



Bulletin

The Atlantic Provinces Library Association

Volume 55, Number 5

ISSN 0001-2203

March—April 1992

“Doing Research is Essential to the Development of a Professional Librarian.”

Richard Ellis

This is a vexed topic. My view is that it is largely an attempt of librarians to play “catch-up” at a time when the professorate (the group up with whom the librarians are attempting to catch) is reassessing its stance. Therefore, I am not inclined to urge the librarians to boldly go where those better equipped have floundered. Perhaps the best short view of the problem of the professorate is found in Ernest Boyer’s *Scholarship Reconsidered: Priorities of the Professorate* (Carnegie Foundation, 1990). In this report he points out that the conceptual limitation of scholarly activity to what he calls “scholarship of discovery” is a relatively new phenomenon and the blanket expectation that all scholars at all institutions should be involved in it is definitely a postwar development.

As academic librarians we stand at a sufficient remove from the professorate to be able to place its activities in a different context than it does itself. We see the results of “publish or perish” every time we turn to our journals budget. Which of us has not seen a CV from a librarian who feels that a long list of inconsequential publications will somehow endear him or her to an appointments committee? Neither the professorate nor the librarianate is served by logorrhea.

In its narrowest sense, the scholarship of discovery, most librarians are ill equipped to pursue research. While all have a solid background at the bachelor’s level, the majority have
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Beverly True

Somewhere along the path of my library education I was taught that true research was “careful or diligent search...studious inquiry or examination...critical and exhaustive investigation or experimentation having for its aim the discovery of new facts and their correct interpretation...”

as defined in Webster’s *Third New International Dictionary*, Unabridged.

It was maddening, therefore, when I began my professional career in the small branches of the New York Public

Library system to have fourth and fifth grade students announce that their teachers had sent them to do “original research” on Columbus, pyramids, the French and Indian War or whatever project the school curriculum dictated. The “original research” consisted of copying by hand from the encyclopedias (no photocopiers in those days) while keeping up a constant chatter with one’s peers. Sometimes reading a hardcover book on the subject was a scholastic requirement. If that certain title was not on the shelf, then a catalogue card entry could be noted down for the bibliography of works “consulted.” Whatever became of that old-fashioned word “homework”? I fumed against this false elevation of reference checking to original research.

Of course, reference work was and still is a part of my daily existence, even though administrative duties demand the greatest part of my attention. It is very seldom, however, that any of the
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We put the above statement to a number of Atlantic area librarians and asked them to respond to it. The reaction was overwhelming—everyone we asked responded, and we were forced to carry these responses over to a second issue. Is it essential? Read on and hear what four of your colleagues have to say.

Elaine Toms

Just two years ago I migrated to the academic world, a world with seemingly endless prospects for research. I had come from five years of confronting and surmounting the day-to-day problems of a typical scientific library operation. But the problems encountered were primarily technical and process-oriented; their solutions called for quick “fixes” and survival strategies. None of this could ever be construed as research.

In my previous “life,” I read and used those many articles with titles like “Forty-five ways of using PC-file to automate your library” or “How we moved our entire journal collection in three days.” As useful as such articles were, in the new job, I now have the opportunity to examine a problem, test a hypothesis, and, possibly, advance a

theory fundamental to the library and information field. However, the initial burst of enthusiasm has been dampened by the simple realization that research is neither straightforward nor easy. Identifying new questions, conceiving valid hypotheses and developing sound methodology require considerable knowledge, insight, perseverance, endurance, and good fortune. It takes time to start down the research track, and, yes, luck and opportunity are important ingredients, not to be lightly discounted.

A segment of the academic milieu will argue that research is an academic’s *raison d’etre*. In contrast to the work of a practising librarian, research is not just an option but an integral part of an academic’s job. Moreover, not unlike the practising librarian who faces a

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Robert Cook

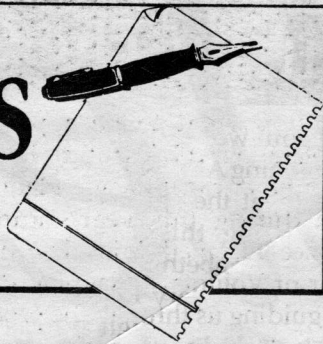
A librarian’s professional development should not cease with the attainment of a professional qualification. Apart from growth on the job, the chief avenues to professional development are continuing education, involvement in library association activities, and research. Of these, research has always been valued the least.

Research can be viewed as a systematic quest to extend our knowledge and understanding of librarianship. It encourages researchers to consider broader issues outside their daily work routines and, by stimulating their powers of creative

thinking, enables them to find solutions to practical problems. The skills developed in the area of definition, analysis and solution of problems are particularly important in these times of change and uncertainty. As well, keeping informed of, and helping to contribute to, the development of new theories and practices are means of enhancing the status and credibility of a professional librarian.

Research in librarianship may be theoretical or applied. At present, most research is applied. There is a relative paucity of research into the broader theoretical and philosophical questions that need to be addressed if librarianship is to advance. It is through such research that new hypotheses can be tested, laws can be established to help bring meaning and direction to professional activities, solutions can be found to the problems that libraries will face as circumstances change, and librarianship can develop
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FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK



In 1991, the Canadian Legal Information Centre created a national task force to examine the options for making government databases on law available to the legal profession and the public. This task force held regional consultations in the fall to ensure that the concerns and ideas of users are reflected in its recommendations for action.

The APLA executive sent a representative to the consultations held in Fredericton in September and in Halifax in November. At its meeting in January, the executive approved a written brief to be sent to CLIC to reinforce our statement of the concerns of the library community in the Atlantic Provinces. The brief stresses APLA's commitment to the principle of access to information and knowledge in all its forms, and details concerns with respect to format, copyright and privacy.

On another, and related, front, Communications Canada has announced amendments to the

Copyright Act with respect to "buying around". The announcement indicates that an importer will be allowed to import one parallel copy of a book for a library or educational institution so long as it is non-profit. The amendments are to be introduced early in 1992.

In response to the announcement, CLA Executive Council released a "Statement on Buying Around". While expressing support for the government's objective to "enhance the prosperity and competitiveness of Canadian-owned publishing houses," CLA does not support legislation or regulation to give exclusive distributors greater protection, on the basis that libraries should not be forced to support "poor business practices, a low level of service, or higher than reasonable net costs of books" simply because a distributor has distribution rights in the Canadian market. CLA states that it must reject "any encompassing move to make direct book importations by libraries illegal or more costly." Stay tuned for more on this issue!

—Judy Head

Library Profession Promoted In Dalhousie Days '91

—by David Hansen and Debra LeBel

With the assistance of APLA, the Dalhousie School of Library and Information Studies recently took part in Dalhousie's Open House—Dalhousie Days '91—held on October 18th and 19th. This event attracted large numbers of high school students and the general public.

The theme of the School's exhibit was CD-ROM technology. Library school students demonstrated the Wilson disc Readers' Guide Abstracts, and a contest was held to encourage use of the CD-ROM. Participants answered a question from a list of choices using the H. W. Wilson CD-ROM. The randomly chosen winner from 105 ballots, Sandy McClearn of Liverpool, Nova Scotia, received a \$20 gift certificate for an audio CD by answering the question: "How many planetariums are there to visit in North America?"

Also on display was Information Finder, the compact disk version of the World Book Encyclopedia. This product was generously loaned to the library school for the open house by Liz Williams, District Manager of World Book, Educational Products, located in Dartmouth, Nova Scotia.

Students of the School of Library and Information Studies produced a pamphlet and bookmark to distribute during the Open House. The purpose of the pamphlet was to increase awareness of the role of information professionals; the bookmark was designed to promote the School. Additional copies of the pamphlet have been added to the School's file at Dalhousie's Career Information Centre. Funding for these two projects and the prize for the contest were generously provided by APLA. The students and faculty of the Library School wish to thank the members of APLA for their contribution.

Atlantic Region CBIC Closes Its Doors

The Halifax-based Atlantic region Canadian Book Information Centre (CBIC) has closed its doors. The Centre is the collective marketing arm of the Association of Canadian Publishers (ACP).

At a fall 1991 ACP general meeting, the decision was made to close all regional offices (including offices in

Vancouver and Winnipeg), and to centralize operations in the national office.

According to Mary Newitt, National Director of CBIC, "it is beyond us to consider reopening offices—there is no money available."

Although the Atlantic Publishers' Association is a member of the ACP they did not vote in favour of the closures.

Heidi Atkins, Interim Executive Director of the APA, said that, although the APA will attempt to fill some of the gap, associations simply "can't do the same job without offices in the regions."

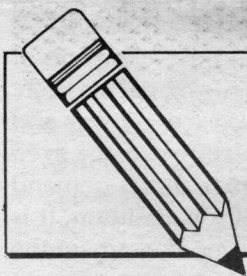
A report which preceded the closings was critical of the CBIC, and recommended that the Centre be replaced by a new Book and Periodical Council.

Such a Council has yet to be formed. The federal government recently announced that \$102 million in new money would be spent over five years in order to provide "development assistance" to the publishing industry.

What this new money may mean to the CBIC, to any newly formed Council, and to regional publishers is still unclear, but the government plans to have its new programs in place by April 1, 1992.

—Bradd Burningham, with information supplied by Gwen Whitford.

From the EDITOR'S DESK



At the last APLA Executive meeting I volunteered to write one or two short items outlining the effects of a number of federal government cutbacks on the Atlantic region. It seemed we were getting hit by one cut after another—as if we weren't all reeling enough with our own provincial cutbacks—and it was starting to get hard to keep track of them all.

Two of these cutbacks are dealt with elsewhere in this issue. See the item entitled *Atlantic Region CBIC Closes Its Doors* for news on Halifax's loss of this important service, brought about at least in part by reduced Canada Council funding to the CBIC's parent organization, the Canadian Publishers' Association.

For an article on the loss of SSHRCC funding for Canadian Studies Research Tools, see the article by Fred Wilson, also in this issue. (By coincidence, the announcement was made only a few hours previous to writing this that SSHRCC will now be administered by

the Canada Council; so who knows what further changes—for good or bad—may result).

A third cutback came by way of a double-whammy to the publishing industry. The postal subsidy for books and periodicals was slashed, just at the same time as a tax on reading was introduced in the form of the GST. All of this at a time of recession.

What this meant to libraries was a significant, and immediate, wallop to already strained materials budgets. Less books could be bought for the dollar, and less subscriptions maintained to periodicals. Perhaps the hardest hit area was newspaper subscriptions, many of which increased in price by 100% or more.

