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### **Hanging Out at the Virtual Water Cooler**

By David Fiander

Author David Fiander spent nine months working at the University of Western Ontario by day, and the Georgia Public Library Service by night. He admits: "It was a heck of a commute!" Welcome to the virtual world of the Evergreen open source ILS project.



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### **Fifty Miles of Ideas and Thirty Years of Service: The Toronto Reference Library**

By Paul Trumphour

What Yonge and Bloor landmark has more than 50 miles of shelving and a map that resolved a 150-year-old land claim dispute? You guessed it... the 30-years-young Toronto Reference Library.



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### **The Ozone Search**

By Annemarie Toth-Waddell & Karen Marshall

Have you ever needed to find an electronic Ontario government document only to discover it is no longer available on the Web? Well... no more. Project managers Annemarie Toth-Waddell and Karen Marshall walk us through the OZone — a new resource helping us tap into the Legislative Library's extensive archived collection.



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### **Here We Grow Again!**

By Gloria Leckie

Good news for staff-strapped libraries—the MLIS program of the Faculty of Information and Media Studies at the University of Western Ontario is expanding.

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### **The Access Photo Essay**










#### **CARNEGIE UNDER GLASS: THE REALIZATION**

Cambridge Public Libraries have opened the extraordinary new Hespeler Library, the architectural cover story in *Access* Summer '05.



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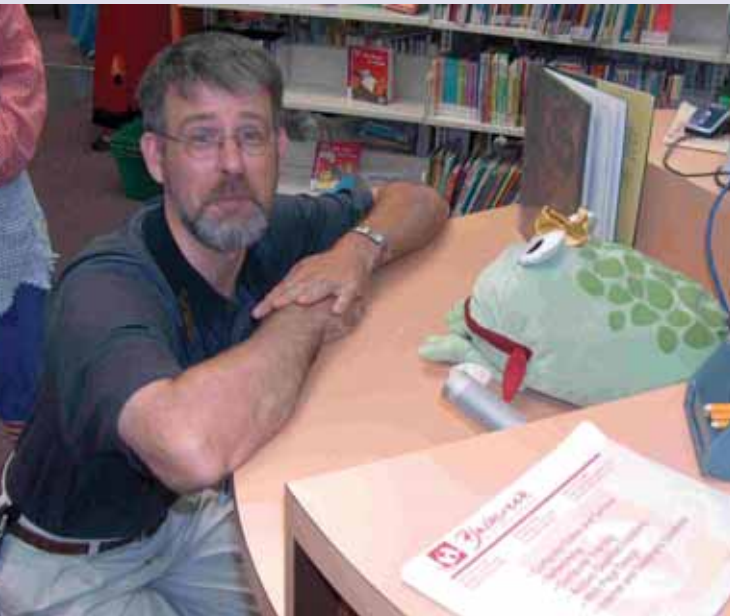
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# Ontario Snapshot

LIBRARY NEWS, PROGRAMS AND RECOGNITION



Night at the Library volunteer David Harvie with a talking frog.

## A Night at the Library

Storybook friends came alive August 1 as “Night at the Library” transformed the Stratford Public Library.

Nearly 200 folk of all ages were delighted by the fun-filled free family event, with a literary twist, inspired by the popular book and movie *Night at the Museum*.

Characters from a variety of books and stories sprang to life and wandered through the library, engaging adults and children! Children and adults alike were delighted to talk to Cleopatra, or to get The Big Bad Wolf’s side of the story, or to help Little Bo Peep gather her lost sheep.

Festivities also included a talking frog, interactive games, learning centres and a Nursery Rhyme Challenge.

For pictures, see [www.cjcsradio.com/events/photo\\_gallery.php](http://www.cjcsradio.com/events/photo_gallery.php)

## Oshawa Public Libraries wins ALA Award

Every year at the American Library Association Conference, the Library Administration and Management Association (LAMA) present the annual Best of Show Awards. These awards recognize the very best public relations materials produced by libraries in the past year (2006). This year’s competition received more than 420 entries, and the Oshawa Public Libraries was awarded a Best of Show Honourable Mention in the category Services Available/Orientation Materials/Policy Materials for the materials on the Get Carded programme.



## Minister Di Cocco Visits Strathroy Library

Minister of Culture Caroline Di Cocco visited the Strathroy Branch of Middlesex County Library on August 16th to announce a substantial increase in funding for the Strategic Development Fund. Library staff, Board members and local politicians, including MPP Maria Van Bommel, were on hand to welcome the Minister. She enjoyed a tour of the newly renovated facility which since earlier this year includes Museum Strathroy-Caradoc and the Strathroy Art Gallery. The Minister commented on the unique partnership that makes the facility a focus of arts, culture and life-long learning in downtown Strathroy. A high point of the visit was Minister Di Cocco’s reading of *I Like Books* (which she clearly does) to a group of children assembled on the storytime rug.



### More Than a Million Reasons to Celebrate

Last year, the Friends of the Ajax Public Library made the final payment of their \$1 million campaign, which helped build the new main branch of the library for Ajax. On September 24 they were recognized for their efforts.

At an Ajax Council Meeting, they were presented with the Random House Friends of the Year Award for 2006. The award is given annually by Friends of Canadian Libraries for outstanding community and volunteer involvement.

Ajax Friends are involved in many cultural and fund raising activities, including the Ajax Film Circuit, their own "Friendly Book Store," "Books for Babies Literacy Kits," a Braille project for the Library's talking book collection, providing the Visiting Library Service Van, and hosting programs in the Library including the popular "Music on a Sunday Afternoon."



*Hastings Highlands Public Library develops a Library Mobile.*

### Maynooth Library Develops Library Mobile

This year, with the generous support of the Library Strategic Development Fund, the Hastings Highlands PL and its partners were thrilled to develop and implement the Library Mobile project. The community covers an area of over 1,000 square kilometres and many residents are hampered by low levels of education and literacy—not to mention little access to transportation. The pilot project enabled the library to provide transportation to library programs and the delivery of books to those who have difficulty visiting the library. Children, adults and seniors continue to benefit from this service. Officials hope to extend the project further as time and funds permit—to include other area libraries and the purchase of a vehicle.



### Drumming Through Summer

As part of its summer programming, the Whitchurch-Stouffville Public Library held a drumming workshop for children in grades 3 and 4. Hayden, a young local drummer, provided all the equipment for about 15 eager participants who spent two hours learning the basics of drumming. Lots of music, lots of fun, and a good time had by all!



*MacTier's new library is slated for 2008.*

### **MacTier New Library Breaks Ground**

The Township of Georgian Bay Public Library held a groundbreaking ceremony on Saturday, August 4th for the New Public Library in MacTier. This library, slated to open in 2008, the Centennial of the Town will replace a 30-year-old portable! The Friends cooked up great hamburgers and hot dogs during a fundraising BBQ for the groundbreaking event. The funding for the new library is from an Ontario Rural Infrastructure Initiative grant and money raised by the Friends and the Library Board. The Friends are still fundraising to purchase furnishings and enhancements for the new library.

### **York Librarian Creates Treasure Trove of Info**

York University reference librarian Mary Kandiuk has published a comprehensive bibliographic reference book on 27 selected Caribbean or South Asian writers who have lived in Canada for at least part of their writing careers. In *Caribbean and South Asian Writers in Canada: A Bibliography of Their Works and of English-Language Criticism* (Scarecrow Press, 2007), Kandiuk has created a treasure trove of information for researchers. The book is the first of its kind.

In it, Kandiuk provides a comprehensive overview, with a brief biography and an exhaustive chronological list of each writer's monograph fictions. She complements this information with a list by author of books, parts of books, periodical articles, book reviews and dissertations that critique their work.

*Reprinted courtesy of YFile, York University's daily online publication for faculty and staff. This story was written by Jenny Pitt-Clark, YFile editor.*

## Carnegie Library 100th Anniversary

One hundred years ago, in 1907, philanthropist Andrew Carnegie donated \$10,000 to the community of Listowel. With this generous donation the town council chose a prominent building site on Main Street and hired local architect William Binning to oversee the building project. Construction of the cement block and faux stone building began in late 1905 and was completed in 1907. Then in 1998, the North Perth Public Library, Listowel Branch, was designated a heritage building. Soon after this, work began on a much needed renovation and addition to accommodate the needs of a growing community. The Carnegie Library is now beautifully restored and houses office rooms, meeting space and the Listowel branch of the Stratford Perth Archives.

Centennial celebrations included an Erewhon Theatre production of *Charlotte's Web*, an evening of comedic entertainment by Dan Needles, an Open House with displays highlighting the history of the Carnegie Library, and culminates with the upcoming Putting on the Ritz Silent Auction Fundraiser.

## New Director for OCUL

Kathy Scardellato has been appointed as executive director, Ontario Council of University Libraries, effective August 1st. Reporting to the chair of OCUL, Ms. Scardellato serves as the chief administrative officer of OCUL and is a member of the COU Executive Board. Prior to joining OCUL, she was manager of Virtual Reference Library at Toronto Public Library. Ms. Scardellato has held positions at the Metropolitan Toronto Reference Library, the University of British Columbia Library, and the Loughborough University of Technology Library in the U.K.



*Who says teenagers don't like to read?*

## "If You Build it, t[he]y will come" Langstaff Secondary School Library

*By Rob Baxter, Teacher-Librarian, Langstaff Secondary School*

"If you build it, t[he]y will come" (1) could be a line written for the Langstaff Library Media Resource Centre ([www.langstaff.ss.yrdsb.edu.on.ca](http://www.langstaff.ss.yrdsb.edu.on.ca)). There seem to be more classes this year, more people borrowing books and more students waiting to use the facilities at 7:45 in the morning when the doors first open. This might be because they've added over 2,000 titles to our computerized search system over the past few years, in addition to a rich variety of magazines, in both English and French. And all of these are good signs.

In a typical month of September, it's common to have from 40 to 50 scheduled classes, accompanied by teachers, for instruction in various subjects from World Issues, Writer's Craft, Learning Strategies, to Science, French and Health. This translates into about 1, 200-plus students who are actively taught by their teacher-librarian, in addition to the many students who use the facilities before and after school, as well as during lunch. Within this limited space, the library can host up to three classes a period, depending on the number of students and their needs at the time.

Langstaff also has a strong group of students who are always keen to meet and discuss the annual selection of White Pine books. More students sign up for the program than actually attend York Region's annual event ("I don't want to miss my classes!" is the common reason), but it's a strong indication that reading books is still quite popular among our young adults. Who says teenagers don't like to read?

Just remember, "Outside of a dog, a book is man's best friend. Inside of a dog, it's hard to read." (Groucho Marx)

*(1) Adapted from W.P. Kinsella's book, Shoeless Joe*

# Ontario Snapshot



Mayor Margaret Black, long-time patron Mrs. Helen Armstrong, and Special Projects Librarian Chantale Boileau at the King City Public Library.

## King Township PL Promotes Healthy and Active Lifestyles

King Township Public Library launched a pilot project in September at its four branches to determine if there is a need for a dedicated Homebound Program. Library staff have delivered library materials on an informal basis to homebound persons for many years. Through a generous one-time grant from Ontario's Ministry of Culture, the library is ready to expand this service and promote it within the community. Eligible persons must live in King Township and have a temporary or permanent disability that significantly impedes their mobility. Persons of all ages can apply.

