



Bulletin

The Atlantic Provinces Library Association

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Are Canadians Book Lovers?

Did you know that large numbers of employed adults who can read, but not particularly well, risk losing their literacy competence? This is a finding from *Reading the Future - A Portrait of Literacy in Canada* (Statistics Canada catalogue #89-551), a report released on September 12, 1996. The report provides detailed information on Canada contained in the International Adult Literacy Survey (IALS). An international overview entitled *Literacy, Economy and Society* (Statistics Canada catalogue #89-545) was issued in December 1995 by Statistics Canada and the OECD. It compared literacy in seven countries: Canada, Germany, Netherlands, Poland, Sweden, Switzerland and the United States.

Reading the Future describes and compares literacy skills across Canada. Age, education, occupation and other demographic information is examined and an analysis of literacy practices at work and at home is presented. IALS was sponsored by the National Literacy Secretariat and the Applied Research Branch of Human Resources Development Canada and was managed by Statistics Canada.

The IALS dispels the old notion that individuals are either literate or illiterate. It introduces a new concept of literacy as a continuum of skills ranging from quite limited to very high. The survey builds on this new view of literacy, defining it as the ability to understand and use printed information in daily activities, at home, at work and in the community.

At the broadest level, literacy profiles in Canada have shown little change over the past five years. This belies earlier predictions of a continuing erosion of literacy skills in Canada. At the same time, given that a new group of students known to have strong literacy skills graduated in the intervening period, some improvement might have been expected. The fact that no appreciable improvement can be detected suggests that other processes are altering the skill base.

There is considerable variation across Canada in Canadians' literacy skills. Generally, adults have higher skills in the western provinces, and lower skills in the east. Regional differences in literacy reflect regional differences in educational attainment; there are more Canadians in the Atlantic region, for example, who have less than grade nine education.

However, when comparisons are made within levels of educational attainment, the differences among the regions virtually disappear. In other words, a person in Nova Scotia with a post-secondary education is just as likely to perform at a high level

as a person with a similar education in British Columbia.

A key process examined in this report is the impact daily practice can have on literacy skills. The Canada Report concludes that literacy skills are required every day and daily practice of reading, writing, and calculating sustains and enhances them. Literacy skills learned in school do not remain constant over one's lifetime. If people don't use literacy skills after they have left school or college, they can lose them. The reverse is also true: if they practice literacy or receive training, people can gain skills. Consequently, Canadians' literacy activities at work, at home, and in the community are critical factors that affect their literacy skill levels.

At home, most Canadians read a newspaper at least once a week. The higher one's literacy level, the more likely an individual is to have reading material at home. But this doesn't mean that reading materials are absent from the homes of those with the weakest skills: almost 50% have some books at home and almost all have a dictionary.

Library use was also part of the survey. Approximately 75% of Canadians at the highest literacy levels reported reading a book once a week and 40% visited a library once a month. For those with the weakest literacy skills, 30% read a book once a week and 10% visited a library.

Adults with lower literacy skills are more likely to spend two hours or more watching television every day. It is tempting to interpret television-watching as a cause of lower literacy skills, but it is just as plausible to argue that lower skills lead to

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From the President's Desk

The fall is always spectacular in the Atlantic area - in between hurricanes - and in libraries it's always incredibly busy. There are lots of issues out there to occupy us. Here are some of the ones on my mind.

The July/August 1996 issue of the *Bulletin* contains a fact sheet about Phase Two of the Canadian Copyright legislation, Bill C-32, An Act to Amend the Copyright Act. The Standing Committee on Canadian Heritage is now actively reviewing this Bill. I wrote to this Committee on behalf of APLA in support of the CLA Brief on Bill C-32. The two areas that are of particular concern are the lack of a definition of "fair dealing" and the lack of clarity about copy rights for electronic and multimedia works. Generally though, the Bill is an improvement over current legislation as far as libraries are concerned. I would still urge you all to write to your member of parliament or to the Standing Committee on Canadian Heritage in support of Bill C-32. The

address for the Standing Committee is:

**Monique Hamilton
Clerk, Standing Committee on
Canadian Heritage
180 Wellington Street, Room 613
OTTAWA, Ontario K1A 0A6**

The progress of the Harmonized Tax continues to confuse and perplex. At the time of this writing, there have been no new developments to report. Again, I expect that it will be grass roots opposition to the tax on reading that will have the most influence on the decision makers. MLAs and MPs are there to listen to us. Give them an earful!

On a more positive note, discussions have begun about ways of offering APLA members the Library Advocacy Now! programme which was officially supported by CLA at the June '96 conference. Stay tuned as plans unfold. In addition to this programme, the Aims and Objectives Committee whose members are the Vice-President/President-elect, John Teskey and the four provincial vice-

presidents have been discussing continuing education opportunities that could be offered throughout the year for APLA members. Once again, if you have any ideas about sessions that you would like to see offered or if you have an area of expertise you would be willing to share through an APLA sponsored workshop, I encourage you to contact any members of the Aims and Objectives Committee.

In the meantime, have a joyful holiday season and a happy new year. ☐

— Sara Lochhead

Welcome to new members

Beverley Brucha (NS)
Michael Colborne (NS)
Linda Cruikshank (NS)
Sharon Domier (MA)
Nancy Fullerton (NS)
Roderick MacArthur (NS)
J. Patrick McCluskey (NB)
Helen Powell (NS)
Donna Richardson (NS)

Are Canadians Book Lovers Con't from cover...

more viewing time. Those with low skills may not be able to get the information they need from print and may turn to television instead.

The findings of the International Adult Literacy Survey reveal the importance of understanding how literacy skill is lost or enhanced. It also reinforces the need for policies to encourage, protect and nurture literacy outside the formal education system. Good literacy practices need to be encouraged so that Canadians can participate fully in the social, cultural, political and economic life of the nation. Equipped with the results of this report, librarians can do much to contribute to Canada's awareness of the important role libraries play in contributing to a culture of literacy and learning in Canada.

— Johanne Lussier, Literacy Secretariat



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Editors note: If you are interested in learning more about the report, write to Scott Murray, Director of Special Surveys Division, Statistics Canada, 5th floor, Jean Talon Bldg., Tunney's Pasture, Ottawa, Ontario, K1A 0T6 or call him at: 613-951-9476. If you wish to purchase a copy of the report, please call 1-800-267-6677; to order via Internet; order@statcan.ca. If you want more information about literacy, contact the National Literacy Secretariat, 15 Eddy Street, 10E10, Hull, Quebec, K1A 0K5 or call: (819) 953-5280. ☐

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Convenors, 1996-97

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

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Financial Examiner — Peter Glenister

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From the Editor's Desk

On September 9, the day after International Literacy Day, Canada Post issued a special stamp. The stamp, which bears the words "Literacy begins at home/L'alphabétisation commence à la maison," is made to look like a jigsaw puzzle. One piece needs to be inserted to make the puzzle complete and this piece is shown being passed from the hand of an adult to the hand of a child. This semi-postal issue is a Canadian first. The price on the stamp is 45¢ + 5¢ with the 5¢ going to ABC Canada. We don't usually provide free advertising in the *Bulletin*, however, this is one time when we think that we can make an exception to that rule.

— Suzanne, Joy, and Bernie

ERRATA — v. 60, no. 2, p. 20

This page should read:

When Dr. Mary Dykstra became the

editor of the Series in 1987 she emphasized a stronger business approach. Facing increasing budgetary constraints the School needed to generate alternative forms of revenue and the Occasional Papers Series was just such a means. The fifteen titles published during the

Dykstra years provided the School with much needed funds to offset the costs of computer hardware and software, and underwrite expenses of the Friday Lecture Series and a host of other items that the School could no longer cover from the decreasing operating budget.... □



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Financial assistance is available, from the APLA Memorial Trust, for study and research. Projects which contribute to the professional development of the applicant and benefit the professional are encouraged.

To apply, send a letter outlining your proposed research and estimated costs and a copy of your curriculum vitae to:

Sheila Pearl, APLA Memorial Awards Committee
% Learning Resources Centre
Nova Scotia Teachers College
P.O. Box 810, Truro, NS B2N 5G5
Fax: 902-893-5610 • Phone: 902-893-5326



CACUL Workshop Incentive Grants

- To promote continuing education activities in academic librarianship across the country.

