

## Libraries Hollywood Style

A series of three films in which libraries or books are featured was presented in January 1996 to celebrate Dalhousie University Libraries on the occasion of the 25th year of the opening of the Killam Memorial Library. The film series, one of several commemorative events being held from October 1995 to March 1996, was also intended to pay tribute to libraries generally. The three films shown were *The Name of the Rose* (1986), *Desk Set* (1957), and *Fahrenheit 451* (1966) which depict, in order, a library of the distant past, a library of the near present, and a future without books or libraries. What follows are some rambling thoughts provoked by the films on the history of libraries, on censorship, and on some of the effects of technology.

The printed word and books, its main vehicle for centuries, symbolize human freedom and the development of civilization in the highest sense. Libraries represent these values as well. Librarians have a long and cherished tradition of combatting censorship and the repression of ideas. In fact, this link is embedded in our language. The Latin word for book is "liber". "Liber" originally referred to the inner bark or rind of a tree on which the ancients wrote; the word is derived from the Greek verb meaning "to peel". "Liber" also means: free, unshackled, unrestricted, unfettered, open and independent. It is no accident then, that "liber" is the root of both "library" and such words as "liberal" and "liberty".

The setting for *The Name of the Rose* is a Benedictine monastery somewhere in northern Italy in the year 1327. A Sherlock Holmesian detective-monk is called upon to solve murders which turn out to be connected directly with a certain rare manuscript held in a secret room

of the monastery library. The book contains ideas and knowledge considered subversive and heretical by one of the most powerful institutions of the day, the Catholic Church. This was also the period of the dreaded Inquisitions. Books as well as people were burned to achieve the same end — the repression of ideas that might undermine the established order.

It is appropriate that Umberto Eco chose a Benedictine abbey as the setting for his story. Some of the best libraries of the Middle Ages were developed in Benedictine monasteries due to the Benedictine Rule, which called for a balance of prayer, work and study. Although universities began in the 13th century, university libraries were developed only in the later Middle Ages. Instructional methods in the early universities did not rely on a collection of books.

Not only did the Benedictines collect books for study, they also created them in scriptoria. It might take a single monk a year or more to make one copy of the Bible. Benedictine monks still observe the rule of St. Benedict today; however, instead of copying manuscripts by hand, the monks at the Monastery of Christ in the Desert in New Mexico have created an illuminated home page on the Internet. For those of you who wish to drop by, the address is: <http://www.christdesert.org/pax.html>. Brother URL will be your guide.

In *Desk Set*, we

leap forward several centuries to a reference library in a network broadcasting corporation. Spencer Tracy plays a "methods engineer" hired to computerize the company's operations, including the library, which is headed by Katherine Hepburn. In this film we see some of the stereotypes that still stalk the profession of librarianship. All the staff in the library are, of course, women, and all of those at the top of, or climbing, the corporate ladder are men. Ironically, for centuries it was men who worked in libraries. They were usually scholars in some particular field (other than librarianship), or linguists, or merely keepers of the books without much training or specialization in anything. It was only in the late 19th century when librarianship became a distinct profession that it became highly feminized. Melvyl Dewey's first class at the School of Library Economy was made up of 17 women and 3 men.

Despite the tremendous advances in computer technology since the 1950's, *Desk Set* is still very relevant. The seeds of what we are currently witnessing were

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## From the President's Desk

It hardly seems possible, but we are coming to the end of another APLA year. This means that shortly the Treasurer and the rest of the Finance Committee will be working on the budget for the 1996/97 financial year. I would like to remind the conveners and members of our various committees and interest groups that they should submit applications to the Treasurer if they would like to receive funding for any special projects that they have in mind. Any funding beyond a standard \$25.00 for postage and other administrative costs requires that an application be made before the budget is prepared. Please forward requests to the Treasurer as soon as possible.

I am a bit concerned at the news that many of APLA's committees and interest groups have not been very active this year. While I realize that there have been problems for some conveners in obtaining lists of the members who share their interests, I believe that these have been solved now. I assume that the inactivity is not because conveners do not have committee or interest group members, but because everyone is so swamped with the day-to-day workload that there seems little time for association activities. I am sympathetic to this - being in the same situation myself - but I would hate to see more committees or interest groups become dormant and possibly be disbanded for lack of activity. Already this year the Executive has disbanded the Community and Technical Colleges Interest Group, which had been inactive for some time. Please participate in the committees or interest groups that attract you - your membership form provides an easy checklist for you to register your interests.

Recently I received a copy of a brochure prepared by the Library Association of Alberta, outlining the differences in qualifications and capabilities of different library personnel, including librarians, library technicians, teacher-librarians, and library assistants. It is

(Continued on page 4)

## APLA Executive 1995-96

### Past President

Charles Cameron  
 (NF) Provincial Resource Library  
 Phone: (709) 737-3946/3954;  
 Envoy: ILL.NFSG;  
 Fax: (709) 737-2660;  
 Internet: cameron@morgan.ucs.mun.ca

### President

Susan Libby  
 Moncton Hospital  
 Work: (506) 857-5447;  
 Envoy: NBMMH;  
 Fax: (506) 857-5545;  
 Internet: mctnhosp@nbnet.nb.ca

### Vice President, President Elect

Sara Lochhead  
 Mount Allison University  
 Work: (506) 364-2567;  
 Envoy: ILL.NBSAM;  
 Fax: (506) 364-2617;  
 Internet: slochhead@mta.ca

### Treasurer

Caren Mofford  
 Izaak Walton Killam Children's Hospital  
 Work: (902) 428-8982;  
 Fax: (902) 428-8826;  
 Internet: cmofford@iwkhosp.ns.ca

### Secretary

Ruth Mitchell  
 Albert-Westmorland-Kent  
 Regional Library  
 Work: (506) 857-1932;  
 Fax: (506) 857-1922  
 Internet: libar@gov.nb.ca

### Vice President (New Brunswick)

Marilynn Rudi  
 Biological Station Library  
 Work: (506) 529-8854 ext 235;  
 Fax: (506) 529-5862;  
 Envoy: ILL.NBAB;  
 Internet: marilynn.rudi@scotia.dfo.ca

### Vice President (Newfoundland)

Karen Lippold  
 Memorial University of Newfoundland  
 Work: (709) 737-7427;  
 Envoy: QEIL.LIB;  
 Fax: (709) 737-2153; Internet:  
 klippold@morgan.ucs.mun.ca

### Vice President (Nova Scotia)

Mark Leggott  
 St. Francis Xavier University  
 Work: (902) 867-2334;  
 Envoy: ILL.NSAS;  
 Fax: (902) 867-5153;  
 Internet: mleggott@sandnc.stfx.ca

### Vice President (Prince Edward Island)

Norine Hanus  
 Work: (902) 368-4086;  
 Fax: (902) 368-4086;  
 Internet: nhanus@bud.peinet.pe.ca

### Vice President (Membership)

Kelly Campbell  
 Dept. of Community Services (NS)  
 Work: (902) 424-4454;  
 Fax: (902) 424-0502  
 Internet: ah066@ccn.cs.dal.ca

Changes have been noted in **bold**. For complete mailing addresses, see v. 59, no. 3 (November/December) and subsequent issues for changes.

### Conveners, 1995/96

APLA Memorial Awards Committee

**Betty Jeffery**

**Vaughan Memorial Library**

**Acadia University**

**Wolfville, NS B0P 1X0**

**Work: (902) 542-2201**

**Fax: (902) 542-2128**

**Internet: bjeffery@admin.acadiau.ca**

See v. 59, no. 1 (July/August) for the directory of interest group and committee conveners and representatives and subsequent issues for changes. □

## Libraries Hollywood Style... (cont'd from cover)

of Library Economy was made up of 17 women and 3 men.

Despite the tremendous advances in computer technology since the 1950's, *Desk Set* is still very relevant. The seeds of what we are currently witnessing were being sown then, and even earlier. Prior to World War II a new discipline, "operations research" (O.R.), was being formed in Great Britain. It involved the application of scientific method and technology to the management of organized systems. Today we refer to this as "systems analysis". An early application of O.R. methods was in utilizing radar to locate enemy aircraft during the War. The United States, however, became the first country to employ O.R. methods in corporations and governments in peacetime. The methods engineer in *Desk Set* comes out of this tradition.

The "virtual library", as we see in *Desk Set*, has been a gleam in the eye of many for longer than we may have thought. The idea is a seductive one: to store all information and knowledge in electronic memory for easy retrieval. Of course, this has always been the central function of libraries — an institution which pre-dates even the codex form of the book. On one level, the development of the printed word as an adjunct to human memory is on the same continuum

as the development of the computer and electronic forms of memory. The question *Desk Set* makes us ask is whether the new technologies will eventually eliminate the need for libraries, or whether libraries will metamorphose into a different form.

*Fahrenheit 451* offers us a bleak answer to this question in its view of the future. This film, Francois Truffaut's first English language production, depicts a technologically advanced totalitarian society (although not so advanced from our current perspective since much of the technology shown is now here), in which all printed matter is forbidden. Technology is presented as an instrument of control by the state, the new opiate of the masses. Books, on the other hand, which contain knowledge, ideas, and human cultural memory are seen to undermine state authority by encouraging individualism and engendering discontent.

The title *Fahrenheit 451* refers to the temperature at which book paper catches fire and burns. Fire is used as a central symbol of control in this film. There is nothing new in this idea, of course; history is full of examples of book-burning as a means of control. Two stories from the distant past illustrate this.

The final destruction of the great Li-

brary of Alexandria occurred in 642 A.D. during the Arab conquest of Egypt. The story, possible apocryphal, is told that Caliph Omar ordered one of his generals to burn the contents of the library because "if the books agree with the Koran, they are unnecessary, and if they do not contain what the Koran says, they ought to be destroyed".

Another story concerns Seleucus, a general in Alexander's army. In the power struggle which ensued on Alexander's death, Seleucus carved out a kingdom in the area roughly where Syria exists today. Tradition has it that Seleucus, when he became king, had all the books in his kingdom burned because he wanted the calculation of time to begin with himself.

While the future of libraries appears uncertain on the threshold of the current technological revolution, each of these films, in its own way, shows that libraries are more than simply repositories of knowledge. Libraries have also facilitated the transmission of knowledge and ideas; they have played a major role in protecting our cultural memory, and in promoting tolerance and freedom of thought. The preservation of the institution of the library which continues to perform its traditional roles may be one of society's best assurances against a future like the one predicted in *Fahrenheit 451*.