Currently the library has 10 patrons registered for this service. Mayor Margaret Black and a patron recently came to the launch of this initiative. "It is a fabulous project and certainly very much appreciated by our community," said Mayor Black. It is important that everyone has access to library materials regardless of their situation. The Homebound Program provides a link between the community and persons confined to their homes, supporting a healthy, strong and caring community.

## Inner City School Library Gets Cozy and Inviting

*Dear Access,*

I am a new teacher with the TDSB and work as a teacher librarian at FH Miller JR. It is a small inner city school where I recently renovated the library.

Thanks to an amazing staff who donated their time, and my incredibly supportive principal Mr. Smyth, we were able to completely renovate the library! It took most of the school year but the library's whole concept and layout was changed. Books are now in bins, we created a cozy reading area, bright and bold colours are used throughout the room, picture signs are hung from the ceiling, and paintings of story characters now decorate the room.

Arts for Children of Toronto built a Reading Tree with our Grade 6 students to encourage all children to find their favourite book. But one of the most exciting changes was the addition of a SMART board which is an interactive whiteboard that is used daily in the library to facilitate research projects, help students navigate the school library catalogue, and listen to stories.

The children describe the new library as "beautiful, welcoming, fun, happy, and peaceful" place where they can be independent.

Sincerely,

Mira Campbell

2nd Year Teacher, FH Miller Junior PS.

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# Flashpoint

CURRENT ISSUES AND PROGRAMS AT THE ONTARIO LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

## THE STATE OF OLA

### Membership

Current = 5,087

ABFO = 153

OCULA = 522

OLITA = 1,680

OLBA = 962 from 112 boards

OPLA = 1,293

OSLA = 1,903

Students = 201

Not-employed = 121

## ADVOCACY

### Progress continues on the new school library document for the Ministry of Education

The first draft of the document to replace 1982's Partners in Action: The Library Resource Centre in the School Curriculum was shared with the Ministry of Education in late October. A version of the work will go "public" for the first time at an OLA Leadership Forum in early November. International school experts Ray Doiron, Ken Haycock and Ross Todd have agreed to lead discussion with a wide-ranging group of educators, library staff and teachers who are getting their first chance to comment.

### The Ontario Provincial Election

There has been considerable consternation in the school library world and in the wholesale publishing industry over Mr. McGuinty's election promise to devote \$120 million over four years on school library collection development and staff. It is of course a wonderful announcement, as notable for the long-term commitment as for the precedent of support for the addition of library staff. The consternation has been over the partnership with Indigo Books that was cited in the announcement and assumptions that may or may not be correct. The Premier's office has indicated that it will work with OSLA and the Ministry of Education to ensure that the money gets into the right hands and that it achieves the goals the government is addressing about school libraries. OLA and OSLA look forward to the discussions.

### Public Library Board Development

Work is progressing on One Place to Look, the database of trustee materials being created for OLBA's four-year Leadership by Design project. Consultant Rande Loucks has delivered the materials she has collected so far and the technical work is under way. The first education module – a three-part series by Ken Haycock on budget development, presentation and analysis – is being presented in the Education Institute in October and November. A think tank was held in mid-October to define more precisely what competencies will be needed by a library and a library board to be a constructive partner and catalyst for community engagement.

## PROGRAMS

### The OLA Forest of Reading® Literacy Initiative for 2008 Under Way

At the press conference for J.K. Rowling during her thrilling visit to Toronto, OLA was able to launch the 2008 Forest of Reading® program. 65 titles of the books nominated in five of the programs – Blue Spruce Award, Silver Birch Award and Red Maple Award selections for elementary school level readers, White Pine Award choices for high school readers, and Golden Oak Award titles for adults learning to read – were announced. See the sidebars for the selections.

As part of the new partnership, Harbourfront Centre is developing a much enhanced Award celebration for the OLA Forest of Reading in May. OLA Award programs for children and young people will take place on May 22 (Blue Spruce, Red Maple and White Pine Award ceremonies) and on May 23 (all three Silver Birch Award ceremonies). Harbourfront Centre is devoting the whole Victoria Day holiday weekend to literacy events in what will be the largest celebration of reading for children and young people ever held in this country.



### Blue Spruce Award 2008 Kindergarten to Grade 2

#### ***The Farm Team***

Linda Bailey  
Ill. by Bill Slavin  
Kids Can Press

#### ***Fox Walked Alone***

Barbara Reid  
Northwinds Press/Scholastic Canada Ltd.

#### ***Grumpy Bird***

Jeremy Tankard  
Scholastic Press

#### ***In My Backyard***

Margriet Ruurs,  
Ill. by Ron Broda  
Tundra Books

#### ***Jeffrey and Sloth***

Kari-Lynn Winters  
Ill. by Ben Hodson  
Orca Book Publishers

#### ***Lily and the Paper Man***

Rebecca Upjohn  
Ill. by Renné Benoit  
Second Story Press

#### ***The List***

Hazel Hutchins  
Ill. by Maria van Lieshout  
Annick Press

#### ***Please, Louise!***

Frieda Wishinsky, Marie-Louise Gay  
Groundwood Books

#### ***A Sack Full of Feathers***

Debby Waldman  
Ill. by Cindy Revell  
Orca Book Publishers

#### ***Scaredy Squirrel Makes A Friend***

Mélanie Watt  
Kids Can Press

## Silver Birch Express Award 2008

Grades 3-6 with emphasis  
on Grades 3-4

### ***Baby Sea Turtle***

Aubrey Lang  
Ill. by Wayne Lynch  
Fitzhenry & Whiteside

---

### ***The Big Snapper***

Katherine Holubitsky  
Orca Book Publishers

---

### ***The Birdman***

Veronika M. Charles  
Ill. by Annouchka Gravel Galouchko,  
Stephen Daigle  
Tundra Books

---

### ***Danger at Mason's Island: An Angela and Emmie Adventure***

Tom Schwarzkopf  
Nimbus Publishing

---

### ***Fire! A Renewal of a Forest***

Celia Godki  
Fitzhenry & Whiteside

---

### ***Lucky's Mountain***

Dianne Maycock  
Orca Book Publishers

---

### ***Tale of a Great White Fish: A Sturgeon Story***

Maggie de Vries  
Ill. by Renné Benoit  
Greystone Books

---

### ***Things are Looking Grimm, Jill***

Dan Bar-el  
Orca Book Publishers

---

### ***Yetsa's Sweater***

Sylvia Olsen  
Ill. by Joan Larson  
Sono Nis Press

## Silver Birch Fiction Award 2008

Grades 3-6 with emphasis  
on Grades 5-6

### ***Baboon***

David Jones  
Annick Press

---

### ***Directed By Kaspar Snit***

Cary Fagan  
Tundra Books

---

### ***Jakeman***

Deborah Ellis  
Fitzhenry & Whiteside

---

### ***Never to be Told***

Becky Citra  
Orca Book Publishers

---

### ***Odd Man Out***

Sarah Ellis  
Groundwood Books

---

### ***Pigboy***

Vicki Grant  
Orca Book Publishers

---

### ***The Secret of Grim Hill***

Linda DeMeulemeester  
Lobster Press

---

### ***Shadows on the Train***

Melanie Jackson  
Orca Book Publishers

---

### ***Torrie and the Snake-Prince***

K. V. Johansen  
Annick Press

---

### ***The Vampire's Visit***

David A. Poulsen  
Key Porter Books

## Silver Birch Non-fiction Award 2008

Grades 3-6 with emphasis  
on Grades 5-6

### ***Eleanor Roosevelt: An Inspiring Life***

Elizabeth MacLeod  
Kids Can Press

---

### ***Factory Girl***

Barbara Greenwood  
Kids Can Press

---

### ***Fear This Book: Your Guide to Fright, Horror, & Things That Go Bump in the Night***

Jeff Szpirglas  
Maple Tree Press

---

### ***I Found A Dead Bird: The Kids' Guide To The Cycle Of Life & Death***

Jan Thornhill  
Maple Tree Press

---

### ***Jurassic Poop: What Dinosaurs (and Others) Left Behind***

Jacob Berkowitz  
Kids Can Press

---

### ***Kids Who Rule: The Remarkable Lives Of Five Child Monarchs***

Charis Cotter  
Annick Press

---

### ***One Well: The Story Of Water On Earth***

Rochelle Strauss  
Ill. by Rosemary Woods  
Kids Can Press

---

### ***Our Game: The History of Hockey in Canada***

David Stubbs  
Ill. by Neal Portnoy  
Lobster Press

---

***Ryan and Jimmy: And the Well in Africa that Brought Them Together***  
Herb Shoveller  
Kids Can Press

---

***Secret Agent Y.O.U. :The Official Guide to Secret Codes, Disguises, Surveillance and More***  
Helaine Becker  
Ill. by Dave Whamond  
Maple Tree Press

---

## **Red Maple Award 2008 Grades 7-8**

***Darkwing***  
Kenneth Oppel  
HarperCollins

---

***Endymion Spring***  
Matthew Skelton  
Penguin

---

***Gemini Summer***  
Iain Lawrence  
Delacorte Press

---

***Pirates Passage***  
William Gilkerson  
Trumpeter

---

***Rise of the Golden Cobra***  
Henry T. Aubin  
Annick Press

---

***Safe as Houses***  
Eric Walters  
Doubleday Canada

---

***Sarah's Legacy***  
Valerie Sherrard  
Boardwalk/Dundurn Group

---

***Skinnybones And The Wrinkle Queen***  
Glen Huser  
Groundwood Books

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***Stolen Away***  
Christopher Dinsdale  
Napoleon

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***Where Soldiers Lie***  
John Wilson  
Key Porter Books

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## **White Pine Award 2008 High school**

***Another Kind of Cowboy***  
Susan Juby  
HarperCollins

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***The Blue Helmet***  
William Bell  
Doubleday Canada

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***The Droughtlanders***  
Carrie Mac  
(Triskelia Series, book one)  
Penguin

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***The End of the World as We Know It***  
Lesley Choyce  
Red Deer Press

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***Grist***  
Heather Waldorf  
Red Deer Press

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***Keturah & Lord Death***  
Martine Leavitt  
Red Deer Press

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***The Song of Kahunsha***  
Anosh Irani  
Anchor Canada

---

***The Space Between***  
Don Aker  
HarperCollins

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***The Warrior's Daughter***  
Holly Bennett  
Orca Book Publishers

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***Ysabel***  
Guy Gavriel Kay  
Penguin

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## **Golden Oak Award 2008 Adults learning to read**

***Aram's Choice***  
Marsha Skrypuch  
Fitzhenry & Whiteside

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***Dave Cooks the Turkey***  
Stuart McLean  
Penguin

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***Factory Girl***  
Barbara Greenwood  
Kids Can Press

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***I am a Taxi***  
Deborah Ellis  
Groundwood Books

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***June Callwood: A Life of Action***  
Anne Dublin  
Second Story Press

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***Safe House***  
James Heneghan  
Orca Book Publishers

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### **OLA Co-hosts J.K. Rowling in Her Only Canadian Appearance**

In September, Harbourfront Centre surprised OLA with an invitation to co-present Harry Potter creator, J.K. Rowling, at her only public appearance in Canada (she went to four locations in the United States). Held at the Winter Garden Theatre in Toronto, one of Canada's most extraordinary and fanciful historic sites, the event had almost 1,000 youth and chaperones hanging on her every word as the author read from *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows*. OLA was allocated a block of tickets that were made available to schools registered in the Forest of Reading® for 2008 and to the associations of the Partnership. Demand far, far out-matched the supply, making it a once-in-a-lifetime event for those who were lucky enough to win tickets.