Although Atlantic book publishers were not hit quite so hard as some in the rest of the country (at least five publishers elsewhere closed down altogether in 1991), the magazine industry did not fare nearly so well. *Atlantic Insight*, *Atlantic Business*, and *Atlantic Advocate* all have closed their doors. Others, such as the *MicMac News*, managed to stay afloat only with heroic

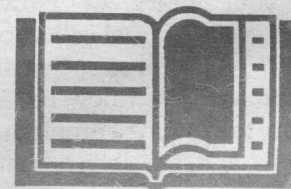
effort (after having funding from the Native Communications Program eliminated), while still others, such as the *Atlantic Provinces Book Review*, find their funding coming under the closest scrutiny.

The government announced at the end of January \$102 million dollars in new funding over five years for Canadian publishing, in addition to a \$25 million dollar postal subsidy replacement program to begin in 1993-94.

According to the government's own press release, "the new funds will be used to strengthen the industry, support the marketing of Canadian-published titles here and abroad, and promote greater readership of Canadian books."

Without doubt, the funding comes far too late for many magazine and book publishers. Whether it is enough to make a major difference to the surviving publishing industry, and precisely what effects it may have on the Atlantic region, remain to be seen.

—Bradd Burningham



Discussion Groups And The Internet

Editor's note: There are now dozens of library discussion groups burning up the network lines around the world on a daily basis. They are available via the Internet. Since not all librarians have access to the Internet, and since no one can possibly be aware of all of the groups, we asked three Dalhousie library students to pick one each, tell us about it, and summarize the hottest issues of the day. Our thanks to Mark, Karen, and Tim.

CIRCPLUS Discussion Group

Are you a "circie"? If you are, and you're curious about what other circulation librarians are talking about these days, CIRCPLUS may be the best electronic bulletin board for you. CIRCPLUS deals with library circulation issues, ranging from many practical "how we do it" concerns to hotly debated topics like confidentiality of reserve borrower information.

Though I wasn't able to discover how long CIRCPLUS has been in operation, it's clear from the number of regular participants (including the illustrious "Rustbelt Bill") and the number of messages per week (75-100) that it is catching on. Most contributors work in Access Services/Circulation Departments in U.S. academic libraries. I noted that only two Canadian librarians actually contributed letters to the CIRCPLUS discussion group.

In a two-month period some of the circulation topics included: identification of staff badges, use of collection agencies, interfiling of monographs and periodicals, handling of oversized items, faculty rank of circulation librarians, processing fees for lost books and maximum fines, copying vendors and machines, and patrons using credit cards for payment of library fees and debts.

Clearly the hottest CIRCPLUS issue going is that of confidentiality of reserve borrower information. "Circies" from across the U.S. address the propriety of disclosing patron names to professors who want to do some in-class arm-twisting of students (the opinions vary widely here!), and the application of different American state laws on confidentiality. CIRCPLUS subscribers also appeal to each other for information or advice on circulation problems; recently a University of California librarian called for names, addresses, and other information from Heads of Access Services/Circulation Departments to use in a research project.

CIRCPLUS isn't as active as some of the other bulletin boards I've been hearing about. But it is fresh turf for "circies" to share ideas and concerns, and discover how other circulation librarians deal with many of the recurring (and sometimes new) problems they confront.

—Mark Bartlett

AUTOCAT Discussion Group

Ever wonder how to catalog an electronic journal? You might find the answer on the Autocat discussion group, an electronic forum where no aspect of cataloging and classification is too arcane. As one subscriber put it, "the purpose of this list was to have a place where catalogers could ask seemingly trivial questions and get real answers (not just smirks!)."

Autocat, which celebrated its first birthday in October of this year, has over 900 international subscribers, many of whom are extremely voluble. Most contributors, almost 700, are from U.S. libraries or library schools. But Canada is represented by nearly 40 subscribers.

If you sign on to Autocat, you can expect somewhere between 100-150 messages a week, covering anything from the planning of work schedules in cataloging departments, to complaints about specific LC subject headings, to job announcements.

One recent, lengthy discussion dealt with the perceived shortage of catalogers and reasons for it (an American librarian suggested that library school faculty were discouraging students from entering that field). This debate led to a general discussion about resumes, cover letters, job interviews and hiring practices.

Autocat subscribers are always willing to provide answers to any question they're asked. One subscriber needed to find someone who could transliterate the title page of a Georgian score so it could be cataloged. She received several helpful responses.

As a problem-solving forum, or as a place to air your views with the international cataloging community, Autocat can be a very useful tool.

—Karen Morgenroth

LIBREF Discussion Group

Have a tough reference question you need an answer for? Or are you having difficulties with your latest CD-ROM product? Well LIBREF-L is the electronic discussion group for you.

LIBREF-L is a forum for discussing all the latest issues in the reference field with your colleagues from all over North America. A subscription to LIBREF-L results in anywhere from 2 to 10 messages a day, with an average of about 5 per day.

Messages range from job postings to surveys to the latest controversy. The surveys are particularly useful and cover such issues as the best CD-ROM players, reference desk hours, and who's buying what products on CD-ROM and how they feel about the products. The reference questions put on the network are usually obscure but

Setting The Course For APLA!

If you want to be a part of planning APLA's future, be sure to be at the strategic planning session during this year's annual conference. Elizabeth Mills, Executive Director of Voluntary Planning (NS), will be guiding us through the process which will help us arrive at an agreement as to what direction the executive should take. By the end of the session we will have debated, amended, and refined the draft strategic plan which was sent to you in October.

This session will be the continuation of the process which started at the 1991 conference in Corner Brook. At that time Andrea John, in the President's report, emphasized the need for planning which would assure that our limited resources—both human and financial—would be expended as effectively as possible. The membership recognized the importance of developing a proper strategic plan by approving funding. The rest, as they say, is history.

The results of a questionnaire, which was sent to all members, were used by the participants of a weekend planning retreat to form the draft strategic plan. This draft was sent to you and many of you have sent your comments and suggestions to the Committee on Aims and Objectives. This strategic plan sets out a mission statement for APLA and outlines six strategic goals for the organization. What we have to do now is to establish the priority for achieving these goals.

Your input is more than important—it is essential to the success of the strategic plan. Even if you can not be in Halifax for the annual conference, you can still have input into the strategic plan. Read the report of the draft strategic plan again and send your comments, suggestions, criticism to the Committee on Aims and Objectives, care of Suzanne Sexty, Vice President, President Elect. If you have not received a copy of the report you can contact this same committee.

See you on May 8 at 3:30 p.m. in Halifax!



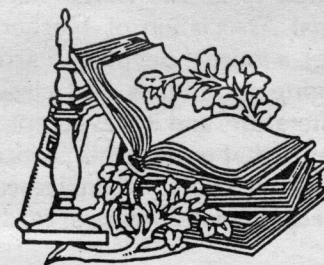
APLA Strategy Planning Session Participants (Sept 1991)

its amazing to watch how quickly answers begin to be posted; often it's only a matter of a few hours.

The controversies are probably the most interesting part of the bulletin board and the discussion often gets quite heated. One of the latest issues dealt with striking the most economical balance between paper indexes and abstracts, and online searching and CD-ROM products. The latest targets of many librarians' wrath seems to be the cost of ISI's citation indexes and the poor quality of the Peterson's guides series. Other hot issues include self-service ILL, end user online searching, and staff recognition.

But life is more than just work and the occasional anecdote serves to lighten the debate. Particularly amusing was the story of Samford University Library, which moved its obsolete card catalogue to a loading dock and had problems with their patrons continuing to use it.

—Tim Klasson



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chosen a non-research professional degree over a research apprenticeship in the discipline of their undergraduate degree. Thus, they are ill equipped to pursue a lifetime of discovery in their major discipline where they are competing with members of the professorate who have completed two further stages of apprenticeship in this regard as well as (in model cases) having made a personal commitment to the process of discovery in their field. One would wonder what ALA's Committee on Accreditation would make of one of our graduate schools which designed a program which was not designed to produce practitioners, but toilers in the vineyards of information science. Yet that is the necessary concomitant to the adoption of "research" within the academic librarianship. We might also have a look at our colleagues in the professorate and make our own evaluation of the beneficial effects that such an apprenticeship has had on their essential contributions to their disciplines as a group. We are not likely to do better.

However, none of the above should be taken to indicate that librarians should not be scholarly. If we understand that a good textbook can be a scholarly enterprise in its discipline, requiring both a firm grasp of the discipline, its history and present developments, and a facility for seizing on essentials and communicating them, then we are in a position to admit a wide range of scholarly activities among librarians which do not involve discovery. Many of us have rolled our eyes at the professional literature, but how many have stopped to do a serious review of a portion of it so that future readers will be spared (or warned of) the dross which is certainly there? How many of us have staked out a field of research outside the professional literature with a view to setting the problems of practitioners in another context than that of our own literature? Are we making a serious study of the institutions in which we practice? These could all be aspects of a scholarly practice as an academic librarian.

(Richard Ellis is University Librarian, Memorial University of Newfoundland.)

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staff in this small public library system is engaged in scholarly research or the provision of original source material.

A few years ago I wrote a paper on Frederic Chopin as a song composer for a music class I was attending at Mount Allison University. With the encouragement of my professor I submitted it to *The NATS Bulletin* (National Association of Teachers of Singing), a journal devoted to articles on singing techniques and classical vocal literature; and it was accepted.

I realize that writing this particular article did not involve original research either. I spent many weeks of reading,

taking notes, analyzing the songs, and listening to recordings. There were many more hours engaged in compiling the information and striving for a well-written, informative piece that would interest the reader. It contained no revelatory aspects of Chopin's personal life nor of the musical analyses of these songs. The experience, however, was an eye-opener, and gave me a different perspective on library service, since I was now the one seeking material and feeling the frustration that occurs when much-needed library volumes or journal articles are missing. I also wrestled with the problems of receiving copyright approval from the Polish publishers of Chopin's works; and I suffered the ignominy of having my precious prose scrutinized by an editor expert in the field. Undaunted, I am now struggling to put together another such article concerning the Canadian composers who have contributed so much to the contemporary art song.

Public libraries are not noted for granting sabbaticals so that one may pursue research on a given subject. One must often be content to write the occasional article or review, either on the library profession, or like myself, in another field of interest and knowledge.

I, personally, find this outlet a most rewarding one, for it takes me outside my daily managerial duties and imposes a discipline of organizing information for a readership, even though it does not involve original research.

As public librarians we spend so much time reading reviews, grappling with the minutiae of daily business while trying to keep the important objectives in view, and dealing with the impatience of readers demanding materials RIGHT NOW. It is important, at least for my mental health, to occasionally relax with elemental (not original) research and reference for the sheer pleasure of learning and expressing facts and ideas on a topic that engrosses me.

Perhaps in the leisure of retirement and with a little nestegg from my RRSP I shall embark upon an exotic research project all my own—perhaps I shall be the first one to discover a heretofore unknown 17th century composer from Mongolia whose sweet melodies outsing the blessed lieder of Franz Schubert himself.

