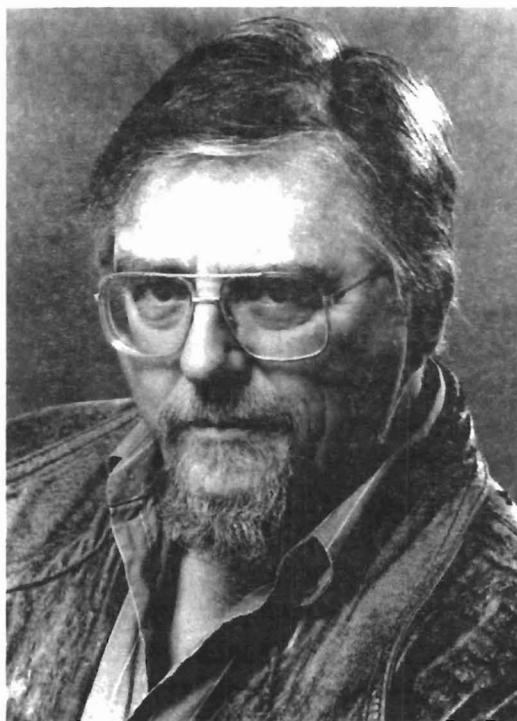
rian, will pose challenges along with his observations. A believer in libraries, and a supporter of librarians, he wonders if the library profession can adjust to meet the demands of the information society. Librarians, who have usually been employed in public sector jobs find themselves moving into a highly commercialized and competitive environment. Will this mean that we will lose our independence? Will we have to become more of a traditional profession, less like teachers and more like lawyers, in order to preserve our usefulness to society?

And, what about the broader social, political, and economic affects of the information revolution? Mr. Dyer poses the thesis that modern mass communications have made both economic globalization and political democratization inevitable every-

where, thereby setting up a convergence of cultural values and social behaviour worldwide that is virtually unstoppable. It is modernization, not "Westernization," and the first traditional society to be destroyed by it will be our own. Is this bad?

Mr. Dyer has titled the address "I'd rather call Australia." Come to the conference to find out why and to hear, the somewhat opinionated, frequently controversial, and never boring, Gwynne Dyer. □

— The APLA '97 Program Committee



Changes to the New Brunswick Public Library System Announced

The New Brunswick government has announced changes to the New Brunswick public library system. These changes, which include the creation of a single New Brunswick Public Libraries Board to replace the regional boards and the establishment of a Library Foundation, are a direct result of the library system review undertaken last spring. The Honourable Ann Breault, minister responsible for public libraries in the province, announced the changes in the House on December 13.

In reviewing library operations, the government ruled out library closures as an option for reducing costs. Also rejected was the idea, put forward by the Stakeholders Advisory Committee appointed by the Mrs. Breault last summer, of increased rural taxation to support library service and of membership fees to generate more revenue. According to the Minister, recognition by government of the central place of libraries in local communities influenced the government's decisions.

The reforms are to have little impact on staff to the extent that none will be laid off, although there may be some re-assignment of responsibilities. All library staff in the regions, who are now employees of the regional boards, will become employees of government once the regional boards are eliminated. As library staff are already under the same bargaining agreements as government employees, however, there will be no great repercussions as a result of this move.

It is expected that the structural changes will take about a year to implement completely. At the time of writing, amendments to the Libraries Act and a new act to establish the New Brunswick Public Libraries Foundation have been introduced in the Legislature. To the consternation of librarians in the province, the proposed amendments to the Libraries Act (hereafter to be known as the New Brunswick Public Libraries Act) include the deletion of the definition of "librarian".

Local boards are not affected by the changes. They will remain and will have virtually the same responsibilities as they do now. The new provincial board will play an advisory role and all of the administrative authority currently vested in the five regional boards will be transferred to government.

The Library Foundation is being created to address some of the funding problems within the public library system, particularly the shortage of funds for collections. The foundation will be able to offer better tax incentives than most non-profit organizations. It is hoped that this will encourage giving. Also, the government will match donations up to a maximum of \$100,000 a year. Provisions will be made so that monies raised locally can be channelled back into the community that raised them.

Five transition teams have been created to work through the ramifications of the changes and to establish new administrative procedures. The teams are looking at the issues of legislation, the Provincial Libraries Board, the foundation, human resources, and financial matters.