OLA is partnering with Harbourfront Centre and its new Kids International Festival of Authors year-round to develop programming for the Forest of Reading® that will take it to new and more significant levels. As part of this arrangement, OLA will also be making tickets available to KidsIFOA featuring authors like Kit Pearson. More information will be available soon.

### **OLA Education**

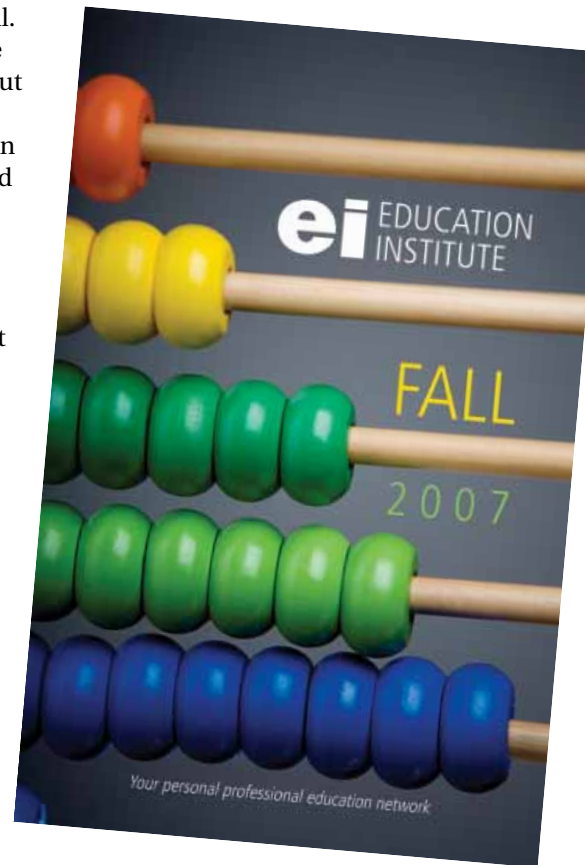
Registration is dramatically up in the Education Institute this fall. Sessions on technology continue to attract the largest audiences but all topics are finding their specific audiences. The Education Institute provides highly qualified speakers on a wide range of topics to give libraries and staff a unique base for local and collegial staff development of their choosing. It is expected that 85 speakers will have given over 90 sessions this fall in one of the richest seasons offered to date. For the first time 55 of these sessions are being extended to a whole new audience in the United States through Neal Schuman's Professional Education Network.

As OLA prepares for its most colossal event, Super Conference, work is moving quickly forward on the Education Institute's spring catalogue where another 80 sessions are anticipated between February and the summer. OLA divisions are providing a selection of face-to-face regional workshops this fall and spring for which there is much interest. OCULA is taking its popular dinner program to locations outside the Toronto area for the first time, starting with the recently completed event at Niagara College.

An information session on distant education programs being developed with San José State University's School of Library and Information Science, the largest library school in the world, was held in September. OLA is on the Advisory Committee for the University of Toronto's Professional Learning Centre where OLA members receive a 12 per cent discount on courses offered. OLA Education director Liz Kerr is also looking at the future of OLA's continuing role at the publishing world's BookExpo Canada.

### **Student Awards and Scholarships**

Sandra Stephenson and Jill Ruby shared honours as the top students at the Faculty of Information Studies of the University of Toronto. With this academic success, the students were awarded the Ontario Library Association's Anniversary Prize. The Prize includes \$1,000 in cash, free registration at Super Conference and at any education program, including the Education Institute, for a year, as well as a five-year OLA membership.





# The World Outside

OBSERVATIONS ON NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL LIBRARY EVENTS AND PROGRAMS

## *Knowledge Knows No Barriers:* Libraries in Ghana



*Access OLA sat down with Gloria Isaidoo, the Librarian at the Parliament of Ghana, to ask her about life in Ghana and the importance of libraries to the country.*

**AccessOLA:** What is life like in Ghana?

**Gloria:** Ghana is a country of cheerful anticipation. The people are extremely friendly and hospitable. Ghanaians are proud of their culture and love welcoming people from outside to integrate and mix in their local customs and way of living.

**AccessOLA:** Tell us about the development of public libraries in Ghana.

**Gloria:** By all standards, the development of libraries in Ghana has been very remarkable. It all started when a British lady, Miss E. J. A. Evans, arrived in Ghana in 1945 to take up a post as librarian of the British Council. Under her leadership, the Ghana Library Board was

established by law in 1950. Its continuing role is to establish, equip, manage and maintain public libraries in the whole of Ghana.

**AccessOLA:** What is the current state of libraries in Ghana?

**Gloria:** There are public libraries throughout the country. At the moment all the 16 universities in Ghana, both state and private, have their own libraries. The Balme Library of the University of Ghana is the largest of all.

A country-wide School Library Service was proposed in 1950 and was given the support of the then Ministry of Education. In 1972, the Schools and Colleges Department of the Ghana Library Board was charged with the responsibility of advising and assisting in providing good and effective libraries in secondary

schools, technical institutions, polytechnics and teacher training colleges throughout Ghana.

**AccessOLA:** Do library associations proliferate as they do here in Canada?

**Gloria:** There is at the moment only one library association in the country, that is the Ghana Library Association. It was founded in 1962 and was registered under the Professional Bodies Decree 143 of 1973. The aim of the association is to unite all persons and institutions interested in libraries and librarianship. The Association has published the *Ghana Library Journal* since 1963.

**Access OLA:** Tell us about the library that you work in.

**Gloria:** I work at the Ghana Parliamentary Library. This library may be classified as a special library, with the sole objective of supporting the work of the legislature. In addition, the library opens its doors to the public. Despite its small size, it has a wide range of information which goes a long way in supporting the work of parliament. It also deals with enquiries from Members' personal staff and the staff of the parliament.

In response to request from members of Parliament, the library carries out bibliographical research on all subjects relevant to parliamentary duties. To meet these requests, it draws on its many resources. The Library as well undertakes current awareness services and this is done through the uses of newspaper clippings.



### The Geography

Ghana is located on the coastal area of West Africa. A British colony known as The Gold Coast was established there in 1874. The country is 238,000 square kilometres in size (about the size of Illinois and Indiana combined). Its capital city is Accra, a metropolitan area with a population of approximately three million people.

Ghana is only a few degrees north of the equator. Half of the country lies less than 152 metres (500 feet) above sea level and the highest point is 883 metres (2900 feet). The 537 kilometre (334 mile) coastline is mostly low,

By all standards a parliamentary library is expected to be housed in a purposely built structure to cater to the information needs of members as well as staff. However the story is different when it comes to Ghana's Parliament library. The size of the collection is very small. The book stock of the collection could be estimated to be about 2500, which includes books and bound volumes of newspapers. There are also other collections such as parliamentary debates, legal documents, bills, official gazettes and committee reports among others.

**AccessOLA:** What are the problems and challenges that you face in particular?

**Gloria:** Our major problem is space. Due to the size of the library, it has become highly impossible for even our 15 Members of Parliament to access information from the library at the same time. Members have to compete with other users for space all the time. Reading tables and chairs as well are inadequate for those who most of the time would like to sit in the Library to do serious reading.

Another problem we have is the non-cooperative attitude of members and staff who borrow documents from the Library. It is unfortunate that most of the time they fail to return them.

**AccessOLA:** Thank you, Gloria. You have presented an interesting overview of your country.

*For more information contact Gloria Isaidoo, Parliament of Ghana Library [abgins410@yahoo.com](mailto:abgins410@yahoo.com).*

sandy shore backed by plains and scrub and intersected by several rivers and streams. Annual rainfall in the coastal zone averages 83 centimetres (33 inches).

### The People

The estimated population in 2005 was 22 million people. Ethnic groups include Akan, Ewe, Ga, Moshi-Dagomba. Sixty-nine per cent of the population describe themselves as Christian, 15.6 per cent as Muslim and 8.5 per cent are traditional and/or indigenous. The official language is English.

### The Government

Ghana was the first country in Africa to achieve its independence from the United Kingdom. Its name was chosen to reflect the ancient Empire of Ghana that once extended throughout much of West Africa. Ghana has a democratic style of government. The current President is John Agyekum Kufuor.

# ***HANGING OUT*** **At the Virtual Water Cooler**

The University of Windsor's Art Rhyno is a very busy man, which is very good for everybody around him: when he's too busy to take on a new project, he's generous about recommending somebody who he thinks would be a good fit. When Art was contacted by LibLime's Joshua Ferraro (<http://www.liblime.com/>) in the fall of 2005 about participating in the Evergreen open source ILS project (<http://www.open-ils.org/>), he declined, but suggested that I might be up to the job. And so I spent the next nine months working at the University of Western Ontario every day and at the Georgia Public Library Service every night. It was a heck of a commute.

**By David Fiander**

## The Virtual Workplace

Over the past few years libraries have started to experiment with providing service via Instant Messaging (IM) and online chat, but there have been networked messaging and chat services for more than 20 years, starting with BITNET Relay. Online chat services have always been mainly about socializing, but from the beginning they were also being used by programmers and technical staff to talk about and coordinate work. More recently, they have become essential media for workplace communications in many different fields (for example, in 2002 *The Economist* reported on new specialized IM services for the financial industry). When your work is primarily based at the computer, adding IM and chat connections to your coworkers immediately places them directly in the context of your work environment. Many tasks are more efficient in an IM-enhanced office: from checking to see if Jane is available for an in-person visit before walking downstairs to see her to asking Peter for help with a question while you're at the reference desk.

I've been working in highly distributed email- and chat-enhanced environments since the early '90s, so I was comfortable with the idea of working closely with a group of people whom I might not meet in person for several months (in fact, there's one member of the Evergreen team that I still haven't met). Starting to work with the Atlanta, GA-based Evergreen development

team was as simple as subscribing to two mailing lists, and logging in to a chat room to introduce myself. The Evergreen development team does have an office, but it exists primarily to house the servers for the PINES catalogue. All four of the core members of the Evergreen development team live in the Atlanta area, but only one member of the team goes to the office on a regular basis, to check on the computer hardware. The developers get together for a weekly status meeting, but otherwise they all work remotely (although it's hard to call their work "remote," when there's no office for them to be remote from).

Most books about time management and home office arrangements warn that the biggest challenge for people who work from home in such a distributed environment is "going home" from work, and that was definitely my experience. Because Evergreen was a side project for me, I worked on it in the evenings. I tried to maintain a regular schedule, limiting myself to three hours a day, Monday to Friday, starting after dinner, and getting to bed at a reasonable time, but while I always had dinner, I didn't always stop as early as I should have, and my extra job definitely encroached on my weekends more than my family appreciated. The core developers' schedules were even more rigorous than mine: even though Evergreen was their full-time job and they were working a normal nine-to-five schedule, they were all still programming late into the evening and working in the chat room when I "arrived" for the evening.

