Library Matters @ McGill

Interior of Osler Library of the History of Medicine

FROM THE TRENHOLME DIRECTOR OF LIBRARIES

JANINE SCHMIDT, TRENHOLME DIRECTOR OF LIBRARIES

The Annual General Meeting of CRL (Center for Research Libraries), of which McGill is a member, was held last week. McGill participates in a number of CRL programs: the Interlibrary Loan Service obtains materials from CRL for scholars, and we also take part in CRL digitization projects. The meeting's major agenda topic focused on the need for preservation of access to digital records and the costs and benefits of preservation. CRL has developed certification guidelines on this highly significant issue. Organizations like Portico (of which McGill is a member) and LOCKSS (Lots of Copies Keep Stuff Safe) and initiatives of national libraries are all helping but more needs to be done. Paul Courant, University Librarian and Dean of Libraries at the University of Michigan,

talked about the high costs of having and keeping digital content and of the need for sustainable business models. He talked about the need for librarians to continue their roles of collecting and preserving content to ensure knowledge growth. He also noted the value added to the use of the library - "face to face service has very high bandwidth."

Benn Williams, a Ph.D. candidate in the Department of History at the University of Illinois at Chicago, also spoke at the AGM about his research exploring the practice of "denunciation"("*la délation*") in French society following World War II. CRL holdings proved vital to his research, with French language newspapers and archival sources which had been diffi-

FROM THE DIRECTOR CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

cult to obtain elsewhere available from CRL (**www.crl.edu**).

An extremely successful Friends of the Library function was held last week with Eleanor Wachtel who took as her topic, "The Lives of Writers." Thanks to all who made the evening so successful. Friends of the Library President, Janet Blachford, welcomed all our wonderful friends. We benefit enormously from our friends and donors, and as we go forward into the Capital Campaign we look forward to furthering these relationships.

Our new library bags have arrived—

Eleanor Wachtel signs autographs after presenting "The Lives of Writers" to a full house at Moyse Hall

they have a clip fold-over this time and also bear the campaign slogan, *History in the making, Inventer l'avenir*. Our campaign goals are both exciting and ambitious, and we shall all be working very intensively together over the next few years to meet them.

Many staff will be attending conferences over the next few weeks. We shall all gain new knowledge and skills as a result—and new ideas for activities at McGill which will enrich the experiences of all our users. Thank you to all who are ensuring that this challenging time for our students doing examinations is passing as well as can be expected.

Library Matters @ McGill

The Library Matters @ McGill newsletter, brought to you by the *you-never-heard-it-from-us* editors, seeks to exchange and encourage ideas, innovations and information from McGill Library staff at all levels.

The newsletter is published monthly. The latest issue, as well as an archive of past issues, can be found at www.mcgill.ca/library-about/pubs/newsletter/.

We welcome your contributions. The deadline for submissions is the first day of the issue month. Send your input to the you-never-heard-it-from-us editorial team:

Louisa Piatti, louisa.piatti@mcgill.ca
Emma Buckley, emma.buckley@mcgill.ca
April Colosimo, april.colosimo@mcgill.ca
Rebecca Nicholson, rebecca.nicholson@mcgill.ca

WHAT'S NEW

FOND FAREWELLS TO ANASTASSIA KHOURI AND PAT RIVA

Anastassia Khouri will retire from the Library after twenty-four years of dedicated, invaluable service. Anastassia, who is currently on vacation, has left her imprint across the Library and beyond, through the numerous excellent teaching, learning and research experiences she facilitated for students and faculty. We thank Anastassia for her outstanding contributions and wish her a healthy and happy retirement.

Last year **Pat Riva** (Cataloguing Librarian/Database Spec., Collection Services) took a leave of absence to work at the Bibliothèque et Archives nationales du Québec (BAnQ). Pat has decided to stay on at the BAnQ and she will be leaving McGill. We wish Pat every success at the BAnQ!

