The Wikipedia continues to be controversial. Some librarians hate it; others love it; and most of our clients use it, add to it, and find it a useful starting point for their research. Look-alikes continue to abound, Citzendium, Knol and even Encyclopedia Britannica which is inviting input and comment to its articles. William Badke writing earlier this year in Online said

It’s used not only by the great unwashed but also by many educated people as well. ONLINE reported on the Pew Internet & American Life Project’s findings that 36% of the American population regularly consult Wikipedia (July/August 2007, p. 6).

www.infotoday.com/online/mar08/Badke.shtml

Stephen Colbert has coined the term “wikiality” to refer to the concept that if enough people support a wikipedian statement it becomes true! It would be interesting to know how many of our students do indeed begin their research with the Wikipedia. What we want to ensure is that students move beyond it to use the valued scholarly literature we make available to all our clients.

The difficult current financial times are impressing on all of us the need for accountability – for those who work on Wall Street, for those who work in Ottawa and for all of us at McGill. We are funded primarily by
provincial and federal government funding; by student fees; and by significant and highly-valued donor support. Following discussion at a recent Senate meeting on a policy on individual conflict of interest, the Principal reminded us of our accountability. Principal Munroe-Blum, in her closing comments to the discussion, thanked Senate for its input and underlined the need for a policy on this subject. The University’s sponsors, such as government, view the McGill staff as being the University’s employees 24/7, which creates potential liability for McGill. If McGill cannot convince the government that the University can govern itself well and act in an accountable manner, the government will step in and manage the University for us. The policies under consideration can be discussed and improved in order to find the right middle ground, but we need to be proactive in this area in order to defend ourselves against government intrusion. (Taken from the useful summary of Senate proceedings of September 17th provided by the Librarian representatives on Senate, Marc Richard, John Hobbins and Johanne Hebert).

We continue to provide information services and real and virtual collections to support the needs of our students and faculty – and we must do so in a transparent and accountable way.

HIGHER DENSITY RECORDING IS AN ATTRACTIVE ATTRIBUTE FOR FUTURE DIGITAL MEDIA. HOLOGRAPHY TECHNOLOGY RECORDS AND READS OVER A MILLION BITS OF DATA WITH A FLASH OF LIGHT. INPHASE TECHNOLOGIES’ TAPESTRY™ 300R HOLOGRAPHIC STORAGE PRODUCT RECORDS DATA IN A PARALLEL MANNER UNLIKE MAGNETIC (HARD DISK) AND OPTICAL (CD/DVD) MEDIA WHICH IS RECORDED LINEARLY. GREATER TRANSFER RATES AND HIGHER CAPACITY MEDIA ARE ACHIEVABLE WITH HOLOGRAPHY. WITH AN ESTIMATED ARCHIVAL LIFE OF 50 YEARS, CURRENT MEDIA HOLDS 300 GIGABYTES AND WILL SCALE TO 1.6 TERABYTES IN THE FUTURE.

For recording data, a single laser is split into two parts which includes a reference and data beam. On the recording medium, these two beams intersect to form the hologram. For reading data, the reference beam bounces off the hologram which is subsequently projected against the detector.

More information can be found at Inphase Technologies (http://www.inphatechnologies.com).
The academic year has begun in its usual tumultuous fashion. Everyone has been extremely busy with Orientation activities. Between August 22 and 29 over 40 staff members took the opportunity to promote the Library’s services to new McGill students at the Student ID Centre. Staff welcomed students and answered a range of questions, showing them ‘their’ branch library and encouraging them to attend the tours and workshops being offered by the Library. There were around 2,000 library bags and over 2,000 brochures handed out. Thank you to the Orientation Team and to all staff members who volunteered for work in the Student ID Centre and the Street Fair. Thank you also to all who are participating in presenting sessions, conducting tours and being generally welcoming to all our new students and faculty. The Library participated in sessions for new faculty, for the floor fellows in the Residences, for graduate students, for specialist groups like the Sauvé scholars, for Faculty related sessions, and international students, among others.

The Meet the Stars event held at the entrance to the Humanities and Social Sciences Library on September 10 was well-received. The Principal, Provost and Trenholme Director of Libraries, as well as the stars of our Orientation posters, Stephanie Nahas and Abhishek Agarwal, looked very fetching in their new starry glasses. Student Navigators and staff handed out Orientation brochures and library bags, and free pizza which proved to be a big hit!