The changes for the public library system come on the heels of a major restructuring of the Department of Municipalities, Culture and Housing. Under the old structure, the New Brunswick Library Service (NBLS) reported to Jim Morell, Assistant Deputy Minister, Sport, Recreation and Libraries. This division has now been eliminated. In the short-term, however, and until the implementation is fully realized, NBLS will continue to report to Jim Morell who is responsible for the transition to the new structure. In the long-term, probably within the year, libraries will be moved to the Cultural Affairs division.

The December announcement included a promise of some new money for libraries as part of the 1997-98 budget. The elimination of the Carleton-Victoria Bookmobile was also announced, with staff to be reassigned to other positions within the system. □

— Jocelyne Thompson
New Brunswick Library Service

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Get Connected, Get Online and Surf to CLA

The Canadian Library Association (CLA) is pleased to announce the launch of its WWW site (<http://www.cla.aamlibs.ca>). The site provides online access to a wealth of information of interest to both CLA members and others in the library and information services community. We encourage people to bookmark the site and visit often.

The site provides information arranged in the following main categories: About CLA; Organization; Membership Services; Conference and Events; Publications; and OLAM Service. There is also an extensive contact directory for both the CLA office and the who's who of the association (executive council, division executives, committee and interest group convenors).

Membership information (including forms), awards and scholarships information, and the complete CLA publication and microfilm catalogues are just a few of the things that can be located at the site.

CLA acknowledges with thanks the generosity of Ameritech Library Services (Canada) Inc. (formerly Dynix Library Systems Inc.) for providing assistance in developing the site as well as providing a home for it. In addition to the launch of the main CLA site, websites are also being launched for the 1997 CLA conference to be held in Ottawa, Ontario (<http://www.cla.aamlibs.ca/ottawa/cla97.htm>), as well as for three of the association's five divisions: the Canadian Association of College and University Libraries (<http://www.cla.aamlibs.ca/cacul/cacul.htm>); the Canadian Association of Public Libraries (<http://www.cla.aamlibs.ca/capl/capl.htm>); and the Canadian Library Trustees Association (<http://www.cla.aamlibs.ca/clta/clta.htm>).

The Canadian Association of Special Libraries and Information Services recently launched their website at <http://www.ualberta.ca/~thornley/caslis.html>.

(Continued on next page)

Information Rights Week April 21-27, 1997

The Canadian Library Association (CLA) has announced that April 21 -27 will be Information Rights Week in Canada. This is the fourth annual Information Rights Week. The week is an opportunity to increase public awareness of information policy issues, such as the information highway, privacy and access to government information.

The Canadian Library Association believes that the convergence of computers and high-speed telecommunications networks provides an increased opportunity for public access to information and participation in the democratic processes of society. Conversely, access and participation may be reduced through the imposition of user fees and monopoly control.

CLA also believes that libraries and librarians can play a leadership role within the community by ensuring that the public understands the impact of these issues. To support access at the local level, CLA's Task Force on Information Policy has developed a kit which includes a poster, sample proclamation, brochure, bibliography and programming suggestions for use in libraries.

For further information, contact:

Brian Campbell
Convenor
CLA Task Force on Information Policy
Vancouver Public Library
350 West Georgia Street
Vancouver, BC V6B 6B1
Phone: (604) 331-4070
Fax: (604) 331-4080
E-mail: briancam@vpl.vancouver.bc.ca

Karen Adams
Executive Director
Canadian Library Association
200 Elgin Street, Suite 602
Ottawa, ON K2P 1L5
Phone: (613) 232-9625, ext.306
Fax: (613) 563-9895
E-mail: ai077@freenet.carleton.ca

— Peter Scallion Wilson
Canadian Library Association



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From St. Jerome's Den

Have you ever wondered what you would do to people who steal or mutilate library books if you could have your own way? Or what penalties you would like to impose for frequent abusers of the "due date"? Well, you are not the first person to have hard-hearted thoughts - to wit the following.

St. Jerome

"For him that stealeth, or borroweth and returneth not, this book from its owner: let it change to a serpent in his hand and sting him. Let bookworms gnaw his entrails in token of the Worm that dieth not, and when at last he goeth to his end, let the flames of Hell consume him forever and aye."

Printed on the fly leaf of *Real Magic*
by P. E. I. Bonewits (1971)

For the scholars among us, there is this fly leaf inscription alluded to by Dr. Oliver Wendell Holmes in "The Autocrat of the Breakfast Table"

"Hic liber est meus,
And this I will show;
Si aliquis rapit,
I'll fetch him a blow.
Per patrem per matrem
I vow I will fell him,
For stealing away
Meum bonum libellum."

Fanny Bergen. Fly leaf rhymes and decorations."
New England Magazine (N.S. 23, 1901)

Does this solution mean that the penalty for overdue should be service in a jail?