—Tim Ruggles

W. K. Kellogg Health Sciences Library

Note: The three films discussed in this article are all available on video. □

### Publication Information

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The editors can be reached at the following Internet address:

Editor: Suzanne Sexty	ssexty@morgan.ucs.mun.ca
Assistant Editor: Joy Tillotson	joyt@morgan.ucs.mun.ca
Advertising Editor: Bernadine Conran	bconran@morgan.ucs.mun.ca

All editors can be reached at the following addresses:

Information Service	Fax: 709-737-2153
Queen Elizabeth II Library	Voice: 709-737-7427
Memorial University of Newfoundland	Envoy: qeii.lib
St. John's, NF A1B 3Y1	



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

### Conveners Needed

Convenors are needed for the:

Public Relations Committee  
Library Technicians Interest Group  
Trustees Interest Group

For more information,  
or to volunteer, contact:

Sara Lochhead  
Vice President (President Elect)  
Phone: (506) 364-2567  
E-mail: slochhead@mta.ca



## President's Message... (cont'd from page 2)

similar to a brochure published by CASLIS a few years ago, which I believe is still available from the CASLIS offices. These brochures can be very useful in educating the general public about the specialized functions of library staff. The new brochure is available from the Library Association of Alberta, 80 Baker Crescent NW, Calgary AB T2L 1R4.

I am very pleased to be able to report to the membership that APLA has received a most generous bequest from the late Frank George Somers, husband of Carin Somers. Carin was the Nova Scotia Provincial Librarian and a Past President of APLA, who died some time ago after being very active in the Atlantic library scene for many years. Mr. Somers has left the Association a trust fund, the interest from which is to be used for financial assistance to a student in a

Masters of Library Science program. The Treasurer has been advised that the final amount of the trust fund will be larger than anticipated, and initial arrangements for the Carin Alma E. Somers Scholarship Trust have already been made. An APLA Executive Committee is being set up to administer the scholarship, and the Treasurer is investigating the implications of the new trust fund for APLA's legal and financial status. This scholarship will be a splendid memorial to Carin. It gives me a great deal of personal pleasure to make this announcement, since I worked under Carin when I first came into libraries many years ago, and she was always very supportive and encouraging to me.

For those of you who have been hesitating over paying your 1995/96 membership fees, let me remind you that you must have paid your membership

before the end of March to receive the membership rates for our conference in that year. This year there is an ever bigger bonus for being an APLA member - you can attend the APLA/CLA joint conference in Halifax in June for the greatly reduced member's registration fee. I urge you to send in your 1995/96 membership cheque without delay. Don't miss this opportunity to support our association and get an opportunity to attend CLA at a bargain price.

I hear from the CLA offices in Ottawa that the program and registration information for the June conference is nearly ready for mailing. APLA is providing a set of mailing labels to CLA to ensure that all our members are informed about the excellent program that the CLA Conference Planning Committee has put together. See you in June! □

— Susan Libby



### Memorial Awards

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:

Betty Jeffery  
APLA Memorial Awards Committee  
Vaughan Memorial Library  
Acadia University  
Wolfville, NS B0P 1X0

Phone (902) 542-2201  
Fax (902) 542-2128  
Internet [bjeffery@admin.acadiau.ca](mailto:bjeffery@admin.acadiau.ca)

Deadline for applications is  
**March 31, 1996.**



### 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 [mailserv@ac.dal.ca](mailto:mailserv@ac.dal.ca)

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# NEWS FROM THE PROVINCES



## PUBLIC

At its regular meeting on February 1, 1996, the **Albert-Westmorland-Kent (AWK) Regional Library Board** re-elected the following Executive: Lynne Owen, Chairperson; Roseline Maillet, Vice-Chairperson; Gregory Boyd, Treasurer.

An act of vandalism at the Provincial Building in Richibouctou resulted in some damage to AWK Subheadquarters. Shelving in the storage area was knocked down. Fortunately, the structure of the shelving was not damaged and only a few shelves were bent. Over 10,000 books had to be reshelved by our Subheadquarters staff who deserve many thanks for having dealt with the reshelving in an expeditious manner.

The **AWK Regional Library** now has two Internet connections — one of which is primarily for accessing the Université de Moncton catalogue for interlibrary loan purposes. The e-mail address for the Regional Library is [libar@gov.nb.ca](mailto:libar@gov.nb.ca).

**Roslyn Ancil** has resigned her position as chairperson of the Port Elgin Public Library Board after more than sixteen years of service. "Having worked tirelessly for sixteen years to promote library service in this area...Roslyn has certainly earned the right to retire," said library assistant Betty Davis.

The services of the **Moncton Public Library** are now described on the official Greater Moncton on-line web page.

Library users at the West Branch of the **Saint John Regional Library** extended their Christmas generosity to those less fortunate for the 10th consecu-

tive year. They knit mittens, headbands, slippers and sweaters (one hundred and sixty-three items in all) for Hestia House, a home for battered women and their children.

The **St. Croix Public Library** earned a full-page plaudit complete with many photographs and the headline "St. Croix Library Exhibit is Downright Angelic". This exhibit included angels big and small, simple and ornate as they adorned the Galley walls and tables. A request was made via the Internet for angel stories, with the favourite reply coming from Texas:

When you are born, you know all the secrets of heaven and earth. But as you are descending from Heaven to earth an angel puts her finger on your lips and whispers in a soft and pure voice, "Don't tell anyone;" that is why people have that dip in the middle of their upper lip.

On December 21, the **Saint John Free Public Library** unveiled a commissioned sculpture by Peter Powning, thanks to a generous donation from the MacMurray Foundation. The sculpture is entitled "Punctuated Blue" and is situated at the top landing of the library staircase. It is made with slumped glass panels and hand modelled clay and steel. Designed with the library in mind, the piece encompasses a set of symbols relating to language, architecture and the language of form. In the words of the artist, the connection to the library as a structure is that it "houses volumes of symbols: books".

The **Kennebecasis Public Library** held an open house in recognition of its major expansion on Monday, January 20. Board members, staff and trustees from throughout the region were in attendance to witness the ribbon cutting by the mayors or their representatives from the six communities who funded the expansion. Jocelyne LeBel, Director of the New Brunswick Library Service, brought congratulations and announced the gift of three CD encyclopedias: *Microsoft Encarta*, *Grolier* and the *Canadian Encyclopedia Plus*.

On exhibit for the opening were ten panels mounted to honour the winners of the 1995 New Brunswick Excellence Awards. The award winners are: Fred Cogswell, for excellence in the English language; Reverend Anselme Chiasson for excellence in the French language; Nel Oudermans for excellence in Craft and Viola Leger for excellence in Theatre. The panels are on loan from the Culture Division of the Department of Municipalities, Culture and Housing.

The minister responsible for libraries, the Honourable **Ann Breault**, attended the January meeting of the Regional Library Board and also took time to tour the Saint John Free Public Library and Regional Headquarters. All trustees were very appreciative of the minister's request for an open and free discussion on matters of major concern with respect to budget, technology, staff and training.

Staff from the **Kennebecasis Public Library** descended on the staff room of the Central Library to prepare a pancake breakfast between the hours of 8:00-10:00 a.m. Their culinary artistry was much enjoyed by staff from the Central West and East Branch Libraries, Regional Headquarters, Bibliothèque Le Cormoran and their guests — another successful fund-raising event for their Employee Development Day to be held in September.

The **Chatham Public Library** has been closed since October 18, because a confidential report declared that the six year old building was unsafe. A temporary library, offering about 10 per cent of the collection, has been set up on the second floor of Chatham's former town hall.

En 1996, la **Bibliothèque régionale du Haut-Saint-Jean** fêtera son 25e anniversaire de fondation. Un comité a été mis sur pied afin de planifier des activités qui souligneront cet anniversaire.

La **Bibliothèque de Saint-François**, grâce à un projet fédéral C-25, a procédé à des travaux afin de remplacer le comptoir de prêt et de construire trois

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postes de travail avec ordinateurs. La **Bibliothèque de Grand-Sault** a construit un nouveau comptoir de prêt, spacieux et fonctionnel. Pour sa part, la **Bibliothèque de Saint-Léonard** a rénové l'actuel comptoir de prêt pour le rendre fonctionnel. Tous ces changements sont une conséquence de la venue du nouveau catalogue provincial sur CD-ROM.

La **Bibliothèque d'Edmundston** est maintenant reliée directement avec le catalogue provincial des bibliothèques publiques du N.-B. à Fredericton. Cinq postes d'ordinateurs donnent accès aux usagers et au personnel de la bibliothèque principale du réseau du nord-ouest de la province.

## ASSOCIATIONS

The **New Brunswick Library Trustees Association (NBLTA)** is planning for its reception with the MLAs in Fredericton shortly. Provincial automation of the library system is high on the agenda. The trustees feel very strongly that the 61 public libraries should be community access points for New Brunswick's information highway. This would certainly help in preventing technology from making another form of "illiteracy" rampant in our province. It is hoped that the executive will have the opportunity to meet with the new minister to express their concerns.

Applications for the **NBLTA Merit Award** should be submitted to the President by June 30 this year. For further information contact Judy Heron; email heron@mis.nb.ca.

## LIBRARY EDUCATION PROGRAMS

The **Library Assistant Program (LAP)** is marking its tenth anniversary this year. The Level 1 Course, traditionally offered every second year, began once again in September. People familiar with the LAP know that Level 1 is teleconferenced from Fredericton to other sites in New Brunswick. In 1995/96 there are 28 students at the Fredericton site, 12 in Saint John and

eight in Moncton. The students spent first term discussing the various aspects of technical services, and since January have turned their attention to public services. Libraries throughout New Brunswick are benefiting from the participation of their staff in the LAP.

On May 18 the LAP is holding a one day conference in Fredericton to mark the tenth anniversary of the Program. Past participants, instructors, and friends of the LAP are encouraged to attend, in addition to any interested members of the library community. The conference is called "FastForward: Coping with Technological Change" and will feature talks by Harry Holman, Director of Archives and Libraries for Prince Edward Island, Mark Leggott of St. Francis Xavier University, and a panel of library assistants discussing the changes brought to their work by the new technology. Join in the celebration!

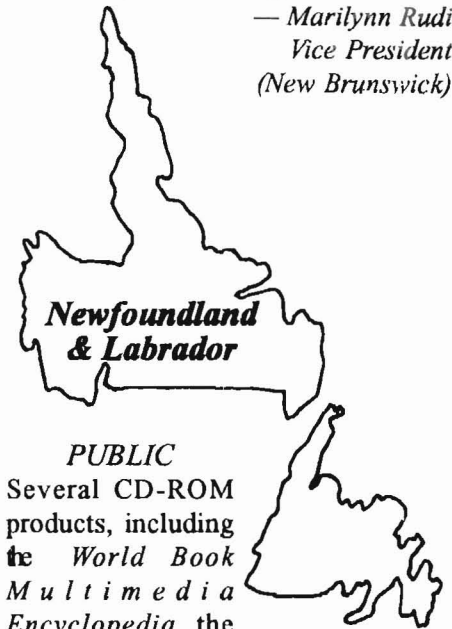
## OTHER

The ongoing work of the **Provincial Archives** of appraising and preserving government and private sector records has readied many collections for use by researchers. As well as the familiar correspondence and reports these include formats relatively new to the Archives such as film, video and broadcast materials, as well as records generated in the administration of social programs that have a particular value for demographic studies. The use of computers has facilitated the production of detailed finding aids including large data bases of information on individuals. The Archives' aggressive microfilming initiatives mean that many of these sources are available for consultation beyond the walls of the Archives, and emerging technologies hold out the promise of even easier access.