Amy Buckland represented the Library at a poster presentation at the Second Life Education Conference about the Orientation Centre on Saturday, September 6. She spoke to 13 avatars about McGill Library after being logged in for just 25 minutes.
BROCHURES GO FORWARD

Many new brochures have been prepared and are available in most branch libraries. The brochures for new faculty and for new graduate students have been updated. Several staff have been involved, but a big thank you to Annie Murray and Sara Holder in particular. There are now three brochures available in the series - Becoming connected: services for Faculty; Getting connected: services for Graduate Students and Stay connected: services for alumni. Many branch library brochures have also been updated and a general Thank you one has been produced which is being sent out to all our donors.

The Library has enormous support from our friends and donors, who include alumni and parents, and thousands of personally signed thank you letters are sent out each year. All the Library’s brochures are available at www.mcgill.ca/library-about/pubs/. Thank you to Andrew Collier who has put them up for us all. Copies for each library are available from Jessica Hunt in the Director’s office.

COLLECTIONS NEWS

Over the summer, many of our staff have been working hard on eliminating cataloguing backlogs, with the help of students who have been vital workers for us. Thank you to all who developed new procedures and trained and organized the various activities. Significant inroads have been made into the reduction of our back-logs in Cutter, Law, Osler, audiovisual materials and items from our Rare Books and Special Collections.

Much work has gone on over the summer "emptying the Currie gym". Materials had been stored there under very poor conditions and the space is also required for alternative uses. This project has been undertaken over two years and work will continue. Some of the material has been repatriated to branch libraries e.g. Macdonald Campus Library, the Osler Library for the History of Medicine, the Howard Ross Library of Management and the Education Library and Curriculum Resources Centre; some material has been sent to CISTI (Canada Institute for Scientific and Technical Information); some duplicates of online materials discarded; and much of the collection is being re-housed in the Library’s store on level 1 of the Redpath Library Building, where it can be retrieved by users for themselves. Work is still being undertaken on the best arrangement of the material and on the alteration of the records. Many people have been involved - thanks to all for a job well done.

FACILITIES AND SPACE NEWS

Facilities work on the lobbies in the Humanities and Social Sciences Library, the upper floor of the Schulich Library of Science and Engineering and the Howard Ross Library of Management is almost complete. The work in Schulich was funded by a donation from Mr Schulich. The work elsewhere has been funded by funds from the SSMU - a very big thank you to our students - and from the Library’s operating funds. Further work is to be done on the lighting and on signage. We continue to experience difficulties with organizing appropriate signage. Hopefully we shall have some permanent arrangements in place for most branch libraries before the end of the year. The Library has gone to tender for compact shelving which will be installed initially on level 5 of the Humanities and Social Sciences Library to assist in resolving space issues. It will not be installed until next summer as it is a major project involving the movement of many thousands of printed items.

There is still much work to be done in facilities that we can do more “quietly” and that will continue over the next few months.

The Interlibrary Loans team will move from the entry floor of the McLennan Library Building to their new home in Collection Services on the first floor of the Redpath Library Building. Discussions are yet to be held concerning the use of the space which will be vacated.

LIBRARY MATTERS TEAM

There have been a number of changes to the you-never-heard-it-from-us editorial team. Rebecca Nicholson has stepped aside to allow someone else to join the team. Rebecca has been a valued member of the team since the first issue of the Newsletter. April Colosimo has also decided to hang up her pen for the time being. This has left room for both Joel Nathanblut and Cathy Martin to join. Thanks to Louisa Piatti who will continue her excellent work and to Jess Hunt who has also recently come on board.

“Well, I must admit, not many people know that.”

– Michael Caine
CATALOGUE WORK

A great addition to the catalogue has been the link to the location of items. The work done in preparation of the floor plans and links has been significant and is making it easier for our users to find materials. The same plans will be used to produce new layout panels to be used as guides in the Humanities and Social Sciences Library, the branch library for which the new approach has been implemented. Links to locations in the other branch libraries will be prepared over the coming year.