"Nova Scotia offenders are doing so much community work as an alternative to jail or fines that there's a problem finding enough non-profit agencies they can help. This year, 70,000 hours will be served in places such as libraries for crimes such as shoplifting or sexual assault."

Globe and Mail (March 27, 1991)

This from a librarian in New Brunswick, who wisely has asked to be anonymous.

"As beleaguered public library administrators search for new partners to fund services or projects, many are also attempting to increase resources from the few existing mechanisms - like fines for overdue materials. We are pushing *per diem* rates to what we think the market will bear (tolerate), and encourage staff to collect what is owing. No fines for seniors - balderdash. 'My little girl found this under her bed and I was sick with the flu...' 'Sorry to hear that - \$5.00 please.' Can this go too far? Here is a note recently received from a staff member: 'Patron unable to pay late fine, so I took his food stamps. Hope this is acceptable.' The food stamps were stapled to the note!"

(Continued on next page)

Net '97: the 11th Annual Canadian Internet Conference CALL FOR PAPERS

Dalhousie University invites the Canadian networking community to the 11th annual Canadian Internet conference to be held June 22-25, 1997. Net '97 will bring together the people who make the Internet work in Canada. Practitioners from both the academic and commercial sectors will meet to share knowledge, experiences, and plans for the future.

This is a conference for the people who design, build, and maintain the net, a job which, since the beginning of networking in Canada, has been most closely linked with higher education and research. The past couple of years have seen dramatic changes in the make-up of these builders, and Net '97 will provide a forum for this new reality.

The organizing committee is calling for abstracts for papers to be presented at the conference. These abstracts, not to exceed 300 words, should outline the proposed paper and indicate whether the paper is more appropriate for persons in the academic or the commercial sector. Papers that are accepted will be available on the Web for two years. The proceedings will also be published in a CD-ROM format.

The key dates for proposals are:

March 28, 1997	Receipt of abstracts
April 11, 1997	Acceptance notification
June 1, 1997	Submission of full paper in machine readable form
July 25, 1997	Submission of revised paper in machine readable form

For more information:

- check out the Net '97 home page at <http://net97.Dal.ca>
- send questions and comments to Net97@Dal.ca ☐

— Daniel MacKay
Network Operations Centre Manager
Dalhousie University

Get Connected, Get Online...

continued from page 16

CLA's fifth division, the Canadian School Library Association has an existing site at <http://uviclib.uvic.ca/cs1a/cs1a.html>.

We strongly encourage people to provide their comments, suggestions and general thoughts about any of the sites using the e-mail links on the sites or to Peter Scallion Wilson, Administrative Assistant to the Executive Director, Canadian Library Association, 200 Elgin Street, Suite 602, Ottawa, Ontario K2P 1L5; Telephone: (613) 232-9625, extension 305; Fax: (613) 563-9895; Internet: ai281@freenet.carleton.ca. ☐

— Peter Scallion Wilson
Canadian Library Association

Technology Helps Put People First

Editor's note: Through a program of matching grants, the National Library of Canada helped Canadian libraries buy high-tech equipment. This adaptive technology increased library accessibility for clients with print disabilities. "Technology Helps Put People First" is the fifth of six articles which tell the story of the experiences of some of these libraries and their users. The articles are copyrighted by the National Library of Canada and may be reproduced without permission provided the source is fully acknowledged.

How can technology help libraries put people first? Michelle Brulé, Director of the Bibliothèque Jeanne-Cypihot in Longueuil, Quebec - an electronic library designed to serve blind and visually impaired clients - explains how the technology they bought with a grant from the National Library of Canada helped them improve their services.

The Bibliothèque Jeanne-Cypihot is first and foremost a library, and second an electronic one. As Brulé says, "We are here to serve people. We are not here to serve the technology." Adaptive technology has, however, allowed the library to reach a specific group of people who have experienced barriers to information access in the past. The National Library's Adaptive Technology for Libraries Program enabled the library to open up new avenues of access.

From 1993 to early 1996, the National Library of Canada provided financial support to public libraries, college and university libraries, and special libraries for the blind, to help them buy the high-tech equipment that can open up access to bookshelves for adults with low vision. Libraries had to pay for half the cost of their technological investment.

With the Adaptive Technology for Libraries grant, the Bibliothèque Jeanne-Cypihot was able to purchase two CD-ROM readers, a Braille display pad, and a Braille printer, for a total cost of about \$21,000. The library obtained their portion of the total cost from private donations and other federal government grants.