- To provide funding support and encouragement for workshops and seminars at the local, regional and provincial levels.
- To provide financial assistance for local workshops.
- \$400 per region or province for co-sponsorship of programs.
- Deadline: November 30, 1996.
- Decisions to be made at the CACUL Executive meeting following the deadline above.

Send requests for an application form to:

Susan Cleyle, CACUL Director, Systems Librarian, Queen Elizabeth II Library, Memorial University of Newfoundland, St. John's NF A1B 3Y1; (709) 737-7470; FAX: (709) 737-2153; E-mail: scleyle@plato.ucs.mun.ca

Publication Information

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St. John's, NF A1B 3Y1



This permanent paper conforms to ANSI standard Z39.48-1984

Coming Events

1996 Friday Lecture Series (SLIS), November 15, 1996. Dr. Carl Hartzman (Computing Science, Dalhousie University), on the social implications of computing technology.

Government Documents Workshop, November 16, 9:00 - 4:00, Harriet Irving Library, UNB Fredericton. Sponsored by a CACUL grant, this workshop is geared to reference librarians and other library staff, but is open to anyone interested in accessing federal and New Brunswick government information. Spaces are limited: please register early. For further information, or to register, please contact Elizabeth Hamilton, Phone (506) 453-4752; E-mail hamilton@unb.ca, or John Neilson, Phone (506) 453-4591 Ext. 6802; E-mail neilson@unb.ca.

Ontario Library Association conference, February 6-9, 1997, Metro Toronto Convention Centre. To register phone (416) 363-3624; fax (416) 941-9581.

Scholarly Communication in the Next Millennium, March 6-8, 1997, Simon Fraser University at Harbour Centre, Vancouver. For information, contact Deborah Kirby Phone (604) 291-5245; Fax (604) 291-5239; E-mail dkirby@sfu.ca; WWW <http://www.sfu.ca/scom/index.html>

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, Bibliotheque de droit, Universite de Moncton, Moncton, N.B. E1A 3E9. Phone (506) 858-4547; Fax (506) 858-4518; E-mail clermos@umoncton.ca.

L'Association canadienne des bibliotheques de droit tiendra son congres annuel a l'Hotel Algonquin a St. Andrews au N.-B. du 25 au 28 mai 1997. Pour plus de renseignements, contactez Simonne Clermont, Bibliotheque de droit, Universite de Moncton, Moncton, N.-B. E1A 3E9. Telephone (506) 858-4547, Telecopieur (506) 858-4518, Courrier electronique 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. □



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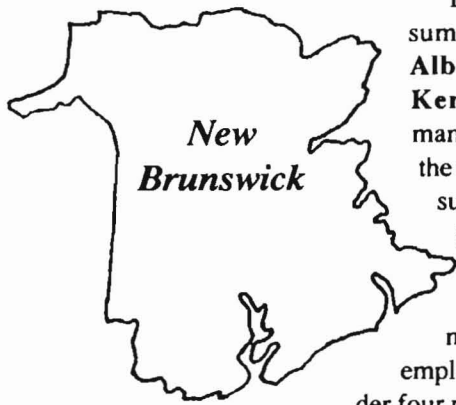
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NEWS FROM THE PROVINCES

Editor's note: Remember that you don't have to wait for a vice president to contact you asking for provincial information. If you want to see your library in this column, contact your provincial vice president (names and contact information on page 3)



Public

The annual influx of summer students in the **Albert-Westmorland-Kent Region** allowed many of the libraries of the region to expand their summer programs and, in some cases, to offer extended hours as well. In all, thirty-nine students were employed in the region under four programs: Jet Stream, Summer Careers Placements,

Youth Exchange and Literacy for Kids.

During Hillsborough Homecoming Days, the **Hillsborough Public Library** saw an excellent turnout for a poetry reading by local poets Phyllis McKinley and Pam MacArthur.

When the annual **Sackville** parade was combined with the Atlantic Waterfowl Celebration, the library chose the theme "Curl Up With Your Favourite Character", with staff and students dressed as fictional characters. Not only did they win **Best Youth Float**, they also garnered the **Chairman's Choice Award**, bringing lots of attention to the library.

On September 9, the staff of the **Moncton Public Library** held a professional development day on which they attended presentations on harassment in the workplace, the use of word processors, the recent library study, and an introduction to the new **Family History Research Service**.

In September, the **Dieppe Public Library** was packed up to allow installation of new carpets and painting of the walls. Six staff packed the collection in a day. It did, of course, take longer to unpack and reshelve once the maintenance work was done.

In September, **Nan Leger** retired after twenty-six years with the Albert-Westmorland-Kent Regional Library, the last twenty as Supervisor of Technical Services. Nan's knowledge and abilities have been invaluable during Recon. Stepping into Nan's position is **Marilyn Landry**, previously at the Moncton Public Library. **Hélène Bourgeois**, request clerk in the Extension Department, is taking over from Marilyn in Moncton. **Denise Cormier**, a new face, is welcomed as request clerk.

The highlight of the summer, as always, was the **Summer Reading Club**. This year's theme, Sea Read, produced an amazing variety of marine decorations and programs. In **Riverview**, Shamus the Shark joined Lulu the Library Ladybug to promote the club in schools. In **Shediac**, the front window was transformed into an aquarium drawing the attention and

cameras of tourists. Closing ceremonies were also varied, ranging from the making of ice cream sundaes in **Dorchester** to a puppet show "Why the Sea is Salt" and a visit from Rufus the Clown (staff member, **Jill Donovan**) at the **Moncton Public Library**. In all, about 2600 children registered for the Summer Reading Club and about 700 for the preschool "I Love Books" Club in the **Albert-Westmorland-Kent Regional Library System**. In the **Saint John Regional Library System**, 2,463 children registered and 40,669 books were read. The slogan for Summer Reading Club '97 is "Readers are Winners".

Award-winning children's illustrator Ron Lightburn visited six public libraries (**Oromocto, Nashwaaksis, Fredericton, Stanley, Harvey and St. Stephen**) and one school in early September as part of a working vacation in the Maritimes. His readings were funded in part by the Canada Council. Lightburn's books include *Waiting for the Whales*, *Eagle Dreams*, and most recently, *How Smudge Came* which has been awarded the Sheila A. Egoff Children's Literature Prize. Ron is also the artist for this year's Children's Book Week poster.

The **Friends of the Fredericton Public Library** got the year off to a great start with the first in a nine-part series of Wednesday evening programs called *Philosophy for Today's Issues*. Over forty people attended the first lecture, "Dr. Kevorkian and Euthanasia," given by Dr. Brian Cupples.

A **Fall House Tour**, held October 5, is the latest in a long line of very successful fundraising ventures to be undertaken by the **Stanley Community Library**. Library friends and supporters toured homes in Tay Creek, North Tay, Limekiln Road and Ward Settlement and afterwards enjoyed refreshments at the library.

The **Plaster Rock Public Library Board** is offering its trustees board development training, via a workshop to be held October 25. Called "Principles of Board Management," the four hour workshop includes topics such as: boardmanship basics; high performing teams; conducting effective meetings, creating productive committees; and effective planning and decision-making.

Another successful **Employee Development Day** was held for the employees of the **Saint John Regional Library System** on September 18. Guest presenters dealt with the following topics: making effective presentations; managing your money; self defence; and selecting and purchasing a wardrobe to suit your pocket book.

A group of 60 genealogists from the United States visited the Information Centre of the Central Resource Library for one day. Some of them were so pleased with the information which was available to them that they returned the next week.

A review of **head count figures** taken for the months of March and July, 1996 show an average of over 4000 citizens partaking of the service of the **Saint John Free Public Library** during a one-week period.

The **Saint John Free-Net**, with a public access terminal in

(Continued on next page)

NEWS FROM THE PROVINCES

the Saint John Free Public Library, announced the addition of 200 more community pages on its website located at <http://www.sjfn.nb.ca> (see Community Hall). Since the initial start-up on July 25, the website has hosted 1,500 visits and responded to over 10,000 requests during the month of September.