The staff of the Provincial Archives wish to ensure that the academic community is aware of the research potential of these records and of their accessibility through new finding aids. Equally, it is felt that there have been changes in academic situations of which archivists

are unaware. With this in mind the Provincial Archives will host a meeting of archivists and academics who have an interest in New Brunswick primary research materials at the Provincial Archives on Saturday, March 30, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Contact Lynn Hale Sears (506) 453-3811. □

— *Marilynn Rudi*  
Vice President  
(New Brunswick)



## PUBLIC

Several CD-ROM products, including *the World Book Multimedia Encyclopedia*, the *Globe and Mail* on CD-ROM, the *Canadian Encyclopedia Plus* and *Magazine Article Summaries Full Text*, are now available to the public at the **A. C. Hunter Library** in St. John's. The March release of the *Globe and Mail* on CD-ROM will include full text and indexing to a number of other newspapers, including the St. John's *Evening Telegram*. The CD-ROMs are mounted on a network and accessible through the Library's 8 public access micro-computers. Additional CD-ROMs will be installed in the next few weeks. Internet access using Netscape is being provided on the same machines.

The **Goulds Branch** of the St. John's Public Libraries was connected to the Library's Dynix system in January. The Branch was the only one of the five libraries in St. John's not using the Dynix circulation module.

**Joan Wheeler** resigned from the Public Library System in January, due to ill health. Joan worked for 20 years as

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## NEWS FROM THE PROVINCES

a librarian in the St. John's Public Libraries, the Gander Region and the former Community Library Services Department.

Every Saturday morning from February 10 through March 2, the **A. C. Hunter Children's Library** is hosting Science in the Library. The program, which is an offshoot of Innovators in the Schools, brings children into contact with practising engineers and scientists. It is sponsored by Industry Canada, the Association of Professional Engineers & Geoscientists of Newfoundland and Sir Wilfred Grenfell College.

The Writers' Alliance of Newfoundland and Labrador and the **Provincial Information and Library Resources Board** were the recipients of a "Year of the Arts" grant from the Newfoundland and Labrador Arts Council. The grant will be used to run Writers in the Library workshops for young adults which will be held in 7 public libraries during 1997. Funding for the "Year of the Arts," a year long celebration of the 500th anniversary of John Cabot's discovery of Newfoundland, was provided by Canadian Heritage Minister Sheila Copps.

The **Public Library** system has a homepage on the World Wide Web. The address is:

<http://www.stemnet.nf.ca/Community/PublicLibrary/>

From this homepage you can connect to six public libraries in the province.

The **Provincial Information and Libraries Resource Board**, in partner-

ship with other community groups, has been awarded 13 grants under the federal government's Community Access Program.

All administrative functions within the **Public Library** system are now computerized.

The adult book and periodicals, furniture and shelving from the closed **Argentia Naval Base** library have been given to the new **Placentia Public Library**. The children's collection was distributed earlier to school libraries in the area.

The **Lewisporte Public Library** staff are enjoying their spacious new wheelchair accessible quarters in Lewisporte's new town council building. They are looking forward to their involvement in the Community Access Project.

### ACADEMIC

On February 6, the librarians and faculty of **Memorial University of Newfoundland** reached a tentative agreement with the administration. The agreement was reached less than twenty-four hours before a strike deadline set by the faculty association.

The **Memorial University of Newfoundland** library system went live with its new Sirsi OPAC (Unicorn) on January 11, 1996.

**Alberta Auringer Wood** Has been appointed head of the Data, Media, and Maps Division. The new division was formed by a merger of Maps, which Al-

berta was in charge of, with the Library Audio-visual Resource Centre. The division will also be responsible for electronic data.

The libraries in the **Memorial University of Newfoundland** library system have submitted money saving suggestions to the Task Group on University Priorities and Resources. The Task Group is examining ways to save money in the coming fiscal year and in the long term.

### SPECIAL

The **Energy Resources Library** of the Newfoundland Department of Mines and Energy was closed during the large cutbacks by the Provincial Government in December. Librarian **Mary Varghese** has lost her position. □

— *Karen Lippold*

*Vice President (Newfoundland)*



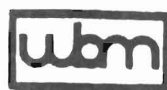
### ACADEMIC

The **Killam Library** will be wrapping up 25th anniversary celebrations this spring with a gathering of former and current library staff. Have you ever worked at the Killam Library? Call, write, or e-mail them with your reminiscences, or simply let them know that you were there and receive details about the staff party that will be held in mid-March. Contact: Library Administration, Killam Memorial Library, Dalhousie University, Halifax, N.S. B3H 4H8; Phone (902) 494-3601; E-mail [Minard@ac.dal.ca](mailto:Minard@ac.dal.ca)

### PUBLIC

Effective April 1, 1996, the Halifax County and Dartmouth Regional Libraries will be amalgamated into one system

*(Continued on next page)*



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## News From The Provinces

that will include bookmobile service, books-by-mail service and 13 branches serving a population of about 340,000. The new library system will be the responsibility of a new amalgamated library board to be appointed when the Halifax Regional Municipality officially takes office. The new Director of the combined system will be appointed by the amalgamated library board.

The new organization has been approved by the Joint Amalgamation Committee (JAC), made up of representatives from the three existing library boards. The chair of the committee is **John Kitz** who is the present chair of the Halifax City Regional Library (HCiRL) Board. The JAC has hired former HCiRL Chief Librarian **Diane Macquarrie** and former HCiRL Deputy Chief Librarian **Pauline Hildesheim** as Acting Director and Acting Deputy Director to the committee.

Staff members of the three library systems have formed a series of task forces to examine various levels of library service. These task forces are coordinated by the Library Amalgamation Steering Committee, made up of the three present CEOs - Mary Gilliss, Halifax County Regional Library; Aileen Lewis, Dartmouth Regional Library; and Susan McLean, Halifax City Regional Library.

### SPECIAL

The Nova Scotia Legislative Library is pleased to announce that the Nova Scotia Legislature's web site now includes a directory of the House of Assembly. The directory has listings and contact information for MLA's, House of Assembly staff and the Cabinet.

### OTHER

The new Internet address for the **Library Technician Program, Halifax Campus** is: ltech@fox.nstn.ns.ca

Winter blues got you down? Well, you could always do what **Chris Bull** did! Chris has resigned his position as Librarian at the Kingstec Campus of the Nova Scotia Community College to take up a position as Systems Librarian at the College of Micronesia, Pohnpei, Federated States of Micronesia. He promises to keep Atlantic librarians posted as to what life is like in the tropics. Say Chris - need a helper down there? I can edit a mean CONFIG.SYS, and I keep my room clean! ☐

— Mark Leggott  
Vice President (Nova Scotia)

(Continued on next page)

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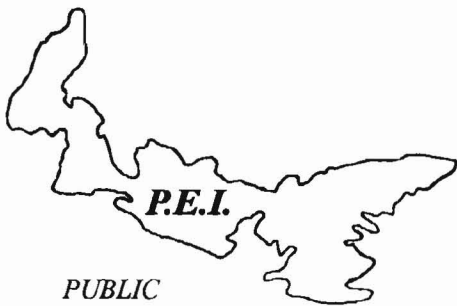
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# NEWS FROM THE PROVINCES



## PUBLIC

Eleven Community Access Projects on have received funding and are in the process of being established. **Breadalbane Public Library** will house one of these sites while a number of other public libraries are working in cooperation with local communities to develop access sites.

The **Kensington Public Library** is in a new location. A supportive and enthusiastic local library committee is responsible for the library's move into the enlarged quarters located in the former railway station. The building also houses offices for local historical societies.

**Harry Holman**, Director of Provincial Libraries is pleased to announce that four communities have signed agreements with the provincial government formalizing the responsibilities of the community and the Provincial Library in providing library service to the people in the community. Mr. Holman says that negotiations are currently being completed with other communities across the province.

**Sharon Clark** is working on a term project at the Provincial Archives. She will complete her work in April. **Andre Gionet**, acting French services librarian, has accepted a position with Esso Imperial in Calgary, beginning in June.

A committee consisting of representatives of the public library system, the Department of Education, the Teacher's Federation and teacher-librarians has been established to develop a protocol for the establishment of school-housed public libraries. The committee is to report back to the Department of Education by the end of April.

## SCHOOL

**Helen McQuaid** has been appointed Department Head for school libraries in

the P.E.I. Western School District. Ms. McQuaid is the teacher-librarian at Parkside Elementary School in Summerside. She joins **Richard Baker**, Department Head in the Eastern District, in providing professional development opportunities and communication with the Department of Education and the Provincial Library.

The **P.E.I. Teacher-Librarians Association** is again calling for nominations for its Distinguished Administrator Award. This award is presented annually to a school principal or other administrator who has contributed substantially to the development of school libraries over the years. **Frank Creighton**, former principal of Montague Consolidated School, was the 1995 recipient. Other award winners have included **Don Scott**, **Sandra Richardson**, **Eldon Rogerson**, and **Judy Davies**.

## ACADEMIC

**Andrea Stewart** has been hired by Holland College as Librarian at their Royalty Centre. Ms. Stewart began her work February 1.

## ASSOCIATION

The **Provincial Library Council** met

with **Anna Sawicki**, Coordinator of Distance Education Initiatives for the Office of Higher Learning, on January 5. Ms. Sawicki provided some background information on her work. Part of her mandate is to coordinate post-secondary education and to bring people together to form a consortium. At this meeting, she received information on work being done by libraries in this area and concerns held by librarians regarding the provision of resources for the growing field of distance education. As a result of the meeting, **Brenda Brady** has been appointed to represent libraries on the Distance Education Steering Committee.