The CD-ROM readers allow the librarians at Jeanne-Cypihot to provide information to clients which up until now has not been available to them. "It is extraordinary," says Brulé, "CD-ROMs contain an unbelievable amount of information for visually impaired people. These things never have been accessible in Braille and never will be, I think, because it is too expensive."

The Braille display pad allows the librarians at Jeanne-Cypihot, many of whom, including Brulé, are blind, to "see" the information on CD-ROM with their fingers. The equipment is also available for clients in the library and, for clients living far afield, in their homes. The library is happy to send them the information they request by mail.

The Braille printer allows the library to print its catalogue and a newsletter called *Hypatia*, as well as documentation that is not available anywhere else. Brulé says, "People really like to have the physical object in their hands - to read on the bus for example. It's like a seeing person likes to have a book."

Jeanne-Cypihot also produces books on computer diskettes, either in ASCII or Braille format. In this way, the library can provide reading material to its clients to take with them on holidays. "It is much more convenient to take a couple of computer diskettes on a trip down south than a mountain of Braille paper!" Any book the library produces is kept in its collection once the client returns it, and is available to public, university, or college libraries through the inter-library loan system.

Reaction to the new equipment has been extremely positive, and regular users of the library's services have tripled!

Brulé has some advice for other libraries wanting to provide access to the blind and visually impaired community. Although it is important to consult the users about their needs, she says that librarians should consult other librarians about the technology and their experiences in putting it to use.

Brulé acknowledges the importance of services that don't rely on technology: "It is a fact," she says. "Blind people prefer remote service whether by mail or by phone. We advise public libraries to think about ways to reach potential clients by proposing reference services in the home or the workplace."

Advice on how to accomplish this is just a telephone call away: "The Bibliothèque Jeanne-Cypihot would be pleased to help with this consideration as well as the implementation of such plans. It would also be a pleasure to help public libraries wishing to survey their target audience by printing their questionnaires in Braille as needed. As well, we believe in inter-library loans."

The offer of help is kind, but not surprising, coming from a librarian who appreciates technology but who knows how to put people first. □

— Joanne Godin

For the National Library of Canada

Editor's note: For an interesting regular column on Web access for the disabled visit <http://www.ukoln.ac.uk/ariadne/issue7/web-access/>

From St. Jerome's Den...

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Mind you, sometimes, we are our own worst enemies.

"In April of 1978, John Frantz put in a request at San Francisco's main library for John Gardner's *Life and Times of Chaucer*. Months later, tired of waiting, he bought a copy, read it and then donated it to the library. This speeded up the waiting process to such a dizzying rate that by December the library told Frantz that the book was in. John Frantz, by the way, is the city librarian."

Herb Caen in the San Francisco *Chronicle*
(reprinted in *American Libraries*, April 1979)

News From the World - For Free!

Hi, everyone! I'm back. This time, I have decided to cover the broad topic of news on the Internet. More and more, the Internet is being used as a legitimate media for transmission of information by the great news organization of the world. In today's world, you don't have to be in London to read the *Daily Telegraph*.

But beware, contrary to what is said in the title, there are no free lunches, on the 'Net as anywhere else. In some cases, you can access the full contents of the newspaper, such as the *New York Times* (<http://www.nytimes.com>). However, you have to register and disclose your credit card number (non-U. S. subscribers get only a 30-day free trial). Others, that are reviewed in this column, will give access for free, but only to a number of selections. They can even ask you to register, asking not for money, but for nonetheless valuable marketing information.

Luckily, everyone is his/her own judge. You are totally free to decide if you are willing to give away your credit card number to read the *New York Times* on your desktop. And you can read the registration forms and decide by yourself if the questions asked are too personal. You are also the judge whether or not you feel to read the *Daily Telegraph* from Campobello Island or *Wired* from Labrador City. I hope you will enjoy, and thousand apologies for letting you down for the January issue.

Newspage [<http://www.newspage.com>]

Newspage is a news service that allows users to register and create their own profile of interest. They also have, for the casual visitor, a search form that can be used for keyword searching. There is a browsable list organized by topic, ranging from automotive to finance, and from energy to telecommunications. This list of topics is organised hierarchically, leading the user to more precise topics and ultimately to the text of articles. However, you can have only a peak to the lead of the articles, as most of them are pay-per-view. But this can be worth it, as those articles are coming from very reliable sources such as *World Tax Report*, *Jane's Defence Weekly*, *American Banker*, *PC Magazine*, and Reuters World News Service.