The **St. Croix Public Library** celebrated its 25th anniversary on Monday, October 7, 1996. The Honourable Ann Breault, Minister of Municipalities, Culture and Housing, addressed the large gathering, and presented 25 year service recognition certificates and silver provincial service pins to branch manager **Elva Hatt** and **Barbara Malcolm**, Manager, Information Technology/Branch Development. Deputy Mayor Robert Brown brought greetings from the Mayor and Councillors of St. Stephen. Regional Librarian Eileen Travis extended congratulations to the St. Croix Library Board and Staff, from the Saint John Regional Library Board and Staff, and Jocelyne LeBel, Director of New Brunswick Library Service, brought greetings from the NBLs staff and presented the Chairman of the Board, Verne Barr, with *Granger's Index to Poetry* as a gift from the Government of New Brunswick.

Le 2 novembre dernier, la **Bibliothèque régionale du Haut-Saint-Jean** célébrait son 25e anniversaire. A cette occasion, une journée Portes ouvertes de son bureau régional avait lieu dans l'après-midi à laquelle était invité toute la population d'Edmunston et des environs.

En soirée, les commissaires de bibliothèque de la région, les anciens employés et les employés actuel ainsi que les invités spéciaux assistaient à un souper pour souligner l'événement. Lors de ce banquet, on a remis le prix de mérite régional pour commissaire de bibliothèque à **Harold McLaughlin** de la Commission de la Bibliothèque de Grand-Sault. On a également remis des marques de reconnaissance aux employés qui ont complété 10 ans de service: **Johanne Lizotte** et **Marcelle Bouchard** et 25 ans de service: **Yvette Quimper** et

Guy Nadeau.

Le Rallye-Recherche 1996 a été présenté aux membres de la Commission régionale du Haut-Saint-Jean. Produit à 700 exemplaires, il sera vendu dans les points de service de notre région, au cout de 25,00\$. Il s'agit d'une forme de campagne de financement dont les montants recueillis serviront à l'achat de livres. Les commissaires sont invités à en faire la promotion et à y participer.

Le Rallye-Recherche est un jeu questionnaire qui permet à la population en général de s'instruire tout en s'amusant. De plus, des prix seront attribués aux participants qui auront obtenu les meilleurs pointages. Le Rallye-Recherche se déroule à compter du 1er octobre jusqu'au 30 novembre prochain.

La Commission de la **Bibliothèque publique de Grand-Sault** a reçu un important don de documents en généalogie appartenant à monsieur **Albénie Lajoie**, citoyen de cette localité. Le don se compose de 170 documents (répertoires, recueils et dictionnaires généalogiques) tous reliés. De plus, Monsieur Lajoie a défrayé les couts de fabrication d'un bibliothèque vitrée dans laquelle la collection sera conservée. Une cérémonie a été organisée le 8 septembre dernier à la bibliothèque. Une centaine de personnes y assistaient. Cette riche collection constitue un précieux outil de recherche en généalogie et en histoire pour les chercheurs de la région, de la province et au-delà de nos frontières.

A review of the public library system was undertaken this summer by the Department of Municipalities, Culture and Housing as part of the provincial government's Quality Service Initiative. The review was prompted in large part by the funding crisis facing the public library system. A Stakeholders Advisory Committee was created to suggest options to the Minister to address the problem.

The following is an excerpt from the stakeholders report:

"1. The Stakeholders Committee recommends as its primary option that the

Province increase the budget for the public library system through the taxation option [i.e. taxing rural areas for the library services they receive]

2. If the Province cannot accept option # 1, the Committee recommends as a less desirable option, the combination of service reduction through the elimination of bookmobiles and increased revenue generation through the introduction of membership fees.

NOTE: The Committee feels strongly that:

- a) the closure of libraries must be a last resort.
- b) if the option pursued by Government generates revenue in excess of the funding shortfall, the extra money should be applied to enhancing the books and materials collection."

The Committee presented its report to the Minister the second week of September. It is not as yet known what the outcome of this review will be.

New Brunswick Library Service was sorry to lose three staff recently: French cataloguing librarian Gilles LeBlanc has moved to Toronto to pursue a career in the visual arts; recon librarian Maureen Penn has moved to Winnipeg to take a position with ISM; and recon staff Margaret Forster has left to pursue other projects.

Academic

There have been two recent changes in staff assignments at the University of New Brunswick library in Fredericton. **Janet Phillips** has accepted a one year appointment as Head of Reference and will be leading the Department through a number of staff changes resulting from the retirement of a key staff member. Also, **Elizabeth Hamilton** has resumed her responsibilities as Head of Documents effective September 1, 1996. In addition she will continue as Data Services Coordinator which includes campus responsibilities for the ICPSR files as well as the Statistics Canada Data Liberation Initiative. In addition to handling government publications and maps, the

(Continued on next page)

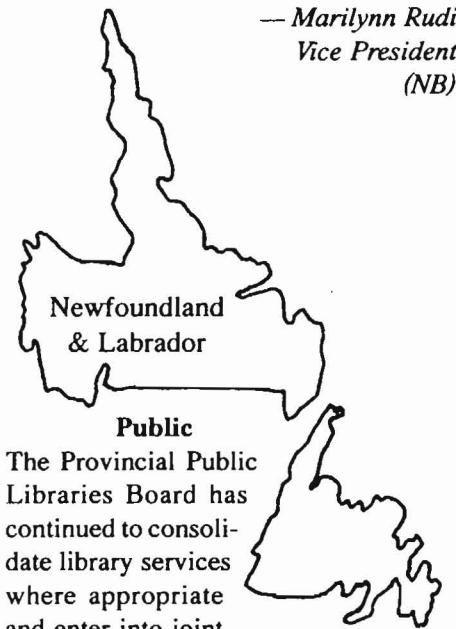
NEWS FROM THE PROVINCES

Documents Department will be responsible for the acquisition, management and public service for data and geo-spatial files for the social sciences and humanities.

Associations

The **New Brunswick Library Trustees Association** held their AGM in Bathurst on Saturday, September 28 (see article on p.15). **Judy Heron** and **Martha Edwards**, both of Saint John Region, were re-elected as president and secretary, respectively. The new vice-president is **Patrick McCluskey** of York and **Roseline Maillet** of Albert-Westmorland-Kent is treasurer. □

— *Marilynn Rudi*
Vice President
(NB)



Public

The Provincial Public Libraries Board has continued to consolidate library services where appropriate and enter into joint library services initiatives with local school libraries. The new library in Bay Roberts consolidates the library collections, resources and personnel of three public library branches in the Conception Bay North area. The combined collection, staff and hours of services previously in **Bay Roberts**, **Spaniard's Bay** and **Upper Island Cove** have resulted in an enhanced collection and increased hours of service.

The joint service libraries aim to improve library services within the community. The branches of the public library in **Springdale**, **Marystown** and **St. Lawrence** have recently merged their collection and personnel within the libraries of the local schools. The resulting

increased collection and availability of daytime and evening service benefit both clientele. Benefits to the community also include increased accessibility to the Internet via the libraries' websites. Benefits to the Provincial Public Libraries Board are saving on overhead that can be transferred to acquisitions budgets.

Academic

The 7% reduction in the provincial grant to Memorial University of Newfoundland (MUN) has begun to be felt in the library. The **Queen Elizabeth II (QEII) Library** will cut \$80,000 from the general journal collection budget in addition to cuts in the reference serials collection budget. Also, the joint QEII Library-Provincial Resource Library project to microfilm Newfoundland newspapers has ended. Over the 20 years it ran, all available 20th century Newfoundland papers were microfilmed. Most 20th century papers were microfilmed up to 1975. **Howie Parsons** who did the microfilming has transferred to the Periodicals Division in the QEII Library.

The outside borrower's fee for library cards has been waived for MUN alumni who register with the Alumni Association. MUN has introduced a one card system. The new "smart cards" replace the old student cards, library cards and debit cards.

Janice Adlington is on contract until Christmas in the Information Services Division, QEII. She is replacing Suzanne Sexty who is on leave. **David Howse**, has had his contract in the Health Sciences Library extended until March 31, 1997. Slavko Manojlovich has been re-appointed head, Systems Division of three years. **Joy Tillotson** has been appointed Head, Information Services Division for three years.