(Beverly True is Chief Librarian, Cumberland Regional Library, Amherst, N.S.)

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myriad of conflicting demands, the academic performs a delicate role, balancing research productivity and teaching effectiveness. In essence an academic survives by teaching, but research is intrinsic to the promotion and tenure process and essential for scholastic productivity and stature.

The traditional practising librarian like myself, who does not have a research background and who subsequently treks to the ivory tower of academia, faces several problems and must surmount certain obstacles. I consider these to be tests for mettle, and I elaborate on them below.

One of the key difficulties of conducting research in our profession is the incomplete preparation potential researchers receive in the schools of library and information studies. Essentially, the "non-thesis" MLIS is an administrative degree which produces practitioners and managers for the work environment. While most schools offer courses in research methods and statistical analysis, students receive at most an appreciation for research, not the experience of doing it. Approaches to research must be learned by experience—studying research by textbook is like learning to drive by reading the manual or becoming an artist by taking art appreciation courses! It is only at the Ph.D. level that library/information studies students are truly immersed and assimilated in the research process.

This is not to say that the schools are doing a poor job of producing researchers. In fact not all graduates may aspire to the role, nor should they. We need practitioners as well. However, it is unfortunate that many students with research potential do not pursue the thesis degree.

There are few role models for the new library/information studies researcher. The field shows a relative shortage of research. Even my students comment on the scarcity of research studies. Some journals claim to print the products of research, but the word "research" is loosely interpreted. Essentially, the library and information studies field does not supply a rich base of excellent examples of research studies by which the beginning researcher may be guided.

Technique and methodology form only a small part of conducting research. Many of the essential characteristics are inherent—inquisitiveness, curiosity, and imagination cannot be taught. Hand-in-hand with acquiring techniques for research is simply the problem of starting it. Where does one start? Ideally by posing key questions. However, before the questions can be stated, the area must be intensely studied, debated and contemplated, which can be a major stumbling block for the new researcher. One must know an area intimately in order to identify gaps in knowledge and understanding. In addition, the question must be discussed with colleagues and experts in the field to ensure that it is appropriate, solvable and intrinsic. For the novice researcher, making those essential connections can be critical to the success or failure of a proposed project.

One of the potential traps faced by any researcher, including the new researcher cum librarian, is the danger of bias. Bias is not meant in the

fraudulent sense, i.e., fudging the results or manipulating the data. Rather, while one's work experience in a well-managed library can provide a valuable outlook on the field, such experience can also foster preconceived notions that can influence one's perspective. In short, prior experience can be both an asset and a detriment to choosing good research questions and techniques.

One cannot discuss research without talking about the art of grantsmanship. While the practising librarian may receive funding in-house to conduct a project, the academic competes in the money jungle. To date, I have been modestly successful—two proposals, two grants. I attribute my achievement to the network of colleagues I referred to earlier, to skills learned in the workplace, and to my new home at Dalhousie.

Another key component of the research process is communicating results to peers. Only after research has been fully documented and has withstood the critical eye of colleagues and verification can it truly be added to the field's knowledge base. For the new researcher, writing is essential to the successful conclusion of a project. But, in addition, there is a second aspect to writing—it is an essential part of the promotion and tenure process. The old adage "publish or perish" is not a myth in academia. It is a test of one's personal and professional ethics not to be trapped by it or to treat it like a god and serve it indiscriminately. However, in a nutshell, if you cannot conduct research and communicate its results, then you are in the wrong position. The researcher faces both challenges.

Finally, the most intimidating part of delving into and doing research is the risk factor. The researcher may not face the potential dangers of falling shelves or run-away book carts, but the risks of failure in any research undertaking are omnipresent and often high. The researcher may spend years examining a question, only to find out that the wrong question has been asked or the question simply cannot be answered, or even worse, the question has been answered by someone else. Most researchers thrive on such uncertainties and risks in their work. The world of the practising librarian is relatively predictable in comparison.

After visiting the minefields and traps laid on the path of the beginning researcher and recognizing the basket of tools required for success, one might wonder, why bother? But, research has its own rewards. Doing research is like reading a mystery novel, or finding those first matching pieces in a 5000-piece jigsaw puzzle. It becomes a game, the success of each play providing a sense of satisfaction and achievement. Secondly, there is the personal sense of gratification from contributing to our profession. For now, I can only attest to the former—I'm still working on the latter.

(Elaine Toms is an Assistant Professor at the School of Library and Information Studies, Dalhousie University.)

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the common knowledge base that is necessary to establish its credentials as a legitimate field for academic study.

In conducting theoretical research, librarians need to be creative and to transcend the normal boundaries of conventional thinking. They should regard all established wisdom with skepticism. For example, as caring professionals with a strong service orientation, librarians commonly make idealistic assumptions concerning the type of library services that should be provided and the appropriate means of providing these services. These assumptions need to be subjected to the scrutiny of objective research. There is also a need for more cross-disciplinary research which utilizes the findings of other disciplines such as management, linguistics, or computer science.

Research requires a valid methodology applied to the gathering and interpreting of information. An effective research undertaking also needs an appropriate conceptual foundation which defines the context of the work and provides for its integration into the framework of existing knowledge. Research methods in librarianship are not yet well defined. Varying approaches are used eclectically, reflecting the nature of the profession itself. This variety could, however, be considered a strength.

Realistically, though, we must acknowledge that the majority of librarians produce little or no published research. Most of the material that is published by librarians consists of ephemeral items such as news, reviews and opinion pieces that are not based on original research. It should, however, be remembered that similar could be said of most other professional groups and even of academics. Academic librarians and library school faculty are more likely to have an interest in doing research, or in reading research literature, than are public, special or school librarians. There is, however, a need for research in all types of libraries.

The lack of interest in doing research on the part of a majority of librarians is likely due to several fundamental factors that are difficult to change. In particular, we have to consider personal motivation, training in research skills, and the encouragement given to research activities by libraries and by professional associations.

Most fundamental and most difficult to understand or modify is lack of personal motivation to engage in research. Such motivation may be largely the product of an innate desire to question, but circumstantial factors such as education, support from colleagues, and institutional culture also play a part. Whatever the reason, this propensity for inquiry is not as widespread as one might assume would be the case in a profession that requires a post-graduate qualification for entry. Certainly, it seems that many librarians doubt the value or relevance of doing or using research. Moreover, there is a

widespread view that the research that is produced in librarianship is of poor quality.

One possibility of which both practitioners and educators have been slow to take advantage is that of cooperative research efforts in which the different skills and backgrounds of the two groups could complement each other. Continuing education is now a life-long task, however, and this may open up possibilities for mutually beneficial cooperation between the two.

Another obstacle to research is the lack of encouragement or opportunity given to practising librarians by library managers who emphasize performance of primary duties and provision of service to the exclusion of professional development activities. Research and publication usually receives little reward or recognition, particularly if the research is not relevant to the librarian's immediate duties. For this reason, most librarian researchers choose subjects directly relating to their area of responsibility within their library. Because most libraries have not yet progressed beyond centralized, hierarchical organizational structures, many librarians perform only routine line duties that are unlikely to generate research topics. As well, the authoritarian style still commonly practised by the managers of these organizations tends to reward loyalty and obedience rather than encourage creative thinking which could challenge the status quo. Librarians have traditionally been slow to question this state of affairs and to assert their professional autonomy.

Lack of funding, time, resources and research assistance are normal conditions in most libraries. Even among academic libraries, only a small minority require research and publication for promotion, tenure, or continuing appointment, though an increasing number are encouraging research to some extent. This is linked with the quest for faculty benefits such as academic freedom, tenure, and collegial governance. Along with these benefits of faculty or academic status, librarians have sometimes been required to assume equal responsibilities with faculty, including research and publication. Even when an institution does encourage research, however, this generally appears to have little impact on the amount of research that academic librarians produce. This may be because little tangible institutional support is provided, even when research and publication are required.

The assumption of faculty responsibility by academic librarians has not generally resulted in the acquisition of faculty privileges. At most institutions, librarians are light years away from achieving equitable treatment with faculty in terms of autonomy, work loads, release time, funding, support services, supplies, statistical packages and other tangible benefits that might facilitate their research. University and library administrators continue to tie librarians

to rigid assigned schedules that are more appropriate for clerical staff than for faculty.

Librarians may also experience personal conflicts in attempting to do research which removes them from their prime goal of serving library users, to which they tend to be dedicated. All too often, management takes advantage of this commitment to the user by assigning service objectives which leave librarians with little or no time for research. This in turn enables management to avoid addressing the problem of inadequate staffing within their libraries.

Given the value of research to the librarian, to the library, and to the profession, it is unfortunate that library managers are doing so little to encourage this activity. There is considerable scope for a creative administrator to promote research, such as allocating part of the library's budget to support research projects, or including research as part of the library's mission statement. As institutions that are today concerned with the creation, manipulation, and utilization of information and knowledge as much as with its mere preservation, libraries could place themselves in the forefront of the search for new knowledge by turning themselves into laboratories for conducting research.

Academic librarians should be able to decide their own schedules without being assigned a defined work week. It should be left to their discretion to decide how to divide their time between their daily duties, research and service activities, without them being required

to seek permission from a supervisor. Privileges such as release time, professional development leaves, reduced work loads, years based on less than a twelve month calendar, and provision of research assistants would place them on a truly equitable footing with faculty. Moreover, it is necessary to make research an accepted, ongoing activity rather than an occasional perk which is subject to the whims of administrative approval or disapproval.

While there may be less scope or precedent for these types of arrangement in public, special or school libraries, it is worthwhile to investigate what possibilities exist to encourage research in these institutions.

Since managers appear to be reluctant to take a lead in these matters, negotiation of benefits, such as reduced work loads, that would free more time and energy for research and other creative pursuits could be a fruitful approach in negotiating future contract settlements. Past experience indicates that librarians will need to be militant if they are to improve their status and privileges. This would also be in tune with environmentalist thinking which suggests that we are reaching the limits of growth. As we can no longer take for granted an increasing standard living, collective bargainers should insist that automation be used to reduce the work week.

Associations also play a role in encouraging research, by making this a part of their objectives, funding research projects, granting awards to recognize significant research accomplishments,

continued on page 6...

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Cook continued from page 5...

putting on research-oriented seminars and conference programs, making available guidelines on how to write for publication, and publishing research findings in the form of monographs, journal articles and research summaries. Although there is room for improvement, associations have generally been more effective than library managers in promoting research.

Library literature in North America is a rich and vital field of publishing, supplying a significant body of research. Professional library journals, such as the *Canadian Library Journal*, provide the main source of information and current awareness for practising librarians. They fulfil a steady demand from librarians for research articles on matters such as library design, automation, information retrieval, management of library operations and other topics that directly relate to improving the services provided to library users.

