

News from Nova Scotia

News from Dalhousie Libraries

Marlo MacKay, Communications Coordinator, Dalhousie Libraries

Helping to Bring the Nova Scotia LGBT Seniors Archive to Life

In celebration of LGBT History Month in October, the Nova Scotia LGBT Seniors Archive team held an event on October 9 to officially launch the Archive, which recognizes the various human rights advancements made by LGBT individuals in Nova Scotia throughout history.

Dr. Jacqueline Gahagan, Professor of Health Promotion in the Faculty of Health Professions at Dalhousie University, is the lead on the Nova Scotia LGBT Seniors Archive project. During the initial two years of funding from the Nova Scotia Department of Seniors, the team will work with the LGBT seniors' community to build an archive of LGBT history from across Nova Scotia. At the event, Dr. Gahagan talked about the importance of preserving the history of our LGBT seniors before their stories are lost forever, noting the Archive will be a teaching and learning resource accessible to all.

Donna Bourne-Tyson, Dalhousie's University Librarian, noted that the Dal Libraries are excited to be partnering on this initiative, and expressed the Dal Libraries' commitment to preserving, digitizing and increasing the accessibility of these materials.

The variety of formats of materials are presenting interesting preservation and access challenges, which has been, and continues to be, a great learning opportunity for the School of Information Management (SIM) interns who have been hired to assist. This initiative fits with the Libraries' mandate to preserve community records in our Archives. There are already more than fifteen donors who have come forward with important collections to add to the Archive. The contributions and leadership of the Associate University Librarian for Archives, Special Collections, and Records Management, Michael Moosberger, were acknowledged by Ms. Bourne-Tyson.

The event also featured comment from Daniel MacKay, a senior from the LGBT community; and Lydia Hunsberger, a SIM intern, who are both research assistants with the Nova Scotia LGBT Seniors Archive. They were joined by Anita Louise Martinez, a donor who has documented her community through photography for over three decades.



Pictured above: Michael Moosberger, LGBT Elder Darlene Webber, Daniel MacKay, Lydia Hunsberger

Buccaneer Breakout: A Dal Libraries Escape Room

When your aunt, Professor Coraline Corsair, a historian of piracy, headed off on her sabbatical journey, she left a treasure map in her office. Now it's up to you and your teammates to go to her office, solve her security puzzles, retrieve the map, and board a ship sailing to her new island home. Together you'll find the treasure... if you can break out of Aunt Coraline's office in time!

Teams of 2–4 were invited to sign up for this free, hour-long escape room adventure that ran from mid-October until the first of November. In all, 18 teams took part, with half of those teams successfully escaping and finding the treasure.

TEAM	TIME
• The Js	→ 35:22
• Redbeard Redden + the Attentioneers	→ 48:18
• Deepsense	→ 49:59
• The Escape Artists	→ 50:30
• FHS	→ 51:44
• Piratas de alta mer	→ 53:41
• The Smart Hungarians	→ 55:26
• The Hot Pot Squad	→ 56:08
• Chicken Wang Gang	→ 56:26



Height-Adjustable Desk Donated to the Killam Library

The Dalhousie Libraries would like to thank long-time user of the Killam Library, Mary MacDonald, for her recent donation of a height-adjustable desk and a lamp.

Mary donated the desk for the use of students with disabilities. The desk can be found in the rear right-hand corner of the JJ Stewart Room, which is located just off the Gord Downie & Chanie Wenjack Legacy Space on the first floor of the Killam Library.

Mary attended Dalhousie for many years but she is now moving out of province. "I am going to miss the Killam Library as it was like a second home," she said.

You can find height-adjustable tables at all seven of our Dal Libraries locations.



Literary Events

An evening with Lisa Moore

Every year, the Dal Libraries host the winner of the Thomas Raddall Atlantic Fiction Award. On September 5, in partnership with the Writers' Federation of Nova Scotia and Halifax Public Libraries, we presented Lisa Moore in conversation with Kim Pittaway in Paul O'Regan Hall at the Halifax Central Library. Lisa won the 2019 Raddall Award for her short fiction collection *Something for Everyone*.

