

The Atlantic Provinces Library Association

# Bulletin

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## Information Literacy Fundamentals: Lessons Learned from an Atlantic Canadian Road Trip

by Barry Cull

Last year I decided to take a six-month study leave from my regular work, the first such sabbatical during my career as an academic Information Services Librarian. It was not a difficult decision to make. After six years as an information literacy (IL) instructor, I had discovered that I was starting to become burned out, and even somewhat bored with what had always been one of my greatest professional passions—teaching. I needed to take a break to reflect and hopefully recharge.

But I could not leave IL behind completely. As one of my sabbatical research projects, I decided to draw upon my former experience in oral history and drive around the Atlantic Provinces interviewing any academic instructional librarians who answered my call. I was interested in learning first-hand all I could about the librarians' current teaching practices as well as their general views and attitudes towards IL instruction. Perhaps I would learn something that would re-spark my enthusiasm for teaching. Maybe I would also obtain some research findings that would be of wider interest to the profession, especially considering the lack of published research on IL in Canada.<sup>1</sup> And if nothing else, the Newfoundlander in me decided that a good chat over a hot drink could be interesting in itself.

I specifically targeted teaching librarians at a wide variety of types and sizes of academic libraries, in the end completing a total of eighteen in-depth interviews

at six separate university campuses throughout the Atlantic region. After dozens of hours of interview time and hundreds of pages of transcripts, plus innumerable cups of coffee and tea, I started to feel like I needed to take a "leave" from my "leave". Yet I had learned much from the experience. By listening to these librarians describe their own instructional practices and discuss their general thoughts on teaching, I confirmed many of my own ideas and also discovered a few new things. As well, I learned several important lessons from the study leave process itself. All of this would later prove to have a direct impact on my own teaching.

In case others might find them thought-provoking, I have attempted to distill my many road trip lessons into a list of six fundamental IL teaching tips. The following principles reflect the most commonly expressed ideas which I encountered and the best practices I discovered. These points are far from new. However, even the most experienced instructor can benefit from the occasional revisiting of some teaching essentials.

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## publication information



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## Information Literacy Fundamentals: Lessons Learned from an Atlantic Canadian Road Trip

**Know Yourself.** The most profound truths are always the most simple: If you do not think about what you are doing, you are probably not being successful at it. Good teachers are usually self-reflective teachers, constantly aware of how they are teaching and how their students are learning. The librarians I interviewed demonstrated their interest in self-reflection by pondering at length many of my questions. Many interviews lasted well over an hour, and the participants clearly enjoyed articulating their personal thoughts on teaching.

Several librarians also spoke directly about the need for self-reflection. "Teaching is an art," concluded one librarian. "It is something you always work on." Another librarian pointed out that "anything can be successful if you're willing to stop and look at it... it's just *thinking* about it."

**Make it Personal.** Most of the librarians' classroom teaching goes hand-in-hand with personalized instruction and consultation that takes place at a reference desk or in their office. Many pointed out that this individual contact is a key to learning. "Students grasp much more when instruction is one-on-one," concluded one librarian.

Following my own return to work, I decided to take this idea more seriously. I have always worked on a reference desk, and occasionally students would also consult me individually in my office. But added to that, last year I began on-site "librarian office hours" in the building where three of the departments I serve are located. This increased opportunity for individualized instruction has been extremely successful so far, and is hopefully leading towards what Carol Kuhlthau calls the "counselor" instructional librarian role, involving a long term relationship with students, guiding them in identifying and interpreting information.<sup>ii</sup> This instructional role is also the stated goal of most of the librarians interviewed.

**Keep it Active.** The use of active learning classroom techniques, widely espoused in education literature, has been wholeheartedly adopted by most of the librarians in this study. "It is important to get students involved," suggested one librarian, while another discussed the need to be "vulnerable" in the classroom and to be "interested in what students have to say." This is another idea which I personally put into practice

more thoroughly following my sabbatical. In the past year I have included some type of active learning exercise in every class I taught—even those always-rushed fifty-minute one-shot sessions—with very positive results thus far.

**Do the Research.** According to the Society for Teaching and Learning in Higher Education, "a pedagogically competent teacher...selects methods of instruction that, according to research evidence (including personal or self-reflective research), are effective in helping students to achieve the course objectives."<sup>iii</sup> Many of the librarians interviewed pointed out the importance of such "personal or self-reflective research" for developing effective teaching techniques. They are not afraid to research and try new things in the classroom.

But this study has also shown me the benefits of going beyond our local institutions to conduct primary research relating to our work. Not only have I learned much from the study participants, but the research process itself has given me a more intimate understanding of the research world of the faculty members and graduate students I serve. Conducting this type of research also encourages the perception of librarians as scholars in our own right and full partners in the academic enterprise.

**Be an Advocate.** Many of the librarians in this study pointed out the need for continued advocacy for IL. One librarian provided an example of the type of direct promotion that is done at her institution: "We spend a lot of time with students and faculty, saying, 'You're good, but we're great. You may be able to find something in half an hour, but we'll show you how to find something in a few minutes and how to do it for the rest of your life.'" The librarians in this study are student-focused and convinced of the importance of information literacy, and are therefore not afraid to be active advocates for IL at their institutions. As one librarian put it, "instruction is what an academic library is all about."

Yet despite this belief, many of the librarians interviewed still do not feel they receive adequate support from other faculty members, university administration, and most surprisingly, from senior library administration. If this is true, there is obviously still a need for more promotion of IL, even within libraries. One librarian speculated

that a lack of direct experience with IL instruction may be the reason for some library directors' apparently limited support. If this is true, perhaps more instructional librarians should eventually pursue senior administrative positions in libraries?

**Take a Break.** Virtually every librarian interviewed said that their workload is the greatest challenge they face as instructors. IL instruction requires substantial time and effort, and every librarian in the study has many other significant responsibilities. Yet it was clear through our conversations that teaching remains a great passion for most of them. However, as I am all too aware, enthusiasm can wane when one attempts to do too much or does not take an occasional break from the classroom to reflect or change focus.

While academic librarians may not be able to take a complete teaching break every summer like other faculty members or school teachers, there are often opportunities for various types of sabbaticals, study leaves, and other research and professional development releases. Perhaps I'll take another research road trip some day—I enjoyed these lessons learned, and in the end I did renew my passion for information literacy.

*Barry Cull is an Information Services Librarian (Social Sciences & Professional Studies) at the University of New Brunswick in Fredericton. He coordinates instructional services at the University's main Harriet Irving Library, and can be reached by e-mail at bcull@unb.ca. Funding for this project was provided by the UNB Research Fund and an APLA Memorial Award. The author would like to thank all the study participants.*

<sup>i</sup> National surveys on IL in Canada were, however, conducted by Heidi Julien in 1997 and 2000. See Julien, Heidi. 2000.

"Information Literacy Instruction in Canadian Academic Libraries: Longitudinal Trends and International Comparisons." *College and Research Libraries* 61, no. 6: 510-523.

<sup>ii</sup> Kuhlthau, Carol. 1996. *Seeking Meaning: A Process Approach to Library and Information Services*. Norwood, NJ: Ablex Corporation.

<sup>iii</sup> Murray, Harry et al. 1996. *STLHE Ethical Principles in University Teaching*. Available: [www.tss.uoguelph.ca/stlhe/ethics.html](http://www.tss.uoguelph.ca/stlhe/ethics.html).

# From St. Jerome's Den

*"Nothing, like something, happens anywhere"*

Philip Larkin, "I Remember, I Remember"

Philip Arthur Larkin: poet, novelist, jazz critic, man of sartorial elegance, and librarian. Born in Coventry in 1922, Larkin wanted from an early age to be a writer and probably would have been perfectly content to do just that all his life. However, World War II, or rather the fact that he failed his army medical because of poor eyesight, was to lead him down the path to a combined career as librarian/poet. Although his failure to get into the army meant that he was able to complete his Oxford degree uninterrupted, it also brought his activities under the watchful eye of the Ministry of Labour. For a few months after he graduated in 1943, Larkin spent his time working on his first novel, *Jill*, and taking Civil Service examinations. After failing the tests twice, he received a letter from the Ministry of Labour asking him what he was doing with his life. Judging the enquiry to be a warning that he had better get started doing something which the Ministry would consider meaningful, he set about looking for a job.

After a chance reading of an advertisement for a librarian, he applied for, and was appointed to, the post of Librarian at Wellington in Shropshire. As the sole staff of this public library, his duties included the daily tasks of stoking the reluctant boiler, lighting the gas lights, and checking out (and in) books as well as reshelving them. By all accounts, the library was old-fashioned and filled with dust-covered tomes when he arrived there. His reaction to the library, and its patrons, was a mixture of dread and contempt. Motion (112) quotes Larkin as saying that he spent most of his time "handing out tripey novels to morons." To his credit, he seems to have risen above this reaction for, during his three years at Wellington, he not only managed to bring its services and stock into the twentieth century, but also to complete his qualifications as a librarian, and to finish his novel as well as publish poetry.