It is encouraging to note that the number of monographs and periodicals published in the field of librarianship has grown steadily since the beginning of the century, and especially since the Second World War. The quality, as well as the quantity, of published articles based on research has also tended to improve. At least some of this consists of significant scholarly work that contributes to the advancement of knowledge in librarianship. There has

also been a trend to more specialization in library journals, as well as an increase in the number using a double-blind refereeing process for manuscript review.

Despite the lack of encouragement, there has been a tendency for the research output of professional librarians to increase in recent years. At the same time, there has been a growing awareness of the value and importance of research in the profession. Attempts to encourage research are, however, pointless, unless we can also overcome the traditional conservatism of libraries and library managers which prevents them from questioning or changing their conventional philosophies, assumptions, and practices in the light of research findings.

The increasingly rapid pace of social and technological change is likely to challenge this conservatism, forcing institutions, and administrators to rely on research findings to justify decisions and suggest new approaches to deal with changing demands. If authoritarian management styles and hierarchical bureaucracies can be replaced by participatory, collegial structures which encourage their librarians' aspirations of professionalism and autonomy, it is likely that the amount and quality of research findings produced will increase to meet this new demand.

(Robert Cook is Head of Bibliographic Searching at Saint Mary's University.)

Librarians' Treated as "Poor Sisters" of Research

—Fred Wilson

When I first joined the university, women and librarians could not belong to the faculty club, and women could not even enter as guests in the Senior Common Room of the college to which I was appointed. We've come a long way in the past 20 years. But while the formal barriers to women academics have disappeared, it has been more difficult for librarians to gain universal acceptance.

At Canadian universities, librarians are, in most cases, members of local faculty associations. This has been achieved against the often strong opposition of administrators who resisted, and, at some universities still resist, recognizing that librarians are legitimately part of the academic staff of universities.

It is clear that library professionals are rightly considered academic staff—their role is equally front and centre in the functioning of the university as that of professors. The careful provision of library resources to students is as essential to the teaching function of universities as the lectures of professors. Without the expertise of librarians much of the research undertaken at universities would grind to a halt or at

least become immeasurably more difficult. And of course librarians do considerable research in their own right, often as important as that of their professorial colleagues.

But the struggle for recognition is not over. At many universities it is still often more difficult for librarians to secure release time and sabbaticals for purposes of research, special projects, and educational development. Collective agreements have to be strengthened to ensure equality of treatment for librarians. And there are other problems.

Federal government cutbacks to the research granting councils have been severe, and none more so than those at the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council.

The SSHRC has had in these circumstances to cut back on its support of research. But instead of looking more rigorously at the proposals that come to it, the SSHRC has decided to eliminate support in entire areas of research. One of these areas has been that of Canadian Studies Research Tools. SSHRC has decided that it will no longer award grants for research projects falling under this description. If such tools are to be created in the future, then the research must be tied in with "researchers' projects or programs of study."

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I understand that a York University theatre faculty member applied for a research grant for a new type of Canadian dictionary, and was turned down by one of the 15 SSHRC committees, now the route for applications for research tools, on the grounds that the proposal properly belongs to the Canadian Studies Research Tools program—except that this program no longer exists! Bibliographic studies, it seems, are no longer to be viewed by the SSHRC as stand-alone projects, but only as auxiliary to other, apparently more legitimate, research projects.

The reasoning in the SSHRC is that bibliographic research tools "should be supported increasingly by virtue of their potential research value." This is rather like the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council deciding that it will no longer award grants in the area of computer science unless the development of these research tools is tied to "researchers' projects or programs of research." This is absurd: computer scientists would rightly object to being treated as "assistants" to other NSERC-funded research studies headed by academics in other disciplines.

However, it is just this that the SSHRC has done to librarians. The SSHRC program of grants for Canadian Studies Research Tools was heavily used by academic librarians developing research tools such as bibliographies.

By eliminating this program, the SSHRC is in effect saying that librarians wishing to pursue bibliographical research projects can now do so only as "assistants" to other SSHRC-funded research studies headed primarily by professors.

Research that aims to develop research tools is perfectly legitimate research and is often the first step in revealing just what can be done in other areas. When bibliographic research is done, other researchers discover what fruitful lines of research are feasible. A decent bibliographical study opens up lines of research.

People Counters

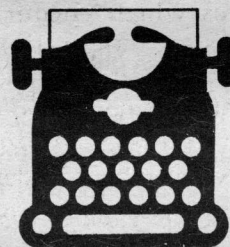
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Academic librarians are rightly upset at this SSHRC decision to treat them as nothing more than faculty research assistants. Their normal duties often mean that librarians have far fewer research opportunities than professors. Now the SSHRC is to deny them the support for the research time that they need.

The CAUT Librarians Committee is proposing a lobbying effort to convince the SSHRC to restore the grants program for Canadian Studies Research Tools. Faculty and librarians across Canada could start on this by speaking to their local SSHRC representatives, to urge them to support the restoration of this program.

But this should be seen as part of an on-going task to secure for academic librarians recognition that they are in the full sense of the term academic.

(Fred Wilson is President of the Canadian Association of University Teachers. This article first appeared, in a slightly different form, in CAUT/ACPU Bulletin (Jan. 1992, V. 39, No.1) and is reprinted by permission of the author and CAUT/ACPU Bulletin.)



Ann Connor Brimer Award

The Nova Scotia Library Association is seeking nominations for the 2nd annual Ann Connor Brimer Award, in memory of Ann Connor Brimer, a valued associate and supporter of the Atlantic library and bookselling community. The annual award of \$500 will be awarded to a writer residing in Atlantic Canada for his/her outstanding contribution to children's literature. Last year's winner was Joyce Barkhouse for *The Pit Pony*.

Submissions must come from authors of fiction or non-fiction books that are published in Canada, currently in print and intended for children up to the age of 15. Finalists will be announced at the NSLA Conference in September, and will be awarded during Children's Book Festival Week in November.

Nomination forms are available from Heather MacKenzie, Halifax City Regional Library, 5381 Spring Garden Road, Halifax, Nova Scotia, B3J 1E9. Completed nominations must be received no later than April 30, 1992.

The award is the first in Atlantic Canada to recognize writers of children's books. Ann Connor Brimer, a noted Halifax educator and cultural activist, passed away in 1988. She believed passionately that regional support for writers and artists is the key to building a strong cultural identity.

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Beyond Fiche and Chips: A Menu for the Future

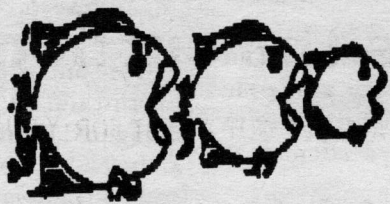
What lies beyond fiche and chips? For the seafood gourmet the answer would be a feast of lobster, mussels, clams on the shell, escargot and caviar. As librarians and information managers, however, we face such challenges as unbeatable competition from the private sector, redefinition of our roles within the information community, and obsolescence brought on by new technology.

The future of libraries has been discussed at great length for the past several decades as many librarians, administrators, and trustees have put our institutions and their services under the microscope. Moreover, it is evident that the management and delivery of information is continually changing (i.e., "the future is now") and we are now part of a much broader information marketplace. It is time to identify a niche—both for ourselves and our institutions—to determine what fish we should be selling and to whom.

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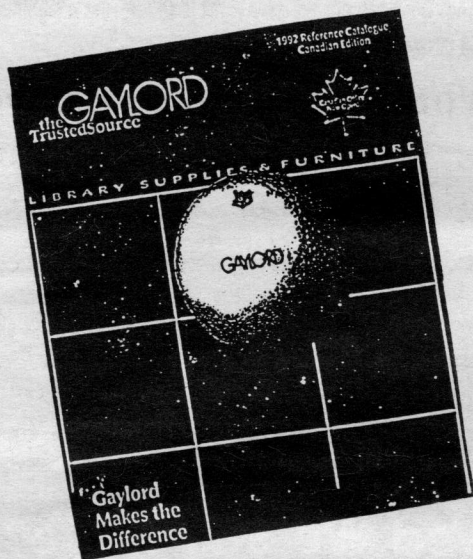


- Plan a fishing trip to the Exhibit Marketplace. This year we have commitments from exhibitors representing a wide range of services and products.
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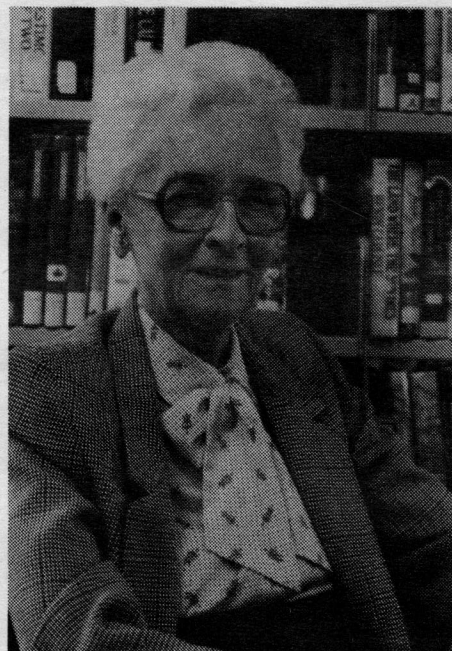
ABCDEF— CANADA

Lors d'une réunion tenue à l'Université du Québec à Montréal, près d'une vingtaine de directeurs de bibliothèques universitaires francophones du Québec et du Canada ont procédé à la création d'une ASSOCIATION DES RESPONSABLES DE BIBLIOTHÈQUES ET DE CENTRES DE DOCUMENTATION UNIVERSITAIRES ET DE RECHERCHE D'EXPRESSION FRANÇAISE AU CANADA, ou ABCDEF-CANADA, dont le siège social est fixé à Montréal au bureau de l'AUPELF.

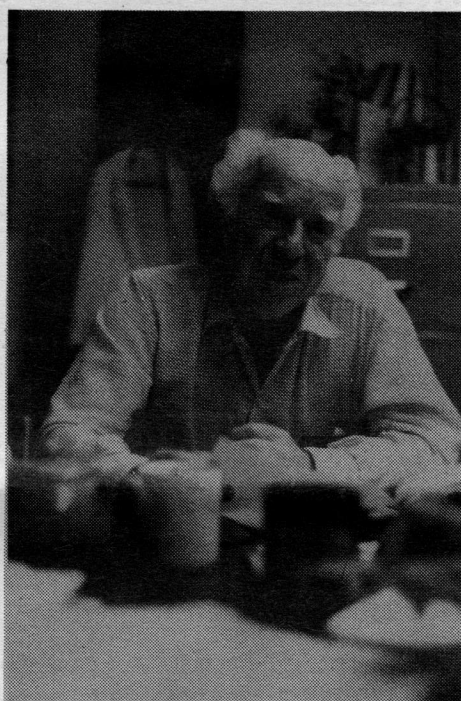
Cette nouvelle association a pour but de resserrer les liens entre les bibliothèques universitaires et de recherche d'expression française au Canada en favorisant le développement de réseaux d'information et de documentation à l'appui de l'enseignement et de la recherche. Elle participe aux buts de l'ABCDEF internationale, créée en 1989 à Paris sous les auspices de l'AUPELF/UREF.

