Although the Library’s stacks may not see the activity that they usually do over the course of the regular school year, summer has always marked a time of great activity for our staff. It is a time when we get to take stock of the activities of the recent past, learn and share our ongoing interests, and prepare for the upcoming school year.

This edition of Library Matters is all about the Library’s summer experience. This summer, the Library welcomed many new faces to our team. You have surely met some in person and will get to know others in Library Matters’ “Proust & You” section.

Back by popular demand were our summer staff development workshops. All were well attended and there was much to learn. From the hands-on session on Camtasia, to sharing conference experiences and best practices, to exploring the concepts of time management and active living, participants shared and discovered new tools to help them at work and play. Check out this edition of Library Matters for a round-up of what was explored including practical tips, website resources and conference updates.

In its constant mission to innovate, the Library also uses the summer months to improve and maintain our many services, collections, and facilities and this summer was no exception. McGill Library staff and support personnel were hard at work finishing up numerous projects including the renovation work at the Blackader-Lauterman Collection of Architecture and Art. Stay tuned for the next issue of Library Matters as we showcase the new space at the grand opening. On the service side, the beginning
of the school year will see the launch of our Orientation campaign and e-reader service as well as upgrades in numerous programs including Endnote. The summer months also brought with them three fantastic exhibits courtesy of Rare Books and Special Collections: “Are We There Yet?” showcasing unique visual images of 150 years of Canadian travel and recreation, “100 Years of Canadian Children’s Books: 1830 to 1930” (runs until September 30th), and “Pulling the Strings: Marionettes and Puppets from the Rosalynde Stearn Puppet Collection” which runs until January 2011. The work on display continues to be outstanding, a sure sign that the McGill Library is a venue for not only historically important exhibits, but also for new and exciting ways of looking at our unique collection.

To quote workshop speaker Jill Barker, this summer we, “took it outside” and connected with old and new friends alike. Reaching out and giving back to the McGill community and beyond is not new to the Library. Check out our Congratulations, Awards & Recognition section, our feature interview with Elizabeth Martin-Chin and the “Circulating the Library” series article in this edition to see why community engagement and support is more than just food for thought.

Don’t forget to use Present to track and record your professional development workshops, conferences and training classes! http://presentlibrary.campus.mcgill.ca/

Did you know that from January to March 2010 11.3% of page views in WorldCat Local were done using the French interface? From April to June 2010 that figure was 12.8%. From January to June 2010 there were 2,290,202 page views in WorldCat Local.
**McGill Library Upgrades to EndNote X4**  
by Megan Fitzgibbons

With the new image on the libraries’ computers, the latest version of EndNote for Windows is available to McGill users. The software can also be downloaded onto personal computers from http://www.mcgill.ca/software. EndNote X4 for Macintosh is expected to be available by October 2010. The new version is not drastically different, but it does have some different bells and whistles:

- **Create new records from PDF files**
  - Version X4 allows you to create new references directly from PDF files that you have downloaded on your computer. You can use the “Import” function to import the PDF file. Note that the completeness of the record is quite variable, depending on the origin of your PDF and the metadata attached to it.

- **New automatic group: cited references**
  - When you are working with Cite While You Write, the EndNote Library now displays an automatically-generated Group with all of the references contained in your current document.

- **Cite While You Write interface**
  - The “edit citations” button is now “edit and manage citations,” which has a more user-friendly screen for modifying references to include page numbers, exclude authors, etc.
  - Modify references in the new Quick Edit tab on the main library window (no need to double click to open the reference)

- **You can now use wildcards within search terms.**

- **Improved APA 6th style compatibility, particularly when handling more than seven authors**

- **Capability to hyperlink in-text citations to the related item in the bibliography**

- **The full EndNote manual no longer comes installed with the program in PDF form, but the help files can be accessed within the program.**
  - The full PDF can be downloaded at: http://endnote.com/support/ensupport.asp

A 7-minute video demo of the changes from the EndNote website is available here: http://endnote.com/enx4wnvid/Whats_New-SD.asp

**Reminder:** for help with EndNote, contact McGill’s EndNote team at: endnotehelp.library@mcgill.ca

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**McGill Library Launches e-reader Loan Service**  
by Maria Savova

One hundred and five Sony Reader Touch Edition PRS-600TM devices will become available for loan to McGill students, faculty, and staff starting September 7, 2010. The e-readers are compatible with a wide variety of e-books, audiobooks and journal articles that can be borrowed from the Library, downloaded for free from the web (including Google Books), or purchased from e-book vendors.

The devices can be borrowed from 8 Library branches for a period of two weeks. For more information, borrowing policies or to watch our instructional videos, go to http://www.mcgill.ca/library/library-using/computers/ereaders/

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**E-Scholarship News**  
by Amy Buckland

I’d like to encourage all librarians to deposit their work in the repository. Sharon Rankin recently set the bar very high for all of us by depositing her book “The Moravian beginnings of Canadian Inuit literature”? Send your publications list to escholarship.library@mcgill.ca to get the ball rolling.
“Getting To Know You” has undergone a bit of a face lift! Our new column “Proust & You” will still allow us to get acquainted with our colleagues, but this time, the questions come from the Proust questionnaire. If Vanity Fair & The Actor’s Studio can do it, then so can we! We will feature 2-3 profiles per issue. Please contact the LM editors to participate.