From Wellington he moved on to positions at the then University College of Leicester and at Queen's University, Belfast. His next, and last, appointment was as Librarian to the University of Hull in 1955. Maeve Brennan - a colleague for thirty years, and one of Larkin's love interests for

more than half that time - described her first impressions of the new librarian:

When Miss Agnes Cuming, the retiring University Librarian, introduced us to her replacement, Philip Larkin, in March 1955, we wondered how this tall, spare, diffident young man would get on with us and we with him. By contrast, his dress was rather flamboyant: corduroy trousers, bright pink shirt and navy and white spotted bow tie. Later we were even more taken aback by the patterned ties with colourful fruit and flower designs which he alternated with the bow ties in those days, and his penchant for brightly coloured socks. (Brennan, "I Remember" 27)

His ties deserve one other observation from Brennan:

...one of which, I particularly remember, had a bold blackberry design, very reminiscent of the wallpaper he chose for the Committee room in the new Library four years later. (Brennan, *Philip Larkin* 23)

The Library at Hull that Larkin inherited contained 120,000 volumes, employed just 11 staff, and was housed in an assortment of badly designed buildings. Larkin, greatly aided by the support of the vice-chancellor and the boom in funding for British higher education of the late 1950s and 1960s, presided over its transformation during the next two decades. By his retirement in 1985 there were over 750,000 items in stock, a highly sophisticated Canadian computerized catalogue and circulation system (Brennan, "I Remember" 37), over 80 staff, and a new library. Larkin's successes were not without some personal misgivings as he described computerization as "resembling a kind of lunatic professional hari-kiri: I've never knowingly destroyed a library before. It's a curious sensation: half-exhilarating, half-frightening" (Motion 482).

On the death of John Betjeman in 1984, Larkin was offered the post of Poet Laureate but declined, feeling that his poetic muse had permanently deserted him. Larkin received many professional and literary awards during his

lifetime and after his death in 1985. There are two which stand as particularly representative tributes: the one to Larkin the librarian and the other to Larkin the poet. Shortly after his death, the Philip Larkin Memorial Appeal was established. It was intended, in part, to assist libraries in the United Kingdom and Ireland to purchase modern literary manuscripts (to understand this in the context of Larkin's interests see Larkin, "A Neglected Responsibility"). In 1995, two of his poems, *This Be The Verse* and *An Arundel Tomb*, were voted as favourites in the poll of the "Nation's Top 100 Poems" as conducted by BBC's "Bookworm" program.

Larkin: poet/librarian or librarian/poet? In a comment that will be viewed differently by librarians than by poets, a Vice-Chancellor of Hull University was noted as saying to Larkin, "I pay you a librarian's salary to write poems" (Lerner 5).

(With special thanks to Peter Robinson's Inspector Banks, whose reference to a poem by Larkin sent me in search of it and led me to a much greater discovery. And a belated thanks to Alison Mews of Memorial University of Newfoundland for the idea that led to the column on the library of Alexandria in v. 68, no. 1.)

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## From the President's Desk

Laurette Mackay will be representing APLA on the steering Committee for the International Federation of Library Associations congress of 2008. Laurette's enthusiasm will be a great asset to that committee.

The Executive has also held preliminary discussions with the Canadian Library Association regarding a joint conference for 2007. I see on the CLA website that the announcement of the host city has not yet been made, so stay tuned for further developments.

I would like to encourage members to think about creating and leading workshops for the APLA 2005 ([www.apla.ca/apla2005](http://www.apla.ca/apla2005)) conference in

Halifax. It is amazing what you can learn when leading a workshop. The conference theme lends itself to a broad range of topics, so please give it some thought. (It looks great on a résumé, by the way.)

There are some changes underway at the APLA website. The intent is to make the site a bit more interactive. Adding the capacity for members to explore the phenomenon of weblogs is under consideration and development. You have already seen the new look of the *APLA Bulletin*.

Let your colleagues know what you think about these changes and anything else on your mind relating to libraries. The APLA listserv has

provided some interesting discussions at times. It's good to read the e-mails and hear the passion in the points of view. This points to a vibrant, creative library community.

As always, it is nice to work on your behalf. The work of the association provides a boost in the midst of what is, sometimes, the mundane world of work. It is good to look beyond the boundaries of institutions to be reminded of the importance of the great work we do.

*Submitted by Allan Groen*

### NEEDED: New Editors for the *APLA Bulletin*

Patricia, Erin and Ruth are retiring as editors of the *APLA Bulletin* at the end of the summer: volume 68, number 5 will be our last issue. A new team of editors – two editors and one advertising editor – is needed to run the *Bulletin*.

Working on the *Bulletin* is a great way to keep current with what's going on and to meet and keep in touch with colleagues from across the Atlantic provinces and beyond. If you are interested, please contact Patricia, Erin, or Ruth.

### APLA memorial awards

Financial assistance for study and research is available from the APLA Memorial Trust. Projects that contribute to the professional development of the applicant and benefit the library profession as a whole are encouraged. To apply, please send a letter outlining your proposed research, estimated costs, and a copy of your curriculum vitae by March 15, 2005 to:

Committee Chair  
APLA Memorial Awards  
c/o School of Library and Information Studies  
Faculty of Management  
Dalhousie University  
Room 3621, Killam Library  
6225 University Avenue  
Halifax, NS B3H 3J5

### Carin Alma E. Somers scholarship trust

Applications are now invited for the Carin Alma E. Somers Scholarship.

This award provides an annual, non-renewable scholarship to a Canadian citizen who is an Atlantic Provinces resident needing financial assistance to undertake or complete the academic requirements leading to a degree of Master of Library Science. Funds are awarded on a competitive basis and financial need is a consideration. The successful applicant will have been accepted in a program for a Master's degree in library science and information studies that is accredited by the American Library Association. The deadline for applications is March 31, 2005.

Further information and application forms are available on the APLA website at [www.apla.ca](http://www.apla.ca) or by contacting:

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## 2005 APLA Merit Award

The Atlantic Provinces Library Association invites nominations for the Association's Merit Award. The Award is conferred on an individual who has made an outstanding contribution to library service in the Atlantic Provinces. Nominations accompanied by appropriate documentation of the nominee and her/his contribution(s) should be sent by January 31, 2005 to:

Laurette Mackey  
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115 Bailey Ave  
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## APLA General Activities Fund

The APLA General Activities Fund (GAF) provides funds for projects or activities that will further the aims and objectives of APLA. Applications will be considered based on the availability of funds. Applications should state the topic and date of activity, the relevancy to the Atlantic library community and APLA, any sponsoring bodies, estimated costs and revenues, and a contact person. Send applications by March 15, 2005 to:

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## First Timer's Conference Grant

Have you never been to an APLA annual conference? Do you want to go to Halifax but cannot afford it? Why not apply for APLA's First Timer's Conference Grant?

To be eligible, an applicant must be a personal member of APLA, residing in Atlantic Canada, and planning to attend her/his first APLA annual conference. Grants are allocated, consistent with general APLA guidelines, to help meet conference-related expenses. If more applications are received than can be met by the fund, money will be awarded by drawing from the names of all eligible applicants. Recipients will be expected to write a short report for the Executive and the *Bulletin* summarizing their conference experience. Applicants should include name, business address, chosen means for contact (mail, e-mail, telephone, or fax) estimated costs (travel, accommodation, meals, and registration), and a signed compliance with eligibility requirements.

Applications should be submitted by **March 31, 2005** to:

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## APLA Executive: Call for Nominations

The executive offices requiring nominations for 2005/2006 are:

**Vice-President/President Elect**

**Vice-President (Prince Edward Island)**

**Vice-President (New Brunswick)**

### Guidelines:

1. No member of the Nominations and Elections Committee is eligible for nomination.
2. Any APLA member may nominate any other member for elective office.
3. Every person nominated shall be a personal APLA member in good standing and shall file a letter of acceptance with the Secretary of the Association.

Please send nominations no later than **February 28, 2005** to:

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E-mail: [lmackey@nbnet.nb.ca](mailto:lmackey@nbnet.nb.ca)

## Eileen Wallace research fellowship in children's literature



The Eileen Wallace Research Fellowship in Children's Literature, valued at up to \$5,000 (CDN) per annum, invites proposals for research and scholarship using the resources of the University of New Brunswick's Eileen Wallace Children's Literature Collection. Proposals are welcomed from anyone who can provide evidence of competence and scholarly background

and outline a practical and worthwhile project using the resources of the Collection. Application forms are available on our website at [www.lib.unb.ca/collections/clc/](http://www.lib.unb.ca/collections/clc/) or from:

### Children's Literature Collection

Harriet Irving Library  
University of New Brunswick  
P.O. Box 4400  
Fredericton, NB E3B 5A3  
Phone: (506) 452-6044 or (506) 458-7056

**The deadline for application is March 1, 2005.**

## SLIS Alumni honour Judy Dunn at fall reception

Well over 100 alumni and well-wishers gathered at Dalhousie University's Great Hall on October 6 to attend the reception hosted by the Associated Alumni of the Dalhousie School of Library & Information Studies (SLIS). The annual event provides an opportunity for alumni to welcome the School's students and faculty and to network with colleagues.