Business Week [<http://www.businessweek.com>]

The Economist [<http://www.economist.com>]

These are considered two leading magazines in business and economics. These two very serious publications are renowned worldwide for the quality of their reports and their professionalism. The *Business Week* Web site presents the table of contents for all issues of its international edition since 1995, with links to selected stories and columns. You can also access the "BW Plus" section, organized by topics like computers, business schools, or mutual funds, with links to other articles. The *Economist* Web site gives a more restricted access, with only the table of contents of the current week and links to selected articles.

The Electronic Telegraph [<http://www.telegraph.co.uk>]

This is the Internet version of the London *Daily Telegraph*.

The home page presents the headlines of the day with links to the articles. However, before viewing the articles on your desktop, you have to register, if you haven't done it yet. Although they don't require any credit card number, they justify the registration process stating that it is for "marketing purposes". What makes reading articles in The Electronic Telegraph interesting is that you have links with related stories from previous issues, making it fairly easy to build up a clip file on a topic.

Online Inc. [<http://www.onlineinc.com>]

This Web site is a great source for news in the world of electronic information, giving you access to the table of contents and selected articles from *Online*, *Online User*, *Database*, and *EMedia*, as well as to the catalogue of the Pemberton Press and the conference program of Online World. *Online* focuses on technical and theoretical issues in the fields of information management and electronic access; *Online User* is presented as a more practical magazine for business professional knowledge workers; *Database* covers every aspects of databases, for the searcher and the user; and *EMedia* focuses more on electronic media users and producers. Things I found recently in Online Inc.'s Web pages: an Internet column on e-mail addresses databases with links to the reviewed databases, an introduction to computerized video editing, and a study of lapses in full-text databases distributed by the great services.

Pathfinder [<http://pathfinder.com>]

Here's that ubiquitous American: the all-reaching Time-Warner! From this site, you can access press releases from the Hollywood studios and announcements of the next releases. You will also find selections from Time-Warner's print publications. Interested about what Tom Cruise and Nicole Kidman are up to: go to *People*. Interested in the more serious issues of peace in the Middle East or the agenda of the American president: go to *Time*. One drawback with this site is its enormous graphical content, which make downloading a challenge for even the most patient person.

Wired [<http://www.wired.com>]

Wired is the monthly bible for techies all over the world. The Web site has a selection of articles published in the printed version. As much as the printed version is notable for its colour layout, coming directly from the 70s, and its publicity overload, the Web version has a clean and clear layout, with publicity limited to a relatively small portion of the screen. You can get very interesting and challenging essays on technical as well as social trends related to the advent of the information age, making of *Wired* a daring cross between Bill Gates and Marshall McLuhan.

Southam [<http://www.southam.com>]

Canadian Online Explorer [<http://www.canoe.ca>]

Canadian content at last. From these two sites, you can ac-

(Continued on next page)

Reflections of a First Timer

This article is well past due. That confession aside, it is still in time to encourage you to prepare for this year's Atlantic Provinces Library Association (APLA) conference.

I had a unique opportunity as the 1996 recipient of the first-timers grant to attend, not only the APLA conference, but also take part in my first Canadian Library Association (CLA) conference - a privilege that grant recipients do not usually experience.

Technology has changed significantly since I left library school in 1993. My 386 computer is obsolete; CD-ROMs are no longer a resource that small libraries just dream about having - in fact they are often a cheaper alternative to print; and the World Wide Web - which I did not encounter until after library school - is quickly becoming a standard resource for libraries.

With these constantly changing technologies around me and the pressure to provide access to them in my library, it was with anticipation that I headed off to "Sail into the Future" last spring. I tried to fit as many technology-related sessions into my schedule as I felt I could handle

and was impressed - and, at times, overwhelmed - with what I heard.

I was inspired by Charles McClure of Syracuse University who spoke on planning electronic library services and some of the issues surrounding networked information services. Oh, how I would love to pick his brain on implementing the Department of Education's new draft policy on Internet use in Nova Scotia schools! I also attended a session on SchoolNet where I had a chance to hear teachers talk about their first hand experiences using SchoolNet in their classrooms.

I am now in the midst of my third automation project and so it seemed natural to check out the session on implementing a new integrated library system. Sadly, it did not meet my expectations as it was geared to large Unix or VAX systems, not the small PC or Mac programs I have used. From my own experience, I believe that it does not matter how large the automation project, or how many libraries you have automated, you can never anticipate all the problems you will encounter. Each automation project has its own set of problems.

Although I went to the conference wanting to take in as much technology as I could, I tried to balance it with school-related sessions. I found out what was new and notable in Canadian materials for children and young adults and came home with some titles to purchase for my school library. I also listened to Ken Haycock talk about his current research on teacher-librarianship in Canada.