Elaine Deluney, passed away October 14 after a long illness. Elaine had been Head of the Health Sciences Library (MUN) since January 1992. She was a good friend and excellent colleague who will be missed.

The libraries in the regional col-

leges remain in a holding pattern awaiting the effects of the one amalgamated provincial college.

Associations

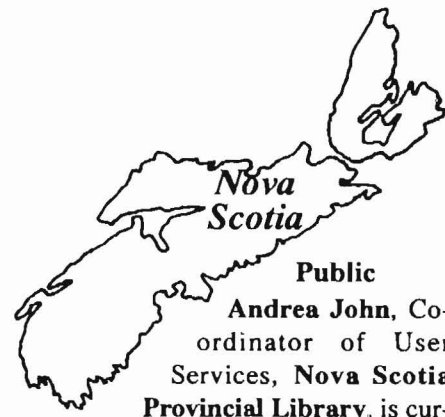
The present executive of the **Newfoundland and Labrador Health Libraries Association** is: President - **Catherine Sheehan**, Health Sciences Library, MUN; Vice President - **Cathy Ryan**, Nursing Library, St. Clare's Mercy Hospital; Secretary/Treasurer - **Pam Morgan**, Health Sciences Library, MUN.

Other

A number of staff from the QEII Library's Centre for Newfoundland Studies have been elected to the executive of the **Newfoundland Historical Society**: **Linda White**, Vice-President; **Rosemary Healey**, Treasurer; **Joan Ritcey** and **Bert Riggs**, Councillors. **Anne Hart**, Head, Centre for Newfoundland Studies, is on the executive committee of the **Canadian Institute for Historical Microreproductions**.

Su Cleyle, Assistant Systems Librarian (QEII Library), is a Director at Large of the **Canadian Association of College and University Libraries**. □

— *Beverly Neable*
Vice President (NF)



Public

Andrea John, Coordinator of User Services, Nova Scotia Provincial Library, is currently on parental leave. She has recently been granted additional leave until the end of December. Unfortunately for the Provincial Library, **Natalie MacPherson** was not able to remain with the library as the acting Coordinator of User Services, and has returned to her full-time

(Continued on next page)

NEWS FROM THE PROVINCES

position at the Stratford Public Library in Ontario. **Jane Lockwood** returned from maternity leave on September 3. **Mary Fellows** is presently on maternity leave, and the Provincial Library welcomes **Vicki Prosser**, who will replace Mary while she is away.

The new Minister of Education and Culture, the Honourable Robbie Harrison, visited the Provincial Library on September 11. Also along for the tour were the Deputy Minister, Marilyn Gaudet, and the Executive Director of Policy Branch, Wayne Doggett. The Minister took the opportunity to meet most of the staff at the Provincial Library and to discuss various services and initiatives. The Minister followed his visit to the Provincial Library with a visit to Learning Resources and Technology.

Young people across Nova Scotia were reading in a big way this summer by participating in their local public library's **Summer Reading Program**. Province-wide about 10,000 children and young people participated in the program. At the **Cape Breton Regional Library** more than 1,300 children participated in the program. Together they read a total of 14,660 books! This year's theme of pirates and hidden treasure boasted the slogan "Books - the real treasure/Les livres - un vrai trésor." Apart from the obvious benefits of readings, one of the incentives used to encourage children to participate in the program was the annual grand prize draw. All participants in each local library's summer reading program received an entry ballot. This year three lucky winners were drawn: Jeremy Burton, age 5, of Dartmouth; Brie-Ann MacDonald, age 8, of Glace Bay; and Chris MacDonald, age 8, of Yarmouth. These lucky youngsters each received a basket full of books, a lap desk and other little prizes related to the treasure theme. All prizes were kindly donated by **H.H. Marshall Newsgroup Ltd.** Activities for the 1997 summer reading program are already being made starting with a medieval theme and the promotional slogan "Reading - joust for the fun of it!/La lecture - une armure pour

la vie!."

If you have looked at the **Nova Scotia Provincial Library Web** site lately you may have noticed a number of changes. First, the main page (<http://rs6000.nshpl.library.ns.ca>) has been changed to include a map of Nova Scotia, thereby reflecting the focus of the Web site and of the services of the library. Additional images also make the page more visually appealing. The section focusing on Technical Services has also been completed on the web site. Previously, little information had been available on the work of the Technical Services section. This area now includes information on the cataloguing operations, on the implementation of automation in the regional libraries, and on a number of other topics. This section can be accessed by connecting to the main NSPL page and by clicking on Services and then on Technical Services. Alternatively, you can connect directly to the Technical Services information at: <http://rs6000.nshpl.library.ns.ca/services/techserv/>

Working with facilitator Bruce Blakemore, **Western Counties Regional Library** has completed its strategic planning process. The plan was accepted at the September 19 board meeting.

The **Western Counties Regional Library Board** chairman, Gary Archibald, has been re-elected Treasurer of the Canadian Library Trustees Association.

Virginia Stoddard, **Western Counties Regional Library**, has been appointed Deputy Director, effective October 1.

The **Cape Breton Regional Library** was successful in obtaining an employment grant to hire a summer student to compile a narrative concerning the McLennan family of Petersfield. This family was concerned with the industrial development of the Sydney region at the turn of the century and were instrumental in the development of the Fortress of Louisbourg National Historic Park. They were also great benefactors of the library. The narrative will form the basis of a future project to get information about the

McLennan's posted on an Internet Web page.

The **Cape Breton Regional Library** recently learned that a proposal for funding through the Community Health Promotion Fund, Nova Scotia Department of Health, was successful. A total of \$3,320.00 has been granted to the library to prepare booklists and to provide programmes for seniors.

Cards for memorial gifts to the **Cape Breton Regional Library** have recently been made available. When a memorial donation is made, a book is chosen within the subject area selected by the person making the donation. A card is sent to a family member or the person specified, acknowledging the gift and informing them of the book selected.

The Halifax Regional Library Board is pleased to announce the appointment of **Judith Hare** as Director of the **Halifax Regional Library** effective October, 1996. For the past three years, Ms. Hare has been Executive Director of the Fraser Valley Regional Library in British Columbia. From 1984 to 1994, she was Chief Executive Officer of the Markham Public Library in Ontario. At Fraser Valley, Ms. Hare was responsible for the operation of 22 branch libraries over a diverse geographic area, including small rural and large urban communities. She has experience with automation, personnel, budget, change management, strategic planning, and initiating service improvements in an environment of fiscal constraint. The Library Board feels confident that Ms. Hare brings the leadership skills, vision and experience that will help to shape the direction and development of the new Halifax Regional Library.

School

Eleven libraries in elementary schools in **Kings County** have closed this year. Library technician positions were cut last July, and have not been replaced so far this year. Superintendent Jim Gunn told parents, teachers and board members attending a recent meeting that the library technicians will be reinstated on a re-

(Continued on page 12)

Canada's Coalition For Public Information

STRATEGIC PLAN

(June 20, 1996)

INTRODUCTION

For the past three years the issues surrounding the development of information infrastructure, on which CPI has focused, have evolved and broadened. Over the next three years CPI will build on its work in developing and promoting the concept of universal and affordable access to information and communication services and technology, to ensure that this access provides every Canadian with the opportunity to participate in and contribute to the development of a knowledge society and economy, at whatever level is relevant and appropriate to the individual.

A knowledge society must be inclusive, and everyone must have access to participation in the decision-making process for that inclusion to be a reality. The information and communications infrastructure provides the means for inclusivity because it allows for timely, inexpensive and broad dissemination of information from a multiplicity of sources, to the majority of people. It also allows for the immediate assessment and internalization of the information that is provided, because of its built-in capacity for interactivity. At the moment, that capacity for interactivity, i.e. the ability to access and exchange information, is not universal. For the principle of universality of access to be applied in a way that moves us toward a "knowledge society and economy", the concept of access must be expanded to include "interactive and inclusive participation".

THE ROLES OF THE COALITION

The major roles of the Coalition in furthering the development of a knowledge society are to:

- Define, shape and communicate public policy positions and issues;

- Serve as an Open Think Tank and provide a conduit for the public to participate in the debates and discussions around the issues;
- Create links with and among other organizations who share common views and positions.