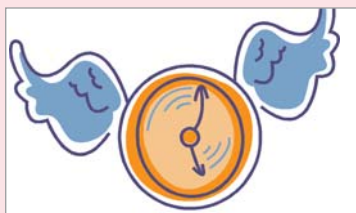### STAFFING CHANGES AT LIFE SCIENCES LIBRARY

The Life Sciences Library has undergone some recent staffing changes, following several recommendations made by the Life Sciences Library Technical Review Task Force. These include:

• the transfer of **Laura Kobayashi** to the Lending Services team at the Life Sciences Library;

• **Anna Del Balso** to Collection Services to perform Cataloguing and Acquisitions duties, and

• **Benedetta Del Balso** to Collection

Services to perform Serials duties.

The Library thanks all staff for their contributions to the Life Sciences Library, and for their participation and input which played a major role in the success of the Review.

Congratulations to **Anna Di Pietro**, who will assume a new position as Assistant to Carole Urbain, Associate Director, Client Services, Humanities, Law, Management and Social Sciences on May 1, 2008. Thank you Anna for your many contributions to the Life Sciences Library over the years!

"I never think of the future. It comes soon enough."

– Albert Einstein

CANADIANA.ORG: THE MERGER OF ALOUETTECANADA AND CIHM

BY GENEVIEVE GORE (ESCHOLARSHIP COORDINATOR)

"Now, as an alliance and coordinating body, Canadiana.org is better positioned as a facilitating vehicle to steer the development of a national digitization strategy, facilitate access to a growing number of open source metadata toolkits and standards, and help coordinate the development of an infrastructure of vital Trusted Digital Repositories for the preservation of Canadian digital content."
www.canadiana.org/pdf/en/bulletin_200804.pdf

We live in a time of great flux, and the organizations steering us through these times are also constantly evolving. AlouetteCanada, a recent and significant heritage presence on the Canadian digital landscape, is one such organization. Janine Schmidt, Trenholme Director of Libraries, was a member of the AlouetteCanada Steering Committee which was chaired by Carole Moore of the University of Toronto. The future governance, structure and activities of the new over-arching body are still being developed.

Launched in 2006, AlouetteCanada was subsumed into Canadiana.org in April 2008. The Co-Executive Directors of this new entity are Magdalene Albert, former Executive Director of Canadian Institute of Historical Microreproductions (CIHM) and Brian Bell, former Director of AlouetteCanada. However, the websites of these two initiatives continue, if at least for the time being, to co-exist.

On March 20, 2008, Brian Bell, then-Executive Director of AlouetteCanada, came to McGill to spread the word about the power of aggregation. It is no secret to librarians that uncovering digital collections, often stored in disparate silos across a variety of institutions, is no small feat. AlouetteCanada aims to pull this content together by harvesting the metadata of Canadian digital collections to make it more discoverable. Harvesting our metadata would mean pointing users back to the digital collections at McGill, which, as a result of our participation, would be easier to find. The goal is to create "one master index that can be sliced and diced" according to the needs of institutions. One claimed benefit is that the more records Alouette-Canada contains, the better the chance the records will be highly ranked in Google, which would in turn increase the visibility of our own collections.

Another benefit is the ease with which we could create provincial or local portals, such as OurOntario.ca or The West Beyond the West in British Columbia.

Finally, an initiative of this kind promotes the use of digitization standards in participating institutions, thus developing a culture of sharing and learning through others' experiences.

The roots of Canadiana.org took hold in 1978 with the creation of CIHM. The April 2008 bulletin of the newly merged effort of AlouetteCanada and CIHM sought to reassure members that they will continue to scan Early Canadian Periodicals to 1920 at a rate of 250,000 pages per year.

For more information, take a tour of the websites:

♦ **www.alouettecanada.ca**
♦ **www.canadiana.org.**

DID YOU KNOW?

BY HEATHER CAI (INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SERVICES LIBRARIAN)

I was recently asked by a staff member if it is possible to create a persistent link to the results of a search in a sub-catalogue of the McGill Library Catalogue. The answer is yes.