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Evergreen Development Team at the University of Windsor's "Future of the ILS" Symposium. Front, Mike Rylander, Julie Walker, Brad Lajeunesse, David Singleton. Behind, David Fiander. Absent: Bill Erikson and Jason Etheridge. (Also pictured but not part of Evergreen, Peter Murray)

## Implementing the Self-Check Module

My mission in this virtual development environment was to write the ILS module support for communicating with self-check terminals for the new Evergreen open-source ILS, which was created by the Georgia PINES state-wide consortium of public libraries to replace its commercial ILS. When release 1.0 of Evergreen launched across the state on September 5, 2006, it consisted of the staff cataloging, circulation, and reporting modules; and the public OPAC, including my self-check module, which uses 3M's Standard Interchange Protocol (SIP) for communicating with self-check terminals, public Internet workstations, and printers. For the technical details, see 3M's documentation at <http://tinyurl.com/2emahh>.

SIP was originally designed to support simple check-out terminals, but 3M and other vendors have extended it to include support for more advanced self-service functions, including paying fines. Given all the work that the Evergreen development team had to accomplish before launching its new system at the beginning of



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September, it might seem strange that the team would work so hard to ensure that self checkout was available from the very beginning, but it turns out that SIP is essential for far more than just checking out books.

Because SIP is a relatively simple protocol, and because 3M not only encouraged ILS vendors to implement it, but also allowed other equipment vendors to do so, it became the standard way for third-party devices to interact with the ILS. Some of the first extensions to SIP enabled terminals to validate users' barcodes and PINs, retrieve details about users from the ILS's patron database, and to record fines or service charges against patrons' accounts. When a user swipes her library card to log in to a public Internet terminal, the terminal reads the barcode from the card and uses SIP to request the user's record from the patron database. The terminal can then find out if the user's account has expired, and check the user's patron type, or if there are any outstanding fines. Libraries that implement Internet filtering for children, might configure the terminal to apply filtering based on the user's patron type or age. Printer release stations can add charges to the user's library account

rather than having to deal with currency or separate printer cards.

After seven months of hanging out with a bunch of geeks in a chat room, the SIP module was finished and I was able to step away from the computer for two weeks of vacation before the system went public. The Evergreen ILS went live throughout the Georgia PINES consortium of public libraries over the Labour Day long weekend, and on Tuesday, September 5, 2006, everybody using an Internet terminal or checking a book out for themselves anywhere in the PINES member libraries was using my program. Participating in this project, and finding out what working in a virtual environment is like, was an exciting opportunity, and I would recommend the experience to anybody.

*David Fiander is the Digital Services Librarian at the University of Western Ontario where he coordinates new technology projects for the Western Libraries, and serves as the collections librarian for Computer Science and Software Engineering.*

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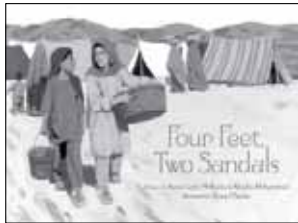
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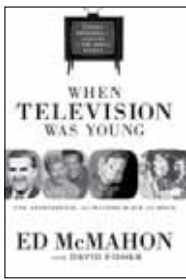
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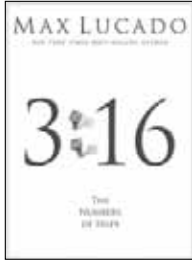



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# *Fifty Miles of Ideas and Thirty Years of Service:* **The Toronto Reference Library**

The Toronto Reference Library's interior atrium



By Paul Trumphour

What public library has more than 50 miles of shelving, is five storeys tall but has 10 separate floors, is home to a map that resolved a 150-year-old land claim dispute, is the backdrop for a novel by Russell Smith, provides research material for countless novels, operas and works of art, and was the answer to a recent question on the game show Jeopardy? If you guessed the Toronto Reference Library you would be right!

Located near the corner of Yonge and Bloor, the Toronto Reference Library was a landmark building from the day it opened on November 2nd, 1977. While the library is celebrating its 30th anniversary in 2007, the idea behind building a new central reference library to serve the metro Toronto area and beyond stretched back to 1971. In that year Raymond Moriyama was engaged by the Metropolitan Toronto Library Board to complete a site study for a new building to replace the old central library at College and St. George. After much debate about cost, location and design the project was approved. Six years later one of the most remarkable pieces of public architecture ever to be built in Canada opened its

doors. Moriyama's success was acknowledged in 1982 when he was honoured with the Governor General's award in architecture for the design of the library.

As one approaches the 416,000-square-foot library, it first appears unassuming. The red brick building is set slightly back from the busy street and its low-hanging glass and steel canopy helps to conceal its large scale structure. The lobby too is set low, and with its effervescent waterfall, it offers a sense of intimacy and calm. This sense quickly changes to awe when the visitor enters the library's grand atrium. Here one is greeted by the enormous well of space—Moriyama's now famous "empty cup." The graciously curved white walls and flowing staircases of the library's five public floors encase the atrium to create a feeling of harmony and connectedness. As Moriyama remarked, "the intent is to create a dignified and happy place for the mind, to encourage self help, to allow people to make their own connections." And for the past three decades over 30 million people have connected with their library in innumerable ways.

A success from the beginning, the library attracted over a million people through its doors in 1978. They came to not only experience the new library, but to use its 1.5-million item collection. And the success has continued. In 2006 more than one million people poured through its doors and countless more visited the library virtually through the Toronto Public Library Web site. Its collections now include more than 4.5 million items and it is easily the largest single public library in the country.

With collections that date back to the 1830s, the library also holds some of the most important



The Toronto Reference library. Located on Yonge St. just north of Bloor St celebrates its 30th anniversary in November 2007



The Information Commons located on the ground floor of the Reference Library

historical books and documents in the country. A diary of a British officer describing his experience at the siege of Louisbourg in 1758 and the journal kept by Simon Fraser while he was exploring the Rocky Mountains in 1808 are but two of the many significant items available in the library. The reference library's predecessors recognized very early

that in the absence of institutions such as a national library it would be important to collect these valuable documents for future generations. This tradition continues. In 2006 the library acquired a number of Michael Levin's original costume designs for the Canadian Opera Company's landmark Ring Cycle. The library

continues to be on the look-out for items that document our past and are meaningful to all Canadians.

One of the most striking things about the reference library is its ability to adapt and transform. While the past 30 years has witnessed a large scale “revolution” in public library service, the library has kept pace by developing an innovative range of information services. In 1978 “Metroline” offered the public access to full text articles and bibliographic records through databases such as NY Times Information Databank. In that same year the library won its second American Library Association John Cotton Dana Award for public relations. It was also awarded the J Roby Kidd Medal for distinguished service to the adult education community. In 1981 the microfiche COM (Catalogue on Microfiche) was launched and shortly after that work began on developing an online public access catalogue. In 1985 the library opened the first

Centre for People with Disabilities. And in 1991 the Consumer Health Information service began to provide current and accurate health information to people right across the province.

1995 saw the launch of a major restructuring of the library, including the merger of a number of subject departments and collections. The library also celebrated the launch of “WorldVue,” a simple menu-driven electronic service that allowed people to browse the library’s catalogue, magazine articles or the Internet through a computer workstation. WorldVue was an immediate success and it won the Peter F. Drucker Award as well as the Ontario Library Information Technology Association Award for Technological Innovation. WorldVue also included one of the first librarian-indexed subject guides to the Internet and was the precursor to the Virtual Reference Library. The VRL has now grown

to include access to thousands of librarian-reviewed Web sites, subject based information portals and extensive digital collections that can be accessed by anyone through the Internet.

In 1998 the newly amalgamated Toronto Public Library was born and the renamed Toronto Reference Library became its flagship branch. The new library system, with its 98 branches, created four tiers of service. The Toronto Reference Library became part of the “Research and Reference” tier. While the mission to provide in-depth research level collections for students, scholars, professionals, tradespeople and artists did not change, the scope of its service grew. Information and computer access, Internet instruction and user education became a focus. In 2001 the library opened the Information Commons, a centre that now provides free access to the Internet on more than 88 workstations. The Commons also includes two computer-based Learning Centres where staff offer free research training for the public on a daily basis. In 2006 more than 200 workshops on how to use the Internet and conduct research were attended by over 1,700 people. In addition, teachers brought 120 classes of high-school students to TRL for research instruction. From the Learning Centre to the stacks, librarians instructed more than 3,500 students from all across Ontario on the best ways to use the Web, magazine databases and the computer catalogue in order to learn and grow.

With amalgamation came a new vision for the Toronto Reference Library. Reinforced by a significant redesign and physical renovation, the library would increase access to the collections, expand public floor space, introduce new information

Opera Atelier performs on atrium stage at the Reference library



technology and create additional performance and program spaces. This new library would be necessary if TRL were to continue to meet the needs of 21st-century users and remain Toronto's and Ontario's leading public library.

Almost immediately work began on realizing this vision. With financial help from the Toronto Star the library designed and built the *Toronto Star*, Newspaper room. The reading room provides access to over 200 newspapers world wide and houses the library's extensive microform collection. Next came an ambitious re-design of the ground floor of the library. Moriyama and Teshima architects were once again picked to re-imagine the main level of the library. This time Raymond's son Ajon would be the lead architect. The focus now was on removing barriers and opening up the floor so that new public spaces could be built. A new Centre for People with Disabilities, a performance stage complete with state of the art audio-visual equipment, a Digital Design studio, group study rooms and an expanded recreation reading area are all part of the new floor design. In 2006 the new floor opened to great acclaim.

As the Toronto Reference Library approaches its 31st year in its landmark building work the revitalization effort continues. With the ground floor renovation project complete, work on a new design for the upper four floors is nearly finished. New communications technology, additional study space, flexible learning environments, a large-scale events space and a bold new entrance were recently unveiled at the Toronto Reference Library's Open House in June. Also included in the plan is a new home for the library's Special Collections. For the first time the whole of these

collections will be located in one space allowing the rich treasures that are hidden behind walls to be showcased. The new design has realigned subject collections, study spaces and learning tools so that the library will be more intuitive and easier to navigate. This ambitious renovation project is expected to cost \$30 million and take approximately five years to complete. With funding for the project coming from both the government and private sectors, the Toronto Public Library Foundation will launch a major capital fund raising campaign in 2007. The campaign's kick-off will coincide with the library's 30th anniversary celebrations slated to begin in the fall of 2007. When the project is complete the Toronto Reference Library will be ready to meet the challenges of delivering key library and information services well into the 21st century.

While the transformation will invigorate the library's service

program, it will also respect the intrinsic elements of Raymond Moriyama's stunningly original design; its open atrium, curved walls and flowing staircases will remain the visual hallmark of the building. As Raymond Moriyama said the library was designed as an "empty cup"—empty but waiting to be filled—with imagination, ideas, thoughts and creations. For the past 30 years Moriyama's empty cup has succeeded beyond his own imagination. It is a library that has inspired ideas and innovation; it has nurtured wisdom and artistry; and it will continue to offer learning and understanding for all who pass through its doors.