**Svetlana Kochkina**

**WHAT IS YOUR MOST TREASURED POSSESSION?** Wedding dress that I designed myself.

**WHEN AND WHERE WERE YOU HAPPIEST?** Two years that I lived in Africa.

**WHAT IS YOUR MOST OBVIOUS CHARACTERISTIC?** I really don’t know, I think it’s persistence, but you’d probably better ask my husband, my friends, or my colleagues. I’m sure that their answers might be more accurate than mine since I believe there is a lot of difference in how people imagine themselves, and how they are seen by the outside world.

**WHAT DO YOU CONSIDER YOUR GREATEST ACHIEVEMENT?** You’d better ask me in 40 years. I think it’s a bit too early for me to generalize my life experience.

**WHERE WOULD YOU LIKE TO LIVE?** Rome.

**WHAT IS THE QUALITY YOU MOST ADMIRE IN A PERSON?** Talent.

**WHAT DO YOU VALUE MOST IN YOUR FRIENDS?** Sense of humour.

**WHAT IS A NATURAL TALENT THAT YOU WOULD LIKE TO BE GIFTED WITH?** Eternal piece of mind or speaking more seriously, I’d like to be able not to worry at all about the things being less-than-perfect.

**WHAT IS YOUR MOTTO (WORDS YOU LIVE BY OR THAT MEAN A LOT TO YOU)?** Nil desperandum.

**Jayne Watson-Sévigny**

**WHAT HISTORICAL FIGURE DO YOU MOST IDENTIFY WITH?** Lady Diana

**WHICH LIVING PERSON DO YOU MOST ADMIRE?** Oprah Winfrey & Dr. G.

**WHO IS YOUR FAVORITE FICTIONAL HERO?** Spiderman

**WHO ARE YOUR REAL-LIFE HEROES?** Oprah Winfrey and Dr. G.

**WHAT IS YOUR MOST TREASURED POSSESSION?** My baby bracelet.

**WHEN AND WHERE WERE YOU HAPPIEST?** Anytime at the beach.

**WHAT IS YOUR MOST OBVIOUS CHARACTERISTIC?** My desire to make everyone happy.

**WHAT DO YOU CONSIDER YOUR GREATEST ACHIEVEMENT?** Being positive.

**WHERE WOULD YOU LIKE TO LIVE?** At the beach.

**WHAT IS THE QUALITY YOU MOST ADMIRE IN A PERSON?** Honesty.

**WHAT DO YOU VALUE MOST IN YOUR FRIENDS?** Loyalty.

**WHAT IS A NATURAL TALENT THAT YOU WOULD LIKE TO BE GIFTED WITH?** Singing.

**WHAT IS YOUR MOTTO (WORDS YOU LIVE BY OR THAT MEAN A LOT TO YOU)?** Be Yourself. Be Beautiful.
WHAT HISTORICAL FIGURE DO YOU MOST IDENTIFY WITH? Helen Keller – I don’t necessarily identify with her, but I think she’s an incredibly inspiring historical figure.

WHICH LIVING PERSON DO YOU MOST ADMIRE? Roberta Bondar, Canada’s first female astronaut.

WHO IS YOUR FAVORITE FICTIONAL HERO? Lyra ‘Silvertongue’ from Philip Pullman’s His Dark Materials trilogy because she is clever and brave.

WHO ARE YOUR REAL-LIFE HEROES? My two grandmothers – both very strong and wonderful women.

WHAT IS YOUR MOST TREASURED POSSESSION? Probably my viola.

WHEN AND WHERE WERE YOU HAPPIEST? I love traveling and the outdoors so I’d probably have to say on a camping trip in the Scottish highlands.

WHAT IS YOUR MOST OBVIOUS CHARACTERISTIC? Definitely my red hair.

WHAT DO YOU CONSIDER YOUR GREATEST ACHIEVEMENT? Making it to the top of Mount Fuji.

WHERE WOULD YOU LIKE TO LIVE? Montreal of course!

WHAT IS THE QUALITY YOU MOST ADMIRE IN A PERSON? Compassion.

WHAT DO YOU VALUE MOST IN YOUR FRIENDS? Their superior cooking skills.

WHAT IS A NATURAL TALENT THAT YOU WOULD LIKE TO BE GIFTED WITH? Eloquence so that I could gracefully convince students and faculty about the importance of the library.

WHAT IS YOUR MOTTO (WORDS YOU LIVE BY OR THAT MEAN A LOT TO YOU)? Hakuna Matata – no worries!

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**Digitization Reproduction**

What kind of treasures are being sourced and digitized on the 4th floor in the McLennan Building? Thanks to Rare Books and Special Collections and the Library Digitization Team, LM will give you the scoop and feature a set of digitization reproductions per issue. Enjoy!