Here is an example of a link that retrieves a Catalogue listing of all eBooks available in biochemistry:

http://catalogue.mcgill.ca/F/?func=find-a&find_code= WSU&request=biochemistry&local_base=EBOOKS

If you want to create a persistent link to another subject in another sub-catalogue, you can follow the same formula and substitute "biochemistry" with that subject and "EBOOKS" with the correct code for that sub-catalogue.

How do I find the correct code? A quick way is to go to the sub-catalogues page and pass your cursor over the sub-catalogue link. For example, over the "eJournals" link you will see something similar to this at the bottom of your screen:

http://catalogue.mcgill.ca/F/PTTA5VNQLVK2FT74CIM8KR9Y5SIXTV9JGY VH58NQJPXXV138Y3-20120?&local_base=EJOURNALS

Whatever immediately follows "local_base=" is the code for that sub-catalogue, in this case "EJOURNALS". Note that the codes are not case sensitive.

There is a tool called Link Builder that could also do this job for you and create links into the Catalogue. Access Link Builder at **http://www.library.mcgill.ca/lso/opaclinks/linkbuilder.html.**

CONFERENCE TIDBITS

VIRTUAL WORLDS:
LIBRARIES, EDUCATION, MUSEUMS
BY RAJIV JOHAL (LIAISON LIBRARIAN, HOWARD ROSS LIBRARY OF MANAGEMENT)

The *Virtual Worlds: Libraries, Education, Museums* conference took place in Second Life on March 8, 2008, at the New Media Consortium (NMC) Conference Centre. There were approximately 70 participants and the presentations were nothing less than exciting and a great experience for both the audience and

The Sistine Chapel recreated in Second Life

presenters.

The keynote address reflected that the first Second Life library services appeared in 2006, and today info-island is a success for all those seeking assistance in the virtual world. In 2007 alone, 6769 avatars were served. They asked 1921 SL directional questions, 2292 SL reference questions and 186 real life directional questions. With the explosive growth of Second Life in 2008, virtual information services are definitely a necessity for this world.

The virtual conference felt very much like a real one. It was well planned by

the organizers with everything running smoothly and efficiently. One has the opportunity to interact with colleagues from all over the world and share stories and knowledge regarding Second Life. Best of all, costs are minimal and everyone is welcome!

There were over 30 presentations to choose from for the one day conference. Sessions included tours of ancient civilizations and current landmarks, museum exhibits, virtual library services, immersive learning and education resources all set in the virtual landscape. Dr. Susan Hazan, curator of New Media and Head of the Internet Office at the Israel Museum, Jerusalem showed that libraries are not the only ones making a mark in Second Life. Pay a visit to a museum in the virtual world at **www.musesphere.com/Secondlife/index.html** and experience the world's treasures from the comfort of your own home.

One of the most memorable sessions was with Namro Orman who demonstrated that Second Life Libraries need to incorporate 2.0 initiatives into virtual worlds in order to remove barriers be-

tween the web and second life interfaces. There are various 2.0 tools available in Second Life which people might not be aware of—2.0 tools such as bloghud.com, which lets a person blog in Second Life or Sloog.org a social bookmarking tool for SL residents. In terms of library research, one can use PubMed within Second Life at the Medical Library on Health Info-Island.

For more information on this and on other presentations at the Second Life conference, please visit: **www.alliancelibraries.info/virtualworlds/index.html**

VISUAL RESOURCES ASSOCIATION
BY ADAM LAUDER (LIAISON LIBRARIAN, HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES LIBRARY)

I attended the *26th annual conference of the Visual Resources Association (VRA)* in San Diego, California from March 12 to March 13, 2008. The VRA is a professional organization and standards body dedicated to research, education and best practices in image management. It has an international membership of approximately 500. Conference attendance totaled almost 300 delegates this year.

As Secretary of VRA Canada my duties include management of the Chapter's listserv, which I established in January, 2008. Founded earlier this year, VRA Canada is the first international regional chapter of the parent organization. I also serve as Chair of the Intellectual Property Rights Working Group of VRA Canada, which is currently collaborating with its American

CONFERENCE TIDBITS CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

counterpart on a variety of projects.