*Paul Trumphour is currently working as the Divisional Support Manager, Research and Reference division of the Toronto Public Library. He is also the Toronto area Councillor for the Ontario Public Library Association.*



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# *The Ozone Search*

## *Finding Ontario government documents in the OZone*



Have you ever needed to find an electronic Ontario government document only to discover it is no longer available on the Web? Governments worldwide are increasingly publishing documents on the Internet, often to the exclusion of print, with little thought as to how these documents can be accessed in the long term. Much of this born-digital material is at risk of being lost altogether with each change in government, or each time a government ministry changes its Web site.

For Ontario electronic government documents, there is a solution—a new resource that will help patrons tap into the Legislative Library's extensive archived collection.

OZone is the result of collaboration between the Ontario Legislative Library (OLL) and the Ontario Council of University Libraries (OCUL)—a consortium of 20 academic libraries in the province. It hosts a digital repository of Ontario government documents that is available in both French and English (<https://ospace.scholarsportal.info/handle/1873/306>)

Donna Burton, Karen Marshall and Vicki Whitmell celebrate the partnership that helped launch OZone.



**By Annemarie Toth-Waddell  
& Karen Marshall**

You can rely on the timeliness of OZone's collection, as new records are loaded on a monthly basis. The OZone record is based on a MARC catalogue record created by Legislative Library staff, which allows documents to be accessed in a variety of ways (title, author, subject, date). You can browse or search by these fields or choose to do a full text search of the documents. Don't be surprised if an OZone record pops up in your next Google search! OZone software allows metadata to be reused and search services such as Google to crawl the content.

### **History of the OLL Repository**

The Ontario Legislative Library started building its repository in July 2000 in response to an increasing need to provide persistent access to electronic Ontario government documents. This began modestly as a pilot project to develop the practical sets of procedures required to allow the capture of these born digital documents. It eventually expanded to a stage where a team of cataloguing and acquisitions staff

were able to capture, archive and catalogue documents shortly after they are posted on the Web, thereby meeting clients need for access. Documents selected for archiving are based on the Library's collection policy goal of maintaining an extensive collection that is of value to its clients, preserves the publishing output of the province, and has long term significance for scholars, researchers, members of the public and public servants.

A total of roughly 4,500 Ontario digitally born documents are catalogued each year, the majority of which are archived. A team of six staff members monitors 85 Ontario government websites and almost 1,000 pages on a daily basis using website monitoring software. Documents discovered are captured in PDF or converted into PDF format for archiving. Archiving procedures have been tightly integrated into workflows; therefore it is difficult to determine exactly how much time is spent on building the repository. A rough estimate of the time needed to maintain both the print and electronic Ontario document repository is 2.8 FTE cataloguing technicians, 2 FTE acquisitions technicians and 1 FTE librarian. Use of the repository continues to grow with 200,000 hits reported for the past year on archived titles. The repository contains over 13,000 monographs, 900 serial titles (7,500 serial issues) and a rapidly increasing collection of archived government press releases now approaching 7,200 items.

## Need for Partnership

By 1999, library organizations, including OLA, and university libraries were concerned about long-term preservation of Ontario documents in electronic form. Groups began to approach the Ontario Legislative Library for possible assistance. At that time, no work had as yet taken place to develop such a repository, but shortly thereafter OLL staff began to develop the procedures needed to create such a repository. As the repository matured, the Legislative Library had an interest in exploring partnerships with other organizations that might ensure the repository they had built could be preserved in the long term, as well as exploring the options for creating better public access to this valuable resource.

At the University of Western Ontario, Library Technical Services staff experimented with DSpace software to test the feasibility of archiving Ontario government publications. Western's initial success resulted in formal talks between OCUL and the Legislative Library in the spring of 2004 to explore the possibility of creating a shared repository of Ontario documents. As a result of these talks, an informal working group consisting of OCUL and OLL representatives was struck to conduct a pilot project.

## What is OZone?

OZone is an implementation of DSpace, an open source institutional repository platform that facilitates interoperability, preservation and access to digital objects. DSpace has a number of preservation features that ensure preservation support by file type, checksums to ensure file authenticity and the assignment of persistent identifiers using the Handle system. OZone currently houses a variety of collections including CORIL (an initiative to support information literacy instruction), the Data Liberation Initiative (a collection of training materials from DLI sessions and workshops) and the Ontario Government Documents Collection.

## From Pilot to Reality

After initial testing of DSpace, the pilot phase revealed that the current DSpace software did not lend itself to the successful loading and management of archived serials. This means that while OLL and OCUL continue to search together for a viable solution, only monographs will be available in OZone.

Both OCUL and OLL view the progress made with this project as an important first step towards making electronic Ontario government documents increasingly accessible, but also towards ensuring these documents can be preserved in the long term. The success of the pilot project resulted in the signing of a formal agreement in 2007 between OCUL and OLL. Also, a recently formed partnership between the Legislative Library and Knowledge Ontario ([knowledgeontario.ca](http://knowledgeontario.ca)) may present other options for making the library's repository more widely accessible.

If you have any comments, or would like to offer some feedback as a user of the government documents collection in OZone, please contact Karen Marshall, director of Library Technical Services at the University of Western Ontario, at [karen.marshall@uwo.ca](mailto:karen.marshall@uwo.ca)

*Annemarie Toth-Waddell is the manager of the section responsible for creating the Legislative Library's Ontario government documents repository. She is also involved in projects to improve data organization and access to information at the Library and Assembly level.*

*Karen Marshall is director, Library Technical Services at the University of Western Ontario. As a member of OCUL's Scholars Portal Operations & Development Committee she is the OCUL project manager for OZone's Ontario Government Publications Collection.*



# *Here We Grow Again!*

*Western's MLIS increases its Fall enrollment.*

The MLIS program of the Faculty of Information and Media Studies ([www.fims.uwo.ca](http://www.fims.uwo.ca)) at the University of Western Ontario is expanding!

In response to the push by the Ontario Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities to increase graduate programs and enrollments in the province, the University of Western Ontario has undertaken to expand graduate programs on campus. As part of this expansion, the MLIS program has agreed to increase the size of the fall intake by about 30-35 new students, to a target of about 115 students for the fall class. This increase is in addition to two other intakes of about 45 students in the January academic term and about 45 in the May term.

Although on the face of it the fall increase doesn't sound very large, it is actually quite significant and

requires the program to offer three separate sections of all required courses in the fall to accommodate the new students. Scheduling three sections of each required course (of which there are five) has its challenges in terms of faculty resources, time slots and rooms, and resources (like having enough AACR2 and DDC sets for the cataloguing classes to use!).

In addition, as the new students move through the program, it will mean that more elective courses must be offered to accommodate all their interests and academic needs. Finally, this increase also will have an impact on our very successful co-operative work-study program, whereby students are placed in paid professional positions during their studies. While we currently have about 30-35 students going into co-op placements each academic term, we expect the demand for

**By Gloria Leckie**

(Above) The North Campus Building, home to the Faculty of Information and Media Studies (FIMS) at Western.

such positions to increase with the arrival of the new students.

The challenges of an expanding program have been counterbalanced by the ability to hire four new faculty to provide the necessary courses. Recently we have hired:

- Dr. Paulette Rothbauer, formerly at the University of Toronto, who specializes in youth, reading and information services;
- Dr. Kate Johnson, coming to us from the University of Wisconsin at Milwaukee, who specializes in collections, public libraries and social capital;
- Dr. Ajit Pyati, who completed his doctoral work at the University of California Los Angeles, and is interested in information policy, open source software and diversity issues;
- Dr. Sue Hayter, from Northumbria University in Newcastle, UK, whose expertise is in information behaviour, management and foundations of LIS.

In addition, we are going to be hiring a new staff member to help with the increased administrative work that the expansion will entail.

When we first proposed this expansion about a year ago, we were a bit nervous about whether the increased enrollment would materialize, but much to our delight, we have met our fall target and are already filling the January spots. Obviously more and more students are seeing the benefits of an MLIS credential and are attracted to the opportunities that this versatile degree offers. This is very good news both for our program and for the libraries and other information-related settings

that are seeking those excellent graduates to fill their position vacancies. We anticipate that this is going to be a win-win situation!

*Gloria Leckie is the Associate Dean of the Faculty of Information and Media Studies at the University of Western Ontario.*



Joyce Garnett, University Librarian, teaching LIS 514 Academic Libraries.

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# CARNEGIE UNDER GLASS: THE REALIZATION



Two years ago, Access had a cover story featuring a proposed expansion of Hespeler's 1923 Carnegie Library that daringly planned to enclose the entire building in a generous case of glass. The design was already winning awards without ever going into the ground. Two years later, the project is a startling and overwhelmingly successful reality. Lisa Rochon wrote in the *Globe and Mail* on August 4:

"In a small town of church steeples and a lazy river, there is a historic brick building, which has been boldly encased within a glass cube. Sultry, hand-woven draperies, the result of a national competition, line the monumental glass walls. Funky red chairs, the better to read in, are assembled around a minimal fireplace of recycled wood.

I know it sounds like a civic rejuvenation project in Barcelona or one of the hillside towns in Italy. But, I'm writing from Hespeler, Ont., a 19th-century industrial mill town... where civic courage has produced a public library of daring relevance."

Greg Hayton, chief executive officer for Cambridge Libraries and Galleries, in which the library operates was the perfect



## Access Photo Essay

partner for Kongats Architects, “to the point where Kongats says he considered Hayton to be much like his design partner. Besides the design synergy, there was a political motivation to keep a historic town relevant.” This in turn energized the local Mayor and town council to stay with the vision, even as costs escalated to \$4.2 million. Every time Hayton had to go back to the municipal council for more money and time, the Council back the library project every time. This is an amazing story of “how a historic building was transformed and a small town revitalized through civic courage and bold design intervention.”

Bravo to all concerned.





# Board Exchange

THE LATEST FROM THE ONTARIO LIBRARY BOARDS' ASSOCIATION

With May's introduction of a new look for Ontario Library Association Web sites, the Ontario Library Boards' Association (OLBA) has also been gathering and posting something new: "headline stories" ([www.accessola.com/olba](http://www.accessola.com/olba)).

These stories feature or link to a variety of published articles that are of interest to library board members, librarians and others who are interested in libraries. They tell about the challenges, issues, planning, and successes that library leaders and communities are experiencing in Ontario, across Canada, and outside our borders.

*Here are some typical news items:*

- The Province of Ontario is doling out cash to fund local public library projects.
- Both town council and the library board are debating potential sites for a new library branch.

- In one Nova Scotia community, the bookmobiles are ditched in favour of mailing books.
- A library bans Facebook and MySpace.
- Pressure for more Internet filters continues to haunt libraries.
- The Ontario Trillium Foundation comes through with more cash for libraries.

You'll find the latest headline stories on the OLBA home page; earlier stories may be found by clicking on "more current news." For easy reference, each headline story is listed with a heading and sub-heading, and the story is accessible with just a click of the mouse.