Lisa, born and based in Newfoundland, is the author of four books of short fiction and four novels. She has been nominated for the Giller Prize, the International Dublin Literary Award, and the Man Booker Prize. Lisa won the Commonwealth Writers' Prize Best Book Award, Caribbean and Canada Region for her novel *Alligator* and the Atlantic Canadian Alistair MacLeod Short Fiction Prize for *Something for Everyone*.



Kim Pittaway and Lisa Moore

Dal Reads 2019/20: *Song of Rita Joe*

This year's Dal Reads book is *Song of Rita Joe: Autobiography of a Mi'kmaq Poet*. Free copies of the book are available at the Dalhousie Libraries and, for the first time this year, an eBook is available by searching *Song of Rita Joe* through Novanet for Dalhousie students, faculty, and staff.

Rita Joe was born in Cape Breton in 1932 and was a residential school survivor. She published six books of poetry and this autobiography. Rita wrote poetry because she wanted to inspire her people and tell her own story. "My greatest wish is that there will be more writing from my people, and that our children will read it. I have said again and again that our history would be different if it had been expressed by us." (From *Song of Rita Joe*.)



Madison Joe reads "I Lost my Talk"

On September 30, at the campus mawio'mi, Madison Joe, a Dalhousie law student and grandson of Rita Joe, read his grandmother's iconic poem "I Lost my Talk" accompanied by Dal student Sarah Prosper of Eskasoni First Nation (home of Rita Joe), who did a contemporary dance.



Sarah Prosper performs a contemporary dance

Dal Reads is designed to encourage people in the Dalhousie community to share their love of books. Launched in 2009, the program brings the Dalhousie community together through the shared experience of reading the same book and taking part in programming related to the book. Activities for this year include programming in residence and other student-led initiatives.

A Reading with Allan Weiss

On October 17, the MacRae library hosted Allan Weiss. His new collection of short fiction, *Telescope*, is a story cycle made up of nine stories, each covering a different stage in the main character's development. Allan is a writer of mock-heroic poetry, newspaper columns, humour, drama, and both mainstream and genre fiction, and is a faculty member at York University.



Scary Stories at Sheriff Hall

On October 24, professional storytellers Liz Newkirk, Cindy Campbell-Stone, and Steve Vernon gave audience members the fright of their lives in the suitably atmospheric Victorian Drawing Room of Shirreff Hall. We presented this annual event in partnership with the Writers' Federation of Nova Scotia.



Liz Newkirk

Open Access Week

Open Access Week 2019

We celebrated International Open Access Week (October 21–27) with opportunities for academics and researchers to continue to learn about the potential benefits of Open Access, to share what they've learned with colleagues, and to help inspire wider participation that will make Open Access a new norm in scholarship and research (from the [Open Access Week website](#)).

Creative Commons: What, Where, Why, & How? (webinar)

Friday, October 18, 12–1 p.m.

Open Science Workshop (in partnership with SURGE)

Sunday, October 20, 9 a.m.–5 p.m.

Predatory (Deceptive) Publishers (webinar)

Friday, November 8, 12–1 p.m.

Introduction to OER (webinar)

Friday, November 15, 12–1 p.m.

Saving the World with Open Access: Starting a Global Conversation

To recognize International Open Access Week from October 21–27, we had a chat with Lucie Guibault from the Schulich School of Law about what open access means to her and what it could mean for Dalhousie and the world.

“I have a broad vision; I want to save the world with open access.” – Lucie Guibault

Lucie Guibault is passionate about open access, and she thinks you should be too. She sees open access — the practice of sharing research outputs online without any access barriers — as the gateway to finding solutions to the greatest challenges facing humankind.

Originally from Montréal, Lucie spent 20 years at the University of Amsterdam before returning to Canada in 2017, when she became the Associate Professor of intellectual property law in the Schulich School of Law. She is also the Associate Dean of Graduate Studies and the Associate Director of the Law & Technology Institute. While she was at the University of Amsterdam, Lucie published her research in open access journals, a part of the regular academic practice.