Dr. Fiona Black, Director of SLIS, thanked alumni for their donations and introduced a number of students who have benefited directly from alumni funds. Mari Beth Slade was the winner of the SLIS Associated Alumni Scholarship, Danielle Dungey was awarded the Barbara A.M. Patton Scholarship, and eight first-year students received assistantships.

On behalf of the Associated Alumni, Past Chair Tanja Harrison and Chair Michelle Paon presented Dr. Black with a cheque for \$1010. The funds were collected during a flea market and a silent auction held during the year and will be directed towards student scholarships.

One of the evening's highlights was the presentation of the 2004 Outstanding Alumni Award. This year's recipient was Ms. Judy Dunn, a graduate of 1983. Ms. Dunn was cited for her long-standing commitment to SLIS, her contributions to Dalhousie University and the wider community, and her involvement in professional organizations.

Ms. Dunn has been involved in the library profession for over 20 years, having worked at the Dartmouth Regional Library, the International Centre for Ocean Development and the Bedford Institute of Oceanography. Ms. Dunn has served as SLIS Programme/Graduate Coordinator since 1990 and her enthusiasm, attention to detail and caring nature have provided support to countless students and alumni. In fact, in 1998, she was awarded Dalhousie's Rosemary Gill Award for outstanding service to students.

In her remarks, Ms. Dunn expressed her gratitude at having been chosen as

this year's award recipient. She reflected on the significant changes that she has witnessed over the years in the available technology and the facilities at SLIS, as well as the wonderful memories and the many friends she has made among the faculty, staff and students.



*Michelle Paon, Judy Dunn and Ann Symons*

Dr. Tom Traves, President of Dalhousie University, addressed the audience, congratulating Ms. Dunn, whom he had first met upon arriving at the university several years ago. President Traves spoke of the professionalism and collegiality he has witnessed among SLIS alumni and of the enjoyable collaborations he has had with the members of the profession and the school. Also in attendance at the reception was Dr. Abolhassan Jalilvand, Dean of the Faculty of Management

Smitty Miller, a second-year representative on the SLIS Student Association, introduced the evening's guest speaker, past president of the American Library Association Ann K. Symons. In her talk, Ms. Symons spoke on the value of leadership and invited comments from a panel of three SLIS students: Smitty Miller, Emilie Dawe and Holly James. They reflected on the qualities of the leaders they most admired, identified specific leadership qualities in themselves and good-naturedly shared their thoughts on personality tests. Ms. Symons also entertained a number of questions from the audience. The evening drew to a close with a final opportunity for attendees to mingle and enjoy refreshments.

*Submitted by Michelle Paon*

*Chair, Associated Alumni of the Dalhousie School of Library & Information Studies*

## Nova Scotia Library Association presents 1st Norman Horrocks award for library leadership

The first Norman Horrocks Award for Library Leadership was presented to Michael Colborne on October 24, 2004 at NSLA's 2004 Annual Conference.

This award, established to honour leadership in the Nova Scotia library community, is given by NSLA for distinguished contributions to the promotion and development of library service in Nova Scotia.

Michael Colborne, the first recipient of this prestigious award, is presently the Co-ordinator of User Services at the Nova Scotia Provincial Library. He is a well-known leader in the Nova Scotia library community and has distinguished himself as a tireless promoter and developer of library services over the past 20 years. Michael's work has been accomplished primarily through the Public Library System, but he constantly strives to include members of all types of libraries and the larger community in his efforts.

Michael has been described as "consultative, community-involved, helpful and supportive." He is an outstanding role model for all library workers in Nova Scotia and a most deserving candidate of the first Norman Horrocks Award for Library Leadership.

For more information, contact Peggy Hiscock, NSLA Past-President at [phiscock@nsngp.library.ns.ca](mailto:phiscock@nsngp.library.ns.ca) or (902) 755-6031.

Dr. Norman Horrocks and award recipient Michael Colborne



Mark your calendars for exciting travel in August, 2004-2008: Oslo, Seoul, Durban and Québec City are the host cities of the next four annual IFLA conferences. The (Canadian) National Advisory Committee for the 74th IFLA Conference, to be held in Québec City in August 2008, met November 19. The Atlantic Provinces are well represented: Madeleine Lefebvre (Halifax) is CLA's representative and Laurette Mackey (Fredericton) is APLA's representative.

The committee's role is to:

- Advise the local organizing committee in all matters regarding the planning and running of the 2008 conference.
- Facilitate dialogue and collaboration between the Canadian associations and institutions in order to promote the 2008 conference.
- Suggest strategic approaches to the local organizing committee in its search for financing and sponsors.
- Propose a thematic orientation that will help shape the scientific elaboration of the conference.

For more information, contact Laurette Mackey at [laurette.mackey@gnb.ca](mailto:laurette.mackey@gnb.ca).

## Noted journalist and author Stephen Kimber will be the keynote speaker at the APLA 2005 conference in Halifax



The keynote speaker for the APLA conference planned for May 2005 in Halifax will be Stephen Kimber, a professor of Journalism at the University of King's College in Halifax and an award-winning writer, editor and broadcaster. In 2003 Kimber won both the Dartmouth Book Award for Non-fiction and the Evelyn Richardson Award for Non-fiction for his story about Halifax's infamous VE day riots, *Sailors, Slackers and Blind Pigs* (Doubleday 2002).

Kimber also has authored *Not Guilty: The Trial of Gerald Regan* (Stoddart 1999), *Flight 111: The Tragedy of the Swissair Crash* (Doubleday 1999), *More Than Just Folks* (Pottersfield 1996) and *Net Profits* (Nimbus 1990). Jennifer Evans, Program chair for the conference, stated that "Kimber is not afraid to challenge our communities to think about freedom of speech and the value of intellectual freedom - something all librarians no doubt share with him."

An APLA pre-conference is also being planned for May 26 (Thursday), with the main conference occurring from May 27-29. The conference will take place at the Westin Nova Scotia Hotel in downtown Halifax. Program details will be finalized with registration information early in the new year. For more information, visit the APLA conference web site at [www.apla.ca/apla2005](http://www.apla.ca/apla2005).



## The E.C. Smith digital herbarium: Collaboration and Innovation on a Shoestring

by Jennifer Richard

A herbarium is a collection of pressed dried plants collected by researchers to document their research and to provide a record of biodiversity in particular geographical areas over time. The E.C. Smith Herbarium is the largest in Atlantic Canada, containing over 200,000 plant specimens, including vascular plants, bryophytes and fungi. Basically, and in the words of the Herbarium Director, Dr. Rodger Evans, "it is a big library of dead plants." So who better than a librarian to bring this wonderful resource to the world through the web?

### Humble beginnings

Both the actual herbarium and the digital incarnation had humble beginnings. The Acadia Herbarium, as it was called then, was created in 1910 by Dr. H.G. Perry with a small collection of about 50 to 60 specimens given to him as a gift. Between 1920 and 1940 it grew to approximately 20,000 specimens due to the efforts of Dr. M.V. Roscoe

and Dr. H. P. Banks. During Dr. E.C. Smith's tenure at Acadia, from 1947-1971, the number of specimens topped 70,000. In 1970, Acadia University's Board of Governors announced that the department's excellent collection of plants would be named the E.C. Smith Herbarium as a tribute to him for his contributions to the collection.

The idea for the digital herbarium was born when it was announced that the Irving family was building an Environmental Centre on the Acadia campus and that the herbarium would be moving into this state-of-the-art facility. What better time to collaborate across the campus and showcase Acadia's technological expertise? During the summer of 1999, the Vaughan Memorial Library hired a student to liaise between the Biology Department and the Library to determine the best course of action to bring the project to life. It was established that the rare and endangered species collection was the place to start.

### Perseverance

Cut to 2004: two children, two university librarians, two directors of the Irving Centre, two directors of the Herbarium, seven university students, a whole slew of volunteers, and six grants later, and the E.C. Smith Digital Herbarium is officially launched on Thursday, November 25, a date which, both accidentally and fittingly, coincides with Dr. E.C. Smith's birthday. The database represents 78 plant families, over 400 genus species, hundreds of *in situ* images and 2,000 scanned images and corresponding records of the rare and endangered plants of Nova Scotia catalogued in the herbarium. This is the first database of its kind in Canada. It is one of only 12 in the world containing scanned images of a herbarium's collection and only one of two using MrSID technology to enlarge and navigate the images.