**Title:** Der Gorilla : zoologisch-zootomische Untersuchungen  
**Author:** Hartmann, Robert, 1832-1893  
**Publisher, year:** Leipzig : Verlag von Veit, 1880
EVENTS

HOW RUMBLING STOMACHS CHANGED THE COURSE OF HISTORY
by Steven Spodek

The Circulating the Library series recently made a stop this summer at the home of a wonderful McGill alumna, Miriam Tees BA'44, BLS'51, MLS'75, MA'96. I had the good fortune of meeting Miriam for the first time nearly 10 years ago after having invited her to a Library event. Miriam retired in 1988 from McGill’s Graduate School of Library Studies, and immediately took on library related assignments around the world as well as travelling widely in Europe. She currently plays an active role in McGill’s Institute for Learning in Retirement.

Professor Nathalie Cooke, Founding Editor, Cuizine: The Journal of Canadian Food Cultures / Revue des cultures culinaires au Canada, and Editor, What’s to Eat? Entrées in Canadian Food History (MQUP 2009) addressed an audience of 25 people at the Tees home. Professor Cooke discussed how cookbooks reveal our complex social history and what they can tell us about our lives, our homes and our families. The presentation included an opportunity to view items from the cookbook collection that is housed in McGill Library’s Rare Books and Special Collections. Cooke also feels that the cookbook collection is one of the finest of its kind in Canada, possibly North America. Diane Koen, Jennifer Garland, and Steven Spodek represented the Library at the event.

The Circulating the Library series began as an experiment in April 2009. Since then the series has made 5 stops in Montreal, Toronto, and Greenwich, CT. Planning has begun in earnest for the series to continue in 2010-2011. Although the events are organized in the spirit of “friendraising” they have resulted in a number of generous gifts to the Library. The events help the Library to create a strong presence in the community and build awareness of the role that the university’s libraries play in the life and outreach of McGill.

ALPHABET BOOKS AND VINTAGE FLASH CARDS AT THE EDUCATION LIBRARY & CURRICULUM RESOURCES CENTRE

Alphabet books and vintage flash cards (from Maya Kucij’s personal collection) are the focus of the Education Library’s Fall display. If you look closely, you may notice that summer’s paper towel tube traffic cones have now been transformed into pencils and apple trees!

AMBASSADOR TO EGYPT VISITS ISLAMIC STUDIES LIBRARY - JUNE 8, 2010

Featured (from L to R): Carole Urbain, Sean Swanick, Anaïs Salamon, M. Ferry de Kerchove (Canadian Ambassador to Egypt), Professor Jamil Ragep (Director, Institute of Islamic Studies), Diane Koen, Professor A. Uner Turgay
Once again, due to popular demand, the McGill Library held staff development programs over the course of the summer. All staff members were invited to attend these fun-filled and informative workshops on three “Summer Wednesdays” and librarians on four “Summer Fridays”. A special thanks goes out to our Summer Professional Development Committee members: Jill Boruff, April Colosimo, Jennifer Garland, Maya Kucij, Jessica Lange, Mary Lourenço, Merika Ramundo and Deena Yanofsky. Wanna know what you missed? Check out these brief snippets that include helpful tips and online resources.

**Friday, July 9th - “Creating Video Tutorials with Camtasia”**

This workshop, facilitated by Jill Boruff & Jennifer Garland, gave those in attendance the chance to get some hands-on practice with Camtasia, a software that allows you to capture what is happening on your computer screen and turn it into a video. It is particularly useful in creating tutorials for library resources. Oksana Maibroda from Content and Collaboration Solutions taught us how to use the software and how to optimize the settings for the creation of online tutorials. The software is free for staff to download through the McGill Software Site: www.mcgill.ca/software. -Jill Boruff

**Wednesday, July 14 - “Time: ally not enemy with Isabelle Gingras”**

This Time Management session, presented by Isabelle Gingras, PhD, focused on our relationship with time in all areas of our life. Isabelle stressed that time is our ultimate wealth, it is limited and not infinite. Allowing for a new perspective on how we value time in our personal life will inevitably change how we use our time in the workplace. Together we can make changes in our workplace culture not necessarily by doing more but by improving our work processes. Assessing how we manage our time and making conscious decisions about using our time more efficiently empowers us to develop a more balanced work-family lifestyle. For more information please refer to the following website www.isabellegingras.com. -Mary Lourenço

**Friday, July 23 - “Jazz Up Your Presentations”**

Sans serif fonts. High contrast between font and background. No bullet points. Lots of images. What do these things have in common? They are all elements to a more effective and visually pleasing PowerPoint presentation. Jill Boruff and Jennifer Garland showed us how jazz up our presentations by using functionalities already available in PowerPoint. Links to Creative Commons image databases and other interesting links on presentations can be found here on the Library Staff Blog http://blogs.mcgill.ca/librarystaff/2010/07/22/summer-friday-session-jazz-up-your-presentations/. -Jill Boruff

**Wednesday, July 28 - “Active Living” with Jill Barker**

Jill Barker, Manager of Marketing and Communications, McGill Athletics & Recreation joined library staff to discuss techniques for improving physical and mental health. She focused on time management strategies and suggestions for small, achievable lifestyle changes. Jill’s message was simple: make small changes to scale down your life from frantic to manageable. Big kinds of changes never stick, so be reasonable in your expectations. It’s important to plan your time in order to achieve a greater sense of happiness and satisfaction. Here are some of our favourite tips from the session.

