The summer seems to have flown by. Many staff have enjoyed relaxing vacations with family and friends. Photographs of splendid scenery seem to be the result. Others have been working very hard on new developments within the Library. All the staff at the Macdonald campus have been extremely busy finalizing plans and preparations for the opening of the new refurbished facility — and like many building projects, they are now preparing contingency plans as things will not be quite ready for the beginning of term. We congratulate all Macdonald staff and thank them for their commitment.

The Humanities and Social Sciences Library has also been undergoing renovations. The desk near the main entry has been removed and a wall or two is coming down in the Reference area. New carpet is being laid, the walls are being painted, new furniture is being ordered, and new desks will become available — hopefully in time for the beginning of term. Many staff have worked extremely hard on this project. Some have identified collections to be moved, purchased new computers, assisted in designing new desks — and every one has put up with some noise and inconvenience. Electrical work will be completed in October but in the meantime, most of the furniture will be available. The sculpture Growth which many of you thought looked as if it were trying to push its way through the ceiling will be removed. Thanks to David Covo for facilitating this.

The Howard Ross Management Library is gaining some of the furniture being moved from the reference area and work is proceeding with some minor alterations there. The Life Sciences Library has also gained some chairs and other furniture from Macdonald. The ground floor of Redpath has been cleaned up. In addition to providing over 250 quiet study spaces we have added 25 PCs, a group study room and a comfortable lounge area. We are putting all existing furniture to good use wherever possible.

Many retrospective cataloguing projects have proceeded with student assistance over the summer, improving resource discovery and collection access for all our users. Work has also proceeded on the movement of the Blacker-Wood collections to the Life Sciences Library and the retirement of some of the older materials from this library to the new Redpath Storage area. Again students have assisted in this project.

Pat Riva and I are both off to the IFLA (International Federation of Library Associations) conference in Seoul. We shall both be busy with committee work there and will also take the opportunity to learn more about new library developments as well as contributing to the learning of others. I shall also be presenting a paper at an IFLA Pre-conference, the Shanghai International Library Forum sponsored by the Shanghai Public Library. Later this year, we shall be receiving a special Chinese collection from this Library, called the Window on the World, and we look forward to the expansion that will bring to our Asian collections.

We shall all be welcoming new students to McGill. I know that our friendly approach will help them as they find their way in a new environment. Thank you to all the staff who are preparing promotional materials and orientation sessions for them.

Janine Schmidt,
Trenholme Director of Libraries
WHAT’S NEW

New Uniform Loans Policy introduced August 15
In response to feedback from students, the Library has adopted a Uniform Loans Policy for all types of material. Borrowing conditions are now the same in all McGill Library branches.

For further details, please see the Loans web page at www.mcgill.ca/library-using/mcgillloans.

We are changing to serve you better!
This August we will be reorganizing the Humanities and Social Sciences Library reference area, McLennan Library Building: ground floor, Redpath Library Building; and the Howard Ross Library of Management. Construction, furniture reorganization and cleaning may create unusual noise or temporary space closures in these libraries. Please consult the Library site for more information in the coming weeks. Also, consider these potential disruptions as you choose your workspace today. Want to avoid the noise? Discover another branch today!

Printed from Nature: An exhibition of prints from the collection of the Rare Books and Special Collections Division
Nature-prints are created by pressing specimens of ferns, seaweeds, and other two-dimensional plants into lead, and transferring the impression by electrotypes to a copper plate. The plate is colored with inks and with one pull of the press, the image is transferred to paper, producing a print which may later be hand-colored. By printing directly from an impression of the plant, it is possible to record the smallest details of its structure.

Currently on display in the 4th Floor Lobby of the McLennan Library Building, Printed from Nature includes two excellent examples of this process, Henry Bradbury’s The Nature-Printed British Sea-Weeds (1859-60) and The Ferns of Great Britain and Ireland (1855).

Staff Announcements
We are pleased to announce the following Liaison Librarian appointments:
- April Colosimo, Schulich Library of Science and Engineering
- Beth Dunning, Howard Ross Library of Management
- Cornelia Penner, Humanities and Social Sciences Library
- Debbie Meert, Life Sciences Library
- Tara Mawhinney, Schulich Library of Science and Engineering

Join us in welcoming these new recruits!