I was amazed at the number of exhibitors at the conference. I brought home an armload of information about products and services available to libraries from companies across Canada. And, of course, also came home well fed by the various receptions, mealtime meetings and socials.

In conclusion, I would like to say thank you to the Atlantic Provinces Library Association for the first-timer's grant that allowed me to attend the Halifax conference. And to this year's recipient, may I offer my congratulations? May this year's conference be a rewarding experience for you.

See you in St. John's. □

— Patricia McCormick
Barrington Municipal
High School Library

News From the World - For Free...

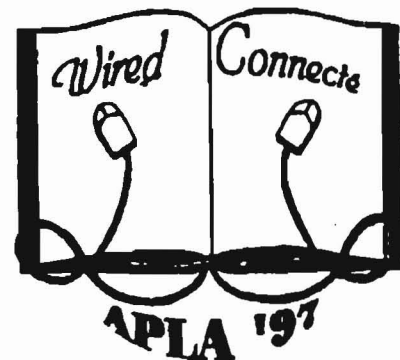
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cess selections from leading Canadian publications. A good way to have access to the views from the different parts of Canada. The Southam Web site gives access to selections from newspapers such as the *Toronto Star*, the *Calgary Herald*, and the (Montreal) *Gazette*. Canadian Online Explorer is for the fans of Diane Francis, with access to selections from *Maclean's*, the *Financial Post*, as well as the Sun" newspapers.

I hope these few pointers will lead you to interesting discoveries. As some of you may notice, most of these resources are linked with huge communication concerns of the world, which make them automatically biased. In any case, they are no worse than their print counterparts, and it is up to the reader to be curious and compare the various point of views. □

— Andre Gionet

Editor's note: All sites were accessible as of February 16, 1997.



The University of New Brunswick Libraries' Electronic Text Centre

The University of New Brunswick has begun a fundamental transformation to the networked learning process. University departments, government and industry are setting up partnerships to further networked learning. In support of scholarly communication and this learning process the library is introducing the Electronic Text Centre. Its mission is to:

- * acquire or link to commercial full text data bases supporting the collection needs of UNB
- * Web publish through the Centre a variety of material from archival material to journals and newspapers which support the academic programs of UNB and make this information highly searchable
- * facilitate university course development and research by assisting faculty and students to Web publish electronic texts
 - o by providing to faculty, staff and students instructional assistance, equipment, software and physical space for electronic publishing
 - o and by working cooperatively with other university support service groups
- * work with other institutions to cooperatively make available texts in electronic form
- * publish standards and provide institutional backing for texts published or made available through the ETC
- * provide access to electronic resources published through the centre to as many scholars and institutions as possible

Through the Electronic Text Centre, the Libraries are looking to make available and publish over the Web a variety of information from archival material to journals and newspapers. The Centre is also planning to assist faculty and graduate students in publishing texts electronically. In the near future, the Cen-

tre will be offering instructional assistance, the use of a server, and software. Eventually there will be physical space, PCs and scanners for project construction by staff, faculty and students.

At the Centre archival texts will be marked up in the Standard Generalized Markup Language (SGML). Some other types of publications such as journals will be tagged primarily in HTML. SGML is a descriptive markup language which allows for rich search capabilities and for easy print or Web publishing. HTML is largely a formatting language allowing information to be delivered over the Web. At the Centre data is stored on a Sun ULTRASPARC server which is running OpenText search and retrieve software for tagged text. SGML tagged text is converted on the fly to HTML for delivery over the Web.

After almost a year of study and six months of developing prototype projects, the Electronic Text Centre had its official launch on Wednesday, January 29, 1997. The idea of having a Centre was an early vision of the Director of Libraries, John Teskey. It crystallized in 1995 when the libraries hosted an international Web conference on gateways and publishing. The conference gave us greater exposure to electronic publishing and some of the issues surrounding it. It also gave us the chance to talk with those who were actively and successfully publishing on the Web.

After the conference the Director asked Alan Burk, Associate Director of Libraries to research setting up a text centre and to plan for its implementation. In early spring of 1996, Alan visited a number of established Web publishing sites. These included the Electronic Text Centre at the University of Virginia; Todd Kelley at Johns Hopkins and CETH at Rutgers University. He also attended several digital library conferences.

