



LIBRARY EDITION

INFORMATION | INNOVATION | SERVICE

McGill



THIS ISSUE

- 3 Exploring Treasured Texts
- 4 From Bound to Bytes:
Theses Go Online
- 4 News at the Ready
- 5 Shakespeare and the Jews
- 6 Reaching Out:
Library Ambassadors
- 7 What the Library Means to Me

Finger on the Future: *Taking Books from Shelf to Screen*

Fall 2007

Coordinator

Steven Spodek
Development Officer
Libraries

Consulting Editor

Helen Dyer
Communications Officer
Development and Alumni
Relations

Writer

Patrick McDonough

Graphics

McGill Instructional
Multimedia Services

Photographers

Claudio Calligaris
Owen Egan
Klaus Fiedler

**Office of the
Director of Libraries**

3459 McTavish Street
Montreal, Quebec
H3A 1Y1 Canada

Tel.: 514-398-4677

E-mail:

doadmin.library@mcgill.ca

Website:

www.mcgill.ca/library/

Cover Photo:

Jennifer Carter BA'94, PhD
Candidate.

Photo taken in Colgate
Seminar Room, Rare Books
and Special Collections
Division

*Your comments and
inquiries are welcome.*



Dear Alumni, Parents, Friends, Students and Colleagues:

All over the world academic libraries are being challenged by the dramatic changes taking place in universities. These changes include new approaches to teaching, learning and research, as well as the ongoing development of information and communication technologies. These are global phenomena, but they are also very local – we at McGill are certainly experiencing them. So the big question facing us is: How can the McGill Library position itself to provide effective services in these changing times?

Some people thought initially that the technological revolution would reduce the importance of libraries to our students, but that clearly has not been the case. Instead, our challenges involve understanding the changes and planning the appropriate responses. We seek to understand our young people and the lives they lead. The Library is the engine for student life and learning, resting at the very core of the University's mission, yet I am often surprised that many people do not realize that students spend probably more time in libraries than they do in their classes, right across the disciplines. Long after the University has closed, we are still "on". When I drive past the library at ten or eleven in the evening, the windows are lit and the building is abuzz. It is often busier on Saturday and Sunday than it is during the week.

Some of our responses to student needs have been fairly direct. We installed auto-loan stations, and now sixty percent of our loans go through that system. This March, we started a pilot project placing LCD screens at various locations to provide information about our services. On a more ambitious scale, we have redesigned our web site to improve accessibility, and have added hundreds of thousands of e-resources. We have also extended our staffing hours, to provide students with as much support as possible. But perhaps the single most difficult challenge remains communicating what the Library does. After all, accessibility begins with people knowing about the resources, materials and services we have to offer. This edition of the Library In Focus talks about some of these issues, touching on everything from online resources to our library ambassadors program, developed with the support of our very energetic undergraduate student partners at the Students Society of McGill University.

So please let me know what you think of our efforts by sharing your comments and impressions with us. And let me stress how much gratitude we all feel for the very generous support we have received from our friends and benefactors. Without your assistance we would have a much more difficult time meeting the challenges before us.

Yours sincerely,

Janine Schmidt
Trenholme Director of Libraries

Exploring Treasured Texts

M

McGill's Rare Books and Special Collections has one of the country's most important collections of Canadiana, centred around the comprehensive Lawrence Lande collection of largely pre-confederation works, donated by McGill graduate Lande in the 1960s.

McGill has been nurturing and developing its Canadiana collections since 1877, when it was bequeathed the library of Montreal lawyer and McGill alumnus Frederick Griffin. That donation included reports sent annually to France by Jesuit missionaries in the seventeenth century. "We have seventeen of these in original editions, and three of them came from Griffin's collection, as did a lot of other early Canadian material," says Richard Virr, Curator of Manuscripts and Acting Head Rare Books and Special Collections. At the time, many of Griffin's books were relatively new and were simply added to the University's collection. "But now they are relatively uniquely held in Canada and have become 'rare'," says Virr. "Much of his library, which had been dispersed through the stacks, has now been recovered and placed in our collection; fortunately, Griffin's name is written in all of them." Separate bequests from diplomat Robert Mackay and lawyer and alderman David Ross McCord in the 19th century were also central to the early growth of McGill's Canadiana collection.