SMG Communiqué
Although there have been fewer meetings over the summer, SMG has not been idle. Many topics have been discussed and if you would like more details, please speak to your SMG representative.

The library development office recently produced and mailed out the library’s summer edition of In Focus. This edition is entitled “The Library: The Locus of Student Life and Learning”. In Focus is a series of newsletters that are produced by various faculties and departments and sent to their donor and alumni constituencies. This latest edition features articles on topics ranging from the Macdonald Library renovations; to the “Ask a Librarian” service as well as interviews with Professors Andrea Tone and Terry Spithill about what the library means to them.

Work continues on the revised versions of the Faculty Guide and Welcome brochure. A new guide for Graduate Students is also in production.

The plastic bags which we have used thus far are being replaced by new library bags. These mesh bags, which fold up into pouches, are on the way. The new Orientation posters based on our library logo (Read, Study, and Inspire @ your library) and the general library banners are being made available for display in the branch libraries.

Tuesday, August 29 is Orientation Day for new faculty. The day’s activities will take place in the Faculty Club.

Another Orientation activity is being arranged by the First-Year Office. They will be hosting a street festival to be held on August 30. They are hoping to close down McTavish and host a Fair from 5:00 - 8:00 p.m. on Wednesday, August 30.

Tours leave from the Parents Tent, McGill Lower Campus, inside the Roddick Gates (Sherbrooke and McGill College) and will include a visit to the Rare Books Division to view some of the wonderful treasures of the McGill Library.

A word about money, the branch library collection allocation is being finalized.

CLIENT SERVICE TIPS
by Joseph Hafner

Laurels are for yesterday, not today.

You’ve seen it happen: sports superstars or top-rate TV hits suddenly go flat, the victims of complacency. You may be a great representative of your organization, but today’s customer doesn’t know (or much care) that your performance is rated superior 99% of the time. Especially if he’s in that remaining 1%. Success is achieved every day, one encounter at a time.
CONFERENCE TIDBITS

**Macy Zheng** (East Asian Cataloguing Librarian and Liaison Librarian, LTS)

Macy Zheng attended the CEAL (Council on East Asian Libraries) meetings at the 58th AAS (Association for Asian Studies) Conference from April 5 to April 8, 2006. AAS is CEAL’s parent organization. AAS (founded in 1941) is the largest society of its kind in the world, a scholarly professional association open to all persons interested in Asia. CEAL annual meetings are organized by the several CEAL committees for East Asian librarians to address and discuss East Asia related issues at libraries in North America.

Macy attended various meetings, seminars, shows and discussions which she found informative, interesting and useful.

At the Committee on Technical Processing Meeting, it was mentioned that the Committee sent LC its comments on the addition of dates to existing personal name headings. The Committee also expressed its concerns over issues involving non-roman, particularly CJK scripts, and its interest in seeing more implementations from LC about this topic. Other topics were also discussed at the meeting: CEAL RDA (Resource Description and Access) Review, Update on FRBR (IFLA Study Group on the Functional Requirements for Bibliographic Records), and the LC report to the Committee on Technical Processing. Macy attended other meetings on public services, meetings on Chinese and Japanese materials, a meeting on library technology, etc. Macy was most interested in topics such as copyright issues for Chinese materials used in libraries in the United States and Canada, the implementation of a local library system with CJK functionality, and discussion on cataloging outsourcing issues.

Macy also attended several round table meetings, a forum on Chinese e-resources, and an OCLC CJK users annual meeting. She also had the chance to converse with the publishers and vendors at the AAS exhibits.