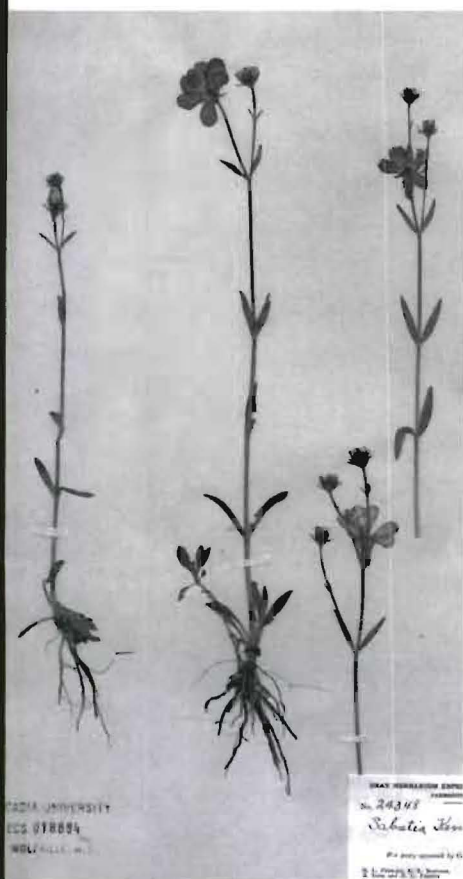
The database is designed like a library catalogue, with a main record and *in situ* images equivalent to a bibliographic record and specimen records and images attached as holdings. There are an additional 2,000 images of plants from other provinces, 12,000 textual records and 200 records describing the collectors waiting to be loaded into the database. The framework is now completed and the next step will be to populate the database with more records, images, value-added links and maps.

There are three main reasons for doing any digital project: to preserve, promote and increase access to the original collection. This project will be used by academic, private and public sector organizations to study and ensure the protection of regional biodiversity. It will also bring a renewed awareness about conservation issues related to the flora of the Atlantic Provinces. Duplicate digital images will reduce wear and tear on the physical collection and guarantee that the important information collected and catalogued over the last 90 years is preserved.

### The Great People

The great people I worked with, or, I should say, the people who actually did the work on this project are: Steve MacNeil, the Vaughan Memorial Library's Systems Manager, who did the programming and provided all the computer expertise; Mary Lou Conrad, web designer; Ruth Newell, Curator of the Herbarium; and Rodger Evans, Director of the Herbarium, who injected new life and vigour into the project this year. Thank you.

Please visit the digital herbarium at [luxor.acadiu.ca/library/Herbarium](http://luxor.acadiu.ca/library/Herbarium).



## NEW BRUNSWICK / NOUVEAU-BRUNSWICK

### PUBLIC LIBRARIES WEEK / SEMAINE DES BIBLIOTHÈQUES PUBLIQUES

La Semaine des bibliothèques publiques du Nouveau-Brunswick a été célébrée du 18 au 24 octobre dernier. Le lancement officiel a eu lieu dans la matinée du 14 octobre à la bibliothèque publique d'Atholville. Sous le thème *Livrez-vous à la lecture*, la Semaine des bibliothèques publiques de 2004 visait à mettre l'accent sur le plaisir de la lecture. Le matériel promotionnel représentait une femme confortablement assise dans un grand fauteuil, absorbée par la lecture d'un livre qui la transporte dans un cadre exotique. Cette semaine a été célébrée dans les 61 bibliothèques et les 4 bibliobus partout au Nouveau-Brunswick. Cette année encore, le service des bibliothèques publiques du Nouveau-Brunswick en a profité pour diffuser une annonce publicitaire sur les ondes de Radio-Canada Atlantique et de ATV.

New Brunswick Public Libraries Week was celebrated from October 18 to 24. The official launch took place on the morning of October 14 at the Atholville Public Library. The theme of the 2004 Public Libraries Week, *Surrender to Reading*, was selected to draw attention to the pleasure of reading. Promotional material showed the picture of a woman comfortably seated in a large chair, so absorbed in the reading of a book that she is carried away to an exotic location. The week was celebrated in all 61 public libraries and four bookmobiles across New Brunswick. The New Brunswick Public Library Service also took advantage of this week to broadcast a TV ad on ATV and Radio-Canada.

New Brunswick Public Libraries Week was a great success in the York Library Region this year. Members of the public participated in a variety of activities at the libraries, including celebrity readings, nominations of "Best Books," special storytimes and puppet shows, and, in several libraries, the launch of the Hackmatack program.

The Haut-Saint-Jean Library Region celebrated New Brunswick Public Libraries Week with renowned Canadian children's author and illustrator Marie-Louise Gay. Ms. Gay has written and illustrated over forty books. She has been the recipient of numerous honours including the Governor General's Literary Award for best illustration. Her books have been translated into twelve languages and enjoyed by children

worldwide. Her most recent work, *Stella, Princess of the Sky*, was released in September. Her six-stop tour from Plaster Rock to Nackawic was a tremendous success. This tour was supported by a grant from The Canada Council for the Arts. She delighted her audiences with her drawings, humour, and comical sketches. Marie-Louise took the children on a journey through the creative process. The trip began with simple doodles and squiggles on a blank sheet of paper, progressed to pencil sketches, and finished with watercolour paintings and adding the text. Each stop on the visit found her answering questions about all aspects of her work, reading one of her stories, and creating a different character with suggestions from the children. These ideas produced such imaginary creatures as Miss Snake the Librarian (who actually looked like a polka-dotted cat with a pig's tail and hooves and had a propensity for eating books), and Mr. Buster Rabbit, a hockey stick-carrying rabbit who wore glasses and plaid shorts. The children were then asked to create the introductory sentence for the story surrounding their new character. More than 370 children and adults enjoyed this memorable experience.

New Brunswick Public Libraries Week and the TD Canadian Children's Book Week were marked in the Saint John Library Region with author visits that delighted children and adults. David Goss, a New Brunswick author and storyteller, presented at eight of the public libraries in the region and entertained audiences with stories from *Tall Tales & Curious Happenings*, published by Nimbus Publishing Ltd. Ottawa mystery writer Mary Jane Maffini read from her novels and discussed the work that is being done to promote Canadian mystery writers. Her reading at the Saint John Free Public Library during Public Libraries Week attracted a number of participants from the West Branch's regular mystery club "Murder By the Book." Susan Juby, author of *Alice, I Think* and *Miss Smithers*, read and discussed writing at the Grand Manan Library on Grand Manan Island, off the coast of New Brunswick. All visits were made possible by funding from the Canada Council for the Arts.

### PEOPLE / GENS

The York Library Region was pleased to welcome Lorraine Suley as a Library Assistant at the Bibliothèque Marguerite-Michaud on September 27. Lorraine has filled a newly created position and staff are very pleased to have the additional employee. Stephanie Furrow joined the reference

team at the Fredericton Public Library on October 19 as a Reference Librarian. Mireille Heagle joined the staff at the regional office as Administrative Assistant on November 1. Mireille will be replacing Harriet Dougherty who is retiring on November 30 after thirty-seven years with the region. Harriet's contribution to the region is greatly appreciated and we wish her well in retirement. Lisa Grewal was appointed Acting Children's Librarian at the Fredericton Public Library and started in that capacity on November 12. Staff at the Fredericton Public Library are celebrating a big win in the 649 Lottery. Seventeen staff members won a total of \$78,638 in the November 6 draw.

Ruth Mitchell retires from her position as Assistant Regional Director of the Albert-Westmorland-Kent Library Region on December 31, 2004. She began her career with the Albert-Westmorland-Kent Library Region as Children's Librarian at the Moncton Public Library in August 1979. In September 1984, she moved into the Assistant Regional Director's position and has fulfilled its ever-changing duties since. Lynne Post has assumed the duties of the Assistant Regional Director. She brings a variety of experience and ability to the position and has been the Public Services Librarian in the region since April 2003.

The Saint John Library Region also welcomed Sarah Gladwell as a new Reference Librarian at the Saint John Free Public Library.

Murray Baillie, librarian at Atlantic Institution, Renous, received a request in September for assistance from a group of students at Dalhousie University's School of Library and Information Service. They were doing a class presentation on collection development in prison libraries. One student later commented: "If there's one thing we've come away with from this, it's a deep appreciation for the prison librarian." It doesn't sound like easy work, supporting the goal of the Corrections Service. Murray works with such student groups quite often. It is interesting that over the years, Murray has never met even one student: all communication has been by e-mail.

Le directeur de la Bibliothèque Rhéa-Larose de l'Université de Moncton, campus d'Edmundston, Guy Lefrançois, est de retour d'un stage d'un mois en Belgique. C'est suite à l'obtention d'une bourse de stage de perfectionnement professionnel dans le cadre du programme de coopération entre la Société Nationale de l'Acadie (SNA) et la Communauté Wallonie/Bruxelles (CWB) que monsieur Lefrançois a fait ce stage. Le

stage consistait à prendre connaissance des approches européennes appliquées dans la gestion de problèmes occasionnés par les constants développements technologiques. La sélection de fournisseurs de bases de données; la gestion des formats papier et électronique des publications en série; la croissance exponentielle de la documentation et sa conservation; l'élagage des collections; la diffusion de l'information papier et électronique et la formation des usagers en milieu universitaire furent parmi les sujets de discussion et d'examen; le tout s'inscrivant dans une comparaison avec les méthodes nord-américaines. Le stage s'est déroulé à l'Université Catholique de Louvain (UCL) à Louvain-la-Neuve sous la supervision du directeur Charles-Henri Nyns et à l'Université Libre de Bruxelles (ULB) à Bruxelles sous la supervision du directeur Marc Vendeur. Les bibliothèques visitées furent celles de l'UCL et de l'ULB, des Facultés Universitaires Saint-Louis, la Bibliothèque Royale de Belgique et la Bibliothèque principale et locale de Bruxelles 1. Des rencontres avec les responsables de ces institutions eurent lieu ainsi qu'avec divers responsables de services et projets. Cette visite a permis, entre autres, de constater les changements majeurs que vivent les universités européennes.