In the early 20th century McGill purchased a collection of fur trade documents from the estate of the Honourable Louis-Rodrigue Masson (1833-1903), a member of Parliament and a senator and Lieutenant-Governor of Quebec from 1884-1887. As well as journals kept by fur traders attached to the North West Company, a major Montreal-based fur-trade enterprise, the collection included some of the documents that Roderick Mackenzie (1761-1844), a partner in the Company and Masson's grandfather-in-law, assembled in the early 19th century containing information and observations about geography, flora and fauna, and First Nations in the North-West. "Masson published some of this material in the 1880s but edited it heavily without telling anyone, and scholars have relied upon these publications ever since, unless they actually visited our archives," says Virr. "But recently, thanks to grant funding, we were able to prepare a digital copy of the collection, which is now available online at <http://digital.library.mcgill.ca/nwc>. Interestingly, librarians had also made 'white on black' copies of some of Masson's documents in the 1920s, and because the

originals are fragile, in some cases these earlier copies provide more text than exists in the originals now."

This site is one of a number of digitized Canadiana sites created by the Library. Others include a site reproducing part of the University's collection of 1880s county atlases showing property holdings, primarily in Ontario (<http://digital.library.mcgill.ca/CountyAtlas>). "The site is very popular with genealogists, and receives about a quarter of the hits to our digital collections," says Virr. "It's extraordinary."

Online accessibility is critical for contemporary libraries. Unfortunately, when the Library's online catalogue was first created in the 1980s, the University's various rare book collections were not included in the process. Thus, while new acquisitions have been entered in online catalogues, most of the earlier material – Virr estimates that as many as 150,000 titles, about half of his section's holdings – remains searchable only in ancient card catalogues. "This is a major challenge. The reality today is that if something is not in your online catalogue, people think that you don't have it." The Library is addressing this issue, and aims to have Lande Collection records in the online catalogue by the end of the year.

Over the past year Virr's team has transferred online close to 4000 entries for play scripts, 1500 scripts purchased in the 1920s dating from 1680 to 1820, and a recent gift of 2500 dating from 1850 to 1950. 'Some are major plays,' explains Virr, 'but the minor ones may be more interesting from a research perspective because they were the shows being performed by local groups or travelling companies, and formed the soap operas and sit-coms from their era.' Currently, the Library is converting to online the cataloguing records of its extensive philosophy collection, which includes one of the world's most comprehensive collections of the writings of Scottish philosopher David Hume (<http://digital.library.mcgill.ca/hume/>). "This is an ongoing and growing collection," Virr stresses. "I believe our holdings now are just as good as they have in Edinburgh. So we need to make all of our philosophy holdings accessible. We're a working library, after all, not a museum."



"A French Canadian Lady in her Winter Dress and a Roman Catholic Priest"
Hand-coloured plate after the drawing by John Lambert.
Travels through Canada and the United States in the Years 1806, 1807 & 1808.
John Lambert. Second ed. corrected. London, 1813.

Richard Virr,
Curator of
Manuscripts and
Acting Head
Rare Books and
Special
Collections



From Bound to Bytes: Theses Go Online

Most students have for some years composed theses on their computers but continued to submit the documents in printed form. Following a pilot project in April 2007, McGill University began accepting graduate thesis submission in electronic form. Electronic submission, storage and distribution of theses will provide benefits both to students at McGill and researchers elsewhere as they discover more easily the results of research undertaken by graduate students at McGill.

For researchers, theses have long been a valuable information resource but their

storage in physical formats in individual libraries has limited their effectiveness as research tools. Microform versions obtained through interlibrary loan or purchased have been difficult to obtain. Projects throughout the world have been developing the technology and procedures for digital theses and the growing availability of electronic formats has been matched by a significant increase in use.