**Anne Marie Holland** (Preservation Librarian, Rare Books and Special Collections)

**Marilyn Berger** (Head, Blackader-Lauterman)

ARLIS/NA 34th Annual Conference, held May 5-9, 2006 in Banff, Alberta

Theme: Transcontinental Perspectives

ARLIS/NA is one of the largest professional associations of librarians in North America. This year’s conference presented the “importance of information sharing across both geographic and disciplinary boundaries”. The program emphasized the pervasiveness of electronic resources in Art Libraries and the proliferation of digitization projects, especially in relation to exhibitions, non-book formats and ephemera. It also revealed the interconnectedness of the art libraries and rare book repositories with the visual art communities as well as with other disciplines such as film, theatre, classical studies. Various methodologies for collections development, preservation, description, promotion and access were discussed by all of these communities. Workshops were available for those who needed to further their knowledge in a particular area, such as how to identify book illustration processes in order to sort out rare materials from general collections.

A lesson learned was that network exchange and project collaboration validate work and ensure that results impact the largest community possible. In addition, special collections are often targeted for digitization projects and have become important assets in any library. In fact, the standardization of electronic tools tend to render collections identical on the surface. The distinguishing factor therefore will be the unique special collections institutions and museums possess. It was suggested that the art professional identify the unique collections that their institutions hold and capitalize on these strengths by building exceptional access tools which can also be used as promotional opportunities for the institution.

**Insight into a conference workshop:**

“Art in Books: How to Identify Original Works on Paper”

This excellent workshop, one of the highlights of the conference, was conducted by a very experienced Graphic Arts Librarian from Princeton. The course covered illustration techniques from the beginning of printing (woodcuts) through to photographic processes of the late 19th c. and early 20th c., including the labour intensive technique of photogravure. Four main types of printing techniques were put into perspective historically and visually with reference to specific examples available on site: 1. relief technique (woodcut, wood engraving, linocut); 2. intaglio technique (copper and steel engraving, etching, dry point, aquatint, mezzotint); 3. planographic technique (lithography, chromolithography). 4. Stencil technique (pochoir, silkscreen). Each technique was described in terms of labour, process, and purpose, which helped to create an understanding and appreciation of the value of specific prints due to their production difficulty. In addition, the instructor assisted in explaining bibliographic descriptions for illustrations, which is extremely helpful when acquiring 18th or 19th c. plate books or prints. For instance an “early strike” is characterized by a vibrant and rich print in which the ink has adhered in the grooves of an engraving in the early process of printing a copper plate (unlike later strikes which are less vibrant due to the plate wearing down, even though they are inked to the same degree). Overall the course was valuable for providing a sweeping overview of almost every type of book illustration and print process in existence from the 15th c. to the early 20th c., providing insight into their value as art works and their contribution to book production and to the dissemination of art.

**Conference participation from the McGill University Library**

CONFERENCE TIDBITS CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

Widener Library; Tony White from the Pratt Institute in New York, David Grattan from the Canadian Conservation Institute and Ann Marie Holland from McGill University Library. The goal of the panel was to present solutions for particular challenges in Art and Architecture collections because of their physical formats and their complexity: books may range in date ranging from the 18th century to recent publications, while non-book items typically include a variety of collection types such as slides, prints and photographs.

In order to consider an environmental approach to collections preservation, Ann Marie presented a conference paper entitled, “Climate-Control Renovations: One Floor at a Time”. The paper told the tale of the 2004 renovations that occurred in the Rare Books Division (an expenditure of $2 million). The three preservation objectives of the project were presented, including: climate-control, light source protection and increased storage capacity. The methodology, challenges and achievements of the project were described. This proved to be a helpful case study for participants seeking to improve conditions in a specific location with a similar budget. David Grattan, manager of Conservation Research Services at the Canadian Conservation Institute in Ottawa, outlined the goals of the CCI’s research using examples from their studies on paper permanency and mass deacidification and also the recent work on audiovisual and digital media. Nancy Schrock’s paper was called, “Making Difficult Choices: Preservation Options for Art Library Collections” and examined the ways in which art libraries can evaluate their collections to select the most suitable options for preservation treatment (the paper was read by Amanda Bowen). Tony White, Assistant Professor and Art and Architecture Librarian at Pratt Institute in New York, gave a presentation entitled, “Real vs. Ideal: Challenges and Successes at the Pratt Institute Library.” The paper discussed a recent survey, staff training, environmental controls, dedicated preservation staff versus a committee approach, disaster planning and training, raising library staff awareness and preservation grant writing. A lively question and answer period ended the session.