Elle a plus spécifiquement comme objectifs de: favoriser l'accès à la documentation de langue française, contribuer à la mise au point de programmes de formation professionnelle et de formation des utilisateurs, promouvoir les échanges d'informations entre les institutions membres particulièrement dans les domaines de la recherche de pointe, promouvoir les efforts de conservation de la documentation, constituer une liste d'experts francophones dans les différents domaines de la bibliothéconomie et favoriser les échanges de stagiaires et de personnel entre les institutions membres.

Les membres ont convenu d'un plan d'action qui prévoit notamment; la production d'un répertoire des bibliothèques membres; la conclusion d'ententes visant à faciliter le prêt entre bibliothèques, l'emprunt direct réciproque pour les professeurs et chercheurs des institutions membres, l'accueil de stagiaires et l'échange de personnel; des interventions visant à élargir le dépouillement et l'indexation des périodiques et journaux francophones canadiens dans les répertoires courants. L'Association étudiera le phénomène de pression qu'exerce le fait francophone sur le développement des collections et des services de bibliothèque dans un contexte nord américain et examinera à cet égard les problèmes de financement de bibliothèques universitaires francophones. Elle participera enfin, dans le contexte québécois et canadien, à la rédaction par L'ABCDEF internationale d'un livre blanc sur les bibliothèques universitaires devant être soumis aux chefs d'état lors du prochain Sommet francophone.



Mary E. Cameron, first Chief Librarian Halifax City Regional Library. (Photo: Rick Janson HCRL)



Don Crowdis, first Chairman of the Halifax City Regional Library Board. (Photo: Rick Janson HCRL)

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The School of Library and Information Studies, Dalhousie University, will continue its Friday lecture series during winter term 1991/92 with the following lectures:

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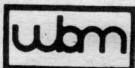
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NEWS FROM THE REGIONS

NEWS FROM NEW BRUNSWICK / NOUVELLES DU NOUVEAU- BRUNSWICK

University Libraries

La Bibliothèque Champlain, Université de Moncton, a terminé l'implantation de base de son système informatisé Geac. Les modules de catalogage, de catalogue en ligne, de prêt et des acquisitions sont tous maintenant pleinement fonctionnels. Le module des acquisitions, installé au printemps 1991, fournira en avril cette année ses premières statistiques budgétaires annuelles. Aussi la saisie des commandes de périodiques est presque complétée et bientôt tout le pointage se fera en ligne. Depuis janvier 1990 le gros du catalogage se fait via Bibliofile. Utlas est toujours utilisé, comme deuxième source. Dans les deux cas, une interface permet de charger directement les dossiers dans Geac.

M. Gaston Fournier, chef du service du catalogue, siège depuis janvier 1992 au Comité canadien de catalogage.

Les projets à l'étude pour la prochaine année incluent l'implantation du contrôle d'autorité, le regroupement en réseau des bibliothèques de l'Université (centres à Moncton, Edmundston et Shippagan), la reconversion des catalogues sur fiches, et l'installation de stations CD-ROM pour le public en référence.

Un rappel que le catalogue en ligne ELOIZE est accessible de l'extérieur en signalant le 858-4543 et en demandant le service CHAMP.

At the University of New Brunswick, the Fredericton and Saint John campus libraries began a resource sharing arrangement in February with the University of Alberta. The program is called QuickLoan. Members of the university community may request an item which is not in UNB's collections through QuickLoan. The request is searched the same day it is received (except on weekends) in Alberta's online catalogue over Internet. If Alberta has the item and it is available, the patron will receive the item normally within three weekdays of placing the request. If it is not available, the request will be passed on to Interlibrary Loans provided the appropriate box on the QuickLoan form has been checked.

This program was initiated as a partial response to recent serial cancellations and overall decline in

purchasing power. QuickLoan has been well publicized; articles have appeared in the student and university newspapers. Bookmarks explaining the program have been handed out at the circulation desks and mailed to all faculty. The program has been well received by faculty and students although it is too early to tell what its full impact will be. The current response is about eleven requests a day but it is expected that it may increase up to sixty. UNB is paying for courier costs between Alberta and UNB and is also providing some funding for staff costs at the University of Alberta. In the near future they expect to be able to take requests over E-mail using a QuickLoan template and by telephone. Other document delivery options are also being explored to supplement QuickLoan and Interlibrary Loans.

The UNB Library Assistant Program is offering a Level II course on Collection Development for Young Adults. The course will be given in Fredericton during March and April 1992.

Mount Allison University Librarian, Tom Eadie, has been appointed University Librarian at University of Calgary, effective at the end of the academic year.

Public Libraries

Marcelle Mersereau, Minister of the Department of Municipal Affairs, Culture and Housing, visited the Moncton Public Library and the Albert-Westmorland-Kent Regional Library headquarters. She was impressed with the facility and showed a genuine interest in the library. A few days later, members of the Moncton Library Board met with her and senior officials of the Department in Fredericton to explain the staff shortage at the Moncton Public Library.

During the 25th anniversary of the incorporation of the municipality of Saint-Antoine, the public library prepared a kiosk showing photographs of all its trustees and their activities over the years. The Port Elgin Public Library joined forces with the local Literacy Council to celebrate "Books for Babies" week. The library prepared book displays and booklists of recommended titles for reading to pre-school children.

The Chaleur Region is undergoing major restructuring. Because of limited resources and distance from major centres the region faces serious challenges in delivering library services. New offices for the regional library have been a necessity for some years now but, because of political considerations and the current financial situation, the project is on hold. In the meantime, the process of updating the organization

chart and creating job descriptions has been completed. The region is currently looking for an Assistant Regional Director and a Technical Services Supervisor. Because of the limited resources, library supervisors have developed a strong emphasis on programs and activities and have been very creative in promoting libraries to a population where the illiteracy rate reaches 30% in some areas. In recent months the region has witnessed an increased use of libraries because of the unemployment situation and this is another factor in the case for better funding.

The Saint John Regional Library Board has appointed a standing committee to look at programs and marketing to examine the Saint John Regional system. Judy Heron will chair this committee composed of one representative from each of the public libraries. Mrs. Heron will also attend the CLA Workshop *Marketing Your Library: Developing a Plan; Maximizing Resources* being held in Halifax in April. Recent appointments to the Saint John Free Public Library Board are: Frances Corbett, Nicholas Barfoot, Starr Dashwood, Carmen Jenkins and Douglas Spinney.

On Monday, Feb. 10th, the President and Committee members of the 26th Battalion Overseas Association met in the Central Library. Authors Byron O'Leary and Mac Heckbert presented Eileen Travis, Regional Librarian, with a copy of the 26th Battalion C.E.F. History manuscript for the Saint John Regional Library collection. Among those present was the Honourable Gerald S. Merrithew, Minister of Veterans Affairs and a member of the 26th Battalion Overseas Association.

Because of insufficient funding for materials, the Central Library had earlier announced that it was cancelling most of their newspaper subscriptions. The New Brunswick Publishing Company, which publishes the Telegraph-Journal and Evening Times-Globe, has come forward with an offer to donate all issues of current national and provincial newspapers it receives. The newspapers will be turned over to the library intact, after being perused by newspaper staff. In addition to the restoration of the cancelled titles, for the first time the collection will include all English language weeklies published in New Brunswick and received by the newspapers. The company will also be donating free subscriptions of its own publications.

School Libraries

In District 20 (Saint John), School Library Services has been offering a successful program for teaching research and library skills to elementary

school students. Joan Pearce, the Library Resource teacher, is described as "a sort of travelling teacher-librarian" in the elementary schools. She provides each grade with a ten-day library program in which the class learns about how the library is organized; how to take meaningful notes from various sources; how to choose a topic; brainstorm; find information; take notes; organize the notes; and put the information together into a written report. This position may be used as a prototype from which to extend teacher-librarian services to the elementary schools.

For the school libraries in the province the uncertainty over budget cuts is compounded by the reorganization of school districts which has reduced the number of districts from 42 to 15. This is also a cost-cutting measure and its effect on positions or programs is as yet unknown.

Hospital Libraries

MEDLINE on CD-ROM has been introduced to the Health Sciences Library at two hospitals in the province. The Dr. Everett Chalmers Hospital in Fredericton and the Saint John Regional Hospital have both installed the Cambridge Scientific Abstracts version of this database to coordinate with other hospital libraries in the region.

—Susan Collins

NEWS FROM NEWFOUNDLAND

School Libraries

Calvin Belbin, Learning Resources Education Consultant with the Newfoundland Department of Education, has advised that the Department's *Learning to Learn: policies and guidelines for the implementation of resource-based learning in Newfoundland and Labrador* is complete and has been distributed to schools throughout the province. Limited copies may be available to other institutions. Contact Calvin at 709-729-2614. A Working Group of 18 people from across the province has been formed to advise on implementing Resource Based Learning throughout the province. The Group will likely have a representative from the Provincial Public Library Service. An announcement should be made shortly.

In October, Calvin Belbin, Victoria Pennell and Learning Resource Council President, Marilyn Rees, (both of the Avalon North Integrated School Board),

attended the founding conference of the Association for Teacher-Librarianship in Canada, which was held in conjunction with the B.C. Teacher-Librarians conference in Whistler, B.C. Pennell, who is Learning Resources Consultant for her Board, has been appointed to the Board of Directors of the new association. According to her, the new association was formed because "the Canadian School Library Association, with its focus on more academic concerns and education for teacher-librarianship, had not been meeting the needs of school-based teacher librarians." She also noted that the "fee structure of the CSLA, as a division of the very expensive CLA, was a deterrent." The Association will be planning its conferences in conjunction with provincial school library associations, and it is hoped the 1994 conference will take place in Newfoundland. Four interest groups have been formed: Teacher-Librarianship Education, Library Automation, Laser Learning, and French Immersion.

University

Two new appointments have been made: Bill Tiffany is now Staff Development Officer, and Susan Cleyle has been appointed Systems and Planning Librarian at the Health Sciences Library.