La Bibliothèque Champlain est fière d'annoncer l'embauche de Sébastien Tremblay au poste de Chef du traitement documentaire à compter du 1er novembre 2004 en remplacement de Charlotte Dionne, et ceci avec un contrat d'un an. Sébastien a obtenu sa maîtrise de l'École de bibliothéconomie et sciences de l'information de l'Université de Montréal en 2001 et a ensuite travaillé pendant deux ans à l'Université de Montréal.

#### **CHILDHOOD LITERACY / ALPHABÉTISATION DES ENFANTS**

Cette année, les enfants qui sont entrés à la maternelle ont reçu une carte de bibliothèque publique. Cette initiative, qui s'inscrit dans le cadre du Plan d'apprentissage de qualité du gouvernement du Nouveau-Brunswick, vise à encourager les jeunes et leurs parents à utiliser les ressources et les programmes offerts par les bibliothèques publiques et les bibliobus. En mars 2004, le gouvernement du Nouveau-Brunswick annonçait que tous les élèves de la maternelle à la 12e année dans les écoles publiques recevraient une carte de bibliothèque. Depuis, 9 975 cartes ont été activées et le pourcentage de la population néo-brunswickoise ayant une carte de bibliothèque est passé de 36,9 à 39,1 pour

cent entre le 1er avril et le 15 octobre 2004.

Children that started kindergarten this year received a public library card. This initiative, which is part of the New Brunswick Government's Quality Learning Agenda, aims to encourage youth and their parents to use the resources and programs offered by public libraries and bookmobiles. In March 2004, the Government of New Brunswick announced that all students from Kindergarten to Grade 12 would receive a library card. Since then, 9,975 of the cards sent to schools were activated and the proportion of New Brunswickers with a library card rose from 36.9 to 39.1 percent from April 1 to October 15, 2004.

Le 17 novembre dernier, des lancements avaient lieu dans cinq localités du Nouveau-Brunswick pour donner le coup d'envoi à la campagne "Les livres enrichissent la vie." Cette campagne a été organisée par la Coalition pour l'alphabétisation du Nouveau-Brunswick et regroupe différents intervenants oeuvrant dans le domaine de l'alphabétisation au Nouveau-Brunswick, dont les bibliothèques publiques. La campagne "Les livres enrichissent la vie" s'est déroulé jusqu'au 1er décembre et visé à encourager le public à donner des livres neufs pour enfants. Les livres recueillis seront répartis entre les bibliothèques publiques et divers groupes oeuvrant en alphabétisation.

On November 17, events took place in five different communities in New Brunswick to launch the "Books Brighten Life" campaign. This campaign is organized by the Literacy Coalition of New Brunswick and brings together various New Brunswick organizations involved in literacy, including public libraries. The "Books Brighten Life" campaign ran until December 1 and its goal was to encourage the public to donate new children's books. Books collected will be distributed between public libraries and various literacy organizations.

#### **PROGRAMS / PROGRAMMES**

Two authors have visited libraries in New Brunswick recently. Mary Jane Maffini, mystery author and former librarian, read at the Moncton Public Library, the Saint John Free Public Library, the Oromocto Public Library and the Fredericton Public Library to enthusiastic audiences during New Brunswick Public Libraries Week. Young adult author Susan Juby read at nine public libraries throughout the province for Canadian Children's Book Week and her presentations were greatly enjoyed by both high school students and library staff. The Fredericton Public Library

children's department was the site for a recent CBC Kids television taping. The CBC taped three segments for their children's programs in the department in conjunction with the Tidal Wave Film Festival on November 4.

During Canadian Children's Book Week/La Semaine du livre Canadien pour la Jeunesse, three authors made visits to libraries in the Albert-Westmorland-Kent Library Region. Susan Jube and Doris Barrette spoke to groups of children at the Moncton Public Library, while Lucie Papineau made presentations at the Memramcook and Saint Antoine Public Libraries.

The public was invited to hear Clinical Psychologist Dorothy Price speak on "Child-Rearing in the Fast Lane: an examination of the psychological impact on children being raised in today's overscheduled, overworked and over pressured world" at the launch of the 5th edition of the *MindCare Collection Bibliography*. The event, held in early December at the Saint John Free Public Library, tied in with the theme of the MindCare Collection, a special donation of resources on mental health and wellness made available by the MindCare New Brunswick Foundation. This noon hour program also included a display of the latest *Bibliography*, and of the newer books and videos.

On November 19, UNB Libraries worked together with Service New Brunswick, the UNB Department of Geodesy and Geomatics, and the geomatics community to recognize the importance of geography and geomatics in our society. An award was established for the most outstanding map of New Brunswick done by a student or team of students at UNB. Judged by representatives of Geomatics New Brunswick, New Brunswick Land Surveyors, Service New Brunswick, and the University of New Brunswick, the winning entry was Vicky Whaley's orienteering map. A certificate and cheque for \$200 were presented to Vicky. As well, teams from the planning committee went into schools in the Fredericton region, introducing maps and mapping to students in elementary, middle, and high schools.

#### **DONATIONS AND FUNDRAISING / DONS ET LEVÉES DE FONDS**

The Moncton Public Library Board recently held a fundraising event called "All That Jazz". Tickets to an evening of jazz by local musicians brought in about 150 people. The evening included both a silent and a live auction featuring items donated

by local businesses and artists. In all, the event earned the Board almost \$10,000. The library was also involved in a fundraising project with Chapters bookstore. The local Chapters store featured a Christmas tree "decorated" with slips of paper noting books on the library's wish list. Shoppers at the store are encouraged to purchase one of these books to donate to the public library.

The Hillsborough Public Library applied for and received \$1500 through the ABC Canada Share the Stories program. These funds will help this very small but very busy library to augment its children's book collection.

## EVENTS / ÉVÉNEMENTS

Both the Memramcook and the Hillsborough Public Libraries celebrated 40 years of public library service to their communities. In Hillsborough, the occasion was marked with an open house that included cake and coffee, book draws and a special bedtime story time for which children, parents and the library manager dressed in pajamas. Memramcook's anniversary event was geared more to adults, with special guest Lieutenant Governor Herménégilde Chiasson and many former board members in attendance. A violinist played throughout the evening.

## WORKSHOPS, COURSES / COURS, ATELIERS

The libraries of the Albert-Westmorland-Kent Library Region were closed November 26 so that all employees could attend the annual staff workshop. The morning featured a session on time management called "Taking Control of Your Time." In the afternoon, each employee attended two of four workshops: How to!! An email refresher; Databases, WHEN to use them; Maximizing your use of Word; and What else can I read? (a discussion on writers whose work might interest readers of popular authors). Following the workshops, seven employees were recognized for having been with the AWK Library Region for 15, 20, 25 or 30 years.

The regular meeting of the Albert-Westmorland-Kent Library Region Forum took place at the end of October. As usual it consisted primarily of a sharing of information. The meeting also included a presentation by Anthony Knight, Executive Director of the New Brunswick Public Libraries Foundation, on the recent activities of the Foundation as well as on its fall fundraising campaign – "Strong Libraries, Strong Communities."

## CONFERENCE / CONFÉRENCE

UNB Fredericton hosted a very successful Serials Ecosystem Conference on September 25 and 26. Serials vendors, publishers, consortia and the library community came together to highlight electronic serials issues through formal presentations, panel discussions and informal gatherings. Carol Hansen Montgomery, Dean of Libraries at Drexel University, gave the opening keynote address and Mary Case from the University of Illinois at Chicago gave the wrap-up presentation.

This year's Milham Lecture, given on November 24, featured two speakers. Dr. Robert Hawkes spoke about the searchable database of the first 25 years (1887-1912) of the *Educational Review* ([www.lib.unb.ca/archives/educrev/educrev.html](http://www.lib.unb.ca/archives/educrev/educrev.html)) and Ms. Linda Baier, Assistant University Archivist, talked about the searchable New Brunswick School Book Collection database ([www.lib.unb.ca/archives/schoolbook/schoolbook/html](http://www.lib.unb.ca/archives/schoolbook/schoolbook/html)).

APLNB's 2004 AGM and Conference was held October 1 and 2 in Edmundston. M. Jacques Besner, CRHA Human Resources consultant, spoke about day-to-day management issues and Professor Diane Mittermeyer, Associate Professor at McGill University, gave a talk about marketing the library.

## FACILITIES / LOCAUX

The Dieppe Public Library had to deal with the impact of renovations in line with the construction of the Chocolate River Conservatory of Music, which will be an addition to the building that houses the library. The library collection and equipment had to be packed and stored during the renovations, which involved reinforcing the roof of the building and installing a new pillar in the children's section of the library.

## NEW COMPUTER SYSTEM / NOUVEAU SYSTÈME INFORMATIQUE

L'année 2005 sera une année de grands changements pour les bibliothèques de l'Université de Moncton, puisqu'elles implanteront un nouveau système de gestion intégrée de bibliothèques, soit le système Unicorn de Sirsi. La migration à ce système est prévue pour la rentrée universitaire en septembre 2005.