Change the workplace culture:
- “Busy” doesn’t mean productive. Brag about having time to do your favourite things instead of being busy.
- “Turn off” during the lunch hour. Book the hour in your calendar for yourself (to take lunch, go for a walk, go to the gym).
- Take it outside! Invite colleagues to move your meetings outside and talk while you walk.
- Encourage colleagues to consider their health in terms of workload and time management.

Just a few tiny adjustments in your daily routine will help you to be more active:
- Become a morning person. This may but easier said than done, but try to give yourself time to clear your head before the workday starts. The more you put off “me time,” the less likely it is to happen.
- Accumulate 60 minutes of physical activity per day. This can be in 10 minute segments rather than all at once.
- Skip the shortcuts! Remember that time spent walking somewhere is not a time waster.
- The workout doesn’t start at the gym. Count the time it takes to walk there.
- Get off the bus/metro one stop early and walk the rest of the way
- Leave your desk occasionally (Stand-up to answer the phone; Take the stairs; Walk down the hall instead of sending an e-mail)

Jill also had us try some easy, tension relieving exercises that can be done in your office chair. You can find out more from the office yoga series from the Montreal Gazette, including photos, videos, and an article by Jill.


-Jennifer Garland and Megan Fitzgibbons

FRIDAY, AUGUST 6 - “WHAT I DID THIS SUMMER: CONFERENCE UPDATE”

This session, facilitated by Jessica Lange, provided a fantastic opportunity for librarians to share their conference experiences and research interests with their colleagues. Topics included information literacy, the semantic web, rare books, realist reviews, “unconferences” and Ex Libris. Thank you to our presenters Jim Henderson, Chris Lyons, Megan Fitzgibbons, Louise O’Neill, Amy Buckland, Vincen Lu, Nevenka Koscevic, Juanita Jara De Sumar, Heather Cai and Jane Aitkens. Thank you also to Robin Canuel for sharing his poster on librarians, smartphones and mobile learning.

-Jessica Lange

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 11 - “A WEB SAMPILER: FUN SITES AND TOOLS FOR WORK & HOME”

Paper airplanes and flying headlines were part of the session led by Maya Kucij highlighting RSS. After discussing the advantages (fun, interactive, spam-free, easy, customizable!), participants were encouraged to set up their own Google Reader accounts and begin playing around adding various “feeds.” Did you miss the session? There’s a number of helpful links posted to the Library Staff blog (& some great books about folding paper airplanes at the Education Library!). -Maya Kucij

FRIDAY, AUGUST 20 - “E-RESEARCH, DATA CURATION AND THE ACADEMIC LIBRARY”

McGill librarians invited Kathleen Shearer to speak on “E-Research, Data Curation and the Academic Library.” Kathleen is a member of the Canadian Association of Research Libraries (CARL) Data Management Subcommittee and provides ongoing support to the Research Data Strategy Working Group, headed by CISTI. Representatives of the McGill Library Nesstar taskforce, Louise O’Neill and Deena Yanofsky, opened the session with an overview of Library initiatives for a data curation service aimed at McGill researchers. Kathleen then focused on the status of research data management in Canada and the need for institutions to take responsibility for making research data accessible and usable. She highlighted a role for libraries in building awareness, improving data know-how, and supporting access, discovery and reuse of data for the advancement of research in Canada and beyond.

-April Colosimo & Deena Yanofsky
The conference season began with the annual meeting of the Archivists and Librarians in the History of the Health Sciences, which was held at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota, on April 28 and 29. The ALHHS is made up of approximately 200 members, including representatives of key institutions in medical history, like the National Library of Medicine, the Wellcome Library, Yale and Harvard. This year’s meeting focused on digitization and social networking. One half day presentation was given by Steven Puglia, a Preservation and Imaging Specialist at the US National Archives and Records Administration, who gave a detailed overview on digitization and preservation in diverse formats, including film and sound. Another striking presentation was by Mike Rhodes of the Otis Historical Archives of the National Museum of Health and Medicine about posting their historical photographs on Flickr. Their images have received about 1.3 million views over the past couple of years, which is an astronomical increase over the pre-digital uses. I think it would be great if we could do this with our unique McGill images. Write ups of many of the presentations are available in the ALHHS’ publication The Watermark.

ALHHS was immediately followed by the Annual Meeting of the American Association for the History of Medicine, which was held at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota, on April 28 and 29. The ALHHS is made up of approximately 200 members, including representatives of key institutions in medical history, like the National Library of Medicine, the Wellcome Library, Yale and Harvard. This year’s meeting focused on digitization and social networking. One half day presentation was given by Steven Puglia, a Preservation and Imaging Specialist at the US National Archives and Records Administration, who gave a detailed overview on digitization and preservation in diverse formats, including film and sound. Another striking presentation was by Mike Rhodes of the Otis Historical Archives of the National Museum of Health and Medicine about posting their historical photographs on Flickr. Their images have received about 1.3 million views over the past couple of years, which is an astronomical increase over the pre-digital uses. I think it would be great if we could do this with our unique McGill images. Write ups of many of the presentations are available in the ALHHS’ publication The Watermark.