A working e-thesis repository brings the following benefits to McGill faculty and students:

- Immediate and full access to content
- Easy resource discovery
- Increased visibility and impact of McGill research throughout the world
- Greater use and citation of research work
- Greater competitiveness
- Creative and flexible expression of research results

“Born digital” theses may include audio and visual material which can be viewed or

News at the Ready

The recent addition of *PressDisplay* to the McGill Library's suite of online newspapers strengthens the Library's excellent newspaper collections and brings instant access to 500 newspapers from 70 countries in 37 languages (<http://library.pressdisplay.com/pressdisplay/viewer.aspx>).

Whether assessing public opinion in Jerusalem, comparing the headlines of UK dailies, or dreamily scanning Parisian real estate, *PressDisplay* users gain thorough

access to a vast range of the latest global news and information, all at the click of a mouse.

The online collection provides same-day access to hundreds of newspapers in languages ranging from Portuguese to Papiamentu. The comprehensive holdings include multiple national dailies from Canada, the USA and England, and major broadsheet newspapers from countries and regions throughout the world. *The*

New Zealand Herald, *The Tampa Tribune*, *The Irish Independent*, *The Washington Post*, and *The Gazette* are some of the titles available.

Newspapers have long been an important research and teaching tool, able to provide valuable insights into societies through their chronicling of daily events. They chart the development of policy in democratic nations, and, as a primary arm of the mass media, are often the focus of

critical analysis. Used globally for educational purposes, newspapers are sometimes considered the only text students will continue reading throughout their lives.

Students are able to discover and compare leading news stories, and how nations choose to report the latest political, environmental, health and social issues. On or off campus, newspapers can be read cover-to-cover in their full-page news-stand image – including all the articles, colour photos, editorials, letters, cartoons, advertisements, classifieds and obituaries. It is possible to search and print within a single newspaper, a selection of papers or the entire collection. And it's even ok to be a little behind on the news, as

eZone, Humanities and Social Sciences Library



Shakespeare and the Jews



listened to. Multimedia content can be incorporated as integral components of the work. The content can be submitted, validated and assessed electronically and descriptive tags can be added.

Making these available in online formats facilitates browsing and full-text searching and provides researchers around the world with unprecedented access to the fruits of vital scholarship undertaken at McGill. McGill's position at the leading-edge of scholarly creation and communication will be secured.

many newspapers have a searchable 60 day archive.

PressDisplay sits alongside other electronic news information resources available from the Library such as *Canadian Newsstand*, *Factiva* and *Virtual News Library* and rounds out the Library's suite of online news collections. In addition to the online newspapers, the McGill Library subscribes to *NewspaperDirect*, a complementary service to *PressDisplay* which permits daily printing of newspapers.

NewspaperDirect delivers same-day quality copies of selected national and foreign newspapers, some of which, such as *Ha'aretz*, *Le Monde*, *El Pais*, are not included online through *PressDisplay*. It is now possible to relax in a quiet and spacious corner of the Humanities and Social Sciences Library on the main floor of the McLennan Library Building and leaf through a foreign newspaper on the same day of issue.

The McGill Library's newspaper collection is increasing in quantity, quality, and inclusiveness of content, as well as ease of access. And this is only part of the Library's commitment to building excellent teaching and research collections in line with the needs and expectations of McGill faculty and students.

Shylock, the Jewish money-lender from *The Merchant of Venice*, is one of Shakespeare's most challenging, complicated characters, a stereotype who challenges the process of creating stereotypes.



From Shakespeare's *The Merchant of Venice* Hodder & Stoughton, 1909. Frontispiece by Sir James D Linton.

On March 29, over 300 people gathered in Moysse Hall to learn more about him at "Shakespeare and the Jews," the annual Shakespeare Lecture sponsored by the Friends of the Library and moderated by Paul Yachnin, the English Department Chair and Tomlinson Professor of Shakespeare Studies.