While Lucie was steeped in the practice of open access publishing at the University of Amsterdam, she always kept an eye on how things were progressing at home. “When I returned to Canada, I came with a mission for myself to put open access in a greater light. I don’t want to preach, but I would like scientists to open their minds to the conversational aspect of science,” says Lucie. “Science is like a conversation between scientists to gain greater knowledge from each other and to solve problems. You cannot solve problems if you are isolated,” says Lucie.

The isolation Lucie refers to is the traditional model of publishing that is still happening in Canada and around the world. The cycle goes like this: research is conducted at academic and other institutions; research results are published in journals by commercial publishing companies; commercial publishers sell subscriptions of the journals to academic libraries at prices that raise annually, often higher than inflation rates; and due to the publisher’s licensing restrictions, academic libraries can only provide access to affiliated students, faculty, and staff. No one else, including the public, unaffiliated researchers, or funders can access the content unless they visit the academic library in person or subscribe to the journal themselves. With this model, the published articles are behind a paywall for the majority of society. This way, it’s not surprising that many articles remain unread.



New models break with traditional publishing venues, providing researchers and academics with opportunities to release their research in pre-print or post-print research repositories or to publish in open access journals, and to retain their author rights when they publish in commercial journals. When authors retain their rights, they have the power to share their work publicly in a variety of venues, for all to read.

In Canada, and internationally, alternative sustainable funding models for open access publishing are also being negotiated, including transformative agreements that convert subscription fees and article processing charges into a consolidated amount, eliminating the need for libraries and researchers to pay twice for 'read and publish' rights, and providing open access to the public as well. Public access to university research promotes citizen science and injects equity into global research efforts.

What is holding open access back?

Some academics see publishing their work in an open access journal as a barrier to progressing in their careers. In some disciplines, there is pressure to publish in a journal with a high impact factor as part of the tenure and promotion process. The Journal Impact Factor (JIF) is a metric calculated by Clarivate (formerly Thomson Reuters) for a small fraction of eligible journals, the vast majority of which are not open access.

With so much importance being placed on journals with high impact factors — particularly the role they play in some tenure and promotion processes — Lucie is advocating for more investigation into how the impact factor system actually works. “We need to make a study of this system. For example, it never tells you the impact factor of an individual article, it just gives you the impact factor of the journal. It’s a metric calculated by a single company using a proprietary system, but for many disciplines, publishing in a high impact factor journal is the key requirement to advance in your career.”

In the past decade, open access journals have become more established as renowned scholars join the editorial boards, but despite this, Lucie doesn’t see much of a challenge being made to the impact factor system as the true assessment of a journal’s value. As long as institutions or disciplines require academics to publish in journals with high impact factors as part of the tenure and promotion process, many scholars won’t make the move to publish their research in an open access journal unless it has a high impact factor rating.

“I know it’s a lot to ask academics to publish in open access journals because I know that people are worried about their careers,” says Lucie. “But we have to change our perceptions around what it means to publish in a journal. Instead of choosing a journal just for its impact factor, other factors need to be considered. I think visibility and accessibility are the most important factors in getting your articles read, and you achieve that through publishing in an open access journal.”

The upsides of open access

Lucie understands there are other reasons why some researchers may be reluctant to publish in open access journals. “It’s a lot of the researcher’s time and effort to interview subjects, transcript recordings, organize ideas, carry out experiments, analyze data, and finally, publish the results,” she says. If an academic publishes in an open access journal, it might feel like they are “giving away” their conclusions and data, but what they often don’t realize is they are already giving away their author rights to publishers in the traditional model. “If researchers are able to carry out their work because they are funded by a government grant, then the results of that research actually belong to all of us,” Lucie says.

In addition to open access publishing for articles, sharing data through open access publishing could be a powerful way to maximize global efficiency in research. “We could eliminate so much unnecessary, double research if data sets were published through open access,” says Lucie. Researchers could use the data to further their ideas instead of spending time and public money reinventing the wheel by duplicating research. “Or, you create new opportunities for researchers by offering a data set that was created for one purpose by allowing other researchers to use it for another purpose,” says Lucie.