The Continuing Education Committee of the **P.E.I. Professional Librarians' Association** is presenting a series of workshops exploring the practical uses of the Internet in libraries. They will run for four consecutive Saturdays from April 13 to May 4. Sessions include: Introduction to the Internet; Reference Sources on the Net; Collection Development and the Net; and Cataloguing on the Net. These hands-on workshops are open to anyone working or volunteering in a library on the Island. □

— *Norine Hanus*

*Vice President (Prince Edward Island)*

## 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 May 10, 1996.

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

## What Do We Do About the Internet?

On February 8, to widespread publicity both on and off the net, President Bill Clinton signed into law the "Telecommunications Act of 1996". Section 502 of the Act creates criminal penalties for using a computer service to display material "patently offensive as measured by contemporary community standards", which might be available to persons under 18 years of age (note that minors don't have to actually have accessed these materials, the potential alone is sufficient; and that the standard is not "obscenity" but a vaguely defined "indecenty"). In response, many Web providers turned the backgrounds to their pages black, to symbolize mourning for lost freedoms. The fear is that, in the U.S., the public Internet will be reduced to the level of a children's library.

Two weeks previously, the ALA Council adopted "Access to Electronic Information, Services, and Networks: an Interpretation of the Library Bill of Rights" (see p. 11). The sections on Information Resources and Access strongly affirm the rights (and responsibilities) of users. The relevant paragraphs are worth quoting:

Providing connections to global information, services, and networks is not the same as selecting and purchasing material for a library collection. Determining the accuracy or authenticity of information accessed electronically may not meet a library's selection or collection development policy. It is, therefore, left to each user to determine what is appropriate. Parents and legal guardians who are concerned about their children's use of electronic resources should provide guidance to their own children.

Libraries and librarians should not deny or limit access to information available via electronic resources because of its allegedly controversial content or because of the librarian's personal beliefs or fear of confrontation...

This acknowledges a change in the types of material which will be "in" the library, if Internet access is provided. If

they are honest, libraries will admit that they practice a form of self-censorship, in their selection of materials most appropriate for their users. With the Internet, we, and our patrons, will encounter viewpoints we find personally offensive (or just plain daft). While this may be disturbing to some library workers (this has been expressed to me as a fear), it does enhance the freedom of choice of our users; I can only view this as a positive development.

Both the U.S. Congress and the ALA acknowledge that some electronic material is inappropriate for children, although their solutions could not be more different. This is the same dilemma our local libraries are struggling with. Are notices and disclaimers sufficient, or does the library wish to act in loco parentis and actively restrict access to those under 18 (or 19, or 21)? There are various filtering packages which can be used to limit access. Some, like Net Nanny, use an editable dictionary of forbidden words; others, like SurfWatch and Cyber Patrol, maintain databases of forbidden sites. There is nothing inherently wrong with this approach: the Electronic Frontier Foundation indeed supports it, as preferable to government regulation and supportive of individual choice. The major concerns derive from the way the databases are compiled. The firms do not make the contents of their databases public: it does not seem possible to obtain a list of the banned sites. Sites need not be informed when they have been banned; there may be no appeal procedure. There is also some question as to who judges what is "objectionable", and the criteria

they use. As Cyber Patrol's home page states, the software is intended for parents to "reinforce their own personal values as they adjust children's access to specific Internet sites". This kind of personal tailoring is not possible in an institutional setting. Where the primary concern is on preventing potential objections, all available categories, even those as seemingly innocuous as "alcohol, beer, and wine", may be restricted.

There is no simple solution to this. For the moment, perhaps the best we can do is to fully inform our patrons of any restrictions in place, to evaluate, on an on-going basis, any filtering software put in place, and to establish procedures which will allow adults full access, while adequately protecting children.

For more information:

- The full text of the Telecommunications Act, with a hypertext index, is on the Web at [http://www.technoogy.com/techlaw/telecom\\_bill.html](http://www.technoogy.com/techlaw/telecom_bill.html)
- ALA's Library Bill of Rights on electronic access is available from the ALA home page: <http://www.ala.org>
- Cyber Patrol's home page, with an overview of its "Cybernot Block List" criteria, can be reached at <http://www.cyberpatrol.com> For an interesting critique of Cyber Patrol, see <http://www.swcp.com/~cipher/ban.html> (This page states that Cyber Patrol restricts sites outside their stated criteria. As with all Internet pages, use your own judgment in evaluating its claims.) □

— Janice Adlington  
Intellectual Freedom Committee

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# Access to Electronic Information, Services, and Networks: an Interpretation of the "Library Bill of Rights"

## INTRODUCTION

The world is in the midst of an electronic communications revolution. Based on its constitutional, ethical, and historical heritage, American librarianship is uniquely positioned to address the broad range of information issues being raised in this revolution. In particular, librarians address intellectual freedom from a strong ethical base and an abiding commitment to the preservation of the individual's rights.

Freedom of expression is an inalienable human right and the foundation for self-government. Freedom of expression encompasses the freedom of speech and the corollary right to receive information. These rights extend to minors as well as adults. Libraries and librarians exist to facilitate the exercise of these rights by selecting, producing, providing access to, identifying, retrieving, organizing, providing instruction in the use of, and preserving recorded expression regardless of the format or technology.

The American Library Association expresses these basic principles of librarianship in its CODE OF ETHICS and in the LIBRARY BILL OF RIGHTS and its Interpretations. These serve to guide librarians and library governing bodies in addressing issues of intellectual freedom that arise when the library provides access to electronic information, services, and networks.

Issues arising from the still-developing technology of computer-mediated information generation, distribution, and retrieval need to be approached and regularly reviewed from a context of constitutional principles and ALA policies so that fundamental and traditional tenets of librarianship are not swept away.

Electronic information flows across boundaries and barriers despite attempts by individuals, governments, and private entities to channel or control it. Even so, many people, for reasons of technology, infrastructure, or socio-economic status do not have access to electronic information.

In making decisions about how to offer access to electronic information,

each library should consider its mission, goals, objectives, cooperative agreements, and the needs of the entire community it serves.

## THE RIGHTS OF USERS

All library system and network policies, procedures or regulations relating to electronic resources and services should be scrutinized for potential violation of user rights.

User policies should be developed according to the policies and guidelines established by the American Library Association, including "Guidelines for the Development and Implementation of Policies, Regulations and Procedures Affecting Access to Library Materials, Services and Facilities".

Users should not be restricted or denied access for expressing or receiving constitutionally protected speech. Users' access should not be changed without due process, including, but not limited to, formal notice and a means of appeal.

Although electronic systems may include distinct property rights and security concerns, such elements may not be employed as a subterfuge to deny users' access to information. Users have the right to be free of unreasonable limitations or conditions set by libraries, librarians, system administrators, vendors, network service providers, or others. Contracts, agreements, and licenses entered into by libraries on behalf of their users should not violate this right. Users also have a right to information, training and assistance necessary to operate the hardware and software provided by the library.

Users have both the right of confidentiality and the right of privacy. The library should uphold these rights by policy, procedure, and practice. Users should be advised, however, that because security is technically difficult to achieve, electronic transactions and files could become public.

The rights of users who are minors shall in no way be abridged. (See: "Free Access to Libraries for Minors: an Interpretation of the Library Bill of Rights;")

"Access to Resources and Services in the School Library Media Program;" and "Access for Children and Young People to Videotapes and Other Nonprint Formats".

## EQUITY OF ACCESS

Electronic information, services, and networks provided directly or indirectly by the library should be equally, readily and equitably accessible to all library users. American Library Association policies oppose the charging of user fees for the provision of information services by all libraries and information services that receive their major support from public funds (50.3; 53.1.14; 60.1; 61.1). It should be the goal of all libraries to develop policies concerning access to electronic resources in light of "Economic Barriers to Information Access: an Interpretation of the Library Bill of Rights" and "Guidelines for the Development and Implementation of Policies, Regulations and Procedures Affecting Access to Library Materials, Services and Facilities".

## INFORMATION RESOURCES AND ACCESS

Providing connections to global information, services, and networks is not the same as selecting and purchasing material for a library collection. Determining the accuracy or authenticity of electronic information may present special problems. Some information accessed electronically may not meet a library's selection or collection development policy. It is, therefore, left to each user to determine what is appropriate. Parents and legal guardians who are concerned about their children's use of electronic resources should provide guidance to their own children.

Libraries and librarians should not deny or limit access to information available via electronic resources because of its allegedly controversial content or because of the librarian's personal beliefs or fear of confrontation. Information retrieved or utilized electronically should be considered constitutionally protected

*(Continued on page 18)*

**PUBLIC  
LIBRARIES  
& LITERACY**

Toward a National Front  
Line Strategy

# Strategic Action Plan

## Preliminary Visions and Possible Actions

### 1. The Vision: Public Libraries are Involved in Literacy

#### The Actions:

- » promote "on-the-books" CLA policy in regards to the literacy issue and literacy service to the literacy community; promote CLA's work in the literacy area within CLA Divisions, Sections, other Interest Groups
- » look at specific topics within the literacy issue, e.g., definition of literacy, topics of workplace literacy, English as a Second Language, learning disabilities, First Nation literacy, adult learner' concern, francophone literacy, and make recommendations to CLA on direction/position/steps to take
- » Affirm the current state of library-literacy work across Canada
  - what do we have for clearinghouses for library-literacy information and resources, particularly in regards to programs and funding opportunities?
  - does every province/territory have a provincial/territorial literacy coalition? a literacy resource centre?
  - does every library association have a mechanism in lace for those interested in literacy service to work together?
  - what work is going on in the area of literacy service in libraries? who's doing it?
- » compile a bibliography of resource material; update Valentini's 1990 literacy bibliography *Canadian Library Journal* (6.1990, pp. 183-89)
- » document the history of literacy service in Canadian libraries
- » review CLA promotional/public awareness materials for references to literacy, as appropriate
- » develop an information kit that can be used for staff awareness and development, program development, community outreach. Material should target all layers of library staff and library board. Include a literacy audit, guidelines for service delivery, sample materials, literacy definition. Take into consideration previously done work in this area, and build in flexibility at the local community level
- » prepare modules for continuing education programs on libraries and literacy
- » ensure that CLA conference programs contain events related to libraries and literacy
- » develop guidelines for library-literacy service delivery; guidelines that provide a range of activity levels, range of roles, and include background information and examples. Take into consideration previously done work in this area and build in flexibility at the local community level
- » compile a national list of library-literacy resources, including "core" Canadian literature
- » develop a method for evaluation library-literacy services. Take into consideration previously done work in this area and build in flexibility at the local community level
- » investigate establishing incentives at the national level to encourage library involvement in the literacy issue
- » arrange for follow-up meeting with National Literacy Secretariat to review Summit's conclusions; arrange for further meetings with the national literacy groups after this strategy has been firmed up, our vision refined

*Editor's Note: On June 14, 1995, the Canadian Library Association spoke at the National Literacy Summit (APLA Bulletin, v. 59, no. 2, p. 14). This strategic action plan was developed as a result of the Summit. Copies of the report can be obtained at no charge from the Canadian Library Association, 602-200 Elgin Street, Ottawa, Ontario K2P 1L5, Phone (613) 993-2200.*