In setting up the text centre we used, as models, the electronic text initiatives at the University of Virginia and Virginia Tech and began work on several prototype projects. The prototypes included three types of publications:

- * an electronic version of the *Journal of Conflict Studies* published by the Centre of Conflict Studies at the University of New Brunswick
- * a highly searchable sample of the back files of full text articles from one of New Brunswick's major newspapers, the *Telegraph Journal*
- * the Marston diaries from Archives and Special Collection's Winslow papers, to be marked up in SGML

In that we had little direct experience working with SGML, we enlisted assistance from David Seaman who coordinates the University of Virginia's Electronic Text Centre. David gave us considerable help with SGML issues and marking up the diary. The diary project is now nearing completion.

We have successfully tested a small prototype database of the *Telegraph Journal*. After having recently reached an agreement with the paper to publish New Brunswick related articles in full-text from the past four years, we expect to make that database available to Atlantic universities and schools and public libraries in New Brunswick some time in February.

We have completed a Web publishing page for the *Journal of Conflict Studies* and have just published our first electronic issue. We are now starting work on a number of projects and having discussions with other potential partners. Some of these involve other institutions in the Atlantic Provinces.

A number of staff are contributing to the work of the Centre. At this time, all are working part time for the ETC as they

(Continued on next page)

Electronic Text Centre...

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have other library and University related duties. The primary staff are:

- Alan Burk - Director of the Centre and Associate Director of Libraries.
- Lisa Charlong - primary focus has been SGML and the marking up the Marston diaries.
- Jennifer Jeffries - has been looking at imaging issues and has been providing imaging and graphic support.
- James Kerr - is working primarily with the journals and journal related issues.
- Steve Sloan - Systems Librarian and University Webmaster; has been providing conversion and OpenText support and manages our server. He is also working on the *Telegraph Journal* and the Maliseet dictionary projects.

Others who are providing assistance include:

- Sandy Bird - pc and general software support
- Dave Cunningham - systems and programming support
- Judy Aldus - Head of Technical Services; cataloguing and header assistance ☐

— Alan Burk

University of New Brunswick Libraries

Editors' note: Want to know more about the Electronic Text Centre and also the newspaper project? Come to APLA '97. John Teskey and Alan Burk will be giving a session about the trials and triumphs of setting up the Electronic Text Centre. Stephen Sloan will be part of a panel on using newspapers for research.

Margaret Williams Trust Fund Award

Applications are now invited for the Margaret Williams Trust Fund Award which has been established to promote the development of librarianship in Newfoundland and Labrador.

Funds are awarded on a competitive basis to applicants seeking funding for library related projects or assistance in pursuing graduate studies in Library Science.

This year's award will be up to \$1000.

Deadline for applications is March 28, 1997.

For further information, and an application form, contact:

Mr. Richard Ellis
Chair, Board of Trustees
Margaret Williams Trust Fund
Queen Elizabeth II Library
Memorial University of Newfoundland
St. John's, NF A1B 3Y1

Welcome to New Members

Deidre Tiffany (Newfoundland)
Linda Farmer (Nova Scotia)
Kimberley MacHattie (Nova Scotia)
Lori Small (Nova Scotia)

Coming Events

Canadian Online Information Summit, March 24, 1997, Toronto Colony Hotel, Toronto. For information, contact Toula Zootis. Phone (416) 448-7372; E-mail info@tce.on.ca

Information Rights Week, April 21-27, 1997. (For details, see article in this issue)

Fee for Service Conference, April 24-25, 1997, University of Toronto. Registration fee \$350, CLA members \$297.50. For information, contact Vicki Whitmell, Whitmell & Associates, 350 Gerrard St. E. Unit 2, Toronto ON M5A 2G7. Phone (416) 963-9723; Fax (416) 963-5074; E-mail bicvlw@fmgmt.mgmt.utoronto.ca

See Z39.50 in Action: A Z39.50 Information Session, April 28, 1997 Fredericton. The National Library of Canada will be presenting an information session on the Z39.50 Information Retrieval Standard. The session will include an overview of the Z39.50 standard, demonstrations of four Z39.50 compliant systems, and a panel discussion on Z39.50 issues and trends. For more information, contact John Teskey. Phone (506) 453-4740; Fax (506) 453-4595; E-mail jteskey@unb.ca

Workshop in Library Instruction, May 14-16, 1997, Montreal. For information see <http://brise.ERE.UMontreal.CA:80/~bullj/wilu97/> or contact Christiane Robert Guertin. Phone (514) 343-6070; Fax (514) 343-6457; E-mail robertg@ere.umontreal.ca

APLA '97, May 22-25, 1997, Memorial University of Newfoundland, St. John's. For information, contact Suzanne Sexty. Phone (709) 737-7427; Fax (709) 737-2153; E-mail ssexty@morgan.ucs.mun.ca