Colleges

Reorganization of post-secondary institutions continues, with the consolidation of Western Community College in Stephenville and Fisher Institute in Corner Brook still in progress and some decisions on technical services still pending. A position has been posted for a Librarian 1 in Stephenville, but no appointment has been announced.

Mabel Farmer of the Marine Institute expressed a positive reaction to the final stages of amalgamation of the College with Memorial University (anticipated April 1) in terms of increased access to technological expertise and resource sharing. She was pleased to find the University's president so "pro-library." (Your columnist cannot help but note that not all of the college principals in the province have a clear picture of the role and value of libraries to their institutions.)

The Marine Institute Library is currently in the process of using Bibliofile to convert its records to LC in preparation for the merger. A front desk position was lost early in the fiscal year, which has meant a slow down in all work, with all staff taking turns on the desk. With the hiring of Ruth Wilson in December, this situation has improved dramatically. Several CD-ROM databases—British Maritime Technology Abstracts, ELIOT and WAVE—have been acquired and a staff training session was conducted by Dave Clark from the Institute of Marine Dynamics. Farmer is looking forward to the acquisition of additional databases in the near future.

Public Libraries

The Provincial Public Libraries Board will be publishing a collection of writings by adult literacy students and learners in September 1992. Copies will be sent to all public libraries and to the students whose work is published. The Literacy Advisory Group of the Provincial Public Libraries has also purchased a number of Public Library Reading Tents which will be made available to all public libraries in the province through their regional offices. The idea grew from the success of the reading tents used by Read Canada.

Association News

The winter meeting of the Newfoundland Library Association was held January 21 at the Queen Elizabeth II Library. After a short business meeting, Dick Ellis examined resource sharing and the changes brought about by growing electronic networks. He looked at the importance of connectivity, policy constraints and geography for resource sharing. His conclusion was that in this new electronic environment, geography is not important. It is connectivity and policy constraints that will determine who shares what resource with whom. He repeated Iain Bates' prediction that this is the end of inter-library loan as we know it. The future will see more and more users doing their own interlibrary loans for known items to the holding library. The holding library will send photocopies directly to the user and send book length items to the patron's library circulation desk.

Marguerite Jones and Angela Lonardo presented a session at the recent NLA meeting on Internet resources. Their slide presentation showed examples of the various types of resources available on the Internet. Library catalogues and full-text databases, such as Shakespeare's plays and sonnets and the Bible, were examined. Electronic journals, a source for architectural illustrations, and informational sources were also illustrated. The latter included *Choice* book reviews, and Metro Denver Facts. After the slide presentation, Marguerite and Angela went onto the Internet and visited the University of Hawaii, Boulder Public Library, and University of Victoria in New Zealand. Thank you to Karen Lippold for this report on the meeting.

The Newfoundland Library Association is co-sponsoring two CLA seminars in St. John's, "CD Rom," March 13, and "Marketing your library: developing a plan, maximizing resources," April 13. Newfoundland Library Week will be held April 25-May 2. The theme this year is "Books: Catch of the Day". A poster and T-shirt depict a jolly fisherman in his dory hauling in a net full of books. The theme is further enhanced with bookmarks featuring "Fred Fish". The week will feature a limerick contest with cash and T-shirt prizes. Further information, posters (\$1.00), T-shirts (\$10) and "Fred

Fish" bookmarks (\$.10 each) are available from the Association at P.O. Box 8292, Station A, St. John's, NF A1B3N4.

The Learning Resources Council of the Newfoundland Teachers Association is currently planning a conference to which representatives from government and school boards will be invited. The theme is "Co-operative Learning" and the location will be Clarendville. The date has not yet been confirmed. Otherwise, the organization is in the process of developing its own handbook, and changing its by-laws to reflect current changes in learning resource centres.

Miscellany

Les Harding has published *The Voyages of Lesser Men*, the story of Canada's lesser known explorers, whose books and journals are now long out of print or available only in rare book rooms or on microfilm.

It is with sadness that I report that Gi Chandria, who was well known and liked in the St. John's library community, and by those of us from around the island who had the pleasure of meeting her at various library functions in St. John's, died of illness late last year while on a visit to India. She had worked as a cataloguer at the College of Fisheries from 1965 until taking early retirement in 1990.

—Elinor Benjamin

NEWS FROM NOVA SCOTIA

Special Libraries

Efamol Research Institute Library

The Institute is being completely renovated, which will provide the library with some much needed additional space. There are plans to mount Efamol's databases on either PARADOX or dBASE. Librarian Lana Kanenof-Sine would like to hear from APLA members using either of these software packages for technical or other functions. OCR scanners are also currently being investigated.

Nova Scotia Provincial Library

Wendy Duff will be joining the staff on April 21, 1992, as Manager, Technical Services. The Reference Department is currently revising the *Directory of Nova Scotia Libraries*. It will be printed very soon. The move to new facilities is tentatively set for the end of April. Technical Services is currently involved in a major recon project with Cape Breton Regional Library.

University Libraries

Saint Francis Xavier University-Angus L. MacDonald Library

Lillian Beltaos is the new University Librarian, replacing Father Charles Brewer, who recently retired. Lillian has an MILS degree from the University

of Western Ontario, and was formerly a systems manager at University of Western Ontario.

St. Mary's University-Patrick Power Library

Cindy Tanner will be leaving SMU Library at the end of February. She has accepted a position as Collections Management Librarian at the University of Northern British Columbia, Prince George, B.C.

School Libraries

Halifax District School Board-Library Department

The eighth annual display of books and other materials will be held at the Teachers' Resource Centre, 6225 Chebucto Road in Halifax on Wednesday April 22nd from 8:30 a.m.—9:00 p.m. and Thursday April 23rd from 8:30 a.m.—4:00 p.m. Representatives from 32 firms have been invited to display current curriculum related English and French materials. For more information, please contact Bertha Currie, Supervisor of School Libraries at 902-421-7990.

Regional Libraries

Eastern Counties Regional Library

Three programs of note were held in conjunction with the Port Hawkesbury Recreation Department. The first was a nature walk for children with biologist and naturalist John Stub. During Canadian Children's Book Festival Week, Sheree Fitch entertained with a poetry reading for youngsters and children. Origami, the art of Japanese paper folding, was the third event. With the assistance of two Japanese exchange students, the event was an overwhelming success.

Pictou-Antigonish Regional Library

PARL has recently undergone budget cuts and staff layoffs. As of December 1991, the Library Board reluctantly agreed to reduce and eliminate library services. Bookmobile service to rural residents in both Pictou and Antigonish Counties was terminated. The programming service was discontinued. This includes the very popular adult programs, the pre-school story-times, and class visits to branch libraries. The Reference Librarian was laid off, thereby reducing reference service. Approximately 10% of PARL's staff was laid off. PARL is therefore unable to host the 1992 NSLA Conference, as previously planned. On a positive note, PARL's Books-By-Mail Service for residents of Antigonish County only (population 13,000), continues to grow in popularity. There are currently 3,500 borrowers actively using the service.

Western Counties Regional Library

A Literacy Workshop will be held at the Yarmouth Branch on April 6 from 10 a.m.—3 p.m. Circulation at the newly expanded Yarmouth Branch was up 31% in the period July-December, 1991, compared to the same time period in the previous year. Paulette Sweeney Goodwin is the new Manager, Community Services, as of September

continued on page 12...

N.S. News continued from page 11...

30, 1991. Trudy Pace, Coordinator of Library Services—Headquarters, was married on November 28, 1991. A Literacy Resource Collection and information booklet was introduced in the Yarmouth Branch in December. The Lockeport Branch hosted a book launch of *Letters to Levi—A Young Fisherman's Mail* by Joan Stephenson on December 1st. Readers' Friend Volunteers were honoured at Volunteer Appreciation Ceremonies held throughout the region in December. For the first time ever, Western Counties prepared a float for the Christmas parade!

Library Associations

Nova Scotia Library Association

Due to budget cuts, the NSLA 1992 conference will not be held at Pictou-Antigonish Regional Library. (See notes under Pictou-Antigonish Regional Library.) Alternative plans were unavailable at press time.

HALL (Halifax Area Law Libraries)

The first meeting of 1992 was devoted to preliminary discussions on the CALL/ACBD (Canadian Association of Law Libraries/Association Canadienne des bibliothèques de droit) 1993 Annual Conference—to be held in Halifax on May 16-19, 1993. HALL is

responsible for planning the program and all local arrangements. CALL/ACBD has a membership of just over 400. Attendance at the annual conference averages around 250 people. Margaret Murphy (Legislative Library) is Conference Coordinator; Marie DeYoung (Department of Attorney General) is Local Arrangements Committee Chair; Linda Keddy (Pink Larkin) is Chair of the Treasurer's Committee; Cyndi Murphy (Stewart McKelvey Stirling Scales) is program Committee Chair. For further information, please contact any of the above named Chairs. Siobhan Lane has

left Patterson Kitz Law Firm to take a six month contract position with the Dalhousie Law Library. She is filling in for Linda Aiken, who is on maternity leave.

—Gwen Whitford

NEWS FROM PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND

As the opening of the P.E.I. Legislature draws near—March 25th—the mood in all library sectors is one of quiet resignation. Everyone has been counting their 91/92 pennies since the fall revelation concerning diminished transfer payments to the province. At that time public servants took a wage rollback of 6% effective until March 31st. Early in February another blow was delivered in the announcement of an additional 14 million dollars not to come P.E.I.'s way. What this is going to mean for libraries in terms of operating budgets won't be known until early April. It's safe to predict that managers are going to have to come up with some very creative solutions to maintain their current operations.

Robertson Library, University of Prince Edward Island

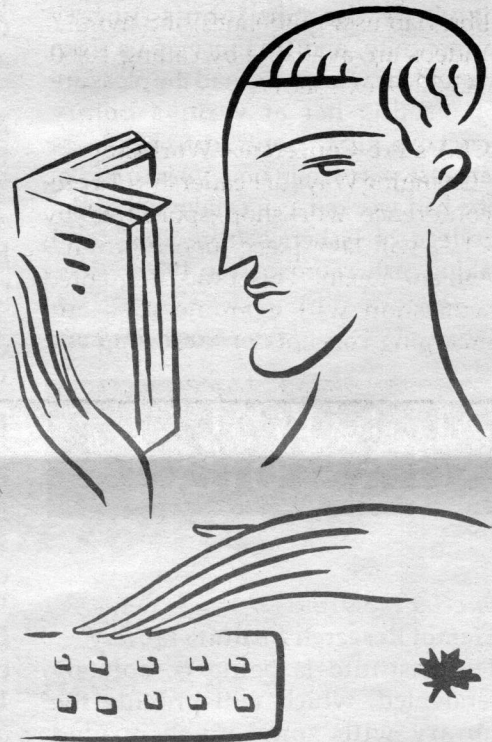
Retrospective conversion for the DRA system continues at a steady pace. Staff are continuing to refine the circulation module. Next issue will see news on the initiation of the acquisition module.