At this year's conference I co-chaired a session devoted to social classification, *Free Association,* in which I also participated as a speaker. Speakers assessed a range of social tagging tools developed by both academic and heritage institutions and explored the social classification behaviours of diverse user groups. Billy Kwan presented the Metropolitan Museum of Art's local implementation of Steve.Museum, a para-institutional tagging initiative that has undertaken a controlled study of both expert and non-expert tagging behaviours. Laurie Allen, principal engineer of the University of Pennsylvania's PennTags

project, reviewed the evolving role of bookmarking utilities in the academic environment. Margaret Kipp, a doctoral candidate at the University of Western Ontario's Faculty of Information and Media Studies and a lecturer at Long Island University, presented her research findings on the function of time- and task-related tags in academic social bookmarking tools such as CiteULike.

In my presentation, "Navigating in Flatland: mapping relations/making relationships", I evaluated the social tagging utility developed by the Working Group of the Fine Art Digital Imaging System (FADIS), of which I was formerly a member. This tool allows users at universities across Canada to create and share personal descriptors of images

in a communal repository environment. In particular, I discussed the value of social classification as an access point for visual arts students who may be employing what Margaret Graham has dubbed "fuzzy criteria" to "browse for inspiration"***, as well as for users whose terminology may diverge from the professional discourse of art history that has traditionally informed taxonomies for the description of cultural objects.

An international perspective on the evolving role of visual resources in the teaching and learning behaviours of faculty and students is what I bring back from the VRA conference.

*Graham, M.E. (2004). *Enhancing visual resources for searching and retrieval—is content-based image retrieval a solution?* Literary and Linguistic Computing. 19(3), 321-333

STAYING CONNECTED AFTER GRADUATION
NEW REMOTE ACCESS FOR ALUMNI INTRODUCED

BY THE YOU-NEVER-HEARD-IT-FROM-US EDITORS

In April, the Library launched a new service that provides McGill alumni with off-campus access to a range of e-resources free-of-charge. Over the past several months, the Library has negotiated remote access for alumni to many of our online databases, including access to images, music, article indexes, biographies, books, journals, statistics, magazines, newspapers, plays and standards.

McGill graduates can register with Alumnilife, McGill's Alumni Online Community at **www.alumni.mcgill.ca/**, and receive a McGill Email for Life (ELF) mailbox and a password. Alumni may then visit the Library's support for Alumni e-resources webpage **www.mcgill.ca/library-support/alumni/ere-sources/**, click on a database name and sign in to the Web VPN service using their ELF address—usually

firstname.lastname@mail.mcgill.ca—and password. Voilà! They are instantly connected.

"Many alumni have fond memories of the library but tend to assume that these experiences end at graduation," explained Trenholme Director of Libraries, Janine Schmidt. "We want to convey to alumni that they can still drop in and read a book, access some of our e-resources from home, or chat live with our librarians seven days a week."
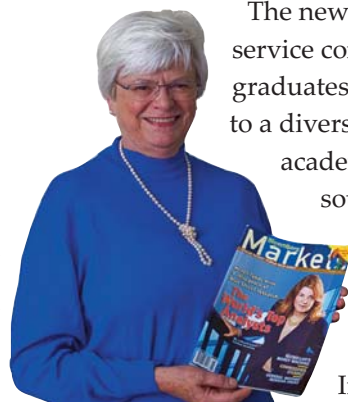
The new online service connects graduates of McGill to a diverse range of academic e-resources.

These include Art Museum Image

Eleanor Hynes (Dip. Man'79, MBA'82)

Gallery, with 155 000 images of art from museums across the world; Commonwealth Universities Online Database (CUDOS), providing detailed information on 700 universities worldwide; almost 10 000 musical compositions cutting across genres and eras in DRAM: Database of Recorded American Music; Epocrates Online, containing up-to-date information on over 3 300 drugs and alternative medicines; over 1 350 electronic books in economics, finance, philosophy, politics and religion from the Oxford Scholarship Online collection; the Wilson article indexes and their concomitant full-text articles; and Chinese texts from the Pre-Han (pre-220 AD) period up to the Six Dynasties (581 AD) in CHANT.