Canadian Law Libraries Association's annual conference, May 25 - May 28, 1997, The Algonquin Hotel, St. Andrews-by-the-Sea, N.B. For information, contact Simonne Clermont, Bibliothèque de droit, Université de Moncton, Moncton, N.B. E1A 3E9. Phone (506) 858-4547; Fax (506) 858-4518; E-mail clermos@umoncton.ca

L'Association canadienne des bibliothèques de droit tiendra son congrès annuel à l'Hotel Algonquin à St. Andrews au N.-B. du 25-au28 mai 1997. Pour plus de renseignements, contactez Simonne Clermont, Bibliothèque de droit, Université de Moncton, Moncton, N.-B. E1A 3E9. Téléphone (506) 858-4547; Télécopieur (506) 858-4518; Courrier électronique clermos@umoncton.ca.

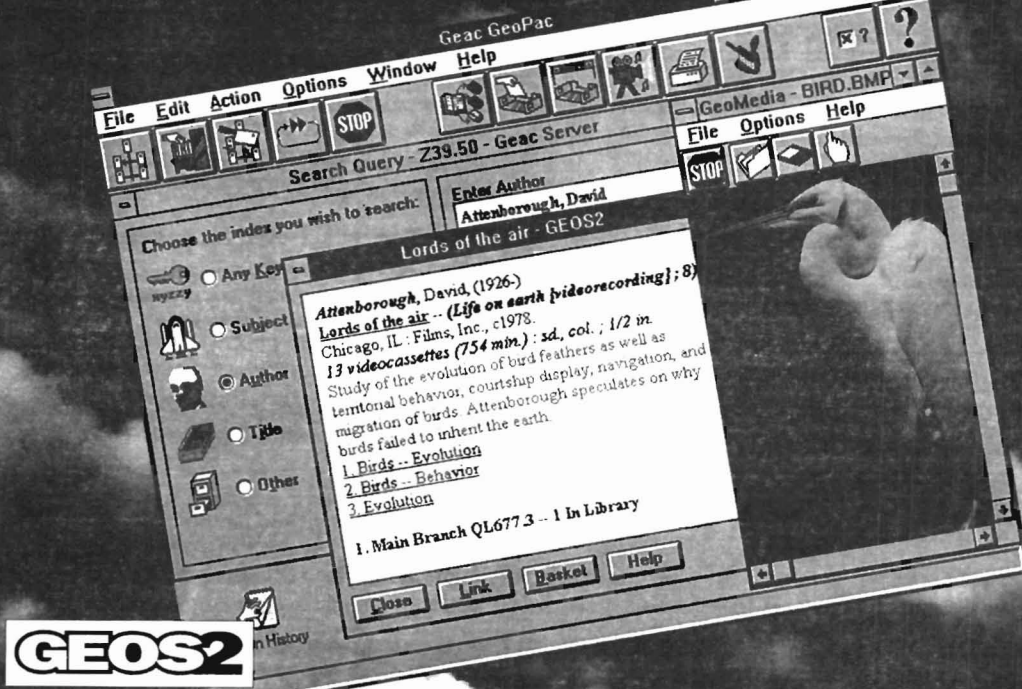
Canadian Conference on Records and Information Management (Atlantic Chapter), annual conference, June 1-4, 1997, Sheraton Inn, Fredericton. For more information, contact Pat Burns, Conference Chair. Phone (506) 453-7475; E-mail pburns@gov.nb.ca

Canadian Library Association, June 19-22, 1997, Ottawa

Net '97: Canadian Internet Conference, June 22-25, 1997, Dalhousie University, Halifax. (For details, see article in this issue.)

Bridging the Gap: Information Rich but Knowledge Poor, July 6-11, 1997, University of British Columbia, Vancouver. Sponsored jointly by The International Association of School Librarianship (IASL) and the Association for Teacher-Librarianship in Canada (ATLC), this conference, through workshops and the presentation of research and professional papers, will explore the opportunities and challenges facing both schools and school libraries. Registration fee (Early Bird Registration (before May 10) for IASL and ATLC Members \$350.00; for non-Members \$400.00) For current information, visit the conference web site at http://www.rhi.hi.is/~anne/conf_van.html Non-members may request a Registration Package by contacting Lynne Lighthall, Conference Coordinator, 4093 West 14th Avenue, Vancouver, BC Canada V6R 2X3. Phone (604) 822-2704; Fax (604) 822-6006; E-mail iaslatlc@unixg.bc.ca □

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