Many of the stories will resonate with library board members since it is their job to work for the long-term health of their respective libraries. By knowing what is working (and not working) in other jurisdictions, trustees can incorporate this

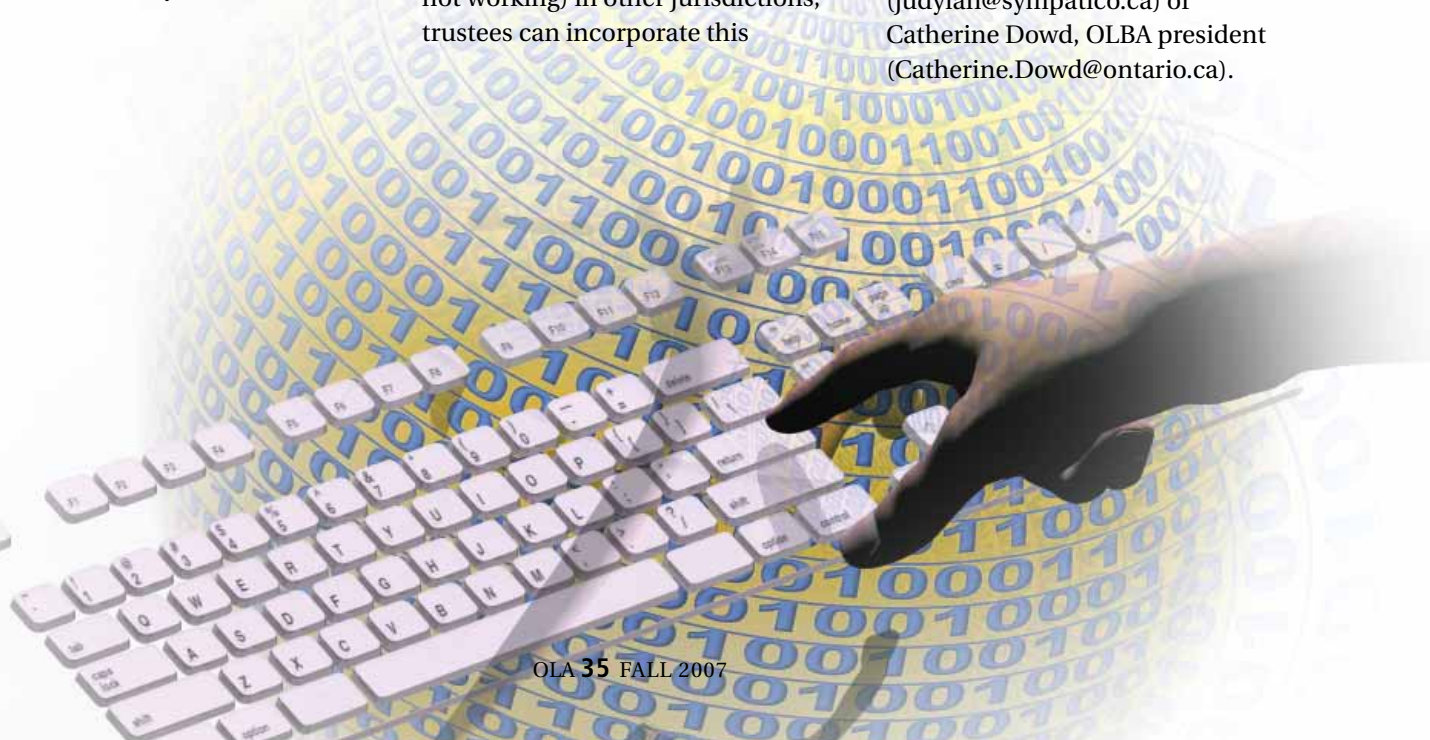
knowledge when they are doing their strategic planning and decision making.

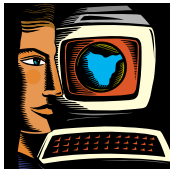
Librarians and library supporters may also benefit from reading the news about public libraries. They can share their expanded insights about libraries with their friends and colleagues, and work to solve problems and improve their own library systems.

About 15 to 20 stories are posted to OLBA's "headline stories" each month. These include "news that you can use"—items a trustee could take to the next library board meeting or library conference. Who knows what the benefits will be? More library funding, a new library branch, better library services...? The possibilities are endless.

If you have any questions, comments or suggestions re: the headline stories, please contact Ian Hunter, OLBA Web site rep ([judyian@sympatico.ca](mailto:judyian@sympatico.ca)) or Catherine Dowd, OLBA president ([Catherine.Dowd@ontario.ca](mailto:Catherine.Dowd@ontario.ca)).

By Ian Hunter





# Eye on *the Web*

LINKS TO THE RESOURCES ON THE INTERNET



## Canadian *Arts and Culture* Online



This Eye on the Web column features resources in the arts and cultural sectors in Canada. The following Web sites will help you to locate agencies and programs which support and/or advocate for the arts in Canada, as well as primary sources of artistic and cultural output.

### **Department of Canadian Heritage** [www.pch.gc.ca/](http://www.pch.gc.ca/)

Canadian Heritage is the federal department whose portfolio includes arts and culture. Its Web site functions as a portal to all federal government supported programs in Canada. From the main Web page, select “Arts & Culture” for information on the programs or areas funded by Canadian Heritage. The information here is current and complete. This is a good place to start research on arts and culture in Canada.

### **Canadian Conference on the Arts** [www.ccarts.ca/](http://www.ccarts.ca/)

A membership-funded organization, the Canadian Conference on the Arts is the national forum for the arts and cultural communities in Canada. Its main role is to advocate on behalf of the arts by influencing cultural public policy. In the “What we do” section of this Web site is a list of current policy projects, which includes links to Current Parliamentary Affairs (January '06—current) affecting arts and culture. This is a good place to start if you're interested in issues such as taxation, government fiscal support of the arts, cultural diplomacy, specific national programs, legislation, copyright law, the CRTC and other pressing issues affecting the arts in Canada. For older information, see the 38th Parliament of Canada (June 2004—November 2005). The list of “Advocacy resources” is equally impressive, particularly the Policy publications and Toolkits.

### **Canada Council for the Arts** [www.canadacouncil.ca/](http://www.canadacouncil.ca/)

The Canada Council for the Arts awards more than 70 prizes annually to Canadian artists and scholars, publishes research on various issues affecting the production and dissemination of art in Canada, and is an advocate on behalf of artists in Canada.

Of interest on this Web site is the “Quick links” section from which one can search the database of grant recipients, find employment opportunities in the arts and locate a list of prizes and deadlines. The ‘Performing Arts Directory’ allows searches for artists and festivals funded by the Council as well as media and government contacts for each of these. The ‘Research’ section contains statistical information on Canadian spending in the performing arts.

### **Ontario Arts Council** [www.arts.on.ca/](http://www.arts.on.ca/)

The Ontario Arts Council grants awards to artists and organizations based in Ontario. This Web site allows users to search the list of grants and grant recipients. There are a number of interesting articles under ‘Hot topics.’ Of special interest is Consumer spending on culture in Canada, the provinces and 15 metropolitan areas in 2005 accessible under ‘Publications.’

### **Canadian Museums Association** [www.museums.ca/](http://www.museums.ca/)

A national advocacy group for the museum sector in Canada, this organization's Web site links to timely news and reports, as well as the online Directory of Canada's Museums.

### **Canadian Museum of Civilization** [www.civilization.ca/](http://www.civilization.ca/)

This Web site links together online resources from collections in the Canadian Museum of Civilization as well as the Canadian War Museum. The site features virtual exhibits, digitized collections, educational resources for teachers and students, and scholarly essays organized by topic. Under each topic there are extensive 'See also' links to related information. There is an advanced search screen which is particularly helpful in locating scholarly resources (select "scholars" from the Category field).

### **Centre for Contemporary Canadian art** [www.ccca.ca/](http://www.ccca.ca/)

Anyone looking to access contemporary Canadian visual art online should look here first. A word of caution however—many artists, especially lesser known artists, are not included in the database. The artist database is searchable by name, location, category of art form, and through a free text search of artists' CVs and artist's statements. Designers, writers (art critics, art historians) and art projects are also searchable, including the Inuit Artists Project. At the time of writing, over 39,000 images were in the image database, which makes this a very valuable resource for those researching contemporary Canadian visual art.

### **culture.ca** [www.culture.ca/](http://www.culture.ca/)

This Web site is tremendously useful as a directory to art and artists in Canada (architecture, digital media, fashion, film, music, radio, TV, theatre, visual arts, and writing). It also points to sources of funding for the arts, cultural events, educational opportunities in the arts, arts and culture organizations, as well as links to private artists and art companies.

### **Culturescope.ca** [www.culturescope.ca/](http://www.culturescope.ca/)

Culturescope.ca is a news portal best used as a source for the latest developments in the arts and cultural industries. You will also find links to research reports and online newsletters of arts organizations. The focus is mainly Canadian, but the site also includes international stories that affect Canadian arts and culture.

### **Cybermuse** <http://cybermuse.gallery.ca/>

This is the online gallery of the National Gallery of Canada and the Canadian Museum of Contemporary Photography. It is a good source for locating online images of Canadian art, and contains more than 10,000 online images.

### **Library and Archives Canada** [www.collectionscanada.ca/](http://www.collectionscanada.ca/)

If you haven't been to this Web site in a while, it's worth a visit. In fact, it's useful to check it every couple of weeks, as so much online content is continually being added. One of the best features of the LAC Web site is the collection of virtual exhibitions.

For any history buff, this is a treasure trove. Students' eyes light up when they find digitized primary sources on homework topics.

Note the links to the Canadian Genealogy Centre (with very helpful FAQs about how to start or continue a genealogy project), and the newly added Portrait Gallery of Canada.

### **Virtual Museum of Canada (VMC)** [www.virtualmuseum.ca/](http://www.virtualmuseum.ca/)

The VMC is an online gateway to Canada's museums including a directory of online exhibits. There is also an image gallery with 420,000 online images of museum artifacts, photos, paintings, drawings, etc... The target audiences for this site are K-12 students and teachers as it contains more than 150 interactive games designed to support the teaching of Canadian history and culture. The "Calendar of Events" is useful for locating events across Canada in museums and heritage sites but lacks a geographical limitation when searching for such events.

Statistics on Arts & Culture can be found at [www.statcan.ca](http://www.statcan.ca) Using the "Find statistics" by Subject on the left navigation bar, check out "Culture & Leisure." Here you will find information about the specific areas of film and video, museums, performing and visual arts, publishing, sound recording, sports, television and radio. Included are articles from *The Daily* as well as statistical reports and tables.