*Submitted by Mireille Mercure*

## NEWFOUNDLAND & LABRADOR

### ACADEMIC LIBRARIES

#### Memorial University

The Queen Elizabeth II Library, CLA's Emerging Technology Interest Group and the Newfoundland and Labrador Library Association co-sponsored a full day workshop titled "Getting Out from Behind the Desk: the Future of Library Customer Service." Six sessions were held during the day highlighting how recent technologies (surveys, RSS, animation, portals, digital archives and virtual reference) are used to deliver and enhance library service. From all accounts it was a great success. Speakers' notes from the workshop can be found at [staff.library.mun.ca/staff/ETIG/](http://staff.library.mun.ca/staff/ETIG/).

#### College of the North Atlantic

Staff News: Wanda Ryan, Library Clerk I, has been working casual hours at both the Prince Philip Drive and Seal Cove campuses. Linda Reddigan is the Library Technician at the Placentia Campus. She is replacing Donna Crann, who is now at the Qatar Campus. Andy Barker has been recalled as the full-time Library Technician at the Grand Falls-Windsor Campus. Susan Hamilton remains on medical leave. Rona Colbourne has been recalled to her Library Technician position at the Corner Brook Campus. Nina Woodward has been recalled as the Library Clerk at the St. Anthony Campus.

### PUBLIC LIBRARIES

Lots of interesting activities have been happening in the public libraries across the province. The Central Division recently welcomed Icelandic/Albertan storyteller Karen Gummo, who visited libraries in St. Albans, Random Island, and Gander.

The Western Division has had an increase of 300 percent in its Books-by-Mail circulation statistics over last year! Ron Broda recently completed a tour of Labrador.

As reported in the last *Bulletin*, a major fire destroyed most of the Carmanville Academy in May which also housed the public library. The branch reopened in its temporary home in the Carmanville Town Hall in October and expects to open in a new home next year.

Staff News: Betty MacDonald has been appointed Lending Services Librarian at the Provincial

Resource Library in St John's. Gwen Smith has been appointed Community Librarian at Arnold's Cove Public Library. Sylvia Griffiths was appointed Library Technician III at the Mount Pearl Public Library in July. Yvonne Gillard was appointed Library Assistant (full-time) at the Mount Pearl Public Library in September. Deborah Williams was appointed to the position of Library Assistant (part-time) at the Mount Pearl Public Library in September. Diane Mann has been appointed Library Assistant (part-time) at the Mount Pearl Public Library until October 2005. Cindy Hall has been appointed Library Assistant (part-time) at the Mount Pearl Public Library. Jacqueline Nash was appointed Community Librarian at the St. Bride's Public Library in August. Vicki Lockyer has been appointed Community Librarian at the St. Lawrence Public Library. Patricia McCormack has been temporarily appointed Community Librarian at the Trepassey Public Library. Ethel Janes has retired from her position at the Labrador City Public Library. She was there for 26 years and was a fine local librarian. Trudy Andrews is replacing Ethel as the Community Librarian. Marie Pile has retired from Corner Brook Library after 20 years with the system and has been replaced by Sandra Batstone.

### SPECIAL LIBRARIES

Sean Dawe, formerly with the Legislative Library, has been made permanent as the Director of Legal Information Services with the Department of Justice.

Trine Schioldan, who was replacing Sean on a temporary basis, has now been made permanent as the Information Specialist (Bibliographic Control) with the Legislative Library. Her former position, Manager of Information Services with the Women's Policy Office, has not yet been filled.

Annette Anthony, Regional Librarian at the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Centre of Fisheries and Oceans Canada, is on maternity leave until July 2005. Annette gave birth to her first child, Claire, on July 27, 2004. Gail Kenny is acting as Regional Librarian on an interim basis, and Carole Barry has joined the Library staff to assist Gail until Annette returns.

The NRC Information Centre in St. John's recently won a CISTI Award of excellence for quality service to clients. They have also just launched a web database of research publications for the NRC Institute for Ocean Technology.

### ASSOCIATIONS

The Newfoundland & Labrador Library Association has launched a new event series: "NLLA Happenings." The first session was about eLibrary Canada, presented by Lisa Wilson on Dec. 3. The date for the annual AGM has also been set for May 6, 2005.

*Submitted by Trish LeBlanc*

## NOVA SCOTIA

### PUBLIC LIBRARIES

**Annapolis Valley Regional Library** (submitted by Marliese Kirby)

We are delighted to report that we're in the midst of moving the Windsor Library to its wonderful new facility! The library was closed November 15-17 to facilitate the transportation of library materials and furniture to the Prince Albert Street location. On November 18 the Windsor Regional Library opened its doors to welcome residents of the community to a bright, spacious, and attractive building with a larger book, video, and DVD collection, new and additional computers, and increased open hours. The revised schedule of open hours took effect on November 18. The official opening celebrations were held on November 27.

Exciting Fall events at our libraries included:

- Children's author Frances Wolfe visited the Berwick and Annapolis Royal Libraries on September 25 to read from her new book *One Wish* (sponsored by CFUW)
- Broadcaster, storyteller, author, and Mr. Nova Scotia Know-It-All Bruce Nunn was at the Kentville Library on October 6 (sponsored by Nimbus Publishing)
- Mermaid Theatre staff delighted the young people of Berwick with puppet-making workshops at the library on October 16 (sponsored by CFUW)
- Folklorist, musician, and author Clary Croft visited the Wolfville Memorial Library on October 17 and the Annapolis Royal Library on October 20 (sponsored by Nimbus Publishing)
- Children's author Sylvia Gunnery shared her knowledge with two groups of young people at the Wolfville Memorial Library in writing workshops (sponsored by CFUW)

A "Read-To-Me!" launch was held at the Valley Regional Hospital on October 12, completing the hospital partnerships in this provincial literacy initiative. As part of this project, new parents of babies born at the hospitals receive a package which includes a book, a CD, a suggested reading list, and an invitation to join their local library. On that morning, we held a special 'Jamboree' celebration for babies and preschoolers and their families at the Wolfville Memorial Library. Sheree Fitch, spokesperson for the "Read-To-Me" program, was our special guest at the Jamboree, adding an exciting and enthusiastic aspect to the morning! In conjunction with the launch, our region decided to host "Read-To-Me Week." Day cares and nursery schools throughout the Valley were provided with handouts for the children about visiting the library, getting a card, and the special draws taking place that week. Each library drew for a children's book and we had a regional draw for 2 sets of 4 tickets to the Robert Munsch performances at the Rebecca Cohn on October 23.

We are pleased to announce that the Wolfville Memorial Library has received funding once again from Coca Cola Canada for a "Share the Stories Reading Circle" project. This literacy program, facilitated by ABC CANADA Literacy Foundation, matches up "children learning to read with grownups who love to read; children who love to read with grownups whose first language is not English; children learning to read in French with grownups who read in French." We have 26 pairs participating. Funds total \$2,500 and this is used to purchase children's books, magazines, computer programs, dual language books, craft supplies, books as incentives, and honorariums for presenters.

### Automated Library System

The migration of the automated system from MultiLIS to Unicorn has been delayed. There are problems with the transfer of data. These problems are being slowly resolved. It has not yet been determined how much the dates of the process will be affected but the sequence of events will remain the same. The live date will move from the end of January to some time in March.

### Community Access Program (C@P)

A Fall/Winter Youth Internship program will see youth working in Windsor, Wolfville, Kentville and Port Williams for a 12-week period ending February 28, 2005. A conference session was

held on November 13 for C@P sites in Annapolis and Digby Counties to promote discussion on the present and future state of C@P.

### Equipment

The new Windsor Regional Library added two extra public access computers for its opening on November 18, making a total of six available for use. A wireless router was installed to allow the users of the library to have access to the Internet connection if their laptops have wireless capabilities. This access will be available even when the library is closed. This service is being used in two other branches in the region.

Both bookmobiles have new 1xRT communications capabilities. This technology allows for access to the Internet at higher speeds. This upgraded speed covers the minimum required to run the Unicorn software to be used this winter on the bookmobiles.

### CAPE BRETON REGIONAL LIBRARY

(submitted by Tara MacNeil)

The Cape Breton Regional Library hosted "Read-to-Me" Jamborees at the McConnell Library (Sydney), the Wilfred Oram Library (North Sydney), and the Glace Bay Library (Glace Bay) to celebrate the Nova Scotia "Read-to-Me" Family Literacy Program. The McConnell library held their Jamboree on October 20. A large crowd of over fifty parents, caregivers and children enjoyed sharing stories, songs, rhymes and playtime.



McConnell Library's "Read to Me" Jamboree

Once again the McConnell Library participated in the Celtic Colours International Festival by hosting a Celtic Conversations Lecture Series. The series was held during the lunch hour from October 12-15 and a variety of artists were warmly welcomed to perform and discuss their music and inspiration, as well as answer questions from the audience. All four sessions were intimate and informal. The first Celtic Conversation showcased the beautiful voice of Scottish Gaelic singer Julie Fowlis. Ms. Fowlis



Julie Fowlis from North Uist sings Gaelic work songs during the Celtic Colours Conversations Series

performed in a number of events during Celtic Colours with a lively band, Dochas. As a guest speaker in the library she chose to explain and demonstrate the different types of Gaelic work songs. A few members from the audience were able to help her along with some of the choruses that were familiar to them.