THE GOAL OF THE COALITION

To ensure that the developing information and communications infrastructure in Canada serves the public interest, focuses on human communication and provides universal access to information, in order to foster the development of a knowledge society.

OBJECTIVES:

- a) To define, shape and communicate public policy issues and positions that relate to the emergence of Canada's knowledge society;
- b) To work with disadvantaged groups in their efforts to participate in the knowledge society;
- c) To develop public awareness and educational programs;
- d) To research issues related to the knowledge society;
- e) To work with the creators and developers of Canadian content in their efforts to express Canadian culture through the information and communications infrastructure;
- f) To encourage the development of linked communities as the basis for a knowledge society;
- g) To encourage the development of and to link with other groups with related interests;
- h) To do all such other things as are incidental or conducive to the attainment of the above objectives.

ACTION PLAN

YEAR 1 (ENDING DECEMBER 31, 1996)

Internal Objectives

- Completion of the incorporation of CPI
- Have a new organizational structure in place
- Develop a plan to diversify and grow CPI membership
- Review and develop a clear program focus for CPI
- Establish a working group to plan for and implement CPI's self-sustainability
- Obtain a CPI Internet domain and develop a self-managed CPI Web site

External Objectives

- Complete one major conference
- Participate in selective CRTC hearings that are relevant to CPI's objectives
- Initiate the production of an annual progress report on Canada's transformation to a knowledge society
- Research the needs (pertaining to the development of a knowledge society) of disadvantaged groups and local communities
- Develop a project-based funding proposal that focuses on initiatives that will improve the participation of disadvantaged groups in the knowledge society
- Meet with Telecommunities Canada to identify and develop action plans for objectives common to both organizations
- Develop a position paper on a National Access Board and on employment in a knowledge society
- Develop a grass-roots methodology for municipal groups to promote and develop linked communities
- Respond to public policy issues and papers as required

YEAR 2 (ENDING DECEMBER 31, 1997)

Internal Objectives

- Implement a membership growth and diversification plan
- Assess viability of membership growth as a component of a plan for self-sustainability
- Investigate internal revenue generation potential to contribute to self-sustainability

- Secure outside funding to update and upgrade CPI Web site
- Review and update CPI's program focus and strategic plan

External Objectives

- Completion of a major conference
- Undertake a highly visible project to assess and improve the access of rural and remote and/or disadvantaged communities to the information and communication infrastructure
- Launch and participate in a skills building and training program for targeted (disadvantaged) groups
- Respond to public policy issues and papers as required

YEAR 3 (ENDING DECEMBER 31, 1998)

Internal Objectives

- Review and assess impact of membership development initiatives
- Complete self-sustainability study and prepare report
- Review and update CPI's program focus and strategic plan

External Objectives

- Completion of a major conference.
- Facilitate the production of an online directory of relevant and valuable listservs (on issues of public access and affordability of the information highway) for CPI members
- Facilitate the publication of a source book for community activity in skills building and training in the area of the information highway
- Develop links or liaisons with appropriate groups/organizations to work on issues concerning privacy and the information and communications infrastructure
- Review and continue project begun in Year 2, to assess and improve the access of rural and remote and/or disadvantaged communities to the information and communications infrastructure
- Respond to public policy issues and papers as required

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

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Email: cpi@web.net
 Tel: 416-977-6018
 Fax: 416-597-1617

NEWS FROM THE PROVINCES

gional basis as soon as funding becomes available. Libraries in elementary schools in the counties of Annapolis and West Hants do not have library technicians, so the cuts have only affected schools in Kings County.

Academic

Novanet Express, a pilot project for delivery of books and articles between Novanet libraries is now available on a trial basis (June 24, 1996 to December 13, 1996) to help the Novanet libraries plan for future document delivery services. Novanet Express allows for loans and photocopies from other Novanet libraries to be delivered to a campus within 2 business days, direct fax delivery of articles to the fax number of your choice, and the ability to request items 24 hours a day from office, home, or a Novanet library.

Faculty, students, staff and Novanet Off Campus Borrowers who have full system cards are eligible to participate in Novanet Express. Requests can be placed electronically from Novanet library workstations or via the World Wide Web at: <http://novanet.ns.ca/cgi-bin/pubrequest>. Books and photocopies may be picked up at the Novanet library of choice, or a request can be made to have photocopies faxed directly. The cost is \$5.00 for each item requested.

Novanet Express is being made available by the Novanet Consortium, with the participating libraries being: **Atlantic School of Theology***, **Dalhousie University-Kellogg Library**, **Dalhousie University-Killam Library**, **Mount Saint Vincent University**, **Nova Scotia College of Art and Design***, **Saint Francis Xavier University**, **Saint Mary's University**, **Technical University of Nova Scotia**, **University College of Cape Breton*** and the **University of King's College**. (Those marked with an * do not have the option available to have fax delivery to the fax number of a person's choice.) For more information visit the web site at: <http://novanet.ns.ca/docdel-service.html>

Other

The **Nova Scotia Library Association** has announced the short list for the **6th Annual Ann Connor Brimer Award** for children's books written by Atlantic Canadian authors. On the shortness are *Of Things Not Seen* by Don Aker (Stoddart), *The Killick: A Newfoundland Story* by Geoff Butler (Tundra Books) and *Alexander's Sky Blue Eggs* by Marjorie Speed (Roseway). The award was established in memory of Ann Connor Brimer, who left a bequest to the Nova Scotia Library Association to be used to recognize writers whose books make an outstanding contribution to children's literature in Atlantic Canada. The winner will be announced November 1, 1996 during a reception at the Maritime Museum of the Atlantic in Halifax. Guest speaker will be Jane Buss of the Writers' Federation of Nova Scotia.

The **Yarmouth Community Net**, three years in the making, was officially launched at the Yarmouth branch library on Saturday, October 5. Western Counties Regional Library is a very active supporter of the community net with many staff members working as volunteers.

The Word on the Street, Halifax's book and magazine fair, was held Sunday, September 29, and was a great success! More than 15,000 book lovers turned out for the day of readings, music, buskers and great deals on thousands of books, magazines and tapes. More than 120 exhibitors participated. Activities throughout the day included author readings, puppet shows, hands-on activities by the Discovery Center and the Museum of Natural History, bookmaking and cartooning. Among the authors present were Alastair MacLeod, Sheree Fitch, Janet McNaughton, Lesley Choyce, Carol Bruneau, and Beatrice MacNeil. The success of this event has left everyone looking forward to the 1997 Word on the Street. □

— *Faye Hopkins*
Vice President (NS)



Public

Colourful fish travelled across PEI this past summer delighting children and encouraging them to read. **Barb Kissick**, Children's Services Librarian, credited the fish mascots along with the involvement of staff and volunteers for helping to make the summer reading program a successful one. Ms. Kissick also expressed excitement over numerous activities planned for November.

Children's author **Kit Pearson** will hold readings in three of the public libraries and a number of schools. Teacher-librarians and branch librarians are busy preparing the children for her visit. French Services Librarian, Johanne Jacob, reports that author **Marie Danielle Croteau** will be touring the Island from Tignish to Charlottetown doing readings. Once again this year children will get to interact with local police during Crime Prevention Week, November 1 to 8. The police officers will be visiting libraries across the province and speaking and reading to the children.

Technological change continues to move forward in the public libraries. The automation project is progressing at **Provincial Library Headquarters**. The Computers for Schools and Libraries Program provided eight computers which were distributed to public libraries along with a limited amount of software. These libraries do not have Internet capabilities as yet but the provincial government and Industry Canada are discussing changes to the Community Access Project which it is hoped will result in an increased number of sites being established on PEI.

School

For an article on the research report *Reflection and Renewal in PEI School Libraries*, see the article on page 13. □

— *Norine Hanus*, Vice President (PEI)

Reflection and Renewal in PEI School Libraries

A major piece of research, entitled *Reflection and Renewal in PEI School Libraries*, was released in October. Dr. Ray Doiron of the Faculty of Education at University of Prince Edward Island and Judy Davies of the Department of Education initiated this research in October 1995. The project was largely defined by one major goal: to examine the impact that the *PEI School Library Policy Statement* (1989) has had on school library programs in the province of Prince Edward Island. Dr. Doiron and Ms. Davies explained that two additional purposes motivated this comprehensive study, those of reflection and renewal. For the purpose of reflection, four historical reviews were included which established the historical perspective and informed readers of progress which has been made in realizing the principals and the vision articulated in the policy. The second purpose was to provide policy-makers with reliable information on which to base future directions and decisions about school libraries.