## **2. The Vision: Every Canadian a Reader**

### **The Actions:**

- » promote the importance of libraries as institutions that promote the reading experience, as well as institutions that are a vital link in the literacy chain
- » develop an ongoing public relations campaign around this theme; one possible model for such a program is the "Read" poster campaign done by the American Library Association
- » investigate the potential of this vision becoming a vehicle for the literacy community at large, strengthening our links with the greater literacy community

## **3. The Vision: Communication Network to Disseminate Literacy Information**

### **The Actions:**

- » establish formal exchanges of newsletters, media releases between CLA and national/provincial/territorial literacy groups. The emphasis is on gathering background on the groups and information about their current activities. Establish these materials as resource information for library-literacy work
- » review communication channels/vehicles within CLA, especially the communication process to members used by the Action for Literacy Interest Group. Look particularly at timeliness, ongoing nature of process. Review what is communicated
- » investigate establishing a national communication network that will link those involved in literacy in libraries
- » investigate establishing a national service that will be the place to call for information on libraries and literacy
- » develop an information campaign on "where to call" for information on libraries and literacy

## **4. The Vision: Target "Reading at Risk" Segments of the Community**

### **The Actions:**

- » identify "reading at risk" segments of the population, e.g., youth, pre-school, seniors
- » develop model or turnkey programs that maintain and strengthen the reading experience. Take into consideration work already done, currently in use in these areas, and build in flexibility at the local community level

## **5. The Vision: Raising the Profile of Public Libraries and Literacy Services in The National/Local Library and Literacy Communities**

### **The Actions:**

- » establish ongoing proactive links with members of the literacy community, focussing on national level and members of the corporate community with literacy links, e.g., Canada Post
- » work proactively with CLA Divisions, Sections - for example, Canadian Association of Public Libraries, Canadian Association of Children's Librarians, Canadian Association of College and University Libraries - on common concerns, projects, that relate to literacy
- » advocate and support library representation on national literacy groups' boards
- » be proactive, don't be taken for granted
- » advocate that libraries are one of the links to literacy
- » investigate establishing formal partnerships with the national literacy organizations, specially the Movement for Canadian Literacy
- » develop a public awareness campaign

Reprinted from: National Working Summit on Libraries & Literacy (1995: Calgary, Alta.) *Public libraries & literacy: toward a national front line strategy*. Ottawa: Canadian Library Association, 1996.

sponsored a National Working Summit on Libraries and Literacy in Calgary  
action plan is reprinted from the report of this meeting.  
by contacting the Canadian Library Association at  
phone: 613-232-9625 (extension 305); Fax: 613-563-9895.

## Virtual Canadian Union Catalogue (vCuc)

Over the past number of years the National Library of Canada has been working with libraries across the country to develop a National Resource Sharing Strategy. At a consultation meeting, held in Calgary in June 1995, the National Library was asked to prepare a proposal for the implementation of a virtual Canadian union catalogue (vCuc). In October, the National Library called a meeting in Ottawa to discuss the proposal, identify issues that needed further resolution and formulate a work plan to implement the proposal.

Why a virtual Canadian union catalogue? A distributed union catalogue has been viewed, for a number of years, as the strategic direction for Canada to facilitate resource sharing. As libraries automate and regional union catalogues are developed or expanded, these libraries have questioned the need to report to a central agency. Most of these catalogues are available online so reporting to a central agency appears to be duplication and uses valuable staff and resources. As well, the National Library of Canada is facing budget reductions of approximately 20% over the next three years and will not have the resources required to continue loading/entering holdings centrally.

What is a virtual Canadian union catalogue and what will it look like? The National Resource Sharing Strategy sees the national union catalogue beyond 2000 as a number of union catalogues linked to create a "virtual" catalogue. It will be a variety of databases accessible for searching using the Internet and the Z39.50 standards for search and retrieval. Ideally this could be a single search on multiple databases.

The model of the emerging virtual Canadian union catalogue consists of the following databases/union catalogues linked electronically and searchable using Z39.50: National Library of Canada (AMICUS), Novanet and NcompasS in Halifax, ISM's CATSS database, Saskatchewan Provincial Library (SOUC) in Regina, NEOS at University of Alberta in Edmonton, OCATT in Toronto, OUTLOOK BC and CD-ROM Servers in Ontario (INFO), Alberta (FOCUS), the Yukon and the Northwest Territories.

The meeting in October brought together library system vendors and union catalogue owners that have indicated they have or will be implementing Z39.50, along with other interested groups or institutions. Among the attendees were representatives from Geac, Dynix, Best-Seller, DRA/MultiLIS, Ameritech, ISM, OCLC, Novanet, NcompasS, OCATT, NEOS, Saskatchewan Provincial Library, CALUPL, CISTI, CARL and the National Library of Canada.

As the proposal was discussed, it became clear that there are a number of key issues that still need resolution. These include:

- Holdings Information: Where different systems/libraries store holdings information (format and date) so that it can be displayed as a result of a Z39.50 search, as well as what holdings information is provided for serials.
- MARC Formats: Some systems/libraries use different MARC formats which leads to difficulties in conducting a Z39.50 search. The national libraries are working to harmonize the formats and minimize the problems.
- Library Identification: Libraries use a wide range of symbols or local codes to identify the location of an item. Coming to some standard location symbol which will be meaningful in a Z39.50 search will take some negotiation.
- Dissemination of Information about Targets: Each Z39.50 target has different attributes and characteristics that determine what fields are searched in a particular search and what the results mean. In order to make a Z39.50 search meaningful, the client software needs to know the attributes of the system being searched. Currently this information is not readily available and must be set on a target by target basis.
- Agreement Amongst Participants: This requires common understandings about data conventions so searchers can understand the search results.
- Integration of Data: Most Z39.50 searches of multiple databases give multiple results. Vendors need to ensure that the Z39.50 clients can merge the search results for easier use.
- Fees/Charging: As you can imagine,

this is a BIG issue. Sorting our charging practices of participating institutions will be no small job.

- System Licensing: Most software is licensed on a per user basis and participants questioned the licensing implications of a virtual union catalogue and the more open Z39.50 environment.
- Database Harvesting: Some large database owners are concerned that other libraries will make a Z39.50 search and take their bibliographic records rather than paying someone like ISM or OCLC.
- Security: Security is always an issue with computer systems.
- Rationalization of Catalogues: What role will the national catalogues play in the new scheme and should records from some or all regional and local catalogues, which are part of the virtual union catalogue, also be included in the larger national databases?

Where do we go from here? The participants have agreed to work in small groups to analyze the issues and propose solutions or options for the consideration of others and a follow-up meeting will be held at CLA in June 1996.

For more information on the virtual Canadian union catalogue or resource sharing on the national level, consult the National Library of Canada's resource sharing home page (<http://www.nlc.bnc.ca/resource/resha-e.htm>). The National Library of Canada has established an electronic discussion list (VCUC-L) to facilitate information exchange in connection with the implementation of the Virtual Canadian Union Catalogue (VCUC). This new listserv is an initiative of National and International Programs at NLC. This list is open to anyone interested in resource sharing in Canada and the evolution of union catalogues. To subscribe to the list, send an e-mail to [LISTSERV@INFOSERV.NLC-BNC.CA](mailto:LISTSERV@INFOSERV.NLC-BNC.CA). In the body of the message type: SUBSCRIBE VCUC-L Firstname Lastname. □

— Elizabeth Armstrong  
Nova Scotia Provincial Library

## APLA Response to CLA Membership Survey

In the January/February issue of the *APLA Bulletin*, the President's column said that a copy of APLA's letter to CLA would be placed on the APLA listserv. The text of the letter, as it was sent to CLA and as it appeared on the listserv, is reprinted here.

November 2, 1995  
Penny Marshall, President  
Canadian Library Association

Dear Penny:

The Executive of the Atlantic Provinces Library Association discussed the Canadian Library Association membership survey at its fall meeting during the weekend of October 28-29. APLA was asked to provide comments to CLA. I am sorry we had to wait so long before responding, but I trust that you will still be able to include our contribution in Council discussions this coming weekend.

It seems quite obvious from the survey data that high membership fees are a major obstacle to CLA membership for many people. We suggest that CLA make every effort to avoid fee increases in the near future. The \$75.00 fee for new members is an excellent idea and should be continued if at all possible.

Although the survey shows that many in the field do not consider that lobbying on national issues is an important CLA function, the APLA Executive feels that CLA's lobbying efforts are important. We understand that this is an expensive activity and is part of the reason for high CLA fees. Perhaps members, and potential members, would be more accepting of CLA's fee structure if CLA could demonstrate how important lobbying is,

and what would happen if lobbying at the national level was not done. Perhaps the demonstration could show how national lobbying affects us all at the regional level.

What this comes down to is a communication problem. CLA should provide a visible display of value for money, showing the library community what it is doing. While CLA publications such as *Felicitier* perform this function for members, perhaps CLA could provide regular information on its activities to the regional associations, for inclusion in their publications. This could take the form of information for calendars of coming events, occasional articles, regular columns, or even a separate news flyer which could be included with the regular publications as inserts. I assume that as the *APLA Bulletin* editors are receptive to this idea, the editors of other association publications would be also. Since the survey showed that large numbers of people belong to regional associations rather than national ones, this would allow CLA to communicate with a larger audience.

Continuing education was an extremely important activity to all three groups surveyed. There was unanimous agreement that it was most unfortunate that CLA discontinued the series of workshops which it used to organize. We realize that this was done to control costs, but given the survey results, continuing education must again become a high priority for CLA. The annual conference is not sufficient, since it is too expensive for many to attend, even when it is held at a conveniently close location.

We have some suggestions as to how this objective might be achieved. First of all, CLA should consider undertaking joint ventures or partnerships with regional associations, institutions, and individuals to organize continuing education activities in various parts of the country. This would allow CLA to participate in sponsoring continuing education activities while keeping costs down. Local expertise and resources could be utilized, which would also help to control costs. This would be one way of taking continuing education activities out into the library community. Another way would be to use communications technology such as teleconferencing or videoconferencing to deliver workshops and lectures to a potential audience, rather than expecting the audience to come to a central location for a session.

CLA should be commended for undertaking this survey. It is encouraging to see the Association reaching out to its membership and to its potential membership, asking for guidance on how it can best serve its community. I hope that APLA's comments will be helpful as CLA acts on the information that community has provided. □

*Yours truly* Susan Libby  
APLA President, 1995/96

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## Atlantic Profiles: Elinor Benjamin

Once upon a time, on the west coast of Newfoundland, there lived a - how should we put it - there lived a spirit. To most people this spirit went by the name librarian. And this spirit/librarian with the wild mane of hair and the twinkling eye turned many a head with her exotic dancing and caused many a rumble in newsprint with her passionate letters to the editor. But we get ahead of our story for all stories must have a beginning and this story is no exception. In the beginning, there was Amherst, N. S....