More information about the service and a complete list of the resources available to alumni from off campus may be found on the Library's website at **www.mcgill.ca/library-support/alumni/.**

COMING ATTRACTIONS

PLAY BALL!

BY DIANA DUTZ

(LIBRARY LEADER, FACULTY OF MUSIC)

As the snow finally melts away, many of us begin to emerge from our weather-beaten hibernation, longing for some fun in the sun. What better way, then, to erase the memory of the long, cold, snowy winter than with a brand new season of softball!

Organized entirely through the hard work of volunteer staff members, and owing to the eager participation of McGill employees and students from all over campus, the McGill Staff Softball League offers us a chance to get to know each other better outside of work. However, let's get real. Clearly, the jewels of this league are the teams represented by Library Staff: the Library Leaders and, a brand new franchise just last year, the Library Laggers.

What's that you say? You're interested in playing ball on one of the Library staff teams, but you don't know how to play/have never played/wouldn't know a ball from a bat if either came up and introduced itself? No worries! We're all about good times, good company and a couple of fermented malt beverages to take the edge off. Winning, of course, is the desired outcome, so on-site training and support are present at each and every game. We also have an incentive program to help improve your game, such as the ever popular "strike out at bat, buy the team a pitcher" strategy. *Vee haf vays uff making you play.*

With team spirit, good sportsmanship and a competitive sparkle as the hallmarks of the Library teams, we invite you to join in on the action!

The season runs from mid-May until mid-August, with each team playing about one game per week (Monday through Thursday), starting at 5:30 p.m. on the Reservoir (between Pine and Dr. Penfield, above McTavish St.).

Contact Maggie Allen (Library Technology Services) at **margaret.allen@mcgill.ca** and she'll get you onto a roster. *LI-BRAR-Y! Go, team, GO!!!*

SOFTBALL TRIVIA

When you sign up to play with one of the Library teams, send us your answers to the following softball trivia questions. The first new recruit with the most correct answers will win a prize, to be awarded at the Season Opener (We told you we have incentive programs!)

1. George Hancock (no relation to John) created the game of softball. What was the game first called?

a) Soft baseball

b) Girlyball

c) Indoor baseball

d) Underhanded baseball

2. Where was the first softball game played?

a) In a schoolyard

b) On a reservoir

c) At the local Boys and Girls Club

d) In a gym

3. Which of the following names was NOT used in reference to softball?
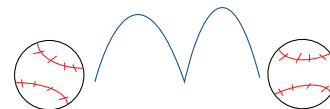
a) Kitten ball

b) House ball

c) Mush ball

d) Diamond ball

4. Where was the longest softball game played (according to the *Guinness Book of World Records)*?

a) Chicago, Illinois

b) Osaka, Japan

c) Dollard-des-Ormeaux, Québec

d) Helsinki, Finland

5. Co-ed softball officially started in what year?

a) 1959

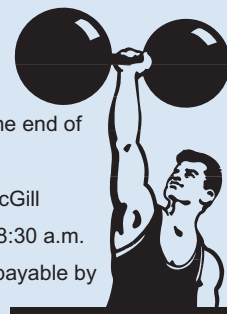b) 1976

c) 1912

d) 1964

STAFF FITNESS SPRING SESSION

Registration for the **Staff Fitness program** begins the week of April 14, 2008. Classes start the week of May 5, 2008, and continue for six weeks.

Those enrolling in classes being held on Mondays and Wednesdays should register on April 14 or 16, while participants registering for classes taking place on Tuesdays and Thursdays should sign up on April 15 or 17. Requests to take additional courses will be reviewed, space permitted, at the end of the first week of classes.

Registration will take place in the Client Services Office (G-20C) of the McGill Sports Complex located at 475 Pine Avenue, Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. A valid McGill staff identification card and the $15 course fee (payable by cash, cheque, or credit card) are required at the point of registration.

DON'T FORGET...

to visit the Library's current exhibition, *Montrealers on the Nile*, before it wraps up at the end of this month.

www.mcgill.ca/library-about/events/