Sharon Rankin (Coordinator eScholarship@McGill University)

Sharon Rankin, Coordinator eScholarship@McGill attended the annual conference of the American Library Association (ALA). This conference was held in New Orleans, June 24-30 and was attended by over 17,000 librarians and library vendors from North American libraries. Hosting the ALA conference was an important first for the city since Hurricane Katrina. The city was ready and librarians participated in many voluntary relief efforts throughout the conference. Sharon attended a number of LITA committee meetings, chaired the TER Editorial Board Meeting and visited the large exhibit hall with over 1,600 vendor booths. This report highlights two informative meetings, held as part of the ALA Conference Program.

At the Text Creation Partnership Meeting (www.lib.umich.edu/tcp/) Mark Sandler from the University of Michigan, welcomed the attendees and provided a brief update on text production. Over 500 new texts are transcribed and added each month. There are now 12,500 accurately keyed and fully searchable SGML/XML text editions from the databases Early English Books Online, Evans Early American Imprints and Eighteenth Century Collections Online. The work to date has brought the projects half way to their goal. Jeff Garrett, from Northwestern University, described the Virtual Modernization project, software in development to retrieve all of the variant spellings of a term throughout the old English texts. This software will enable researchers to ensure that all variant spellings have been found and used in their analysis. The software will be made available in the open source world in January 2008. The TCP is hosting a conference September 15-16, 2006 to discuss issues of how TCP is used in scholarship, research, and teaching. It is open to all who have an interest including librarians, professors, publishers, vendors, non-profits, students (undergraduate and graduate). For more information visit the conference website www.lib.umich.edu/tcp/conference.

To celebrate the 40th anniversary of LITA, the President Program invited Cathy de Rosa, Vice President, Marketing & Library Services at OCLC and John B. Horrigan, Associate Director for Research at the Pew Internet & American Life Project to discuss: Internet Culture: what do we know about user behavior?

Cathy provided highlights of the latest OCLC research report: Perceptions of Libraries and Information Resources (www.oclc.org/reports/2005perceptions.htm), based upon the answers to 280 questions, posed to international information users. This report attempts to detail what users are doing and what has changed in their behaviour. 84% of the respondents said they start their search for answers on the Internet, 62% still linked to books, and in general users are self servers, self publishers, smart “experts” and social sharers. 86% use personal knowledge and common sense to judge the quality of the information they receive from their Internet searches. Total number of reference transactions continues to decline.

John provided a high level assessment of the American public’s use of the Internet. 71% of the adults in urban areas are Internet users and 42% have high speed at home. The change in the connection speed has radically changed the public’s use of the Internet. Over the past 6 years, the following user trends have been observed: the Internet reduces uncertainty in their lives, government websites have more positive interactions, the Internet helps people make decisions, the Internet has increased voter participation, and people are better informed about political issues. 48 million users have created or posted content, 18% reuse content and Internet users have multiple roles – social networker, citizen and friends & family.
CONFERENCE TIDBITS CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

Adam Gacek (Head, Islamic Studies Library, and Digital Collections Program)

9th International Symposium on Electronic Theses and Dissertations, held June 7-10, 2006

Adam Gacek attended a three-day international conference on Electronic Theses and Dissertations (ETDs) in Quebec City in his capacity as Acting Head of Digital Collections Program (DCP). He found the ETD conference very informative and useful, particularly in view of the fact that McGill is about to offer to its students the possibility of submitting their theses and dissertations in electronic format and that we in the Library have initiated eScholarship as our Institutional Repository (IR).

Among the themes discussed were: copyright and public domain, Open Access, OSS (Open Source Software), NDLTD (Networked Digital Library of Theses and Dissertations), OAI (Open Archives Initiative), archiving and preservation (e.g. LOCKSS – “lots of copies keep stuff safe”), ETD metadata standards (ETD-ms), and Institutional Repositories (IR).