**Bulletin:** You were born in Amherst, N. S., spent most of your childhood in Bathurst, N. B., and the years between 13-28 lived in New York and California, what in your wandering past prompted you to become a librarian?

**Benjamin:** I was fortunate that my high school in Pearl River, N. Y. had a wonderful librarian, who served as a mentor, and also gave excellent library service, which gave me a head start in university. While attending Rockland Community College (SUNY), I worked as a student library assistant on a fun summer LC conversion project. Every day, we consulted the *American Book of Days* for a different event to celebrate by buying ice cream. The college librarian was also a good mentor who taught me that "it doesn't matter if you're wrong, as long as you are consistently wrong." I also worked one summer at the Lamont Geological Observatory Library for a nice librarian who introduced me to the world of transliteration. While attending City College, I worked 20 hours/per week in the gifts and exchanges department of Columbia University Library, ordering and matching LC cards in Hindu, Urdu, etc. for a large Indian donation and typing process slips for German doctoral dissertations and tons of Nazi propaganda materials.

Moving to San Francisco, I worked five years at Bonanza Inn, a good independent bookshop, where outstanding personalized service kept customers loyal, despite the arrival of big bookstore

chains. Here I acquired a broad knowledge of American publishers and the ability to spot "natural remainders."

**Bulletin:** After returning to Canada, and graduating from SLIS (UWO), how did you come to work in western Newfoundland?

**Benjamin:** I applied for a clerical position in the Stephenville Library while I was at SLIS, with an off-the-wall letter of application which said: "Yes, Virginia, there really is a librarian who does not want to work in Toronto." Pearce Penney, who was provincial librarian, told me that I was overqualified for that job and offered me the position of Western Regional librarian, responsible for 21 branches from Port-aux-Basques to Daniel's Harbour.

**Bulletin:** Since assuming that position, in 1979, what do you consider your most significant contribution to public library service in western Newfoundland.

**Benjamin:** I instituted a rotating stock service in the region whereby broad ranging collections of books are shared between branches every 3-4 months. With something for everyone, these collections encourage reading beyond today's best sellers. I also gave book talks on CBC radio for 10 years, reviewing books on over 300 shows. In my younger days, I organized the library float in the annual Santa Claus parade, with many trophies over the years for "best decorated vehicle." I am also proud of the major improvements in public library buildings over the past 15 years.

**Bulletin:** Where do your library efforts and interests lie now?

**Benjamin:** At the 1988 CLA conference in Halifax, I was impressed by Laura Simms' session on storytelling and thought that this was a much needed service in Newfoundland public libraries. I have since joined the Storytellers' School of Toronto, and now have a working repertoire of 12 stories and another half dozen I can use in a pinch. These

are traditional folk tales from around the world, which I tell to school groups. I have been greatly influenced in my storytelling by Bruno Bettelheim's *Uses of Enchantment* which provides a good antidote to the excesses of the political correctness movement and puts things in historical perspective.

As one of a team of Internet trainers, I am involved in the expansion of the Internet to all branches and look forward to making more services available electronically, particularly to users in remote areas.

**Bulletin:** Remembering an appearance, at the APLA conference in Sackville, by a belly-dancer named the Exotic Selima, what are your other interests?

**Benjamin:** While the spirit is still willing, the Exotic Selima performs infrequently these days. The other sentient beings in my house now are my mathematical husband Ron Richards, Tom the cat, and the sourdough starter. I am interested in Indian and Middle Eastern cuisine, dabbling in other languages and have acquired along the way smatterings of Arabic, French, German, and Italian. I also pass the time with fiddling, opera and traditional music from everywhere. I am on the board of Theatre Newfoundland & Labrador, have enjoyed participating in community musicals and am currently the storytelling narrator for an upcoming children's production of the tale "Jack and the Northwest Wind." (The interviewer wishes to add that Elinor also grows herbs, sings alto, tangos in private and fantasizes that Santa Claus will bring her a router some year.) □

— Elizabeth Behrens,  
for the Bulletin  
Sir Wilfred Grenfell College



## From St. Jerome's Den

Too often we forget to acknowledge those librarians and staff who toil away behind the scenes acquiring and cataloguing the contents of our libraries. They are seldom the recipients of the glory and the accolades that are bestowed on public service librarians by a grateful public. Here then is a long overdue thank you to those who collect and organize so that Ranganathan's laws can be realized. To paraphrase Herman Melville, "You books must know your places [and fortunately we have tech services people to put you in them]. The items in this column have been gleaned from many sources. If you are interested in the citations for individual items, you can reach me through the editors.

*St. Jerome*

**1612:** Bartholomew Pitiscus first used a **decimal point** in his trigonometrical tables - and cataloguing has not been the same since.

### A brief history of modern day cataloguing before 1987: Why we arrange books as we do

By **Constance A. Mellon**  
East Carolina University

"Why must we do these things just so?"  
Young catalogers want to know.  
"There are good reasons," I reply.  
"So listen, and I'll tell you why."

Old Melvil Dewey, clever lad,  
Once said, "The state of things is bad.  
There is no order to the way  
That books are shelved. I'll start today."  
And after nights of thought and toil,  
And nights of burning midnight oil,  
He cried, "Oh yes! I've got it now!  
It's easy. Let me show you how.  
You take nine hundred ninety-nine,  
Then break it down. This plan of mine  
Will revolutionize our work."  
Then Melvil, never one to shirk,  
Created in a careful frame,  
The system that still bears his name.

But LC kept collecting books.  
They sat on shelves.  
They hung on hooks.  
They covered tables, chairs, the floor--  
Arranging them was quite a bore.

So LC said, "I guess it's true.  
Nine hundred ninety-nine won't do.  
These categories cannot grow  
As we expand the things we know.  
Though once the decimal was fine,  
The numbers can't fit on the spine.  
It's all those numbers--that's the worst.  
So let's use letters. They'll come first.  
We'll use this way in every college  
To classify the world of knowledge."

Said OCLC, "Hold the phone!  
Why do we always work alone?  
We work through winters, summers,  
springs,  
To catalog the same darn things.  
And though we're working  
day and night,  
Our backlogs still are out of sight.  
If we could just communicate,  
The we could all stop working late.  
And, since we have computers now,  
Let's work together. Here is how:  
We'll catalog from east to west,  
From north to south. It's really best  
To let us guide you." So they did.  
We still are doing as they bid.

"And so you see, there is no mystery.  
It's simply cataloging history."

### Some famous technical services people:

**Photius** (820-892) Greek theologian and one of the most learned men of his time, assembled a large personal library, described and catalogued hundreds of books by Greek and Roman historians, orators, and grammarians.

**Abu Ali-al-Hussein Avicenna** (980-1037) Arabian physician and scholar, author of numerous books. After receiving a large library as a gift from a prince, he personally organized, classified, and described the books on various subjects and in many languages.

**Pope Pius II** (1405-1464) in 1440 organized the manuscripts at the Court Library of Emperor Frederick III in Vienna.

**Gottfried Wilhelm Leibnitz** (1646-1716) German philosopher, mathematician, physicist, lawyer, and author, worked as librarian (1676-1690) at the Ducal Library in Hannover and later as librarian (1690-1716) at the Herzog August Library in Wolfen-büttel, where he



catalogued 30,000

books.

**Onufry Kopczynski** (1735-1817) Polish teacher, scholar, author, and linguist. Starting in 1773 he catalogued over 200,000 books.

**Thomas Jefferson** (1743-1826) American president, catalogued and classified materials for the University of Virginia. His own collection, consisting of more than 10,000 books was sold to the U.S. Congress and became the nucleus of the Library of Congress.

**J. Edgar Hoover** (1895-1972) Lawyer, FBI director of almost five decades, worked as an indexed (1913-1917) in the cataloguing division of the Library of Congress.

**Helen Clark MacInnes** (b. 1907) American author whose books are almost all best-sellers, and some have been made into motion pictures. She served as cataloguer (1928) at the Glasgow (Scotland) University Library, before going to the U.S.

### Movies, books, comics that feature catalogues and classification:

Maybe "feature" is a bit strong, but the card catalogue is an important element of the story in **A Tree Grows in Brooklyn** (movie 1945) and **The Thief** (movie 1952). In the former the main character is involved in a project to read all the books in order of the card catalogue. In the latter, a sort of spy story, the main character looks for microfilm hidden in a card catalogue drawer in the Library of Congress. Number 643 (April 1992) of *Detective Comics* has Batman solving a series of murders through an understanding of the Dewey decimal system.

**And lest we forget, a tip of the catalogue to that invention which has changed all our lives for evermore.**

A computer lets you make more mistakes faster than any invention in human history - with the possible exceptions of handguns and tequila.

— *Mitch Ratcliffe*  
*Technology Review, April 1992*

## On the Brink of Uncertainty

Almost no one knows better than Canadian book publishers what it means to sleep with a giant. With just one eye open, U.S. multinationals can take care of business in the Canadian marketplace through their agents and through American wholesalers. Meanwhile, Canadian publishers not only work overtime to foster a national literature, but also expend time and energy demanding government legislation to protect the market from American saturation. Among the cultural industries, publishers have stood out as an insistent voice asking for support for the indigenous industry, not just through subsidy programs, but also with Canadian-owned legislation. These publishers have been effective: the country has the benefit of a strong book publishing industry. This industry has developed over the past twenty-five years under the umbrella of the Association of Canadian Publishers. However, to be truthful, the expansion of Canadian publishing does not imply the diminution of American involvement in the book trade. Canadian publishers have not really gained any ground at the expense of U. S. interests. Perhaps, the only result has been that the giant has opened the other eye: it is now threatening to move into the Canadian book market at the retail level. This threat comes at a time when the Canadian publishing industry is already facing an ever-deepening recession and fierce cuts to the federal government's subsidy programs. It is no wonder that many are asking where Canadian publishing is headed.

As a group, publishers have justifiably made a name for themselves as fighters, especially on issues such as foreign-owned firms operating in Canada. They have helped Canadians see home-grown publishing as a vital organ in the Canadian corpus. Will this fighting spirit carry them through their current problems? Will it enable them to re-group and continue to play a significant role in the nation's cultural life? From a purely fiscal viewpoint, Canadian publishing is a flicker in the economy. The large number of small firms, mainly outside metropolitan Toronto, and the level of investment needed to commence operation in pub-

lishing, do not give the industry a high economic profile. Compare, for example, the budget for a film or a record album with that of even the glossiest of coffee table books. There is no comparison. That is why, even though publishing is in the manufacturing sector, its real benefit has to be seen primarily in terms of Canadian culture.