*Jennifer Dekker is the Visual Arts Librarian at the University of Ottawa and the editor of this column. She can be reached at [jdekker@uottawa.ca](mailto:jdekker@uottawa.ca).*



# Knowledge Ontario

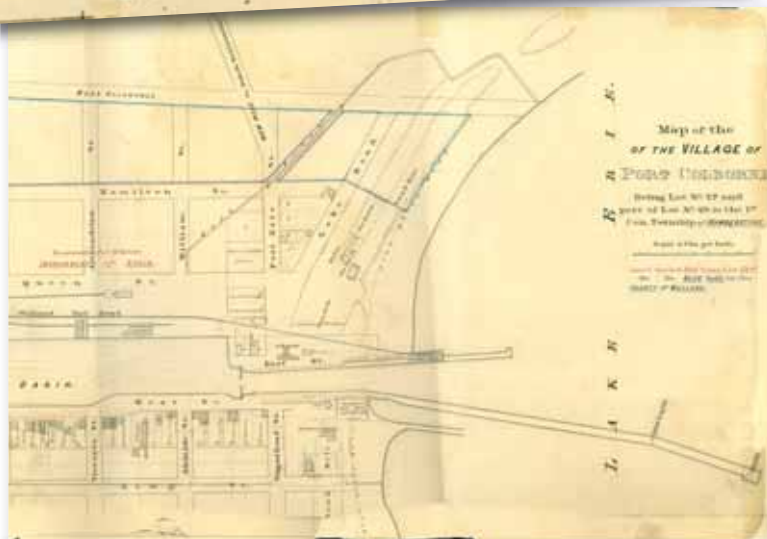
KEEPING OLA MEMBERS IN THE BIG PICTURE

## Welland Canal Survey Maps Online

In the late 1980s, 53 survey maps detailing the second Welland Canal from Port Dalhousie to Port Colborne were destined to be pitched in the trash. Fortunately, the historical value of these maps was not lost on Dr. John N. Jackson who rescued these treasures and transferred them over to the Brock University Archives. These maps have been digitized and are available for viewing. The website for digital images from the Brock University Archives is <http://images.ourontario.ca/brock/>. Use the word “Welland” in the search field to see all the maps.

These maps were most likely created in the 1860s in an effort to keep track of the land and structures associated with the Canal. The layout of the Canal is recorded with incredible detail—even the surveyor’s notes and measurements in pencil and ink are visible. Remnants of the first Welland Canal are noted where appropriate. But the maps go much further to document some local businesses, homes, landmarks, property owners, and streets. These maps are not only a boon to Canal enthusiasts but are a great resource for students, historians, genealogists, and local governments.

The Welland Canal maps have been mounted onto a digital cultural content portal called OurOntario. OurOntario is designed as a one-stop site where digitized materials from all over Ontario can



By David Sharron

be viewed by researchers anytime. The OurOntario Web Site has a number of features to help visitors utilize the records. You can conduct simple and advanced text searches based on the data supplied about the historical records or you can browse images by subject matter. For image viewing, we took advantage of a special zooming feature built into the Web site. By clicking on "Full Image," you can magnify any part of the maps to see the finer details of the originals. The website also links to Google Maps which displays modern views of the maps either as a satellite image, road map or a hybrid of both. If you know an individual who would be interested in any or all of the maps, you can make them aware of the Web site by

sending them an electronic postcard featuring the maps.

OurOntario takes the user experience one step further. It allows you to be an active contributor to the presented history. If you have particular insights into a feature on a map, you can add a comment for future users to read, learn from and explore further. You can even create and submit an essay (complete with photos) that can be linked to the map collection. To spark a historical dialogue, we have included one or more "Mystery Questions" to accompany each map. It would be great to have these questions answered and to see new questions posed. Whatever interests you about these maps is up for discussion.

We hope that making these maps accessible on the web assists in all kinds of research. Please let us know what you think about the Web Site and feel free to comment on the maps as much as you wish. The more participation and feedback that we see, the more we will be inspired to add more digital content to this website. Our collection of records featuring various elements of the history of the Niagara Peninsula is vast. To the best of our abilities, we want to share this history with the greater community. Please contact David Sharron at [dsharron@brocku.ca](mailto:dsharron@brocku.ca) with any questions or comments.

*Enjoy the maps!*

*David Sharron is head of the Special Collections and Archives at Brock University*



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## OurOntario.ca Update

We are working hard on a number of fronts. With regard to the software (VITA) that we offer for creating and managing metadata records for audio, image, text and video files, we are in the process of releasing an updated version. Contributors making use of the toolkit will benefit from improved design, a greater availability of data elements, better use of content standards, and a process that allows records that have been assigned as public display to be immediately available on both the contributor site and the OurOntario.ca portal.

This fall is very busy as we are also going to be working behind the scenes on the next version of the OurOntario.ca portal. Currently we provide meta-search for individual digital objects, we are working on providing specific access and search for the government documents from the Legislative Library. Access to digitized newspapers is also in the works, in addition to a complete redesign of the portal.

We are also working to address "collections" description and access. Our longer-term goal is to provide search, but in the meantime we are thinking about some possible short-term solutions such as a browse list. We'll keep you posted.

That's the succinct answer! If you have any additional comments or questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

—Loren Fantin, Project Manager, OurOntario.ca

## Ask Ontario Update

It's been a whirlwind summer for the Ask Ontario project team. In May we began negotiating a pilot agreement with TVO's Independent Learning Centre (ilc.org) to add 10 teacher-librarians to the existing Ask a Teacher chat rooms. These 10 expert research guides would be on hand after school hours to provide real time, chat-based research support to Ontario's secondary students. We proudly launched the 4ReSrch service on September 16 with an enthusiastic and committed team eager to demonstrate their talents while helping students improve their information literacy and research skills. A win for teacher-librarians and a win for students! Stay tuned for more as this service takes off.

We've also spent the summer making great strides forward with the development of the larger provincial collaborative virtual reference service. Implementation, marketing and service task forces met throughout the summer and have made significant headway in helping to scope out the functional aspects of the project. Thanks to the efforts of our technology task force an RFP for software is in the field and we eagerly await its results. The implementation task force has lined up 20 library systems to participate in the planned pilot launch (8 in the post-secondary sector and the balance in the public library sector) in January.

In order to give the project a final boost and ensure that its principles and goals were approved by all Ontario's library sectors the project team hosted a summit on August 22. We had excellent representation from all the sectors and regions of the province. It's rare that you get over 20 people with such an incredible range of expertise and knowledge in one room. It was a very powerful, positive experience and a testament to the collaborative nature of the project that we ended the day with a strong consensus on the project's fundamentals. It was at the Summit that we hammered out the project's service vision and made some key decisions involving resources to be used, skill requirements, language and branding.

If you want more information on the decisions we made, the progress of the project or want to get involved please contact me.

—Virginia Roy, Project Manager, Ask Ontario





# HealthWatch

KEEPING WATCH OVER LIBRARIANS' HEALTH ISSUES

## Bon Voyage... *I Think!*

**Our China-bound  
editor Elyse Pike  
asks the question:  
Is food and  
drug safety any  
better here in  
Canada and  
North America?**

After years of working for a living, my husband and I decided we were ready for a break and an adventure. We decided to take a year off and go to teach English in China.

When the arrangements had been finalized, and I started to tell colleagues and friends what was about to happen, they had some interesting responses. Most, it seemed, were thrilled with the idea and wished us well, some expressing a desire to pack up and come along with us. But to a person, they all warned us to take our own toothpaste, vitamins, pet food and medication. As if we were slightly slow children, again and again, we were told not to trust the

safety of Chinese products. All this comes, I believe, from the current rash of reporting of unsafe toys, pet food products, antifreeze-tainted toothpaste in our Canadian media. Regardless of statements from WHO about the recent successful efforts of the Chinese government to increase food and drug safety, Canadians still perceive there to be a problem with food and consumer safety. <http://www.wpro.who.int/china/sites/fos/overview.htm>

So is the problem a significant one? Is food and drug safety any better here in Canada and North America? Just a few years ago, the town of Walkerton, a sleepy little rural community not very far from where I live and work, went through the nightmare of a contaminated water crisis. Several people died and many still suffer long-term health effects. Our hospital treated several of those patients affected. Walkerton, located right next door to my home, in an affluent part of Canada, should have been a safe place in which to drink the water. It was not. Human error knows no nationality. You can read the full report at <http://www.attorneygeneral.jus.gov.on.ca/english/about/pubs/walkerton>

Our press, radio and television have done a comprehensive job on reporting the Chinese scares—the CBC had an in-depth report in May



**By Elyse Pike**

of this year ([www.cbc.ca/news/background/foodsafety](http://www.cbc.ca/news/background/foodsafety)) but how do we find out about unsafe or toxic ingredients in local products, recalls, food safety and possible poisons in our own Canadian environment? These may not be as well reported. What sources besides the professional media would a librarian recommend to the public concerned with such matters?

Canadian Food Inspection Agency ([www.inspection.gc.ca/english/toce.shtml](http://www.inspection.gc.ca/english/toce.shtml))

handles food safety and food recalls for Canada. Within this Web Site, the Newsroom section, subsection Food Recalls and Allergy Alerts, lists what is current in terms of food and drug recalls. At the time of writing, Costco carrots were not meeting food safety standards. There is a monthly archive of recalls going back to 1997 and the list is extensive. Everything from hot dogs to green beans, carrot juice to unpasteurized milk, both imported and home-grown products. Eleven unsafe or suspect food products were listed in August 2007 alone.

US food recalls and warnings are handled by the Food and Drug administration (FDA). ([www.cfsan.fda.gov/list.html](http://www.cfsan.fda.gov/list.html)) Safety warnings and recalls appear here again under the Newsroom sector. As well as food and drug safety, consumer products such as diabetic monitoring systems, children's car seats and cell phones can be checked for recalls and possible safety hazards. There is significant overlap of items noted between the Canadian and US systems; partially because we live with free trade between the two countries and partially because we have essentially the same dietary and consumer habits. A secondary agency under the auspices of the FDA, the Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition

([www.cfsan.fda.gov/list.html](http://www.cfsan.fda.gov/list.html)) offers more general information on food safety including national food safety, food labelling and nutrition and possible bioterrorism as a disruption of food supplies.

It's not only failure of safety in food and drug products which we should be aware of, but also the contaminants which occur in our environment. This list could include things such as radon gas in our basements, asbestos in schools, common household cleaners as well as improper food handling and infection control techniques in restaurants and institutions.

For a fun, graphics-heavy site, Toxtown, ([www.toxtown.nlm.nih.gov/index.html](http://www.toxtown.nlm.nih.gov/index.html)) produced by the National Library of Medicine, bills itself as providing information about "environmental health concerns and toxic chemicals where you work play and live."

It also covers information about ecological disasters such as hurricanes and floods and the resultant health risks associated with such. There is an excellent teacher's resource embedded in this site. And the material is both amenable for school projects as well as for use as a primer of food and safety hazards for the general public.

If Toxtown doesn't offer enough information for your needs, the National Library of Medicine also offers Toxnet database ([www.toxnet.nlm.nih.gov](http://www.toxnet.nlm.nih.gov)) a single source access to many professional level databases on toxicology, hazardous chemicals, environmental health and toxic releases and other elements of risk in our world. This resource allows complex searching by key word, chemical name or substance name. The search can be run within one of an extensive list of specialized databases or across

all toxicological databases. An example of one of the specialized databases searchable through this site is Lactmed. Lactmed is a peer-reviewed and fully referenced database of drugs to which breastfeeding mothers may be exposed. Among the data included are maternal and infant levels of drugs, possible effects on breastfed infants and on lactation, and alternate drugs to consider. Other databases include carcinogenity of chemical products, reproductive and developmental toxicology literature as well as a chemical dictionary which includes chemical names, symbols and structures.

The site also includes a portal to an extensive list of environmental health and toxicology resources. Within this portal the information is sorted by audience type. Resources are listed which would be of interest to the public, researchers, health professionals, students, educators and emergency responders.