Participation was overwhelmingly positive. Sixty-four of sixty-six schools on the Island completed an extensive survey. As well, 24 principals and 24 teacher-librarians took part in individual one-hour interviews. The combination of data and first hand descriptive accounts has provided a comprehensive picture of what is happening in school libraries in the province.

The study focused on collecting information on the status of school library facilities, personnel, resources, programs and services currently available. The information gathered has led to the formulation of twenty-five recommended actions as a part of a general plan for renewal in school library programs. In addition to articulating recommended actions, Dr. Doiron and Ms. Davies identified several conclusions emanating from all five areas investigated. The conclusions form the framework for the renewal of school library programs in PEI.

The researchers found that there has been a general growth and acceptance of the principles of resource-based learning as well as the teacher-librarian's role in cooperative program planning and teach-

ing and the integrated role of the school library program. At the same time it was recognized that the current *Policy, Guidelines and Information Continuum* does not reflect the influence that technology is having on the program and that this document needs to be updated to reflect those changes. The research gave clear evidence of the inextricable links among the school library program, the personnel hired to develop the program, and the resources needed to fully implement the program. Participants felt that the Department of Education needed to make it clear that it continued to recognize the vital role played by the teacher-librarian and the school library in its curriculum goals. In fact, teacher-librarians and administrators saw a need to broaden the implementation process to include more efforts aimed at curriculum consultants and classroom teachers and that future curriculum development plans needed to be made with the goal of making connections, whenever possible, with the school library program. Major weaknesses were seen in the staffing allocation

and the resource collection in some school programs. These issues will have to be addressed. The paper recommended that action be taken to implement a staffing formula which would range from staffing schools of over 800 students with 1.5 FTE teacher-librarians plus a full time library clerk to that of .5 FTE as the bottom line for staffing. In some schools, the facility used for the school library program was inadequate for fully implementing a school library program. Schools with open-area school libraries experienced problems with noise and traffic problems. The report recommended that the Department take action to identify these.

The study indicates that opportunities are needed across the educational system to look at the recommendations and engage in discussion about the implications of the study and to define the next course of action. Immediate and long term initiatives need to be developed to address the issues identified. □

— Norine Hanus
University of Prince Edward Island

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Professional Reading on the Internet

The Internet is often portrayed by the media as a hip place, a place for the rich and the wired. What is often forgotten is that, until a few years ago, the Internet was primarily a scholarly initiative. Although this face of the Internet is often overlooked, it is nonetheless still an active part of it.

This issue's Internet column will focus on electronic journals and newsletters in library and information science. These publications are, I think, a nice supplement to traditional printed publications. Also, they are an example that the 'Net is not just a place for nice pictures, but also a source of useful information.

Internet Resources [<http://www.hw.ac.uk/libWWW/irm/irm.html>]

This is a monthly newsletter edited by the staff of the Heriot-Watt University Library. It aims to raise awareness of new Internet resources, especially those which are relevant for researchers. Internet Resources has a table of contents organized by access methods: e-mail, FTP, WWW, etc.

D-Lib magazine [<http://www.dlib.org>]

D-Lib Magazine focuses on digital library issues for researchers, developers, and the curious. It features presentations of current research, updates on projects, pointers to useful sites, and ongoing debates. D-Lib Magazine presents itself as an experiment in electronic publishing, and has no printed version.

Ariadne [<http://ukoln.bath.ac.uk/ariadne/>]

Ariadne is the newsletter from the United Kingdom Office for Library and Information Networking. Its aim is to describe and evaluate Internet resources, as well as to report the latest developments in electronic libraries. Unlike its printed version, the electronic version of Ariadne is updated between issues with pointers to news and events, and it also carries articles that are not published in the printed version.

Current Cites [<http://sunsite.berkeley.edu/CurrentCites/>]

Sounds familiar? This is the Web version of the column that appears regularly in *Computers in Libraries*. It is an excellent source of current awareness for computer applications in libraries. Along with abstracts of printed articles, it also carries links with online publications.

The Scout Report [<http://rs.internic.net/scout/report>]

The Scout Report is a weekly publication from Net Scout Services. It is a fast and convenient way to stay informed of new Internet resources. Its primary audience is researchers and educators. It reviews Internet sites and services on the basis of author, depth of content, and presentation.

Bibliothèque virtuelle du CIDIF: Journaux et revues

[<http://www.cidif.org/Bibliothèque/revues.htm#menu>]

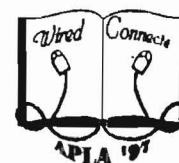
Here is a directory of Web journals and newsletters in French. These publications deal with cultural as well as technical issues around the Internet. These publications are varied: some are electronic newsletters reviewing new sites, while others are sections of major newspapers dealing with issues around the Information Highway.

PACS Review [<http://info.lib.uh.edu/pacsrev.html>]

Among "wired" librarians, PACS-L is a legend. It is one of the oldest listserv discussion groups in library and information science. A by-product of this listserv is the Public Access Computer Systems Review (PACS Review). As its title indicates, it focuses on public access computers: Internet, CD-ROM publishing and access, online research, etc. Along with technical issues, PACS Review also deals with managerial and social issues revolving around networked information.

Here's to successful professional reading and surfing. □

— Andre Gionet



APLA '97

May 23 - 25, 1997

Memorial University of Newfoundland
St. John's, Newfoundland

St. John's is the site of the Atlantic Provinces Library Association's 1997 annual conference. The conference theme, *Wired/Connecté* promises to inspire an exciting and informative program. The theme reflects the belief that libraries are in a most advantageous position in today's information society. Libraries, and those who work in them, are "connected" to a strong tradition of free and equitable access to information. They are "grounded" in the concepts of information retrieval and dissemination, and "wired" to the electronic means of acquiring this information.

The proceedings will begin with a pre-conference session presented by Slavko Manojlovich of Memorial University of Newfoundland titled *Internet Access and Resources from a Technical Perspective*. Planning is underway for a variety of interesting and stimulating conference sessions. These include connecting the Internet to your community, cataloguing virtual resources, living with, adjusting to and making adjustments in your workplace to accommodate the new environment and conserving electronic materials. A presentation on copyright and the implications of placing full text on the World Wide Web, and specialists on outsourcing, interlibrary loans and libraries in Third World countries can be expected. These sessions combined with author readings and a host of social functions ensure that the conference will be well worth attending.

The early registration fee for APLA members will be \$100. Late registration for members will cost \$125. The early and late registration fees for non-members will be \$155 and \$180. A link to the APLA 1997 Conference home page will appear on the APLA home page (<http://www.stmarys.ca/administration/library/apla/apla1.html>) in November 1996. □

— Barbara Porrett

APLA '97 Local Arrangements Committee

From St. Jerome's Den



For those of you who missed the notice on the APLA-list, St. Jerome's day was celebrated on September 30 - hope that you all enjoyed it.

Now if you don't think that St. Jerome does enough for the image of a librarian, how about this remark attributed to Bette Midler: "Underneath all this drag I'm really a librarian, you know."

— Noted in Leslie Halliwell's *Filmgoer's and video viewer's companion* (9th ed.)

Seen in the *Globe and Mail's* letters to the editor (September 14, 1996):

"In Eastern European Jewish Folklore, there are many mythical tales about Chelm, the 'town of fools.' In one, the citizens of Chelm discover that a storm has left a wide crater in the middle of their main street, and they fear that passers-by will fall in and break their legs. After much discussion, they decide, not to fill in the hole, but to build a hospital next to it.

I was reminded of this story when I read that, rather than removing the GST from the sale of books, Ottawa is examining approaches that would enrich literary programs."

— Henry Srebnik, Charlottetown

"A great civilization needs many and varied resources. In our time our libraries have two paradoxical, sometimes conflicting roles. Of course we must be repositories of information. But we must also somehow remain a place of refuge from the tidal waves of information - and misinformation. Our libraries must be most conspicuously the treasuries of news that stays news."