Therein lies the ever recurring conundrum - is there a Canadian culture? In 1995 Ottawa once again decided to strike a committee to define Canadian cultural identity, or something to that effect. How do you define diversity? How do you embrace diversity? With the continued danger of being crushed by the weight of culture American-style, Canadian uncertainty threatens to unthread the seams of its cultural patchwork and to stitch a new identity in bland beige. Canadian publishing, as much as any cultural industry, recognizes the vast scope of expression possible within one country. And, in addition, it both nurtures the regional identity and transcends it. Publishers in Atlantic Canada are as much involved in the regional market, in terms of who they publish, as they are in the national and the international markets, in terms of where they sell. Furthermore, Atlantic publishers include author's who are not exclusively regional. For example, Fredericton's Goose Lane lists Claire Harris, Anne

Montagnes, Kwame Dawes in its lineup - they are writers without borders.

The future for Canadian publishers lies in the hands of their writers. One thing that has not changed in twenty-five years is the successful writer syndrome in which the publisher is rewarded for its efforts to nurture new voices by losing their successes to American publishers. If money is the attraction, and there can be little doubt in this, then perhaps the future of stability for Canadian publishers lies in their ability to negotiate better deals south of the border, and for writers to work with them towards that end.

The reaction, of many Canadian publishers, to this challenge, has been to retreat from the literary frontier. They have chosen to focus on commercially expedient products, such as travel books, Internet guides, calendars, and the works of well-known authors. The fact is that return on investment is not beyond the reach of publishers who are capable of diversifying their lists to suit the times. That's what the best have always done. There is no shortage of good writing, just a shortage of publishers. One can dream of there eventually being enough Canadian Davids that the American Goliath will have to move over a fraction in this shared bed. □

— Elizabeth Eve  
*Managing Editor, Atlantic Books Today*

## Access to Electronic Information, Services... (cont'd from page 13)

unless determined otherwise by a court with appropriate jurisdiction.

Libraries, acting within their mission and objectives, must support access to information on all subjects that serve the needs or interests of each user, regardless of the user's age or the content of the material. Libraries have an obligation to provide access to government information available in electronic format. Libraries and librarians should not deny access to information solely on the grounds that it is perceived to lack value.

In order to prevent the loss of information, and to preserve the cultural record, libraries may need to expand their selection or collection development policies to ensure preservation, in appropriate formats, of information obtained electronically.

Electronic resources provide unprecedented opportunities to expand the scope of information available to users. Libraries and librarians should provide access to information presenting all points of view. The provision of access does not imply sponsorship or endorsement. These principles pertain to electronic resources no less than they do to the more traditional sources of information in libraries. (See: "Diversity in Collection Development: an Interpretation of the Library Bill of Rights")

*Adopted by the ALA Council, January 24, 1996* □



**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](http://www.etde.org) or email [mnason@emr.ca](mailto:mnason@emr.ca) or fax (613) 952-2587.

**RESEARCH ADVANCES  
AND WE KEEP UP.**

I  
E  
A



ENERGY  
TECHNOLOGY  
DATA  
EXCHANGE



Natural Resources  
Canada

Ressources naturelles  
Canada

Canada

## CNIB Announces New Award

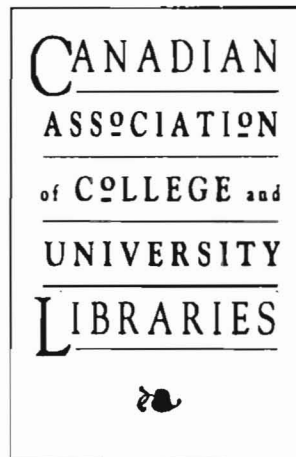


The Canadian National Institute for the Blind (CNIB) Library for the Blind announces the Dr. Dayton M. Forman Memorial Award to recognize outstanding leadership in the advancement of library and information services for blind and visually impaired Canadians. In making the announcement, Nancy Campbell, CNIB Library Board Chair, explained, "There are at least 500,000 blind and visually impaired people in Canada who seek equitable access to library and information services. This award, to be presented annually beginning in 1996, will honour individuals and organizations demonstrating extraordinary commitment and leadership in overcoming the barriers to information equity in our society."

The award is offered in memory of Dr. Dayton M. Forman, an exceptional humanitarian and longstanding CNIB volunteer leader. Dr. Forman advocated that library services should be as readily available to blind and visually impaired Canadians as for sighted Canadians. On many occasions over the years, he stated, "Blindness is censorship enough when it comes to access to information and knowledge." Dr. Forman distinguished himself as a strong activist for improved braille and audio recording standards and was responsible for a series of very significant initiatives which substantially advanced library services and programs for the blind while securing a sound foundation for the future of the CNIB Library for the Blind.

A silver medal bearing the likeness of Dr. Forman and a suitable inscription in print and braille will be presented to the first recipient of the award at a special event hosted by the Chair of the CNIB Library Board at the 1996 Canadian Library Association conference in Halifax in June. Nominees for the Dr. Dayton M. Forman Memorial Award may be individuals or organizations and must be recognized for excellence in li-

(Continued on page 23)



## CLA '96 CACUL Conference Attendance Grants

The Canadian Association of College and University Libraries (CACUL), a division of the Canadian Library Association, is pleased to announce that three awards of up to \$1,000 each will be awarded to persons to attend the 1996 CLA Conference in Halifax, N.S. Two awards are intended for new librarians; the other for a librarian who is unemployed or in a contract position. Awards will be made on the basis of a draw from all eligible applications postmarked by **March 31, 1996**.

The terms of eligibility are:

1. New librarians who have received an MLS within the past two years from a Canadian library school; librarians who are unemployed or in a contract position at the time of application.
2. Applicants must be personal members of CACUL.
3. Preference will be given to applicants who have not attended a CLA conference.
4. Applicants who have received funding to attend the conference from another CLA source will not be eligible for this grant.
5. Recipients must be able to attend the CACUL AGM and provide a written summary of their conference experience for publication in *Felicitier*.

For further information and application forms, contact Susan E. Cleyle, CACUL Director-at-Large, Queen Elizabeth II Library, Memorial University of Newfoundland, St. John's, NF, A1B 3Y1. Phone (709) 737-7470; Fax (709) 737-153. □

Susan Cleyle  
CACUL



## APLA/CLA '96

### Conference Registration Reminder

Persons who are members of APLA as of March 31, 1996 (i.e. are members for the 1995/96 membership year), are eligible for the CLA membership registration rate. Early bird registration, for the whole conference, for APLA/CLA members will be \$290. Non-members will pay \$445. □



## APLA/CLA '96

APLA has scheduled a broad range of meetings of its committees and Interest Groups during the Canadian Library Association 51st Annual Conference to be held in Halifax, Nova Scotia, June 5-9, 1996. Part I of APLA's Ordinary General Meeting will be held on Thursday, June 6 from 6:30-8:30 p.m. The Pre-Resolutions session will be from 5:00-5:30 p.m. on Saturday, June 8. Part II of the Ordinary General Meeting will be from 9:30-11:00 a.m. on Sunday, June 9.

In addition APLA is co-sponsoring, with CLA, the following conference sessions:

- Demographics and Libraries
- Beyond Mere Bibliographic Retrieval: New Analytic Databases and Their Impact on Reference Service
- New Projects & Innovations in Resource Sharing within Canadian Library Consortia and Networks
- Hooking Kids on Books  
Ça pète le feu en alphabetisation  
What do we do with it, now that we've got it? Canada-wide survey of regional & county library systems
- Resource sharing in Atlantic Canada
- Afrocentric Books for Children
- Kevin Major's No Man's Land - Young Adult or Adult Fiction
- SchoolNet

In these sessions, and many other CLA programs, there will be opportunities for Atlantic Province's librarians to share their ideas and thinking with colleagues from across the country, the United States and other countries. CLA is mounting an Employment Service Centre at the World Trade Convention Centre in Halifax for those seeking employment and those looking to hire. A World Wide Web poster session has been established for those who want to share information and ideas but may not be able to come to Halifax. No-host dinners, informal and formal receptions have been planned plus CLA President Penny Marshall has invited us all to a Down-Home Ceilidh on Saturday night at Pier 22, The Piers of Halifax.

For more detailed information on all the activities at CLA and APLA look for the full program in *Felicitier* or check CLA's homepage at <http://www.uccb.ns.ca/cla96>. See you in Halifax!!! ☐

— Norman Horrocks  
Public Relations Coordinator, CLA '96

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## Sheree Fitch Wins 1995 Ann Connor Brimer Award

*Mabel Murple* by Sheree Fitch is this year's winner of the Ann Connor Brimer Award for children's literature. Honoured for its skilful use of language and its great sense of fun, the picture book focuses on the offbeat character, Mabel Murple and her purple world.

Fitch received her award from Scott Wood, Ann Connor Brimer's husband, at a ceremony held recently at the Maritime Museum of the Atlantic. In a moving speech, Fitch paid tribute to Ann Connor Brimer who supported her writing in the early days, and made her promise that no matter what happened, she would not stop writing books for children. "I was flattered...this woman who knew so much about children's books liked my work. Wow!!" exclaimed Fitch. "Sometimes in life we need someone who has more faith in us than we do in ourselves to say go on, go forward and that gives us the courage to do just that."

Fitch also thanked her parents for fostering a love of language and poetry. As well, she noted the support of writers, illustrators, publishers, editors, booksellers, sales reps, librarians and teachers. "I would not be here without a vibrant community like the one we have, a community that believes that children's books are important."

The \$1,000 prize is sponsored by the Nova Scotia Library Association in memory of the late Ann Connor Brimer, who had a keen interest in children's books and was the first regional representative for the Canadian Children's Book Centre. Also on the shortlist for the award were *Signal Across the Sea* by Dorothy Perkyms and *The Dream Carvers* by Joan Clark. ☐

— Linda Hodgins  
Ann Connor Brimer Award Committee

## School of Library and Information Studies Dalhousie University

### Friday Lecture Series

As part of its Continuing Education program, SLIS presents a series of lectures. All lectures are held from 11:45 a.m.-1:00 p.m. in the MacMechan Auditorium, Killam Library, Dalhousie Campus (for coming lectures, see Coming Events column). They are open to the public at no charge.

The synopsis reprinted here has been edited slightly due to space restrictions. Space restrictions also prohibit the *Bulletin* from running synopses of the other lectures. Reports of all the lectures can be viewed at <http://quasar.sba.dal.ca:2000/slis/slis.htm>. Tapes of Toni Samek's lecture, and some of the others, can be purchased for \$5; just contact Shanna Balogh, SLIS.