STUDENT NAVIGATORS

Most of our student workers are now called Student Navigators and a new program for both their work and training has been introduced. Again, many have been involved, and thank you to all who have given unstintingly of their time in making this activity so successful. Student Navigators will be roving the various branch libraries assisting students with finding materials and ensuring they contact our professional expert staff for more detailed help.

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN NEWS

A Library Advancement Committee has been formed to assist with the capital campaign. The Library is seeking to raise $24 million to secure our financial future and the members of the Committee will be helping us with ideas and outreach. Any ideas will be gratefully received!

CKRN NEWS

The CRKN (Canadian Research Knowledge Network) annual general meeting was held in Montreal in September. Details of the CFI bid were discussed as well as new approaches to open access which are being considered. We have already announced the new products which are being made available. They are all in the Humanities and Social Sciences and include some Adam Matthew full text collections and a classical scores library, http://alexanderstreet.com/products/shmu.htm. Access has also been provided to French language journals available from Cairn, www.cairn.info/accueil.php. It includes 161 French language journals and over 44,000 articles published since 2001 in economics, law, psychology, philosophy, political science and other areas are now available. Additional Taylor & Francis e-books are also available as well as some Oxford University Press and Cambridge University Press e-books. Additional scholarly journals in both French and English are being made available from Erudit, www.erudit.org/en/. Over 8000 e-books from Canadian publishers are also being made available. Records for many of these resources will be loaded in November.

HSSL REORGANIZATION

The implementation of the restructuring in the Humanities and Social Sciences Library continues. Following discussion with staff concerned, there will be 4 team leaders. They are Lonnie Weatherby, Juanita Jara de Sumar, Tatiana Bedjanian and Eamon Duffy. We are extremely grateful to them for taking on this very important leadership role and further discussions will be held with all staff involved as the new approach is implemented over the next few weeks. The supervisors, Carl Eugene, Joyce Whiting, Amin Merani, Juliet Prashad and Elizabeth Gibson will continue to play their important roles in the new teams.

LEADERSHIP SEMINAR

The recent leadership seminar undertaken by Michael Wheatley proved to be very popular with all who attended. A further session is scheduled for Tuesday, October 31, from 8:30 – 4:30 in the Cyberthèque E-Classroom. Please contact Bruna Ceccolini if you would like to attend.

STRATEGIC PLAN & WORKPLACE VALUES

SALT (Senior Advisory Library Team) has been expanded and is currently involved in its meetings on a revision of the Library’s Strategic Plan. When it is completed, it will be sent to all staff for further comment. SALT has also completed the revision of the revised the Workplace Values statement, which has now been finalized. We hope everyone will find it useful in dealing with each other and with our work.
AROUND THE BRANCHES

We are pleased to announce that Anna Stoute has been appointed as Head Librarian, Macdonald Campus Library. Anna has been employed at the Macdonald Campus Library since 2002 as a Liaison Librarian and has taken a significant role as interim Head Librarian during the maternity leave of Erica Burnham. Anna has extended the outreach activities of the Library at Macdonald. Use has tripled since the refurbishment of the Library and the increased involvement in information literacy programs by the Library, which Anna has led at the Macdonald campus. We look forward to the continuation of her work and new activities at Macdonald. Work has already begun on library involvement in a communication unit being taught at the campus in the new program.

Debbie Meert, who had been seconded to the Macdonald Campus Library from the Life Sciences Library, will stay on to continue her work at the campus. She has also been extending the outreach activities on campus and we look forward to her taking that work further forward.

Amy Buckland has been appointed to the Howard Ross Management Library. Amy has made her presence felt through her work with Second Life already and will be of great assistance providing services to students in the Desautels Faculty of Management, and the Faculty of Continuing Education.

Permission has been obtained to fill the positions of Head Librarians for both the Nahum Gelber Law Library and the Life Sciences Library. John Hobbins is continuing his role as Law Librarian in the interim. April Colosimo will take a leadership role in the Life Sciences Library for the next six months and will be the Interim Head Librarian. Louis Houle is taking on the management of the Library’s relationships with the RUIS (Réseau Universitaire Intégré de Santé) www.medicine.mcgill.ca/RUIS/. The Library is working with the libraries at the Universite de Montreal, Sherbrooke, and Universite de Laval on these initiatives which will ensure better access to health information for health professionals in Quebec. Louis will be spending one day per week in the Life Sciences Library in the interim period.