I feel that the conferences I attended this summer were quite useful in a number of ways, especially in areas such as collection development, instruction and reference services. I would like to thank the Library for its support.

**Crossing Borders, Expanding Frontiers, LOEX of the West**

By Vincci Lui

This past June, I attended a conference called LOEX (Library-Orientation-Exchange) of the West. A 2-day conference devoted to all things information literacy. LOTW was held for the first time outside of the United States, at Calgary’s Mount Royal University. This also being my first time venturing into Canada’s own Cowtown, I found it fitting that the 2010 conference theme was Crossing Borders, Expanding Frontiers.

I was fortunate enough to attend the pre-conference, Getting Your Words Out: A Primer on Professional Publishing for Librarians. As a fairly new academic librarian, this session on the scholarly publishing process was invaluable. Eleanor Mitchell and Sarah Barbara Watstein, co-editors of Reference Services Review, spoke to an audience of both green and seasoned librarians, and covered the whole spectrum of issues that arise in publishing. From assessing the publishing appeal of ideas, to building proposals and developing timetables, to identifying potential publication outlets and working collaboratively, all the crucial steps to publishing were demystified. Just some of the great advice imparted was the importance of networking with editors to identify gaps in the literature, clearly delineating and documenting collaborators’ responsibilities, and developing one’s reputation by branching out into other roles such as reviewer and guest editor.

Another excellent session was Emily Missner of Drexel University’s Mad Men in Your Library: Copywriting and Information Literacy. We were shown how good copywriting can increase a library’s appeal to its target Generation Y demographic. Inspired by marketing’s storytelling techniques, Missner’s popular faculty and student newsletter exemplified how witty writing can not only serve as an effective tool in enhancing a library’s image, but also in raising awareness of services and resources, and in fostering stronger ties with customers.

Many practical, interaction-heavy orientation workshop ideas were also introduced, from
the introvert-friendly audience participation techniques of the Cephalonian Method and Library Lotto, as described by Andy Jackson of the University of Dundee, to the peer-teaching techniques of student-made, on-the-fly library orientation videos, as shown by Rian Misfeldt of the Saskatchewan Institute of Applied Science and Technology.

All in all, I left this conference energized and inspired, brimming with great ideas and ready to tackle the fall semester ahead!

**UNCONFERENCES**

*By Amy Buckland*

Unconferences (or camps) are the opposite of your traditional conference. There is no sage on the stage, and everyone must contribute to the session. Using a number of different techniques (check out Harrison Owen’s Open Space Technology - http://mcgill.worldcat.org/oclc/182963681 - for a list) participants determine the topics that will be discussed during the session.

There are, however, a few rules to unconferences:

1. Whoever comes is the right people
2. Whatever happens is the only thing that could have
3. Whenever it starts is the right time
4. When it’s over, it’s over

And finally the Law of Two Feet. Participants are responsible for their own learning at unconferences. If they are in a session where they are not learning, the Law of Two Feet applies and they must leave the session and find another where they ARE learning.

Traditionally when a camp is announced a wiki is created to help track participants and to serve as a “brain dump” for possible topics. Though there are rarely invited speakers, there are always facilitators. Facilitators are responsible for keeping the conversations going - in this respect, if you are facilitating an unconference, you can prepare for it by reading up on current issues and have a list of topics in your back pocket that are guaranteed to spur discussion (the more controversial the topic, the better, in my humble opinion).

The two main reasons why I prefer to attend/facilitate unconference sessions over regular sessions:

1. It is guaranteed that I will learn something new in a collegial environment where questions are encouraged.
2. No more death by PowerPoint.

For a list of library unconferences, check out: http://liswiki.org/wiki/Library_Camp
The 2009 EDUCAUSE annual conference was attended by approximately 3,800 international IT professionals, administrators, CIOs, librarians, professors, web designers, educational technologists, and all types of people involved in higher education and how IT can transform it. McGill is one of the 2,200 institutions who belong to EDUCAUSE.

As it was not solely for librarians, the conference offered a diverse range of sessions in various formats, including lightning rounds, point/counterpoint debates, discussion sessions, keynote speakers, community showcase posters, and standard track session presentations. The topics presented and discussed covered a vast range of topics from the broadest levels of the future of higher education itself to reports on the use of particular technologies for very specific projects. In particular, there was a lot of buzz around green IT, mobile learning, dealing with the current budget climate, e-books, cloud computing, and understanding students’ use of technology.

I went to sessions related to educational methods (not library specific), technologies like e-books and in libraries, and higher-level “state of libraries” types of sessions. I also had the opportunity to speak during a library-centered track session, delivering a talk called “Concept Mapping for Collaboration” (http://www.educause.edu/E09+Hybrid/EDUCAUSE2009FacetoFaceConferen/ LibraryLightningRound/176053). In addition, I participated as a presenter in the conference’s Community Showcase (poster sessions).