Friday, October 22 was Patron Appreciation Day at the Ingonish library. Thanks to the generosity of John Williams, a local restaurant owner, and Mary Ellen Anthony, an Ingonish resident, lunch, sweets, tea and coffee were served to everyone who dropped by that afternoon.



Storyteller Harolyn Gourley at the Glace Bay Library on Halloween.

October was Library Card Month at the Cape Breton Regional Library. During this time, special events and promotions occurred to encourage new members to get library cards and current members to renew their expired cards. Library Card Month was a success! It was the library's goal to register or re-register 2004 members, and on October 31 our tally was **2297**. We ended Library Card Month in the spirit of the season with a Halloween Party at the Glace Bay Library. Folks



The Cape Breton Regional Library set up a table at a Screaming Eagles hockey game during Library Card Month. Dale Weatherbee, the Screaming Eagles mascot, and Arlene Canning.

young and old dressed up and came to enjoy the storytelling of Harolyn Gourley.

The McConnell Library has presented a fun and informative line-up of adult programs this fall. We have enjoyed a scrapbooking demonstration with Elaine and Sarah-Marie McDonald; "Preparing Your Car for the Winter" with Mike MacNeil, a mechanic with Canadian Tire; "The Big Ships—From Stem to Stern," a session on planning a cruise ship vacation presented by Marjorie Sheasby, a Master Cruise Counsellor with Carlson Wagonlit-Sydney Travel; a reading with CBC Radio's Bruce Nunn from his most recent collection of Nova Scotia stories, *59 Stories*; "The Art and History of Tarot Cards" presented by local artist Debbie Couture; and "A Tour of the American Southwest," the travel adventures of Rannie Gillis and Ann MacLean.

### ACADEMIC LIBRARIES

#### UCCB Welcomes New Staff Member

The University College of Cape Breton Library is happy to welcome Mr. Lou Duggan on board as our new Digital Librarian. Lou holds a Master's degree in Library and Information Studies from Dalhousie University. His work history includes eight years at Dalhousie University's Kellogg Health Sciences Library and the completion of a post-graduate fellowship at the US National Library of Medicine. From 2002-2004 Lou worked in the documentary film and television industry as the Director of Research for Arcadia Entertainment and as a Producer for Cambrian Productions. His research interests include "just in time" information resources for academics and professionals as well as the cultural and pragmatic implications of information and technology in society. As Digital Librarian, Lou will act as webmaster and manage the technical aspects of delivering high quality information to the UCCB community.

Submitted by Gordon Bertrand

### Prince Edward Island

#### ACADEMIC LIBRARIES

##### Holland College (submitted by Brenda Brady)

Holland College wrapped up the year with a flurry of activity on the instructional, licensing, and collection development fronts.

Continued on page 17 >

## So, what was the buzz?

# A Conference Report on ACCESS 2004: beyond buzzwords

by Jennifer Richard (Programme Chair)

### History and Overview of the Conference

The first ACCESS Conference was held in St. John's Newfoundland in 1993. It was founded by Slavko Manojlovich and friends with the support of the Canadian Library Association's Emerging Technologies Interest Group. Over the last eleven years, ACCESS has continued to grow in prestige and popularity. It is, and has always been, a truly international gathering of library-related, technology-minded individuals and is considered to be the premier library technology conference in the world – well, at least by those who faithfully attend every year. This is the first time the conference has been held in Nova Scotia. It was held at the Delta Halifax from October 13-16, 2004. Delegates hailed from every province in the country, from the United States, and from England, Scotland, Japan, and Belgium. ACCESS is a single-stream conference, chock-full of relevant, interesting sessions from morning to late afternoon. In addition to the programme, the very late nights of partying and hacking make this conference an exhausting and exhilarating experience.

### Programme

Our three keynote speakers gave us inspiration (as did the much-needed coffee) each morning. We started off the conference with Andrew Pace, Library Systems Manager from North Carolina State University and recently featured on the cover of *Library Journal*. In his presentation "Dis-Integrated Library Systems: Promise and Peril," Andrew briefly described the history of library automation and the lack of innovation in OPACs over the last thirty years. He stated that he was cynically optimistic as he criticized both vendors for not providing what's needed to libraries and librarians for accepting the unacceptable. Though hopeful about open source solutions, he noted that 75% of open source initiatives fail, and the ones that succeed often end up going commercial. He encouraged both vendors and librarians to work together to insure interoperability and the re-integration of library services. Andrew also discussed new



Andrew Pace



David Seaman



Roy Tennant

technologies such as federated searching, portals, and institutional repositories.

Friday morning began with a presentation from David Seaman, Director of the Digital Library Federation. David is a frequent visitor to our region, having instructed on the creation of electronic text and images at the UNB Summer Institutes for a number of years. David's pleasant British accent and quick wit kept everyone entertained and involved. His presentation, "Mass and Malleability: The Collaboration Imperative," detailed many of the bleeding edge issues which Clifford Lynch normally covers at this conference. David gave an overview of what is happening at the Digital Library Federation and other related organizations around the world. He indicated that the dissemination of best practices is an important goal of those interested in digital preservation. He emphasized the importance of collaboration and noted that competition lies in service and local customization of electronic information. He contended that many of the problems surrounding digitization in the future will be social and not technical. He informed the audience that 90% of publishers have given the green light to self-archiving for authors, yet only 10-20% are taking advantage of this permission. David stated that there was a major need for richer search engines and we need to embrace and enrich Google, Yahoo, Ebay and Amazon. He questioned the organization of the e-journals world in publisher silos and he also emphasized the need for federated searching.

Finally, Roy Tennant, in his second performance of the conference, pinch-hit for a very disappointed Clifford Lynch, who for the first time in the history of the conference was unable to present. Clifford was fogged in in Boston and was unable to get to Halifax in time for his keynote address. Roy presented "Libraries through the Looking Glass," which encapsulated all of what had been discussed throughout the three days of the conference: issues surrounding inadequate and problematic library catalogues, and the value of metasearch protocols and initiatives, as well as the importance of our staff and opportunities for their growth and development.

The remaining sessions were on a variety of topics and were presented by a broad range of people, including university librarians, programmers, vendor representatives, systems librarians, managers and technicians. Thursday, Roy Tennant described the problem of inconsistencies in standardized metadata fields (the example he used was the variations in format of the date fields). Slavko Manojlovich addressed many of the problems surrounding standards and their interpretation in developing a metasearch product. Clare MacKeigan from Relais International, a small Ottawa-based company that provides Interlibrary Loan systems, specifically discussed standards issues relating to document delivery. Jenny Walker from Ex-libris explained the collaborative effort involved in the NISO metasearch initiative. Bill Moen, a regular

*Continued on page 16 >*

## So, what was the buzz?

*Continued from page 15*

speaker, presented on Web Services approaches for Search and Retrieve, the next generation of Z39.50. Kevin Stranack from Simon Fraser University demonstrated the reSearcher software and explained its development using open source software. We ended the day with a presentation from Diane Vizine-Goetz from OCLC on ePrints UK.

On Friday, Brian Bell from the Canadian Initiative on Digital Libraries and Eric Stackhouse from the Nova Scotia Digital Collection Initiative gave a national and local overview of what's going on closer to home. Both emphasized the importance of getting important, historically relevant information into the hands of Canadians through best practices and standards. Mark Leggott and John Durno showcased two different approaches to customized web service for university communities. Dalhousie University's Canadian Research Chair in Informatics, Elaine Toms, gave a fast-paced presentation on her research about the inability of search engines to "know" or conceptualize what searchers need. Peter Webster presented a comparative review of administrative services among commonly-used vendor databases and products and Steve Gregory and Mark Needleman updated the group on the NISO Circulation Interchange Protocol.

Saturday, William Oldfield showcased TUG's (TriUniversity Group of Libraries: Waterloo, Wilfred Laurier and Guelph) electronic resource management system and Tuan Nguyen and Doug Fenwick explained the development of York University's content management system using open source software.

For more details on the sessions and keynote presentations, please visit the website at [library.acadiau.ca/access2004](http://library.acadiau.ca/access2004).