In both Web sites, Toxnet and Toxtown, there is frequent referral back to the always reliable Medline Plus Web site. ([www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus](http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus))

So after all the research, I come to the conclusion that there is a risk of contamination of food and medicine everywhere. I have decided to be careful but not overly concerned, to try not to live my life in a bubble. However, I have stocked up on a year's supply of vitamins, and packed a few tubes of toothpaste. And I am well past the age of chewing on lead base painted toys. Walkerton or Weihai – life goes on! I intend to have a great time in China!

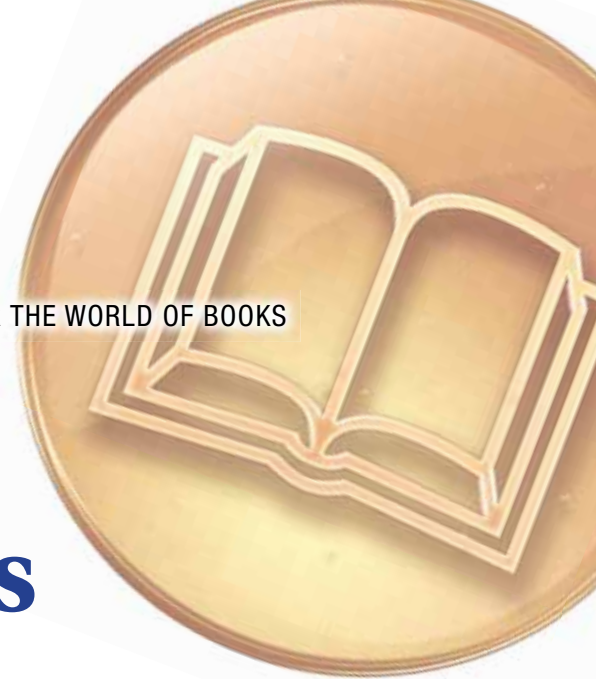
*Back in Canada, Elyse Pike is with Grey Bruce Health Sciences in Owen Sound.*

*[elyse.pike@gmail.com](mailto:elyse.pike@gmail.com)*



# Readers' Advisory

PROMOTING ENJOYMENT AND PASSION FOR THE WORLD OF BOOKS



## Trend Spotting for Libraries

For librarians who serve readers or are responsible for collection development, Book Expo Canada has become a not-to-be-missed annual event. This conference and trade show is the perfect venue to see what will be appearing on library shelves in the coming publishing season, and to discover firsthand what readers will be asking for. The event also provides an opportunity to network with publishers and distributors, to develop contacts, and of course, to meet and mingle with authors and receive advance copies of upcoming releases—ah, the coveted freebie!

Once again, OLA partnered with Book Expo Canada ([www.bookexpo.ca](http://www.bookexpo.ca)) to offer a program for librarians. Reading and Publishing Trends: What's Hot for Libraries? featured some notables from the Canadian publishing world—Jonathan Schmidt (Key Porter Books), Maylin Scott (Random House Canada and the Dewey Divas and Dudes), Derek Weiler (*Quill and Quire* editor) & bestselling author Kelley Armstrong. During the discussions, panelists shared their observations and reflections on current publishing. They also challenged participants to think about new directions and suggested some ideas on how to

keep ahead of demand. Here's some of what attendees learned:

- There are a number of key factors that drive publishing; as an industry, publishing plans far into the future (three to five years) and tends to be high-risk-averse. It has, because of its very process (creation of manuscript, submission to publisher, editing, production, and marketing), a lengthy timeline that cannot easily respond to the latest and newest and therefore is less likely to be trend oriented than may be perceived.
- For fiction readers, historical fiction is giving way to novels with more contemporary settings and the suspense genre continues to be strong, with the hot spots being Russia and Scandinavia. The graphic novel continues to be a popular storytelling format. Apparently, there is a decreasing interest in the short story, which is somewhat surprising given that Canadian authors are well known as writers of short stories. It's also surprising as one might expect the short story format to be gaining popularity in an increasingly hectic world. But apparently this is not the case.
- In non-fiction, interest in the environment continues to grow, however the focus has shifted from what is wrong to how ordinary

people can make and are making a difference; as well, memoirs/biographies of prime ministers and titles dealing with spirituality are being released.

- Increasingly, publishers and readers are looking to book blogs as a source of information on titles that will generally not appear on bestseller lists. They allow publishers to see what people are reading and talking about.
- More and more authors are coming to understand the value of the dedicated reader and so they are building Web sites that invite readers to engage and interact with them. (See Armstrong's site as an example [www.kelleyarmstrong.com](http://www.kelleyarmstrong.com)). Of course, publishers love authors who build and maintain their own site!

So ultimately, what did we learn about forecasting the next big thing? Basically, we just do the best we can, pay attention to popular culture and response to our customers interests. Perhaps Jonathan Schmidt summed it up best when he asked "Why does the appeal of the book need to be explained?" For librarians and booklovers, reading will continue to be a trend and perhaps that's what really matters.

*Sharron Smith is with Kitchener Public Library. She is the editor of this column. [ssmith@kpl.org](mailto:ssmith@kpl.org)*

By Sharron Smith



# The Next Generation

STUDENTS LOOK AT THE LIBRARY AND INFORMATION COMMUNITY WITH FRESH EYES

## *The True Confessions of a New Librarian*



**By Corrina Switzer**



Although I call myself a librarian, I do not wear sensible shoes and I have not worn my hair in a bun since I was five. But I have always liked books and have been an avid reader since early childhood. So it seemed only natural for me to become a librarian.

After finishing my undergraduate degree and contemplating careers in forensics, biology, and history, I came back to my original dream: to become a librarian. I began my first year at the Faculty of Information Studies (FIS) at the University of Toronto without knowing what a librarian truly does.

In my second year I accepted three part-time library positions. I will never forget my first day on the job. I was chatting with one of my new colleagues when I thoughtfully placed my white-clad elbow on top of the reference desk. Unwittingly, I had placed it in an open black inkpad. It was not my proudest moment as a librarian. My budding library career was clearly off to a great start.

One of the things I spent a great deal of time thinking about during my library studies and after graduation was the different

options open to me. I had so many choices as to what I could do with my degree. Would I be happy working in a public library? What about an academic library? Did I even want to work in a library? I was not sure what I wanted to do.

I finally landed my first job several months after graduation. I was hired on a six-month contract, conducting research on individuals and companies. I can honestly say I learned a lot about myself from taking that first contract. I discovered I am happier working with people and am not suited to a Dilbert-like cubicle environment. I had even begun to question whether I had made the right decision to become a librarian. Needless to say, I was not heartbroken when the contract ended.

I then accepted a three-month position in a public library that changed my career. Although this job was short lived, I regained my passion for being a librarian. Part of my job was to travel around to different library branches talking to young people about the library's teen Web site, testing a survey we had created for our target audience, and basically getting in touch with the library's youth.

I was asked to represent the public library at a teen job fair, promoting volunteer opportunities to students at a local high school. I took the bus home that night and had to carry a box of pamphlets, bookmarks, and handouts on a dolly cart. As I was getting off the bus, the box became wedged between the back doors. I pulled on the cart, hoping it would slip free. Unfortunately, the box opened and upended its contents all over the bottom steps, the sidewalk, and gutter. The bus doors began to close shut and I pounded my fist on the side of the bus so it would not pull away, taking me and

my cart with it. I finally retrieved the box from the bus and stood for a minute staring at the mess on the ground as the bus drove away.

It was a cold December evening and I felt it, as I sat on my hands and knees, picking up the scattered papers on the sidewalk and road. I once again wondered what I was doing in this profession. But the next day as I chatted with the high school students, I remembered why: my love for helping others discover new information.

Following the end of that three-month contract, I accepted a year - long position in a hospital library, which led to my current position at Toronto's North York General Hospital. I assist hospital staff with their information needs, conducting training sessions, literature

searches, and so on. My love for teaching, presenting, and learning has all been combined into one.

Over the three years I worked various contracts, I was employed within different types of "libraries." Even though it was difficult at times working on a contract basis, I am grateful for having had the opportunities those contracts provided me. I would not be the librarian I am today if it had not been for those experiences. I no longer question whether I am in the right profession. Moreover, I have managed to keep my elbows out of inkpads, although there was the incident with the printer toner... Ugh, don't ask!

*Corrina Switzer is the Technical Services Librarian at North York General Hospital.*

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# The Last Word



## GO GO SYA!

Just when you thought librarians had done it all, you get Sya VanGeest, former president of the Ontario School Library Association, championing our African concerns in the most direct of ways. Here she shouts slogans to members of the Guelph GoGo Grandmothers in a demonstration to draw attention to the lack of Canadian response to the HIV/AIDS crisis in Africa. The group's goal is to bring attention to the thousands of parents in Africa who are dying per year -- leaving grandmothers to raise the orphaned children. The GoGo Grandmothers is an initiative of the Stephen Lewis Foundation. Sya, OLA's Africa Project is proud of you!

*Photo: Dave Carter, Guelph Mercury*

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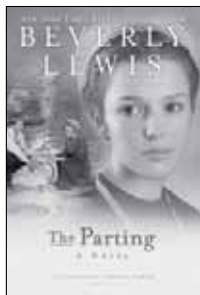
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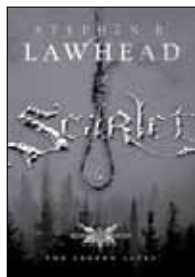
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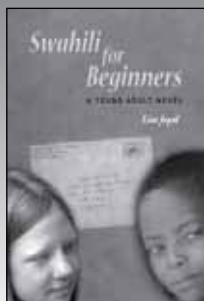
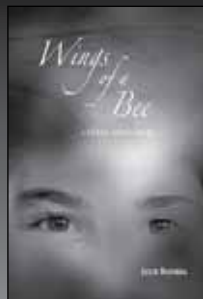
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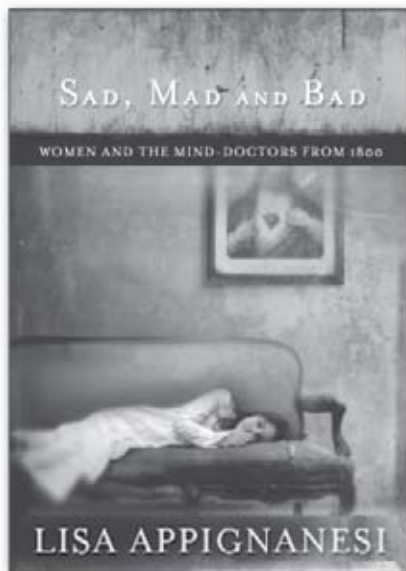
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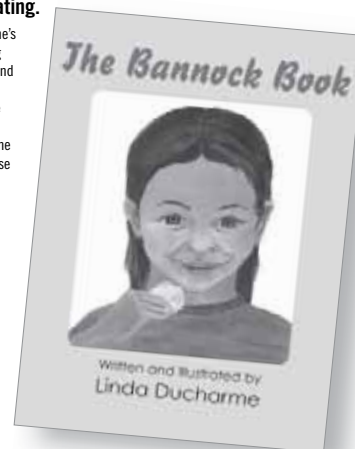


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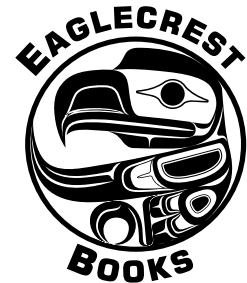
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