The expert panel featured an uncommon pairing: renowned Shakespearean actor Gareth Armstrong and literary critic Kenneth Gross. More than 10 years ago, Armstrong played the role of Shylock in a British production of *The Merchant of Venice*. "He was the most difficult character I've ever played," Armstrong recalled. "So I ended up wanting to get into him more fully, to understand him bet-

ter." Charged by this desire, Armstrong wrote a one-man play, *Shylock*, told from the perspective of Shakespeare's only other Jewish character, Tubal, from the same play. "I still find Shylock troublesome but now can hold him to my heart without agreeing with what he wants to do." Armstrong has been touring the role of Shylock since 1997, between other roles. "I have *become* Shylock," he joked.

Kenneth Gross, professor of English at the University of Rochester and, most recently, author of *Shylock Is Shakespeare*, was also intrigued by the character's dramatic appeal as a survivor, an interest that led him to further inquiries into the psychological relation between Shakespeare and his creation. "What fascinated Shakespeare about this character who is repellent, repugnant, jubilant, intelligent and very perceptive about politics?" he asked, suggesting that Shylock's strategy of manipulating scenes to ensure his survival might reflect the playwright's own concerns. "Somehow Shakespeare found a way, through Shylock, to voice aspects of himself as a maker of scenes. Shylock shows Shakespeare as a man of the theatre, an actor and courtier of audiences." Gross's theories on Shylock's genesis within Shakespeare's dramatic imagination were especially compelling in exchange with Armstrong's musings on the challenges of becoming Shylock on a regular basis in performance. As Gross noted in conclusion, "In *The Merchant of Venice*, the idea of the 'human' is very volatile."

The Shakespeare Lecture is one of three annual lectures organized by the Friends of the Library (www.mcgill.ca/library-friends/).

Reaching Out: Library Ambassadors

New students – and even some who have been at McGill for a year or more – can find the University libraries bewildering. So last summer the Library and the Students Society of McGill University (SSMU) teamed up to create Library Ambassadors: a group of a dozen undergraduate students on a mission to make the complex familiar. The SSMU has for many years provided funding to the Library for various projects, ranging from support for 24-hour opening during examination periods to the purchase of library

materials. During 2005-2006, Trenholme Director of Libraries Janine Schmidt and members of the SSMU came up with the idea for a library ambassador program. The Ambassadors are full-time undergraduate students who serve as a point of contact for students, participate in orientation and other outreach activities, represent the Library at various campus events, refer students to professional library staff or provide basic help, and liaise with student groups on library needs (<http://www.mcgill.ca/library-about/jobs/ambassadors/>).

The program was initially coordinated by Cynthia Leive, Head Librarian in the Marvin Duchow Music Library and Karen Nicholson from the Humanities and Social Sciences Library.

Enlisting students as library envoys is not unprecedented. For “Discover McGill” week at the start of the fall 2005 term, the Library hired students to act as tour guides of the major branches, and in fall 2006 the freshly appointed Library Ambassadors reprised this mission. Student navigators have also helped with computer use. “Being introduced to the Library by other students is a great initial point of contact for those new students arriving at McGill,” says Leive. As the term progressed, the Ambassadors fanned out to the different branches, where they worked with local coordinators on projects that would most benefit students using those libraries. For the ambassadorial crew, this involved coming up with ways to help students, to inform them about the Library’s resources and to collect feedback from student groups.

“We met regularly with library staff and came up with the idea of placing a Library Ambassadors table in the stacks, where students who needed help could find us,” says Margaret Gales, a third-year Arts student and Library Ambassador. So November and March evenings, when many students

are writing assignments, the Ambassadors filled their post on the third floor of the Humanities and Social Sciences Library, offering aid to the baffled. “We helped people with fairly basic things – like requesting a book or putting one on hold, or simply reading call numbers,” says Gales. While no formal studies have tracked the results of these efforts, the informal feedback has been positive. “Students have told us they were happy to have somebody around to steer them in the right direction,” says Leive. “And I believe the Ambassadors felt they made a difference in helping their peers.”