Another CD-Rom product has been purchased from Silver Platter: CINAHL (Cumulated Index to Nursing and Allied Health Literature). This has been added to support the new program in nursing at UPEI.

Provincial Library

Since the opening in late November of the Summerside Regional Rotary Library, library membership has increased 110% and circulation has increased 46%. Congratulations are in order for all involved in the realization of this enhanced library in its new location.

Another success story is being written at the Bibliothèque du Carrefour Isle-Saint Jean. A patron base is being established through various "animation" activities which include weekly story hours and monthly special activities. CDs and videos will be introduced to the collection in the coming months. A "Semaine de Sensibilisation du Français" is planned for April 4th-12th. Each branch library will have a small display of books with brochures outlining French services available across the Island. Plans include showing French films at the Carrefour and Abram Village libraries during the week. Rachael Steadman has been appointed Library Technician at the Carrefour, a position recently



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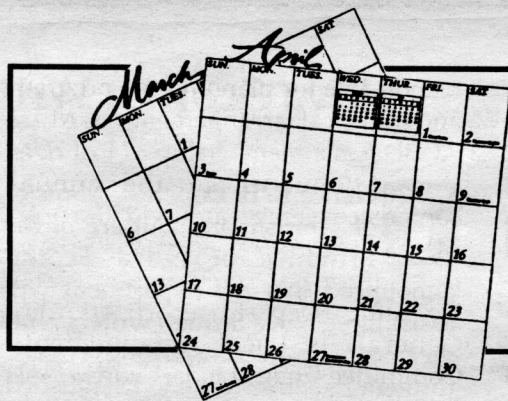
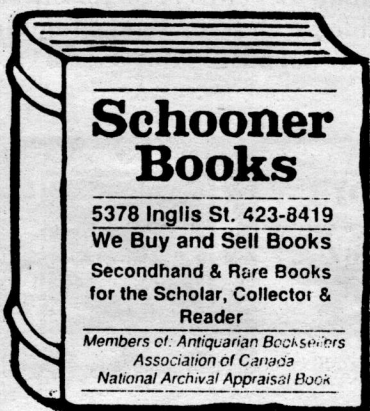


vacated by Hélène Crevier. Various activities are being planned for the combined National Book Festival and P.E.I. Library Week, April 25 to May 2. Names confirmed for author readings include Barbara Greenwood, Alistair MacLeod, Allen Morgan and Dorothy Perkins.

School Libraries

Implementation of the MicroCat system is proceeding as planned in all the Unit 4 high school libraries. Island teacher-librarians will have the opportunity to participate in the Amelia Read-In Teleconference, April 11, hosted by CSLA. The local site will be the Queen Elizabeth Hospital.

—Priscilla Ykelenstam



UPCOMING EVENTS

New Video Presents History of Halifax's Public Library System

Forty years after its original brass doors opened to the public for the first time, the Halifax City Regional Library has released a new video celebrating what has become, per capita, one of the heaviest used library systems in Canada.

"Forty Years of Service" looks at the history of the public library system in Halifax, from the earliest subscription library operated out of the Provincial Legislature in the early 1800's to the formal opening of the Halifax Memorial Library on November 12, 1951.

"Forty Years of Service" was made as a special presentation for an event celebrating the anniversary. Produced by staff members Rick Janson and Kevin Walker for the library's Community Services Department, this 23 minute video is available from the Halifax City Regional Library (5381 Spring Garden Road, Halifax, N.S. B3J 1E9) at a cost of

\$29.95 (prepaid, price includes taxes) plus \$5.00 for shipping and handling. **Free Video from UMI**

Caring for Your Microform Collection: The Next Step in Preservation is the title of a new, 13-minute video available free to librarians and archivists from UMI's Preservation Division. The video demonstrates proper storage and handling techniques, such as those recommended by the American National Standard Institute. Topics include temperature and humidity control, preservation microfilm/fiche cleaning and inspection, patron and librarian user guidelines, and more. Videos are available by calling 1-800-343-5299, ext. 3801.

CLA's Pre-Conference Workshop

"Changing Ways of Leadership," a pre-conference workshop sponsored by CLA, will take place June 10, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. This process-oriented workshop will examine new and emerging concepts of leadership and

explore the development of your personal leadership style. The workshop will utilize a variety of group and individual activities including individual planning, debriefing and evaluation.

Registration is limited to 30 participants. Fee for this one-day intensive seminar is \$80.00 (includes workbook). Participants will be contacted in advance of the conference and be invited to prepare for the workshop through reading, reflection, and writing. Pre-registration is required and must be submitted by May 1, 1992 to:

Arden Matheson, Chair, Continuing Education Committee
Library Information Services,
University of Calgary Libraries,
2500 University Drive
NW, Calgary, AB,
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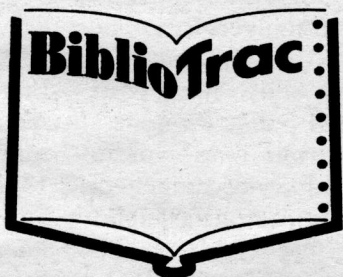
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Le Club de lecture d'été au Nouveau-Brunswick

—J. Robert Daigle et Guy Lefrançois

Le Club de lecture d'été provincial a vu le jour en 1984 à l'occasion des célébrations du bicentenaire du Nouveau-Brunswick. Depuis lors, il connaît de plus en plus de succès en permettant à des milliers de jeunes de s'adonner à leur loisir préféré durant la belle saison.

La formule du Club de lecture d'été a subi des modifications au fil des années mais le but premier reste toujours le même. Les jeunes lecteurs et lectrices de la première à la huitième année scolaire se voient offrir un programme d'activités intéressant qui les encourage, tout au long de l'été, à la lecture. C'est grâce au personnel dévoué du réseau des 62 bibliothèques publiques et des bibliobus de la province que ce programme continue de gagner en popularité.

Dans les années soixante-dix, quelques bibliothèques publiques au sein d'une même région organisaient leur propre club de lecture. Il y avait autant de formules que de bibliothèques participantes. C'est la région de bibliothèques Albert-Westmorland-Kent (AWK) qui a fait preuve de leadership en ce domaine. À l'aube des années quatre-vingt, un produit régional y était préparé pour l'ensemble des bibliothèques de cette région du sud-est de la province, et il était bilingue par surcroît. Une première tentative d'un club provincial se concrétise à l'occasion du bicentenaire du Nouveau-Brunswick en 1984 alors que la région du sud-est produit le matériel nécessaire.

La formule provinciale est suspendue en 1985, malgré le fait que les régions du Haut-Saint-Jean (HSJ) et AWK offraient le même produit au niveau de leur région respective, produit réalisé une fois de plus par la région du sud-est. En 1986, 1987 et 1988, les régions de AWK et de Saint John organisent le club de lecture d'été provincial. En 1989, les régions Chaleur et HSJ s'associent avec la région AWK et achètent le produit réalisé une fois de plus par les gens du sud-est.

En 1990, on convient que les cinq régions de bibliothèque organiseront à tour de rôle le club de lecture provincial. Ce sera encore la région AWK qui acceptera d'emblée l'organisation du club. Elle sera suivie en 1991 de la région de York qui sera épaulée, pour la première fois, du Service des bibliothèques du Nouveau-Brunswick (SBNB). Le SBNB joue alors un rôle prépondérant dans l'organisation du club, la préparation du matériel, et la coordination de l'ensemble de l'activité. Son apport ne s'arrête pas là puisqu'il contribue financièrement dans une large mesure à absorber les coûts de l'activité qui augmentent à chaque année car on fait désormais appel à des professionnels pour réaliser le matériel de base: affiche, signet, macaron, carnet de lecture et certificat.

En 1992, c'est au tour de la région HSJ de prendre en charge l'organisation du Club de lecture d'été provincial. Parrainé par le Service des bibliothèques du N.-B., les 62 bibliothèques publiques de la province et les bibliobus offriront aux jeunes néo-brunswickois la possibilité de prendre part activement à l'édition 1992, avec un thème à dimension internationale, soit celui de l'espace. Les frontières sont abolies avec un slogan comme celui retenu: EN ORBITE AVEC LES LIVRES/BLAST OFF WITH BOOKS. Le président honoraire de l'événement sera le capitaine Marc Garneau, premier astronaute canadien à se rendre dans l'espace. Il signera le certificat de mérite qui est remis aux jeunes participants qui ont complété leur contrat de lecture.

Tout au long de l'été, des activités seront organisées dans l'ensemble du réseau de bibliothèques publiques de la province. Le Club prend son envol en juin. L'été dernier, 7930 jeunes s'y sont inscrits et ils ont vécu une grande aventure, celle de la LECTURE.

(J. Robert Daigle est le Coordonnateur provincial Responsable de la Bibliothèque publique Mgr W.J. Conway d'Edmundston. Guy Lefrançois est le Directeur Bibliothèque régional du Haut-Saint-Jean.)

Dartmouth Book & Writing Awards

The 1992 finalists in the Dartmouth Book and Writing Awards were recently announced.

Three titles in each of two categories, Fiction and Non-fiction, have been short-listed for two \$1000 awards. The awards are funded by *The Daily News* and radio station Q104.

Winners will be announced at a gala event on April 29th during National Book Festival Week. Prizes in the City of Dartmouth Student Writing Competition will also be awarded.

The finalists for fiction are *Loyalist Runaway*, by Donna Smyth (Halifax, N.S.: Formac Publishing Ltd., 1991); *Two of Me*, by Kim Atwood (Lockeport,

N.S.: Roseway Publishing Co., 1991); and *Wrong Time, Wrong Place*, by Lesley Choyce (Halifax, N.S.: Formac Publishing Ltd., 1991).

The finalists for Non-fiction are: *Crime Wave: Con Men, Rogues and Scoundrels From Nova Scotia's Past*, by Dean Jobb (Lawrencetown Beach, N.S.: Pottersfield Press, 1991); *The Old Man Told Us: Excerpts From Micmac History 1500-1950*, by Ruth Holmes Whitehead (Halifax, N.S.: Nimbus Publishing Ltd., 1991); and *Wind, Whales and Whisky: A Cape Breton Voyage*, by Silver Donald Cameron (Toronto, Ont.: Macmillan Canada, 1991).

Nova Scotian Writers Receive Awards

Terence R. B. Donahoe, Minister of Tourism and Culture of the Province of Nova Scotia, announced that the department will assist three Nova Scotian writers with the costs of completing writing projects, through its "Assistance to Established Writers" programme. The programme provides awards to professional writers working on projects in which trade publishers have expressed interest.