RARE BOOKS & SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

A clear message from the Richard Landon report on our Rare Books and Special Collections was the inadequacy of the staffing levels. We are therefore pleased to announce that Sharon Rankin has returned from her sabbatical leave to work in Rare Books and Special Collections. She will provide a valuable addition to the team and use her specialist knowledge there.

DIRECTOR’S OFFICE

Jessica Hunt has been appointed to the Communications role within the Planning and Resources section. She has already made her mark on the posters for Orientation and new brochures for this term. A big welcome to Jess.

NEW STAFFERS: ARRIVALS

Charles Fletcher was appointed Senior Library Clerk in the Islamic Studies Library. Charles is a Ph.D. candidate (Islamic Studies) at McGill University and has a MA McGill University, MDiv. Trinity Western University and BSc. University of British Columbia. Dawn McKinnon has joined the team in the Howard Ross Library of Management. Dawn comes to us from Kitco where she has been working in technical communications and training. Dawn has a Masters in Library and Information Studies from McGill and a BA Social Sciences with BFA Minor from University of Victoria.

Maya Kucij has joined the Education Library and Curriculum Resources Centre. Maya has a Masters of Library and Information Studies from McGill and a Bachelor of Arts from Bard College. Prior to attending library school, Maya worked as a teaching consultant to state-wide arts organizations in Vermont in collaboration with early childhood professionals.

Julia Stark is working part-time in the Howard Ross Library. Julia received her Master of Library and Information Studies from McGill University, MA from Wilfrid Laurier University and a BA from University of Waterloo.

Lindsey Sikora has joined the Life Sciences Library team. Lindsey received her Masters of Information Studies from the University of Toronto and a Bachelor of Science from Laurentian University.

We welcome all the new staff.

DEPARTURES

Annie Murray who has been with us since October 2007 is returning to Concordia University Library as the Digital and Special collections Librarian. Annie extended our service offerings through imaginative use of social networking tools and provided excellent service to all of our clients. We wish Annie every success in the future.
IFLA AT MCGILL LIBRARY

McGill Library was involved in a variety of ways with pre and postconferences last month during the IFLA (International Federation of Library Associations) World Library and Information Congress held in Quebec City. The Library sponsored a satellite meeting held at McGill (Navigating with youth: In these days of technology, how can public libraries attract and keep their young clientele?) and a reception was also held in the Humanities and Social Sciences Library—a jazz trio entertained the guests, which was probably a first for the Library!

“The only limits are, as always, those of vision.”

- James Broughton

COMING ATTRACTIONS

The Mossman Endowment of McGill University presents the Elizabeth B. McNab Lecture in the History of Science

Projecting Change in the American Film Industry, 1926-1933

When commercially successful sound movies arrived in American theaters circa 1926, the craft of motion picture projection changed dramatically. The story of “The Boys Upstairs” demonstrates the complex interplay of creative, technical, and social elements that both characterizes technological change and determines who benefits most from such change.

Emily Thompson
Professor of History, Princeton University

5:30pm, Tuesday, October 28, 2008
Tanna Schulich Hall, Schulich School of Music
Strathcona Music Building, 555 Sherbrooke Street West
RSVP by October 20: rsvp.libraries@mcgill.ca / 514-398-4681

Director’s Drop-in Sessions will be held on November 4, 2008 from 8.30 am to 9.30 am and on November 6th from 4.30 pm to 5.30 pm. Do take the opportunity to share any concerns, comments or ideas.

OPEN ACCESS DAY

October 14, 2008

The goal of Open Access Day is to help broaden awareness and understanding of open access, including recent mandates and emerging policies, within the international higher education community and the general public.

openaccessday.org

Lise Bissonnette, President and General Director of the Bibliothèque et Archives nationales du Québec and Janine Schmidt

A jazz trio entertains IFLA delegates in the Humanities and Social Sciences Library

IFLA delegates at a reception held in the Humanities and Social Sciences Library

Lise Bissonnette, President and General Director of the Bibliothèque et Archives nationales du Québec and Janine Schmidt