— Daniel Boorstin (then Librarian of Congress) at the First White House Conference on Library and Information Services, 1980

Another thought for library instruction librarians:

"While teaching content and skills is crucial, teaching the ability to **acquire** them is even more important in a rapidly changing world."

— *Report of the Auditor General of Canada to the House of Commons*, 1994, v. 2, chap. 5, p. 5-20

"Man builds no structure which outlives a book."

— Anon

(used as the sig of an employee of Memorial University's Department of Computing and Communications) □

NBLTA Plans for 1996-97

The annual meeting of the New Brunswick Library Trustees Association (NBLTA) was held in Bathurst, NB on September 28 with a delightful program on dealing with the media. The English session was led by Tom Crowther, former editor of the Fredericton *Daily Gleaner*, and the French session was led by Leopold Poirier from Nor'east Health Network. The second part of the program was a session on dealing with elected officials. Shirley Dysart, former speaker of the house, led the English session and Micheline Doiron, Director of New Brunswick Society Acadian, led the French session.

The direction that the NBLTA will be taking this year will depend on the report from the Stakeholders Advisory Committee. This committee, set up by the Department of Municipalities, Culture and Housing as part of the provincial government's Quality Service Initiative, spent the summer reviewing the public library system. The report was received too late to be on the agenda for the annual meeting, but has since been received. The Committee has made a few recommendations to the Minister (for an excerpt from the report, see the "NB News from the Provinces," p.7) and these recommendations will have to be carefully monitored. The first recommendation is that additional funding might come from an increase to the tax base for unincorporated areas of the provinces using library services. If this is not acceptable to the powers that be, they see the only alternative will be to close libraries within 20 minutes of each other, stop bookmobiles, or introduce membership fees. We do know that there will be a steady decrease in funding to the library system over the next several years and the system is already hanging by the proverbial thread as far as the collections are concerned.

The libraries in New Brunswick have been asked by NBLTA to take part in a letter writing effort to the ministers of finance across the country to make them aware of our attitude against taxing books and what the harmonization tax will mean to our already inadequate budgets. We have also spent countless hours in speaking one-on-one or in groups with MLAs in order to make them aware of the situation in the library system. Our next step will have to be to go public. Certainly, a few items have been in the news already about the stakeholders presentation. □

— Judy Heron
President, NBLTA



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- 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.
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Canadian Canoe Association
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School of Library and Information Studies

Friday Lecture Series

As part of its continuing education program, SLIS presents a series of lectures. The lectures are held from 11:45 a.m.-1:00 p.m. in the MacMechan Auditorium, Killam Library, Dalhousie (for notice of future lectures, see Coming Events column). These lectures are open to the public at no charge.

The synopses reprinted here originally appeared on the SLIS website (<http://www.mgmt.dal.ca/slis/lecture.html>). Tapes of many of the lectures can be purchased. For details contact Shanna Balogh at SLIS.

September 20, 1996

Tracking Books Across Oceans and Centuries: Book History Research With Special Reference to Database Design Fiona Black (Regina Public Library)

Fiona Black, a recent graduate of Dalhousie's School of Library and Information Studies presented an informative lecture on the doctoral research she is conducting as an external student at the University of Loughborough in England. The primary focus of Black's thesis is the book trade between Britain and British North America (BNA) from 1750-1820; in particular, the Scottish contribution. Black is exploring the formal and informal networks of the book trade in twelve key cities in BNA and Scotland. Her research material includes records of general merchants, merchant ships, publishers and book sellers. Additionally, Black has also examined advertisements for books and library catalogs. Black is using Eighteenth Century Short Title Catalogue (ESTC) and Nineteenth Century Short Title Catalogue (NSTC) to aid the analysis of potential Scottish editions of books advertised in BNA.

Some of the main research questions Black is exploring are:

How long did it take books to be shipped from Britain to BNA after they were published?

What proportion of the books that were shipped to BNA were published in Scotland?

Where and how were the books distributed once they reached BNA?

What was available for sale and loan in BNA from 1750-1820?

What influence did Scottish print culture have upon BNA?

Black found that many of the records of the book trade between Scotland and BNA have not been preserved. Therefore, she spends much time consulting book advertisements and mercantile records to fill in the gaps in her research. Even if records do exist, some are located 6,000 miles away which makes them difficult to access. However, Black indicated that microfilms, interlibrary loan and e-mail enable her to maintain communications with overseas libraries as well as with her advisors.

Black also demonstrated the database she has created on Library Master software for her research. This database is a collection of all the records of all the information she has gathered about the movement of the books from Britain to and within BNA. It is hoped that this database will be available for public access upon completion of the research. Both librarians and book historians alike will be interested in viewing the results of this unique and vital research project.

— Ellen Crumley, 2nd year student, SLIS

September 27, 1996

Periodicals, Propaganda, and the Second World War: A Case Study

Dr. David Finkelstein (Napier University)

The Department of History, the Department of English, and the School of Library and Information Studies were pleased to co-host a lecture by Dr. David Finkelstein of the Department of Print Media, Publishing and Communication, Napier University. Dr. Finkelstein's talk was entitled "Periodicals, Propaganda and the First World War: A Case Study".

To illustrate his argument, Dr. Finkelstein spoke of how the British Government used *Blackwood's Journal* to promote the British war effort at home and abroad. Prior to the war, *Blackwood's* circulation was around 8,000, and its audience was the upper middle class. However, by 1917 the circulation of the journal reached 30,000 and it was able to cross class lines to capture a broader audience. The journal was organized to serve several functions:

1. to entertain the troops and boost morale,
2. to promote the war effort at home and abroad, and
3. to encourage the boys on the front to do their part for the preservation of the British Empire.

— Stephen Green-Dowden, 1st year student, SLIS

October 4, 1996

Changing Patterns in the Information Industry Marjorie M.K. Hlava (President, Access Innovations)

The third lecture of the SLIS Friday Lecture Series was presented by Marjorie M.K. Hlava, president and owner of Access Innovations, a database and information service in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Ms. Hlava has twenty years experience in the information industry, including active participation and leadership in related professional associations. The lecture, originally entitled "Who Owns the Information Industry?" was changed to "Changing Patterns in the Information Industry", reflecting the dramatic shifts that have occurred over the past two years. The talk focused on three themes:

- what is the information industry?
- who are the real information conglomerates?
- trends in the industry.

Ms. Hlava began by providing two definitions of the industry. The first refers to those services that generate, process and distribute data as well as assist in the development of systems and software. The second includes text or content-based digital information related businesses and industries. Overall, information services are growing at an average rate of twelve percent per year and in 1995 generated revenue amounting to \$135.8 billion dollars (US). Ms. Hlava provided an overview of the components of the industry from a business perspective. An example of the tremendous growth experienced in the past twenty years relates to the number of connect hours of on-line databases: connect hours increased from 780,000 in 1978 to 8.5 million in 1994. Extensive information was provided to support the statement that although a considerable number of different information services exist, the vast majority of these are owned by a few companies. Ms. Hlava outlined the major players and indicated that, through recent buying and selling within the industry, two dominant conglomerates have emerged, Reed-Elsevier based in

(Continued on next page)

Atlantic Profile: Johanne Jacob

When Johanne Jacob arrived in Prince Edward Island to take up her position as French Services Librarian for the Provincial Library Service back in 1991, she didn't realize the challenges and satisfactions awaiting her.

Born in Montréal but growing up all over the country as the daughter of an Air Force fireman, Johanne never really had the opportunity to feel part of a fixed and stable community, but, on the other hand, she was able to appreciate the richness and diversity of Canada. Reconciling differences has come to be a big part of her work.

She attended the CEGEP in St.-Jean-sur-le-Richelieu and got her B.A. from the Université de Montréal in History and Archives. Her library degree, *Maîtrise en bibliéconomie et sciences de l'information* is also from the Université de Montréal. While attending library school, Johanne worked part-time on the reference desk at the public library in Boucherville which she enjoyed very much and allowed her to exercise her natural curiosity. "You never know what you're going to find when you start looking for the answer to a question and then you get to see the satisfaction on the library user's face," she says.

Johanne's Boucherville experience leads her to emphasize the wisdom of combining the practical with the theoretical in library training. "Library school doesn't teach you everything. Things like managing staff and dealing with people have to be learned as you go."