The Workshop for Instruction in Library Use (WILU) is an annual Canadian conference on information literacy. WILU is not run by a single association, so it really belongs to its attendees and the institutions that put forth the effort to host it each year. Although it’s small, I found the conference to offer a dynamic program and a prime opportunity to meet like-minded researchers and professionals from university, college, and public libraries. Many of the sessions had practical tips for instruction sessions, but others were more theoretical and challenged our thinking about our approaches to information literacy and the practice of education. McGill had several representatives at the conference who can also share great ideas from the sessions!

The full program and presentation materials are posted at: http://wilu2010.blog.lib.mcmaster.ca/program

I had the opportunity to present a well-received session with April Colosimo called “Concept Mapping: Fun for Librarians.” The session provided information about the theory and applications of concept mapping in addition to offering participants the chance to design their own concept map relevant to their work as instruction librarians.

Canadian Library Association
Edmonton, Alberta
June 2-5, 2010

I was fortunate to attend the CLA’s annual national conference and tradeshow at a particularly important time. An undercurrent to all of the proceedings of the conference was the uncertainty of the association’s future, particularly in relation to its untenable financial situation. The business meetings and AGM thus took on a definite urgency. A task force had been convened before the conference and resolutions were prepared for the AGM. The division AGMs included discussions during which members’ ideas were solicited, and a town-hall meeting with members of the CLA executive council was arranged. I took the opportunity to be involved in these meetings and learned a lot from others’ ideas about the value of the organization while contributing my own.

The conference program is available online at http://www.cla.ca/conference/2010/.


I was the 2009-2010 chair of the Re:Generations committee of the Canadian Association of College and University Libraries (CACUL), and the committee was pleased to present two sessions at the conference. First was a panel session called “Preparing for the Profession: An Interactive Session for New and Emerging Professionals.” There were no set speeches or agendas. Instead, we turned control of the session to the audience, who determined the topics of discussion through their own questions. The “unconference” format was well-received, as the discussion originated from the audience rather than the speakers on the stage. Our second session was also a panel, entitled “Speed Updating for Academic Librarians.” Six speakers presented lightning overviews of important current topics in the field: RDA (by Chris Oliver), open access, evidence-based librarianship, mobile learning, and linked data. I contributed a segment on active learning. After all of the presenters spoke, we moved into breakout groups, and audience members continued discussions with the speaker of their choice.
Back to school: a rare summer experience
by Nevenka Koscevic

On July 11, 2010 I attended the orientation session of the Rare Book School in the Alderman Library (see photo) in the heart of Thomas Jefferson’s “Academical Village” at the University of Virginia in Charlottesville. I was one of the 50 students, chiefly librarians from institutions such as Columbia, Harvard’s Biblioteca Berenson in Florence, Ohio State, Georgetown, Princeton, with a sprinkling of Canadians from Waterloo, Queen’s and McGill.

We had registered to attend one of the summer school sessions on topics ranging from the history of the book to identification of photo print processes. The full listing of courses, including the newly introduced Born Digital, and Digitizing the Historical record is at http://www.rarebookschool.org/schedule/.

The admission to the School is by competitive application, and although the tuition is steep (nearly $1,000), scholarships are available. The intensive week-long courses are taught by practising librarians and scholars with diverse and formidable credentials. The Rare Book Cataloguing course I attended has been taught since 1998 by Deborah Leslie, Head of Cataloguing at the Folger Shakespeare Library in Washington, and formerly of Beinecke Library at Yale. Deborah Leslie was the chair of the ACRL’s Rare Books and Manuscripts Section’s Bibliographic Standards Committee, and the chief editor of the essential cataloguing tool for librarians: Descriptive Cataloging of Rare Materials (Books).

The Rare Book Cataloging course took place July 12-16, each day beginning with communal breakfast at 8:00, followed by formal lectures, in-class cataloguing practice and exercises, demonstrations and discussions, from 8:30 to 5:00. Due to the practical component of the course, we were also given homework, the only group to be so honoured! In the evenings the School had scheduled guest lectures, videos and a booksellers fair.

The focus of our course was books from the hand-press period, i.e. pre-1830, with some discussion of 19th and 20th century books in a special collections context. Topics included: application of codes and standards, especially DCRM(B), concepts of edition, impression, issue and state, uses of special files and access points – genre terms, printing and publishing evidence, standard citation forms and setting cataloguing policy within an institutional context.

The Workbook which Deborah Leslie prepared for her class includes a number of essential reference tools: transcription of early letter forms, a table for determining format (quarto, duodecimo – essential for accurate identification of an edition), and examples of binding descriptions and local copy-specific notes. We were reminded that the library’s catalogue is ultimately an inventory and thus must contain enough (accurate!) information to identify, without a doubt, what is owned. The beauty of practical exercises in class was that we received feedback in the form of “the right answer”, which is not always the case in the daily work of a rare book cataloguer.