The Ambassadors also took the message beyond the Library buildings in their distinctive red t-shirts carrying messages about library services. In Gales’s case, this entailed visiting classes in political science and economics, her fields of study, to present short announcements about the Library’s resources and services. “We encourage students to use the Library more,” she explains. The experience has made her something of a public figure. “Now there are quite a few students who recognize me; people will come up at parties, at 2 a.m., and say ‘You’re the girl who made that announcement to my class’ and then they’ll ask me a question. It’s a good conversation starter,” she laughs. “And I’ve heard that people have gone to the librarians and asked for help, saying that someone had visited their class. So it seems to be working.”

This promising inaugural year for the Library Ambassadors has established a solid foundation for future efforts. “The Ambassadors have offered us some really good ideas, and it’s tremendously rewarding to get feedback from them. So from the Library’s point of view, we hope the program will be continued and even expanded,” says Leive. “Now that we have run through this once, we could hire more students, have clearer mechanisms for collecting feedback, work with the SSMU to promote the project, and ultimately have a bigger impact.”



Margaret Gales
Library Ambassador

What the Library Means to Me

Alexander Deguise

Masters student in Economics

"I'm almost embarrassed by how often I'm in the Humanities and Social Sciences Library," says Alexander Deguise. "Seven days a week, between four and ten hours a day: I know every person who works on staff, many by name, and pretty much all the security staff." Most of those hours are spent at his third-floor carrel, where he keeps books related to his graduate studies. "The space has a quiet, pleasant atmosphere that is conducive to work," he explains. But while the McLennan Library Building is his home away from home, Deguise stresses that he uses many different branches, including the Howard Ross Management Library and the Schulich Library of Science and Engineering. "After all, we're very mathematical in economics." And when not camped at his carrel or visiting other branches, he logs onto the growing electronic collection from home. "We're starting to have a good breadth of economics and business texts available online," he says. "And in graduate school, we need to have the latest material, so we can cite contemporary and ground-breaking research."

Deguise is more than simply a student user, though: he also represents the Post-Graduate Students Society on a number of library committees, including the Humanities and Social Sciences Library Advisory Committee. "Our responsibilities involve discussing what direction we think the library should be taking," he explains. "This usually entails focusing on whether we are acquiring the necessary electronic resources, using the budget effectively, or carrying out necessary renovations." During a recent session of the Principal's Task Force on Student Life and Learning, on which he also serves, Deguise stressed that, because of the University's space demands, the McLennan-Redpath complex has become the de facto laboratory for arts and humanities students. "Most economics students run modeling software in the Electronic Data Resources Service lab by the entrance to the Redpath Library Building, because there is very little lab space available otherwise for arts students," he says. "The Humanities and Social Sciences Library fills this critical need for us."



Laurence Bich-Carrière

Third-year law student

"I didn't set foot in the library in my first year," confesses Laurence Bich-Carrière. "It wasn't necessary, because I only needed the electronic databases." But now she is a constant presence in the Nahum Gelber Law Library; since October 2006 she has been working with Wainwright Junior Fellow Pierre-Emmanuel Moysé on the history of laws governing property ownership in Quebec prior to the 1855 introduction of the Civil Code, which demands plenty of research among older items in the Gelber Library's Wainwright Collection. "I'm identifying important constitutional texts, those that mark changes in the law, and then collecting them in a consultation package that could be used by teachers or researchers – or perhaps even published," she says. In addition, she is a tutorial leader for the Faculty of Law's Legal Methodology course, mandatory for students in first or second year. There she provides hands-on lessons to a tutorial group of sixteen students, helping to illustrate the points covered in their lectures. "Much of the job involves teaching them how to use legal databases and library resources, and I'm also preparing and marking assignments," she explains.

And, of course, she has her own research to carry out. Last summer Bich-Carrière researched juridical culture, and relied heavily on the Library's collection of online journals. "The feeling of being in your house at nine on a Sunday morning and looking through older material is great," she enthuses. "I really appreciate the effort the library people made to find as many databases as possible."