*(Big deep breath)*

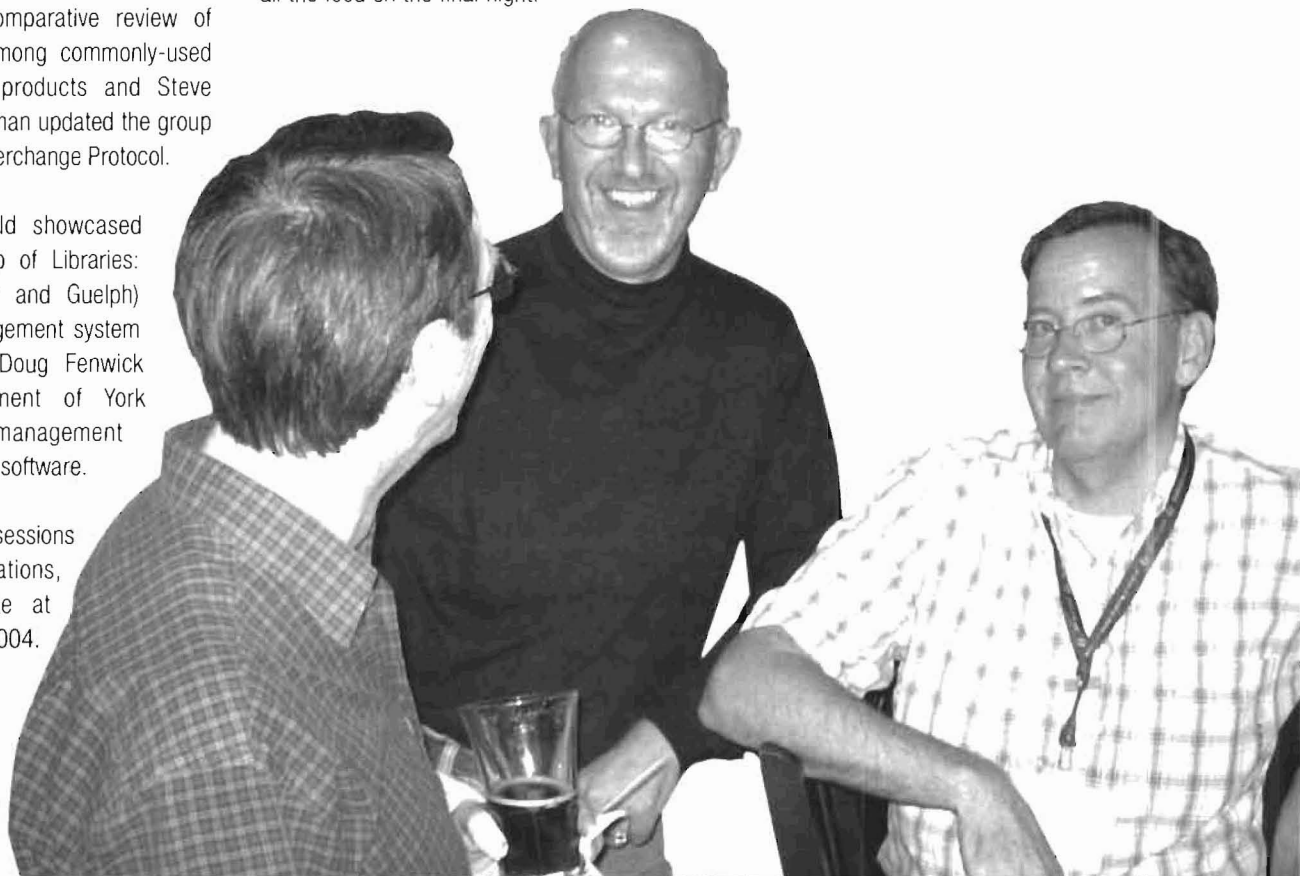
### Social Events

The Social Events are always a highlight of this conference, particularly as many of the delegates return every year to meet and catch up with old friends. This year's Opening Reception, sponsored by SIRSI, was held at the Waterfront Warehouse. The cozy, elegant, yet not-too-formal setting was a perfect start to the conference. Friends reunited and new friends were introduced over sushi, bruschetta, satays and just a few beers. On the second night of the conference, decked out in our Meta-shirts (a shirt about shirts) designed by librariangear.com, many participants took a trip back into Maritime history as they attended the Keith's Brewery Tour. Later, the tours met up with the rest of the delegates for a fun-filled and late night of drinks and live entertainment at Pogue Fadó, generously sponsored by ProQuest Micromedia. Finally, on the last night of the conference, many hardy souls made it to Dooly's on Barrington for a very relaxed evening of pool, pizza, wings and, of course, more beer. Thanks to Endeavor Information Systems for all the food on the final night!

### All's well that ends well

Kudos are extended to the Acadia University's Organizing Committee: co-chairs Tamsin Bolton and Steve MacNeil, Mary Lou Conrad for the website, Erin Patterson for the printed programme, Tanja Harrison for the social events, and Jason Levy for the technical support. The Organizing Committee would like to thank all the speakers, sponsors and volunteers, including Peter Webster, Gordon Bertrand, Charlotte Janes, Hansel Cook, and Gwendolyn MacNairn. As well, thanks and acknowledgements go to Tara Leigh Dickie and her team at the Delta Halifax for exceptional service. And finally, thanks to APLA for providing sponsorship funds for the conference from the General Activities Fund (GAF). Lots of fun and learning were had by all.

**See you next October in Edmonton!**





*Continued from page 14 >*

In December of 2004 we finalized licenses for the online versions of the *Encyclopedia Britannica* and EBSCO's *Professional Development Collection*, and the initial uptake of both products has been heavy from all campuses.

In November, we offered a new session on RSS feeds and their use as a current awareness tool to journalism students as well as staff in the College and the province's Food Technology Centre. The College has recently signed an MOU with the Centre to develop new food products and

markets and we hope to cooperate with Centre staff in future information endeavours.

At the Tourism and Culinary campus, Donald Moses has been exploring ways to effectively embed information skills in the curriculum, using the Sport and Leisure Management program as a pilot. Donald hopes to deploy a full range of skills instruction with first-year students in the program in the new year.

Finally, in early December, Library Services recruited learning managers and program

directors from across the College to a working group to examine the use of electronic materials in the curriculum. Members will discuss how best to select, finance, embed, and evaluate a variety of products such as e-books, online journal collections, and "learning objects" such as online demos and tutorials. That's it for 2004!

*Submitted by Shirley MacLeod*



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## Join the APLA Discussion List

APLA-L is an unmoderated discussion list for people who are interested in library issues in Atlantic Canada. The APLA list is:

- a place to post notices about workshops, seminars, and other events
- a source of current information about the actions of the APLA Executive
- a forum for sharing questions, comments and ideas about library services
- a place to post job advertisements

To subscribe to the APLA list, send the command "sub apla-list" to [listserv@lists.dal.ca](mailto:listserv@lists.dal.ca).

To send a message to everyone on the list, use [apla-list@lists.dal.ca](mailto:apla-list@lists.dal.ca).

To stay on the list but suspend your messages (while on vacation, for instance), send the command "set apla-list nomail" to [listserv@lists.dal.ca](mailto:listserv@lists.dal.ca). When you want to receive message again, send the command "set apla-list mail" to [listserv@lists.dal.ca](mailto:listserv@lists.dal.ca). To unsubscribe from the list, send the command "unsub apla-list" to [listserv@lists.dal.ca](mailto:listserv@lists.dal.ca).

If you have any questions about the APLA list, please contact the postmaster, Suzanne Sexty, at [ssexty@mun.ca](mailto:ssexty@mun.ca).

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## Hackmatack Nominated Authors on Tour in Atlantic Libraries

The Hackmatack Children's Choice Book award is back for its sixth season with an exciting selection of 30 nominated Canadian books in French and English.

While the young readers are busy reading and selecting their favourite books, the nominated authors are preparing to tour the Atlantic region this April. Approximately 19 of the nominated writers will visit thousands of their young fans in libraries in all four Atlantic provinces from April 18 to April 22.

The readings are made possible with the generous support of the Canada Council for the Arts. The extensive reach of the tours would not be possible without the ongoing collaboration with the New Brunswick Public Library Service, the St. John's Public Libraries in Newfoundland and Labrador, the Confederation Centre Public Library in Prince Edward Island, and several regional libraries in Nova Scotia, including the Western Counties Regional Library, the Pictou-Antigonish Regional Library, the Cumberland Regional Library, the South Shore Regional Library, the Eastern Shore Regional Library, the Annapolis Royal Regional Library and the Halifax Public Libraries.

Visiting writers touring New Brunswick will include Deborah Ellis, Julie Lawson, Diane Swanson, Paul Rousseau and Josée Ouimet. Sarah Ellis will be doing presentations in Prince Edward Island and Nova Scotia. Dorothy Perkyns, Rosemary Sadlier, Maxine Trottier, John Wilson, Pamela Hickman, Shari Graydon, Ainslie Manson, Kristin Bieber Domm, Philip Dinn, Denise Paquette, and Martine Latulippe will be visiting schools and libraries in Nova Scotia. John Wilson and Carmelita McGrath will tour Newfoundland and Labrador.

Children will cast votes for their favourites in the English fiction, English non-fiction and French categories by April 1, 2005. This year the Hackmatack Award Ceremony will be held on April 22 from 10:00am to 12:00pm at the Kenneth C. Rowe Heritage Hall at Pier 21 in Halifax.

For more information on how to participate in the Hackmatack reading program and upcoming events, visit our website at [www.hackmatack.ca](http://www.hackmatack.ca). If you would like a copy of our colourful 2005 award poster, contact the Hackmatack office at (902) 424-3774 or e-mail us at [hackmatack@hackmatack.ca](mailto:hackmatack@hackmatack.ca)

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