The key speakers included: John Hagen (West Virginia University, Electronic Institutional Document Repository); Edward Fox (Virginia Tech Digital Library, Chair of NDLTD); Gail McMillan (Virginia Tech Digital Library); Sharon Reeves (LAC/Theses Canada); Peter Suber (Open Access News); Art Rhyno (Univ. of Windsor, Open Source Systems); Marcus Bornfreund (Co-director, Creative Commons, Canada); and Mark Jordan (CARL Institutional Repository Project).

There is a great variety of approaches and practices re ETDs and Institutional Repositories around the world but not enough coordination. Canada was well-represented. However, it appears that only some 6 Canadian universities (Laval, Manitoba, Laval, Waterloo, Victoria, and Saskatchewan) have either optional or mandatory eTheses submissions, while other universities are either considering electronic submissions or are about to launch pilot projects. Université Laval’s Archimède 2.0 software is an interesting Canadian development for IR. A lot of work on eTheses and IR in the US is being done by West Virginia University.

NDLTD is a very important resource and organization and we should seriously consider applying for membership. We should also consider submitting eTheses directly to Theses Canada. It was interesting to note that some North American libraries do not keep paper copies of their theses at all, while others rely on microfiche (usually supplied through ProQuest/UMI) for preservation, and yet others address the preservation issue by applying the principle of LOCKSS (“lots of copies keep stuff safe”). On the other hand, many European institutions placed quite a lot of emphasis on the issue of electronic formats (such as XML) for preservation.

A number of institutions (e.g. Florida State University, West Virginia University) use DigiTool, the system selected for McGill, to manage their repositories. There was some criticism of D-Space software (as an alternative to DigiTool), although others pointed out that the latest version is much better. Among the more interesting European ventures is the Uppsala University’s DiVA (Academic Archive Online), the German Kopal (Cooperative Development of a Long-term Digital Information Archive), and the British DART (Digital Access to Research Theses).


Adam says, “It was great to meet so many people from all over the world and learn about their digitization projects and activities.”

Tatiana Bedjanian (Liaison Librarian, Humanities & Social Sciences)
Juanita Jara de Sumar (Liaison Librarian, Humanities & Social Sciences)
Brian McMillan (Liaison Librarian, Marvin Duchow Music)
Karen Nicholson (Liaison Librarian, Humanities & Social Sciences)

Assessment and Evaluation of Learning in Library Instruction: training workshop, held June 16, 2006 in Montreal, organized by the Library Instruction Working Group- CREPUQ

Workshop Objectives:
1. To explore a competency-based approach to assessment and evaluation in library instruction.
2. To design an evaluation tool to assess the development of competencies in library instruction.

One of the first activities of the day was to work with a librarian from another institution to reflect on the following questions: Why evaluate? What to evaluate? When to evaluate? How to evaluate? After the pair exercise, we discussed these questions with the entire group and there was a brief lecture.

In the afternoon, we looked at the ACRL Information Literacy Competency Standards. Again we worked in pairs to develop an assessment tool to measure performance for a specific standard or a performance indicator and explained how it would work.

For the last part of the day, we looked at samples from different institutions for evaluating the quality of teaching and the satisfaction level of participants.

Overall, we found this to be a very enriching experience. We enjoyed very much the interactivity of the workshop and the opportunity to work with different partners.
OPENING THE EYE OF THE DRAGON

by Louisa Piatti (Nahum Gelber Law), Debra Yee (Government Information), and Anne McMahon (Macdonald) - Interview

answers are from Debra Yee

Saturday afternoon and the living is easy — a quiet stroll through Jean-Drapeau Park and one hears the beat of drums. Intrigued, I follow the sound past the Biosphere and over the Grand Prix track....I see many people scurrying about, some sheltering from the sun, some sitting on bleachers. What is going on? I hear words like ‘six pack’, ‘engine room’, ‘stroke rate’ and ‘high catch’, or was that ‘Eye Catch’? I hear two people discussing something that is made of wood and carbon and costs about $200, a top of the line model that is described as “sweet”.

Then I look towards the furthest end of the Olympic basin and see six boats heading towards the finish line.