The cataloguing class was a group of ten librarians with shared interests and problems, and discussions on matters practical and theoretical were lively and enlightening. We agreed that the nature and appreciation of rare books need to be made known and promoted, but that the definition of what constitutes a rare book is ultimately determined by the institution which holds the item, and consequently that the cataloguing policy is based on the educated choices made at the management level.

Attending the Rare Book School was one of the most stimulating, challenging and thought-provoking experiences I’ve had in a long time. I am glad that the learning process and discussions are continuing through participation in the ACRL’s DCRM Listserv which my classmates and I have joined.

As an added bonus, the University of Virginia campus is a wonderful place to visit. I would be very happy to share my impressions of Virginia in the summer heat, and the joys and challenges of living in a student residence.
by Merika Ramundo

Over the course of the summer, the Library Orientation Committee met to strategize and organize activities that increase awareness of library resources and services among new and returning students. Content for our Tours, Getting Started and Finding the Right Stuff workshops was revised and refined making these sessions more accessible than ever. The message for this year was simple. VISIT. ASK. LEARN. Visit – take a tour of the facilities and discover the resources the Library has to offer. Ask – ask any question, anytime, anywhere! Learn – take a workshop on how to get started, find the right stuff and set up a library-friendly laptop. To help make the message come alive, the Library Orientation Committee put out a call out to staff and student volunteers. Special thanks to our resident photographer Klaus Fiedler and to our volunteer sign-holding staffers: Amy Buckland, Megan Fitzgibbons, Katherine Hanz, Joseph Hafner, Sara Holder, Maya Kucij, Jessica Lange, Graham Lavender, Cathy Martin, Jan Sandink, Steven Spodek and Natalie Waters. A big thank you also goes out to the student volunteers featured in our Orientation posters and brochure: Liese Achtzehner, Christina Commissio, Alessandro Di Pietro, Kush Prithipaul, Purnendu Prithipaul and Mari Vihuri. The Library Orientation campaign kicks into high gear at the start of every school year when McGill Library staff members participate in numerous activities across campus. By the time you read this, the Library’s presence will have been felt at: Discovery Tours, Parent’s Tent, ID Centre, Residences, Graduate and Postdoctoral Orientation Open House & Welcome and the McGill Street Festival not to mention the constant flow of new information that is posted daily on the Library Orientation Facebook and Twitter pages. Thanks to everyone involved in making sure that parents, faculty, returning and new students feel welcome at the Library!
FEATURES

Library Staffer Elizabeth Martin-Chin
Gives Back

Communications Officer Merika Ramundo sat down to speak with Collections Department Library Assistant Elizabeth Martin-Chin about her recent volunteer work with son William in Tajikistan for Habitat for Humanity.

Q: What is Habitat for Humanity?
A: It is an organization that builds decent and affordable houses for people in need around the world.

Q: How did you get involved with Habitat for Humanity?
A: I have wanted to volunteer with Habitat for a very long time. It just so happened that I had some holiday time left before the end of the working year and my 22 year old son who studies at McGill had some time after his exams. We decided to go together. It was perfect timing.

Q: I admit, I have never heard of Tajikistan. Why did you choose Tajikistan?
A: I also had never heard of it. The opportunity came completely out of the blue. Looking at the Habitat’s website for possibilities, other trips that fit the limited time we had were down the road in Costa Rica, or further afield in Nepal. Nepal’s build [Habitaters refer to their trips as builds] was full. I turned my attention to Tajikistan and thought: there is no way I would ever go there if it were not for a trip like this. And so I thought – why not? Really, why not?!

Q: Can you describe the country?
A: Tajikistan is very poor. It is a small land-locked country, surrounded by China to the east and Afghanistan to the south, and is near Iran and Kazakhstan. It is absolutely beautiful, with 90% of its land covered by mountains. We worked in the Rasht District in a town called Gharm, about a six hour drive from the capital, Dushanbe, where we flew in. Tajikistan’s mountainous geography made the trip from Dushanbe quite formidable. We were stopped twice because mudslides washed out the roads winding up and around the mountains.

Q: What did you do there? What were your challenges?
A: Tajikistan is situated in an earthquake zone. Mudslides and especially landslides are frequent occurrences, and tremors often damage houses. The people of Tajikistan have discovered a way of using mulberry and birch trees to help withstand earthquakes. By installing frames made from mulberry and birch branches into walls and then covering the walls with mud, they have found that this basic technology absorbs much of the shaking from the earthquakes. Our task was to help install this system in two houses. We used mud and straw for the walls. A lot of our time was spent literally carrying mud in buckets and slapping mud against walls, or literally making the frames out of mulberry or birch – basic work.

My task mostly involved carrying buckets of mud across a narrow, wobbly bridge. I tripped over a yellow string that was strewn across the door, and fell! (You can still see the bruise on my face, over one month later!)

Our group (12 people in all including our leader, most of whom were from the US) was split into two – 6 and 6. Each subgroup helped one of two families on their house. We had two translators with us all the time. The families had to participate in the build with us, as one of the conditions of their being chosen to receive help from Habitat. Since the men and women are not really allowed to mix, the men built with us and the women helped with other tasks, including food preparation. The
group was wonderful. Everyone was keen to be there, to help out. You are all absolutely fresh…kind of like in kindergarten.