19th January 1996

### The Library Bill of Rights in the 1960's: One Profession, One Ethic Toni Samek (University of Alberta)

Toni Samek of the University of Alberta and a graduate of Dalhousie's School of Library and Information Studies, presented a paper entitled "The Library Bill of Rights in the 1960's: One Profession, One Ethic". The paper, which originated with her doctoral dissertation work at the University of Wisconsin - Madison, was first presented at a symposium on the Library Bill of Rights in September 1995. This paper and the others presented at the symposium will be published in the Summer 1996 issue of *Library Trends* focusing on the Library Bill of Rights and intellectual freedom.

In an era marked by increasing social and political activism, the revision of ALA's Library Bill of Rights in 1967 sparked a debate among ALA members over the role of the association and of librarians in society. Where the earlier version of the Bill stated that "factual errors" were reason enough to keep an item from a collection, the revised version stipulated that a collection should strive to represent all views held within a community. The debate that followed concerned itself with different interpretations of the revised Bill of Rights and

the role of the professional which each interpretation advocated.

On one side was David K. Berninghausen who argued that the Bill of Rights directed that a book selector take a neutral stance when it came to questions of intellectual freedom. A selector's neutrality would ensure that biases, and thus censorship, would be avoided and a collection would be as inclusive as possible. Meanwhile, Patricia Schuman, Clara S. Jones, E. J. Josey, and the other members of the Social Responsibility Round Table (SRRT) opposed the "purist moral stance and the neutral account" Berninghausen attributed to the Bill of Rights. Veterans of the social activism of the era, the SRRT members argued that the revised Bill of Rights was a call for librarians to become socially responsible by championing the rights of the marginalized through more inclusive collections development, within the profession, and in society as a whole.

Despite SRRT's argument that the protection of the tenets of intellectual freedom went beyond the selection of materials and that social activism was being adopted by an ever growing number of associations, the majority of the profession heeded the more traditional arguments of Berninghausen. Samek states that librarians' fear of the possible financial and legal repercussions, and of negative public reaction to any ALA activism, led to the eventual end of the debate in 1974.

Samek closed her paper by noting that, despite losing the debate over social responsibility and librarianship, SRRT has had an impact on the discipline since 1974. She ended by questioning how deeply the ALA and its members felt about the utility and validity of the Library Bill of Rights and asked how far the notions of intellectual freedom will push the rhetoric and the practice of the profession in the future. □

— Gordon Dutrisac  
2nd year student, SLIS

## Internet Resources

<http://www-cpa.stanford.edu/cpa.html>

The Commission on Preservation and Access introduces its basic programs and provides links to other information about its initiatives.

<http://canada.gc.ca/govis/index.html>

A site offering a discussion on Canada's future in an information society.

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/~dkbrown/index.html>

Children's literature web guide includes information such as resources for parents and teachers, facts about children's book awards, details about movies and TV shows based on children's books.

<http://www.gov.ns.ca/legi>

The Nova Scotia Legislature site includes the status of bills, the full text of first readings, and the monthly checklist of provincial government publications.

<http://www.village.ca/francais.html>

A listing of Web resources in French.

telnet cat.cisti.hrc.ca (login: cat; password: [enter])

It is now possible to search CISTI's online catalogue and to order documents from CISTI. The catalogue is updated weekly, providing records on over 50,000 journals and more than half a million books, reports and conference proceedings from around the world.

BIBCANLIB-L

An electronic forum for the discussion of issues related to library and information science in Canada. To subscribe, send the message "subscribe bibcanlib-l <first name last name>" to "listserv@infoserv.nlc-bnc.ca" □

The Editors

## Virtual Products for SchoolNet: A Funding Opportunity for Libraries

Industry Canada is involved in an initiative to prepare young Canadians to participate in a global information economy. To encourage schools to connect to the Internet, the Department has supported the development of SchoolNet, an interactive teaching and learning resource. SchoolNet provides teachers and students with access to electronic discussion groups, teacher-designed networking projects and interactive databases. Through SchoolNet, schools are linked to national and international educational networks and have access to a user-friendly system for searching the Internet.

SchoolNet has been developed in partnership with industry, the educational community, and the provinces and territories, all of which are represented on the SchoolNet Advisory Board (SNAB). SNAB advises Industry Canada on the development of SchoolNet and approves submissions for the development of virtual products that will add content to SchoolNet. Three librarians are members of SNAB. Andrea John of Nova Scotia Provincial Library represents the Canadian Library Association; Monique Lavoie, Head Librarian of the Alta Vista Branch of the Ottawa Public Library represents ASTED; and Katherine Miller, Library Development Officer represents the National Library.

Industry Canada supports the creation of new content on SchoolNet by contracting with schools, teachers, entrepreneurs, museums and libraries for the development of virtual products. Virtual products are curriculum-oriented, learning-enhancing, or money saving electronic services or resources that will motivate schools to connect to the Internet and to use it to deliver educational content and services. Some examples of virtual products are Composers in Electronic Residence, a site for students and composers to share their compositions (<http://www.edu.yorku.ca/ciermain.html>), Great Canadian Scientists, a resource about Canadian scientists (<http://fas.sfu.ca/css/gcs>), and the Na-

tional Graduate Register, a searchable database of the skills of graduates of Atlantic universities established as a pilot project (<http://schoolNet2.carleton.ca/NGR>).

To receive approval to develop SchoolNet virtual products, proponents must demonstrate that the proposed product will provide content or services that the learning committee needs or has requested and that it has the support of that community. Partners should be involved as co-designers of the service or contributors of resources. The proposed virtual product should add original content to the Internet or exploit the potential of the Internet for interactivity, networking or electronic discussion. Proposals should also specify how virtual products are to be maintained after creation.

Based on the findings of a national consultation with teachers, the SchoolNet Advisory Board recently identified new priorities for virtual products. One of these priorities, primary source materials, is of interest to librarians. Among the primary source materials teachers identified as desirable for SchoolNet are library catalogues and databases, periodical indexes, catalogues of films and videos, and full text databases.

Several libraries have been involved in the development of virtual products

for SchoolNet. An application from the Western Counties Regional Library in Yarmouth, Nova Scotia was recently approved. The library will develop a search engine for the ephemeral material in the H. R. Banks collection of Novascotiana in partnership with a local software developer. The Western Counties Regional Library demonstrated that the search engine had the support of schools and museums and undertook to sustain it after development.

Industry Canada is also studying the feasibility of providing access to the OPAC of the CNIB Library for the Blind through SchoolNet to assist schools that may find themselves having to locate materials for print-handicapped students.

The Manitoba Library Association also received funding from Industry Canada to help them launch *Canadian Materials* as an electronic journal.

To learn more about virtual products and SchoolNet, the Virtual Products Group may be reached at : 8th Floor West, Industry Canada, 235 Queen St., Ottawa, ON K1A 0H5, Phone (613) 998-1331; Fax (613) 941-2811. Information can also be found at the Virtual Products information Centre on the SchoolNet site at ([http://schoolnet2.carleton.ca/english/manuals/virtual\\_prod/index.html](http://schoolnet2.carleton.ca/english/manuals/virtual_prod/index.html)). □

— Diane Bays

*Virtual Products, Industry Canada*

## CNIB Announces New Award...

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library leadership for the benefit of blind and visually impaired Canadians. Nominations for the award are currently being sought by the CNIB Library Board. The deadline is April 1, 1996. For more information, and a nomination form, contact: Margaret Andrewes, CNIB Library for the Blind, 1929 Bayview Avenue, Toronto, ON M4G 3E8, Phone (416) 480-7670; Fax (416) 480-7700; E-mail [andrewes-lib@immedia.ca](mailto:andrewes-lib@immedia.ca) □

— Margaret Andrewes  
*CNIB Library for the Blind*

## Coming Events

**Digital Libraries and the Future of Hypermedia**, March 16, 1995, Room 212, School of Business Administration, Dalhousie University. 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Part 6 of a 6 part series on Hypermedia and the Net. Instructor: Mark Leggott, St. Francis Xavier University. Fee \$55 + GST. To register, contact Shanna Balogh, School of Library and Information Studies. Phone (902) 494-2453; Fax (902) 494-2451; E-mail [slis@ac.dal.ca](mailto:slis@ac.dal.ca)

**Restoration 96**, March 17-19, 1996, Baltimore Convention Center, Baltimore, Maryland. The conference aims to expand the market for preservation products and services by making them accessible to people interested in maintaining and preserving the cultural heritage. For more information contact RAI/EGI Exhibitions, Inc. Phone (617) 933-6663; Fax (617) 933-8744.

**Benchmarking and Output Measures: Tools for Improving Information Services**, March 21, 1996, Room 102, School of Business Administration, Dalhousie University. 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. Instructor: Dr. Joanne Marshall, University of Toronto. Fee \$55 + GST. To register, contact Shanna Balogh, School of Library and Information Studies. Phone (902) 494-2453; Fax (902) 494-2451; E-mail [slis@ac.dal.ca](mailto:slis@ac.dal.ca)

**Using Data to Improve Information Practice: Benchmarking and Outcomes Measurements in Libraries**, March 22, 1996, MacMechan Auditorium, Killam Library, Dalhousie University. 11:45 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Speaker: Dr. Joanne Marshall, University of Toronto. Jointly sponsored by SLIS and the Maritime Health Libraries Association / Association des bibliothèques de la santé des maritimes. For information call (902) 494-2453.

**Association des bibliothécaires professionnel(le)s du Nouveau-Brunswick / Association of Professional Librarians of New Brunswick Annual Spring Workshop and Luncheon**, April 27, 1996, Marshlands Inn, Sackville. Theme: "Using Our Skills in a High Tech Age." Watch for the March issue of *Biblionet*, APLNB's newsletter, for further information on this Spring Workshop and for registration details.

**Workshop on Instruction in Library Use**, May 15-17, 1996, Wilfred Laurier University. Theme: "Anticipation: Library Instruction for Changing Times". For information contact John McCallum. Fax (519) 884-8023; E-mail [jmccallu@mach1.wlu.ca](mailto:jmccallu@mach1.wlu.ca)

**FastForward: Coping with Technological Change**, May 18, 1996, Wu Centre, University of New Brunswick, Fredericton. 8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Conference in recognition of the Library Assistant Program's tenth anniversary. Fee \$35 (includes lunch). For more information, or to register, contact Department of Extension and Summer Session, UNB. Phone (506)453-4646; Fax(506)453-3572; E-mail [lbalcom@unb.ca](mailto:lbalcom@unb.ca)

**APLA '96 and CLA 51st Annual Conference**, June 6-9, 1996, World Trade and Convention Centre, Halifax, N.S. For information, see <http://www.uccb.ns.ca/cia96>

**CAIS/ACSI '96**, June 1996, Faculty of Information Studies, University of Toronto. Theme: Electronic Publishing. For information, contact Charles Meadow. Phone (416) 978-4665; Fax (416) 971-1399; e-mail [meadow@fis.utoronto.ca](mailto:meadow@fis.utoronto.ca) □