A few more seconds and it all becomes clear. This is the 11th annual Montreal International Dragon Boat Race Festival. www.montrealdragonboat.com/english/events.php. This competition, which brings together teams from around the world, is the second largest after the one in China. Many people are aware of the dragon boats with regard to the teams made up of breast cancer survivors, but it is much more than that. There are recreational teams, corporate teams, elite teams, women’s teams, men’s teams, mixed team—the possibilities are endless.

First you must awaken the eye of the dragon. What is the tradition behind these dragon boat races?

The ancient Chinese sport of Dragon Boat Racing commemorates the life and death of Qu Yuan. Qu Yuan lived thousands of years ago in the 3rd century B.C. and was a minister who advocated for reforms in his home state of Chu. The King refused to listen to Qu Yuan’s advice and banished him from the state. In exile, Qu Yuan wrote poetry expressing his concern for his country and people.

In 278, when Qu Yuan heard that his home had been invaded, he drowned himself in the Mi Lo River. Local fishermen rushed out in boats attempting to save Qu Yuan and prevent his body from being eaten by fish. The fishermen beat drums, thrashed the water with paddles and threw rice dumplings known as zung-ze in the river to lure the fish away from the minister’s body and to appease the water dragons. Since that time, dragon boats are raced on rivers in China and people throw zung-ze into the river to honor the memory of Qu Yuan. At the festival launch ceremony, a colorful dragon’s head and tail were attached to the slender racing boat.

For information about the tradition and ceremony surrounding the dragon boat, see www.sdba.org.sg/legend.htm.

What is involved in the dragon boat racing?

Dragon boat racing involves 20 paddlers, 1 steer or coach and a drummer.

What is it that attracts people to row these boats, create team spirit and join in competitions?

I know, I started because my friend Anne McMahon, was involved and when she would describe what she had been doing on her summer weekends, I was intrigued. My first paddling experience started when Anne convinced me to join her at a weekend paddling workshop given by her coach Melissa Mihalovic at the 22Dragons site on the Lachine canal last year in May. After that I was hooked.

Do you think you have what it takes to become a paddler?

I think everyone has the ability to become a paddler, there are so many teams now that cater to whatever you want, some are more recreational, and some more competitive. Heck, before last year, I think I paddled a canoe in Algonquin and hated it, due to the bugs mostly. But here I am a year later on the Lachine canal at least twice a week, paddling my heart out. It’s a mystery to me but I love it.

Check out the web site at www.22dragons.com/home.php or talk to Debra Yee or Anne McMahon who will be glad to fill you in. Don’t forget to ask about the Montreal DBC Senior Women’s Team who won Silver in Division C at this year’s Montreal festival. Another good website is www.dragon-boats.com/dbnet/index.html.

And that item worth $200? A dragon boater’s dream—a specially designed wooden paddle constructed with a carbon shaft. Just ask any paddler.

To see more dragon boats, come down to the Olympic basin for the Quebec Cup, September 23 - 24.

Or if you think this is something that interests you and you would like to join an all women’s team, Team Eye Catch, are still recruiting paddlers, check out their website, eyecatch.homelinux.com/page_ouverture2/page_ouverture2.htm, and contact Caroline at team.eye.catch@gmail.com.
PHOTO GALLERY BY KATHLEEN VANDERNOOT (NAHUM GELBER LAW)

How quickly can you find what is so unusual about this paragraph? It looks so ordinary that you would think nothing was wrong with it at all and, in fact, nothing is. But it is unusual. Why? If you study it and think about it you may find out, but I am not going to assist you in any way... you must do it without coaching. No doubt, if you work at it for long it will dawn on you... who knows? Go to work now and try your skill. Par is about half an hour.

COMING ATTRACTIONS

- Tuesdays: August 29, September 5, 12, 19 — 10:00 a.m to 2:00 p.m. — Donations for the McGill Book Fair — Book donations of all kinds accepted at the terrace entrance to Redpath Hall (via main campus entrance). The McGill Book Fair will take place on October 25 and 26, 2006.
- Wednesday, August 30 — ‘Discover McGill’ - University and Faculty orientation. See www.firstyear.mcgill.ca/discover/ for more information.
- Friday, September 8 — International Literacy Day

For more McGill events, consult: www.mcgill.ca/calendar/