Q: If you had to describe your favorite moment, what would that be?
A: Such a hard question to answer, because everything was really very wonderful. Meeting the people there was a highlight. Sometimes the children would pass by on their way to and from school. One little boy would come by and would motion to different things because he wanted to know the English words. So he would repeat, “Eyes. Nose. Mouth.” That was one of my favorite things.

Q: How can people get involved?
A: Check Habitat’s website! We didn’t know anyone who had ever done a build before. Habitat for Humanity is well organized. Everything is completely set up before you get there: transportation, lodging, logistics - everything. As soon as we arrived at the Habitat office, they gave us an orientation session with safety tips followed by and cultural information. Habitat chose the site, the families that we helped; they tell you exactly where to meet and on what day. All you need to do is sign up and pay to get there. In the case of this build, there were only two flights a week going to Tajikistan from Turkey, which meant we had to all congregate in Istanbul. We had a great time in Istanbul, again very well organized by Habitat.

Q: Was there a learning moment for you?
A: Yes, realizing how much we have here and how much other people in this world don’t. There was also quite a cultural difference – Tajikistan went through a civil war and is still very Soviet. If you ask anybody who lives there they would tell you there has been a lot of progress, and they would be right. If anyone wants to do something different on holiday I definitely recommend donating your time to Habitat for Humanity. It was out of this world.

The importance of public relations activities in enhancing the Library’s profile on campus and in the community cannot be overlooked. The McGill Library has been the subject of a significant amount of positive publicity in the press and on campus in the last couple of years. Articles have appeared in the Montreal Gazette, Le Devoir, Architecture Week, and the McGill Reporter to name but a few sources. An example includes the Gazette article (February 2010) about the Library’s copy of John James Audubon’s Birds of America. This item was subsequently picked by a number of newspapers in Canada and overseas. In addition, the e-version of the McGill News recently included a wonderful article about the Library’s current exhibit on the Rosalynde Steam Puppet Collection: http://publications.mcgill.ca/mcgillnews/2010/08/27/pulling-strings-for-a-one-of-a-kind-collection/. The exhibit is an example of our well thought out program of curated exhibitions throughout the year that boost awareness of the Library’s resources within McGill and in the wider community.

In the weeks ahead, an article will be published in a McGill Capital Campaign newsletter about the fascinating intersection between the Raymond Klibansky Collection, Dr. Ethel Groffier, DCL’72, the widow of the late Professor Klibansky and use of the Klibansky collection by PhD student Jill Tomm. In addition, Donald Walcot BA’63 has agreed to be profiled in a McGill Planned Giving newsletter. Mr. Walcot, chairperson of the Library’s Advancement Committee, has very thoughtfully agreed to make the McGill Library a beneficiary of his estate.

We will continue to highlight the Library whenever possible. Suggestions of story ideas are always welcome and may be submitted to Merika Ramundo.

Some of the richest aspects of this extraordinary collection include Punch and Judy, the Commedia dell’arte and shadow puppets from South Asia. These and late nineteenth and early twentieth-century French puppets and puppets made by Stearn herself for the Aristophanes play “The Clouds” are featured in this exhibition. From French marionettes of the eighteenth century to Canadian puppets of the twentieth, this exhibition brings before the public for the first time in many years, one of the most unusual of McGill treasures.

The collection was formed by the Canadian puppeteer Rosalynde Osborne Stearn to be a comprehensive library on the puppet theatre with representative examples of puppets characteristic of different periods and countries.

**CONGRATULATIONS, AWARDS & RECOGNITION**

**Library Staffer Jim Henderson leads national virtual health project**

Congratulations to Jim Henderson for his involvement as co-investigator in the groundbreaking Canadian Virtual Health Library initiative. Details posted on the McGill site: www.mcgill.ca/newsroom/news/item/?item_id=164350

**Best wishes to baby Charles “Charlie” Everett Bélanger & family**

Son of Dawn McKinnon born on Friday, July 16, 2010 at 3:13pm, weighing 8lbs, 2oz.

**Congratulations! Library Staffer Chris Oliver pens & publishes**

Book Summary: Resource Description and Access (RDA) is the new cataloguing standard that will replace the Anglo-American Cataloguing Rules (AACR). The 2010 release of RDA is not the release of a revised standard; it represents a shift in the understanding of the cataloguing process. Author Chris Oliver, Cataloguing and Authorities Coordinator at the McGill University Library and chair of the Canadian Committee on Cataloging, offers practical advice on how to make the transition.

Published by ALA Editions. Now available at www.alastore.ala.org

**John Hobbins – late breaking news!**

After 44 years of service to McGill University and McGill Library, John Hobbins has decided to retire. A more fulsome tribute will be forthcoming in our next edition of Library Matters and at a farewell event to be organized. While he prepares for his next challenge, John will be contributing his expertise to our eScholarship@McGill service. Congratulations John!