Library school didn't teach Johanne specifically how to develop and promote services for a population often overlooked in the provision of library services. When Johanne took up her first full-time position after library school, the position of French Services Librarian had existed for only a year and the previous incumbent had already left so there was little history and guidance for a newcomer. One public library located in a school in Abram's Village had been open for almost fifteen years at that point and a second library in a Charlottetown suburb was about to open, but there was no strong tradition of library services to the francophone community on Prince Edward Island. Francophones make up about 5% of PEI's 130,000-strong popu-

lation (1991 census, Cat. no.94-320).

One of the greatest rewards Johanne has experienced over the last five years is seeing library services growing and becoming accepted in the Acadian community, both by children and adults. When she arrived, annual circulation figures for the single French public library were running at about 800 transactions per year. In Johanne's first year, this increased to about 4,800 per year and, last year, circulation figures for both branches accounted for about 30,000 transactions.

Her greatest challenges have been coping with the tensions of working with school-housed public libraries. Both French public libraries on PEI are housed in schools and they make for an interesting case study as to what works and what doesn't when school and public libraries combine.

The more successful of the two is located in Abram's Village, a small community close to Summerside. The school provides a full-time teacher-librarian and a modest budget for school acquisitions as well as a large airy space and an outside door. The school has also invested in technology - PCS, a CD-ROM reader and an Internet connection - that the public library is able to share. The Provincial Library Service provides Johanne's services, a part-time branch technician and its share of the collection. The results are the best of both worlds - a busy, vibrant public library, well-integrated in both its communities, the school and the public.

The newer library is located in the Carrefour de l'Isle St.-Jean in a suburb of Charlottetown and is a combination school, public library and community centre. Johanne comments on how important perception is to the success of a joint venture such as this. Here, the library sits uneasily between two worlds - the school has no teacher-librarian and provides little funding for new acquisitions. As there is no outside door, the public are more hesitant about entering the library and assume that when the school is closed, the library must be closed. Other issues have been security, which is difficult to maintain with several keys floating around, and the use of the library as an after school babysitter.

Johanne's other big challenge is fund-

ing. French library services are funded by a combination of federal and provincial government money. However, the federal share is dwindling and the province, facing its own budget crunch, is not picking up the slack. As a result, Johanne has had to make some difficult decisions, cutting back on open hours and on technical services.

Still, Johanne takes heart in her accomplishments to date - carving out a niche for French library services on the Island. She also looks ahead to her role as convener of the Francophone Interest Group in APLA, a group of librarians from disparate types of libraries with different sets of challenges whose only common denominator is language. The ability to see beyond the differences and focus on the commonalities serves her well in her day-to-day job and could well be her great strength in the future. □

— *Moirra Davidson, Systems Librarian,
PEI Provincial Library Service*

School of Library and Information Studies.... *continued from page 17*

the U.K. and Thomson, Inc. of Canada. The third theme of the talk addressed trends and problems in the industry. Notable among these are the lack of national information policies, the debate over free or fee-based information access, the growth of and demand for information and ongoing technical developments. Perhaps the most important trend to consider is the rapid shift in ownership of information from public to private control - commercial ownership of information databases has grown from twenty-two percent in 1979 to seventy-seven percent by 1995.

In conclusion, Ms. Hlava presented a picture of the information industry as a dynamic world of international acquisitions and mergers with its growth potential attracting the likes of Sony and Thomson. It is embroiled in issues ranging from government policy-making to intellectual property rights and global investment. Ms. Hlava provided a recommendation for those graduating from information studies programmes to give consideration to the information industry as a viable career alternative to the traditional library sector. ▽

— *Peggy Chapman, 1st year student, SLIS*

Getting the Word Out to Blind and Visually Impaired Students

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. "Getting the Word Out to Blind and Visually Impaired Students," is the third 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.

Three academic librarians, in areas as diverse as Lac La Biche, Alberta; Montreal, Quebec; and Ottawa, Ontario, agree that all it takes is a little bit of creativity and a lot of persistence to make a college or university library more accessible.

The three libraries received grants from the National Library of Canada's Adaptive Technology for Libraries Program, a four-year program that was part of the federal government's National Strategy for the Integration of Persons with Disabilities. The program provided successful applicants with financial assistance to help them buy equipment that would convert conventional print or electronic material to large print, Braille, or audio format, or that would increase access to conventional print materials. All Canadian public, provincial, academic, and special libraries were eligible to receive funding. Successful libraries had to provide half of the funds required for the equipment.

In Lac La Biche, Alberta, Connie Hall, Librarian at the Alberta Vocational College, states emphatically that "being positive works!" The community of Lac La Biche was established in the heyday of the fur trade along an original route of the Hudson's Bay Company. It includes substantial Métis and French-speaking populations. Responsiveness to the wider community that the college library serves - about 10,000 people in the region - is evident in its approach to introducing and using adaptive technologies.

"Our numbers aren't as great, but the need is still there," Hall emphasizes. The librarian had consulted with colleagues in colleges that serve communities of similar size, and with disabled clients in the college and the community, and had

consulted studies on applying adaptive technologies, before deciding on an audio system and a magnifier.

"It is state-of-the-art equipment," Hall says. For a total cost of \$13,000, the library was able to buy two systems. The first is a scanner connected to a magnifier and CD-ROM system. This gives students access to all information stored on CD-ROM or scanned from books, journals, or other texts. It also enables students to store material scanned from books and other texts onto diskettes. The second system includes a voice synthesizer, so any information stored on diskettes can be read back to the student. Together, the two systems can potentially enable students to access the entire college library collection.

The initiative has been so successful that the library is considering opening up access to community members. "Word is getting out," Hall explains, among family and friends of full-time students and participants in adult education programs. "We are looking at what groups would use our facilities if we had no restrictions on access." She has simple, straightforward advice for librarians thinking of making a move toward adaptive technologies: "Get started. If you don't start, nothing happens."

Barbara Finlay, of the McGill University Library, would agree. She has found that it takes time to effect change in a long-established institution, but that every step helps. "Be persistent," she says. "Things happen slowly and steadily." Indeed, while McGill was able to buy a panoply of equipment with its National Library grant - a computer with a large-screen monitor, a magnifying system, scanners, software, a voice synthesizer and a Braille terminal - it still takes time to make accessibility a given in a university with numerous libraries.

Although McGill has consolidated some of its libraries, multiple locations mean that no solution is easy: even if the library is able to put some of the university databases on line, for example, others operate on different local-area-networks (LANs) and users need different hardware or software to access them. And the new equipment is of interest to more than disabled students. The scanners are so popular that Finlay worries that they will be overused.

Still, progress has come through establishing a committee to deal with access issues and appointing a full-time coordinator in the Library's Office for Students with Disabilities. And students are also getting into the act. Engineering students are working to make some of the technologies easier to use, to open up access to on-line databases, and eventually they hope to make the Internet accessible to their blind and visually impaired peers. As Ms. Finlay says, "Get help wherever you can."

At Carleton University in Ottawa, help seems to be everywhere. The university and the Maxwell MacOdrum Library are relatively new, which means they are better designed for accessibility than most older buildings. But accessibility is about more than an absence of physical barriers, of course. Heather Cross, the Coordinator of Library Services for Students with Disabilities, says that the university "has made a commitment to provide *all* students with the same level of service."

Part of the commitment is expressed through Carleton's Paul Menton Centre for Persons with Disabilities. The centre works to accommodate the needs of all students with disabilities who register there. The library works closely with the centre to identify needs and keep the library's services up to date.

In the library, the Joy Maclaren Adaptive Technology Centre provides a work room equipped with adaptive technologies, for students registered with the Paul Menton Centre. The centre is staffed with one full-time employee and a number of part-time student employees, some of whom have a disability.

As a measure of Carleton's success, students are using the services in great numbers. In each month from November 1995 to March 1996, for example, students used the new workstations an average of 150 times. Each use lasted, on average, about 3.5 hours.

While the enthusiasm is wonderful, Heather Cross insists that it is only normal: "Accessibility is just business as usual at Carleton," she says.

When the word gets out, accessibility may be business as usual in academic libraries everywhere. □

— Joanne Godin

For the National Library of Canada

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