Fortunately, she notes, the Nahum Gelber Library is a pleasant place to work. "And that's not just the opinion of a law student – it's the opinion of all the other students who visit it," she insists.



The gift of a lifetime

Paradise will be a kind of library.

- Jorge Luis Borges, author and philosopher



Elizabeth B. McNab, BA'41

Betty McNAB BA'41: Farewell to a Friend of the McGill Library

Elizabeth B. McNab, one of the principal builders of the McGill Alumni Association, died peacefully at her Westmount, Quebec home on New Year's Eve 2006. During her forty years service as an outstanding development professional, Betty helped to raise millions for McGill and in the process touched thousands of lives. In recognition of her work, Dr. Donald D. Mossman B.Sc.'23, a generous supporter of the library through annual gifts and the Mossman Endowment, honored Betty by creating the Elizabeth B. McNab Lecture in The History of Science.

Betty was a great friend of the McGill Library for many years. She supported the Library through annual giving and through a planned gift known as a charitable gift annuity. The annuity presented some distinct advantages to Betty. The annuity was made during Betty's lifetime and not through her estate. The annuity generated a guaranteed income stream from the University and Betty had the option of having the income distributed to her on a quarterly, semi-annual or annual basis. Betty understood that upon her death no further income would be payable and that that entire capital amount of her generous gift would be available to the Library.



McGill

For more information on bequests
and planned gifts contact:

Bequests and Planned Gifts
1430 Peel Street, Montreal, Quebec
Canada H3A 3T3
Tel.: 514-398-5000 or 1-800-567-5175
Plannedgifts.dev@mcgill.ca

INFORMATION | INNOVATION | SERVICE

www.mcgill.ca/library

Irks Reading Room

William and Henry Birks Building
3520 University Street, 2nd Floor
514-398-4127

Blackader-Lauterman Library of Architecture and Art

Redpath Library Building
3459 McTavish Street, 3rd Floor
514-398-4743

Education Library and Curriculum Resources Centre

Education Building
3700 McTavish Street
514-398-4686

Edward Rosenthal Mathematics and Statistics Library

Burnside Hall, Room 1105
805 Sherbrooke Street West, 11th Floor
514-398-4676

Electronic Data Resources Service

Redpath Library Building
Room RM-23
3459 McTavish Street
514-398-1429 / 514-398-4702

Government Information Service

McLennan Library Building, 2nd floor
3459 McTavish Street
514-398-4737

Howard Ross Management Library

Bronfman Building
1001 Sherbrooke Street West, 2nd Floor
514-398-4690

Humanities and Social Sciences Library

McLennan-Redpath Library Buildings
3459 McTavish Street
514-398-4734

Islamic Studies Library

Morrice Hall
3485 McTavish Street
514-398-4685

Life Sciences Library

McIntyre Medical Sciences Building
3655 Promenade Sir William Osler, 3rd Floor
514-398-4475

Macdonald Campus Library

Barton Building
21,111 Lakeshore Road
Ste-Anne-de-Bellevue
514-398-7879

Marvin Duchow Music Library

New Music Building
527 Sherbrooke Street West, 3rd Floor
514-398-4695

Nahum Gelber Law Library

3660 Peel Street
514-398-4715

Osler Library of the History of Medicine

McIntyre Medical Sciences Building
3655 Promenade Sir William Osler, 3rd Floor
514-398-4475

Rare Books and Special Collections Division

McLennan Library Building
3459 McTavish Street, 4th Floor
514-398-4711

Schulich Library of Science and Engineering

Macdonald Stewart Library Building
809 Sherbrooke Street West
514-398-4769

Walter HITSCHFELD Geographic Information Centre

Burnside Hall
805 Sherbrooke Street West, 5th Floor
514-398-8095

**Please return undeliverables to/
Retour des envois non-livrés à:**

Office of the Director of Libraries
3459 McTavish Street
Montreal, Quebec
H3A 1Y1
Canada