The social impact of sharing data could be an effective means of measuring the value of open access. “If you think about medicine, environmental studies, chemistry, engineering — all the fields of science — the research should be accessible to everyone in society. There are so many parts of the world that would benefit from research being done in so many areas of science. And what is more rewarding than to see your work being cited, read, and distributed?” asks Lucie.

Academic libraries are partners in open access

At Dalhousie, and across Canada, there are many on board with Lucie’s way of thinking, particularly those in academic libraries. Locally, the Dalhousie Libraries provides a wide range of open access possibilities for researchers who are ready to adopt open access principles, including options such as publishing an open access journal on the Dal Libraries’ [Open Journal \(OJS\)](#) site, and depositing publications in [DalSpace](#), Dal’s institutional repository, for long-term public access. Other [digital initiative](#) services offered by the Dal Libraries include [data management](#), [digital preservation](#), and [providing advice around author rights and retaining copyright](#). Dalhousie Libraries is also entering into, and actively pursuing, new agreements with publishers that build in open access, such as Canadiana Online, Open Library of the Humanities, Sustainability Coalition for Open Science Services (SCOSS), and more.

The scholarly publishing environment is in a state of transition and open access initiatives are gaining momentum on campuses locally, regionally and nationally, but true change starts with one faculty member, one researcher, at a time.

A new way forward

Lucie still sees a place for publishers in an open access landscape. “Some publishers have already reinvented themselves by offering services over a final product. Publishers can provide services like creating a community or a space for conversation, linking to related articles, designing attractive layouts, adding images, and providing access to the back catalogue,” she says.

In the meantime, Lucie is troubled by the profits the publishers are earning from publicly funded research that should be benefitting the world. “We need to unite,” says Lucie. “The conversation is a global conversation. Competition law will not address this particular issue.”

Before saving the world with open access, Lucie has identified a smaller, but still ambitious, first step on the way. “My dream would be to have Dal adhere to the principles of open access.” These days, with pressing issues like climate change on everyone’s mind, there seems to be no better time for Dal and the world to embrace open access to facilitate global progress.

For more information about open access options related to your publications and research data, past and present, contact the Dalhousie Libraries.

Staff News

Celebrating Inaugural Part-Time Teaching Award Recipient Lindsay McNiff **Nicole Maunsell, Faculty of Management**

This year, the Faculty of Management created a new award to celebrate part-time instructors who exhibit educational leadership, innovation, and sustained commitment to excellence in teaching and learning. The inaugural recipient is Lindsay McNiff.

McNiff is the Learning & Instruction Librarian at Dalhousie Libraries and has been a part-time instructor in the School of Information Management since 2015, where she teaches courses on information retrieval and information literacy instruction. She programs and delivers an academic support workshop series for MI students, which includes topics such as citation management, conference posters and strategies for group work.

McNiff is known for providing practical opportunities for students to learn through role playing, simulations, and deep learning exercises in groups. Students appreciate the way her assignments build off each other and include reflective elements.

“Lindsay is an empathetic and engaging teacher,” says Nicole Marcoux, a student in the MI program who nominated McNiff. “Her friendliness and earnest desire to support her students set her apart.”

Sandra Toze, SIM director, notes that “Lindsay exceeds the expectations of her role. She is an incredibly valuable part of the SIM family and has a significant impact on our student experience. She is highly deserving of this award.”

The Faculty of Management Part-time Teaching Award is awarded to a part-time, CUPE or sessional member of the Faculty of Management teaching staff. The award is chosen by a committee comprising the Associate Dean academic, faculty members, and a student representative. The award was created as part of priority [2.3 of the Faculty’s strategic plan](#), which aims to provide initiatives that recognize the multiple contributions of students, staff and faculty.



Sim Director: Sandra Toze, Lindsay McNiff, and SIM Faculty: Vivian Howard

Congratulations Robin Parker!

Congratulations to our brilliant Dal Libraries' colleague Robin Parker, one of 128 Pre- and Post-doctoral researchers receiving The Killam Trusts Scholarships, Dalhousie University's most celebrated award!



Charles Tourneur, New Stack Supervisor

We are pleased to announce Charles Tourneur is the new Stack Supervisor in the Killam Library. Charles has worked with the Dalhousie Libraries since 2009, demonstrating his technical expertise by working on both the Help Desk and the Access Services Desk.