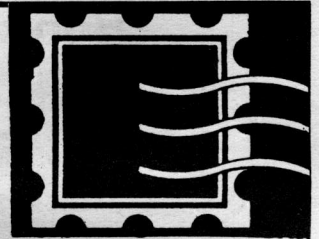
Musquodoboit resident Gary Burrill will receive funding to assist in the completion of *Away: Maritimers in Massachusetts, Ontario and Alberta*, to be published by McGill-Queen's University Press. Mr. Burrill is a former editor of *New Maritimes* and a United Church minister.

Sten Eirik and Charles Saunders of Halifax will receive funds to assist with writing projects focusing on Nova Scotia stories. Mr. Eirik is adapting his play *Evangeline* into a full-length children's novel. Charles Saunders is working on a manuscript entitled *Share and Care—The Story of the Nova Scotia Home for Colored Children*.

Applications are reviewed biannually by an advisory panel made up of representatives from the Writers' Federation of Nova Scotia, the Atlantic Publishers Association, the Atlantic Booksellers Association and the Atlantic Provinces Library Association. The deadline for the next competition is April 1, 1992. Applications are available from the Department of Tourism and Culture, P.O. Box 456, Halifax, Nova Scotia B3J 2R5.

User Education MAILBOX

Compiled by the APLA Special Interest Group on Library Instruction



The following questions were submitted to the User Education Mailbox:

How are you handling user instruction for CD-ROM's in your library?

Is it handled from your reference desk or in some other way?

Do you give formal classes?

Who does the instruction, wherever it takes place—librarians, paraprofessionals, student assistants, some combination of these?

Please forward responses to these questions, or any additional questions touching on user education, to:

Barbara McDonald
Chair, APLA Library Instruction Interest Group
Information Services
Queen Elizabeth II Library
Memorial University
St. John's, NFLD
A1B 3Y1
Envoy: QEII.LIB
Email: BMCDONALD@KEAN.UCS.MUN.CA
Fax: (709)737-3118

1992 CAPL 20TH ANNIVERSARY PUBLIC RELATIONS AWARD

The Canadian Association of Public Libraries is looking for a public library with an award-winning public relations program, project or campaign.

Did your public library have a successful public relations campaign in 1990 or 1991? Then enter your public relations project, program or campaign for the CAPL 20TH Anniversary Public Relations Award. When you enter you will be asked to show how your program generated public awareness and support for your library or to describe a successful service component which had a direct impact on the public.

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- a ticket to the CAPL 20TH Anniversary luncheon at the 1992

CLA Conference in Winnipeg

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Public Relations Award Committee member:

Marianne Hall, Newton Library
13742—72nd Avenue
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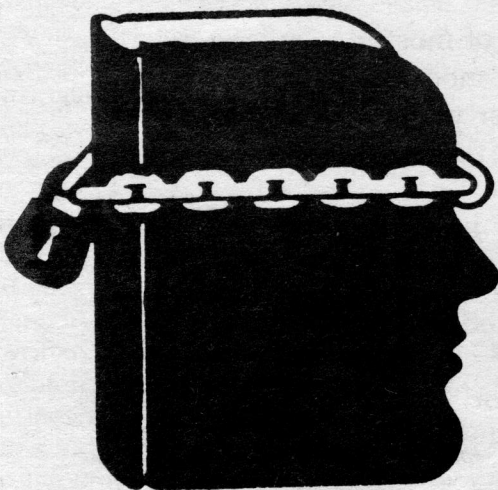
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A Communist Life

It is not often that a library gets served with a Writ of Summons over a book it has in its collection. It is really unusual for twelve Canadian university libraries and one public library to get served with a writ over the same book. What could possibly be in a book to cause such foment?

In 1988 the Committee on Canadian Labour History in St. John's published the reminiscences of Jack Scott under the title *A Communist Life: Jack Scott and the Canadian Workers' Movement, 1927-1985*.



Four individuals claim that they were libelled by this memoir. The plaintiffs and their lawyers demanded that the title be withdrawn from libraries pending the outcome of the action in the British Columbia courts.

Why should the Atlantic Provinces Library Association (APLA) be concerned about this action?

Firstly, this is a dangerous, insidious and odious action taken by the plaintiffs. Not only do they intend to keep Canadians from reading this book after the courts have made their decision; assuming their suit is successful, they also intend to keep Canadians from reading the book as long as the action is in the courts. With delays and postponements from their side they could delay the action in the courts for years, thus effectively banning the book indefinitely.

Second, APLA is disturbed by the seeming lack of concern about the whole story. Three major libraries in the region were not even aware that their sister institutions were being assailed in the courts. The issue has received little or no press locally, regionally or nationally. Where is our social outrage?

Third, APLA is deeply concerned by the willingness of library and university administrations to comply with the writ. Two libraries have withdrawn the book from their shelves, although the record still appears in their catalogues. They do not allow the book to be borrowed. One library has left the book on the shelf but does not allow it to leave the library. One library will not lend the book to borrowers from British Columbia. One library had no comments to make. Legal advice to the libraries has varied from "make no comments" to "ignore the writ except for lending to British Columbia".

APLA's policy is to promote intellectual freedom and the freedom to read by encouraging the housing of the widest possible range of information, opinion and creative expression in our libraries. We would encourage public and academic libraries to uphold these principles by making this book available to the public until such time that the courts have ordered the book withdrawn and destroyed.

One librarian summed up the whole issue neatly: "our legal advice says not to circulate it, but what happened to 'innocent until proven guilty?'"

Reference: *A Communist Life: Jack Scott and the Canadian Workers Movement, 1927-1985*. Edited by Bryan D. Palmer. St. John's NFLD: Committee on Canadian Labour History, 1988.

Reviews: *Canadian Historical Review*, Vol. 70, 1989, p. 470-472.

Labour/Le Travail: Journal of Canadian Labour Studies #25, 1990, p. 254-256.
Canadian Review of Sociology and Anthropology Vol. 28 (1), 1991, p. 132-135.

B.C. Studies, Vol. 84, 1990, p. 103-105

Brian McNally is a Member of APLA's Standing Committee on Intellectual Freedom.

APLA Welcomes New Members

New Brunswick
Rose May Daigle
P.O. Box 111
Rexton, N.B.
E0A 2L0

Tine Ragetti
676 MacLaren Avenue
Fredericton, N.B.
E3A 3L3

Cindy Stevens
P.O. Box 75
Riverside, N. B.
E0A 2R0

Newfoundland
Carol Ann Griffin
P.O. Box 883
Corner Brook, Nfld.
A2H 6H6

Nova Scotia
Norman Lai
235 Melrose Avenue
Halifax, N.S.
B3N 2E9

Prince Edward Island
Brenda Brady
4 Jubilee Drive
Charlottetown, P.E.I.
C1A 2L3



UNB recently acquired the collection of the late Maliseet leader, Peter Paul. Seated from left are Graydon Nicholas, a native studies lecturer at St. Thomas University and provincial court judge, and Patsy Hale, archives library assistant. Standing are Paul Morrissy, a professor of anthropology and native studies at STU; Ernest Merasty, a history and native studies major in his final year of study at STU; and Robert Leavitt, a professor at UNB's Micmac-Maliseet Institute. A painting of Dr. Paul by V. Lavoie is in the background.

Publication Information

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

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

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

to the Editor, Bradd Burningham, Ralph Pickard Bell Library, Mount Allison University, Sackville, N.B., E0A 3C0, or may be sent by Envo to: B.BURNINGHAM. The phone number is (506) 364-2571, FAX (506) 364-2617. The deadline for submissions is the 15th of the month preceding the month of issue (i.e.: August 15, October 15, December 15, February 15, April 15, and June 15). All correspondence regarding advertising should be addressed to the Advertising Editor, Gwen Creelman, Ralph Pickard Bell Library, Mount Allison University, Sackville, N.B., E0A 3C0 or may be sent by Envo to: G.CREELMAN, FAX (506) 364-2617.

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

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

The APLA Executive 1991-92

Past President
Andrea John
Coordinator of Special Services
Patrick Power Library
Saint Mary's University
Halifax, Nova Scotia B3H 3C3
Work: (902)420-5507
Envo: ILL.NSHS
Fax: (902)420-5561

President
Judith Head
University College Librarian
University College of Cape Breton
P.O. Box 5300
Sydney, Nova Scotia B1P 6L2
Work: (902)539-5300, Ext. 388
Envo: LIB.UCCB
Fax: (902)562-6949

Vice President, President Elect
Suzanne Sexty
Interlibrary Loans Librarian
Queen Elizabeth II Library
Memorial University
St. John's, Nfld. A1B 3Y1
(709)737-7427
Envo: ILL.NFSM

Treasurer
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Catalogue Librarian
Mount Saint Vincent University Library
Halifax, Nova Scotia B3M 2J6
Work: (902)443-4450, Ext. 402
Envo: ILL.NSHV
Fax: (902)445-33175

Secretary
Faye Hopkins
Director, Programming and
Public Relations
Cape Breton Regional Library
50 Falmouth Street
Sydney, Nova Scotia B1P 6X9
(902)562-3279
Envo: ILL.NSSC
Fax: (902)564-0765

Vice President (Nova Scotia)
Gwen Whitford
Librarian
Public Archives of Nova Scotia
6016 University Avenue
Halifax, Nova Scotia B3H 1W4
Work: (902)424-6056
Fax: (902)424-0516

Vice President (New Brunswick)
Susan Collins
Serial/Acquisitions Librarian
Ward Chipman Library
University of New Brunswick
P.O. Box 5050
Saint John, NB E2L 4L5
Work: (506)648-5704
Fax: (506) 648-5528
Envo: ILL.NBSU

Vice President (Newfoundland)
Elinor Benjamin
Regional Librarian
Newfoundland Public Library Services
Western Region Libraries
P.O. Box 2007
Corner Brook, Nfld. A2H 6V7
Work: (709)634-7333
Envo: ADMIN.WR

Vice President (Prince Edward Island)
Priscilla Ykelenstam
Director
Confederation Centre Public Library
P.O. Box 7000
Charlottetown, PEI C1A 8C8
Work: (902)368-4649
Envo: ILL.PC
Fax: (902)368-5544

Vice President (Membership)
Leslye McVicar
Librarian
Kennebecasis Public Library
1 Landing Court, Quispamsis
Rothesay, New Brunswick E2E 4R2
Work: (506)849-2043
Fax: (506)849-0122

APLA Bulletin Editor
Bradd Burningham
Serials Librarian
Ralph Pickard Bell Library
Mount Allison University
Sackville, New Brunswick E0A 3C0
Work: (506)364-2571
Envo: B.BURNINGHAM
Fax: (506)364-2617
E-mail: BBurningham@Mta