Charles holds diplomas in Library Information Technology and Electronics Engineering from the Nova Scotia Community College. He is skilled in the area organization, which will serve him well in his new role.



Happy Retirement, Darlene Hazel!

On September 1, Resources staff member Darlene Hazel retired from the Dal Libraries after a 37-year career. Darlene began work at Dalhousie as a Clerk in the Killam Library's Order Department. Over the years, she progressed to the position of Invoicing Assistant for the Dal Libraries.

Darlene's colleagues valued her frankness and sense of humour. They also appreciated the festive cheer that Darlene's colourful decorations added to the workplace during the holidays.



Susan Hagen, Andre Richard, and Darlene Hazel

Library of the Living Dead

From 1968's *Night of the Living Dead* by George Romero, to each week's episode of *The Walking Dead*, zombies are a perennial pop culture favourite. And with the Halloween season recently coming to a close, you've probably seen even more references to zombies — even in the Dal Libraries.

No, you can't blame zombies in the library for why you didn't turn in last week's paper on time — but you could have zombies in the library to thank for your superior researching skills when your next assignment comes in ahead of schedule.

Enter *ZomBool*, a video game in which you try to survive the zombie apocalypse by successfully applying search strategies. A passion project created by data librarian Julie Marcoux, the game combines a zombie-themed, chose-your-own adventure storyline using Boolean search strategies to play the game.

Players start out learning that zombies have reached their city and are asked to help a character named Évangeline build a creature made of body parts of the dead to use in the fight against the zombies. The creature can't be reanimated without a defibrillator, so the player has to make a decision — will they go

to a pharmacy to find a defibrillator, find a weapon to defend themselves, or find Évangeline’s friend who may have a defibrillator in their dorm room?

“The choices you make will have an impact on the overall story,” says Julie. “The number of survivors and the endings change depending on how well the player does with the search strategies.”

Julie has been an academic librarian since 2011. After about a year in the role, she noticed a pattern — many students had difficulty when it came to searching for information. In particular, they were struggling with Boolean searches — combining keywords with AND, OR and NOT to produce more relevant results.

“[It] works like math,” explains Julie. “In math, you use operators to put numbers in relation to one another. In Boolean searching, you instead use operators that work with words. It’s a phenomenon that’s been recorded in librarian literature — digital natives [people who’ve grown up with the Internet in their lives] don’t always have the strongest searching skills.”

And so, in her free time, Julie developed a game to teach students how to become better library researchers. She started working on the game in 2012, before she started working at Dal. As time allowed, she’d work on the game, eventually putting in hundreds of hours before completing it in 2018.

“I’ve always liked doing little bits of light programming, but I’d never made a game before so I had to learn how to do that. Then I had to put together a story, different paths, different endings, as well as finding the art and the music. It was my idea but I had help.”

This included assistance from her family and her partner, who created the original artwork in the game. Some of the characters are even based on a few of her Dalhousie librarian colleagues, who gamely posed for photos that were then sketched into digital art (Her colleagues helped test the game, too).

Julie introduces many students to the game during her classroom visits, but she hopes students will also find the game fun enough to play outside of the classroom. “I would really like for Dal students to start playing the game and I’d love to see universities across Canada, and even the world, try out the game — I have made it open access so that kind of sharing is possible,” says Julie.



Julie Marcoux (in digital art form)

Zombool can be played in English or French and is accessible for the visually impaired. With three possible paths and four possible endings, it can also be played multiple times, and for repeat players, there's a little humour to go along with the gory theme. "If the player decides to replay the game, they get the same story options, but are given the opportunity to add more kittens," says Julie.



The game is available for [download from the Dal Libraries](#) website or you can access the game on the computers at the Halifax locations of the Dal Libraries (except for the "express" computers).

Julie is proud of the game, which is a product of both her love for video games, and helping students become better researchers. "It's really nice when a student can do a search and suddenly they get relevant results. They're no longer trying random searches just hoping to find what they need," says Julie.

For upcoming events, visit our calendar:
<https://dal.libcal.com/calendar/events>

