CNI (Coalition for Networked Information) has just had its fall meeting in Washington and I was privileged to attend. CNI (http://www.cni.org/) is a joint initiative of ARL (Association of Research Libraries) of which McGill Library is a member and EDU-CAUSE, of which McGill University is a member. CNI seeks to address broad issues related to the use of digital information in research and education environments. Its plan for 2008/9 addresses three central themes:

- Developing and managing networked information content
- Transforming organizations, professions and individuals
- Building technology, standards and infrastructure

In developing and managing content, the importance of institutional content resources and repositories together with electronic theses and dissertations continues to be emphasized, along with institutional and disciplinary implications of e-research and digital preservation.

In addressing the transformation of organizations and professions, the thrust remains on the importance of understanding today’s users, the “millennials” or “born digitals” and their needs, learning spaces and the services and environments they require, e-science and e-research, risk management and responsibility for records management and archives. Issues of interoperability...
remain at the fore in building technology, with open archives initiatives and object reuse and exchanging remaining significant. Campus infrastructure is required to support research programs and new approaches are being taken to distributed computing technologies. Authentication, authorization and access management are becoming ever more critical with collaborative work being undertaken across institutions, along with identity and research management systems. Cliff Lynch in his opening address at the CNI meeting addressed the financial and economic developments now facing us. He also referred to the cyberinfrastructure developments, identity management, intellectual property issues, cyberlearning, the lack of clarity about further developments as far as Web 2.0 and Web 3.0 are concerned, the significance of visual materials being made available in digital formats, the activities by some universities where they are capturing the content of large scale lectures digitally, and issues associated with open scholarship and open science. Digital libraries are changing in their nature. There are issues of sustainability. The issues associated with learning, learning spaces and cloud storage must all be addressed at a time when finances are tight. Doing things radically might actually be less expensive. What must libraries stop doing? How can costs be better understood? Good infrastructure which permits the transfer of knowledge, facilitates education and provides for cultural development will be as important as good roads and transportation networks in this digital age.

Another key paper presented at the meeting by Joan Lippincott focused on the growing importance of mobile learning, ranging from the use of “clickers” to the use of PDAs and cell phones as learning devices. Library catalogues should be able to be accessed from mobile devices. Some libraries are providing instant message responses to students with queries. Library services must meet the needs of current and future users. Much food for thought and reflection were provided. Watch the CNI site.

This is the final issue of the newsletter for 2008. A big thank you to all for a wonderfully successful year in the Library – our A grade continues to be the cause of pride and satisfaction in our achievements. Our clients express satisfaction with our services (although still noting the need for further improvements!). The physical refurbishments, collection expansion, particularly of our e-resources, improved accommodation for staff and our digitization strategies have all been highlights of the year – more in 2009. The preparation of our Workplace Values was a real achievement and we look forward to putting its tenets into place in 2009.

Best wishes to all for a happy, restful and rewarding holiday and festive season.
FESTIVE FÊTE PHOTO GALLERY

Jill Boruff and Brian McMillan

Lindsey Sikora

Andrew Senior and Jennifer Innes

Greg Colley and Maya Kucij

Diane Koen and Graham Lavender

Janice Simpkins and Elizabeth Dunkley

Sheila Farthing and Joseph Hafner

Cathy Martin, Dawn McKinnon and Julia Stark

Rachel Demoskoff, Charles Phelan and April Colosimo

Amy Buckland, Dawn McKinnon and Amber Lannon
Facilities work continues throughout the Library. There have been significant difficulties with obtaining appropriate signage and the Library has engaged a consultant to determine the appropriate steps forward. Discussions have already been held with the library staff in several major libraries to identify common issues and problems. A draft approach is being prepared and staff in branch libraries will be further involved in identifying how we can improve “wayfinding” for our users and reduce the staff workload devoted to locational inquiries. Universal needs include signs for washrooms, designated quiet study and group study areas, opening hours, areas where cell phones may be used and instructions about eating and drinking. Priority areas are being identified. Some self standing signs will be used. The work will take several months and further information will be provided as it comes to hand.

Tenders for the supply of compact shelving on Level 5 of the Humanities and Social Sciences Library have been finalized. Electronically operated compact shelving is being acquired— and yes, the floor will take it, and no, people will not be sandwiched between it. An electronic eye will operate. This will alleviate some of the storage issues being experienced in the Humanities and Social Sciences Library. Installation will take place between January and May. All seating will be removed from Level 5, temporary shelving will be installed and the collection will be completely accessible during the installation of the compact shelving. Noise and disruption will be minimized.

The refurbishment of the lobbies in the McLennan Library Building is almost complete, with additional lighting and casual seating. Large layouts have been installed and additional signage will be put in place early next year. Lighting elsewhere also needs adjusting and further work will be undertaken as funds permit. Seating is being replaced in the Humanities and Social Sciences Library, the Howard Ross Library of Management and the Life Sciences Library. Accommodation for staff in the Life Sciences Library will also be upgraded. Already the entrance to the Life Sciences Library has been modified and further work is being undertaken to replace the service desks. There has been a steady program of acquiring new desks and facilities for library staff which are compliant with occupational health and safety standards and it is hoped that by next year, all staff accommodation will be at a satisfactory level. Plans are also under way for installation of specialist graduate student accommodation in part of the former Cutter stack. Funding from the SSMU Library Improvement Fund, the Faculty of Arts student funds together with funds from the Library’s operating grant have made these improvements possible. Thanks to all for being so understanding during the changes being undertaken.

The Senate Committee on Libraries has had two recent meetings. The Landon report on Rare Books and Special Collections was discussed as well as further strategies for implementation of its recommendations. The report is available from the Office of the Director of the Libraries, for anyone interested. A library taskforce has been involved in discussing the next steps and the implementation plan will be further refined at the next meeting of the Taskforce. The contents of our Rare Books and Special Collections are indeed what makes the Library’s collections unique and they constitute an outstanding base for research. Ensuring effective access through online availability of records in the catalogue, digitization of material in the public domain and a more expansive exhibition programme are all being examined.

As part of an overall review of Senate committees, the Secretary General and a member of the Review Committee attended the SCL meeting to discuss possible changes in its terms of reference and composition. Further discussion will occur before any recommendations go forward to Senate. The annual report of the SCL was discussed briefly and is now available. http://www.mcgill.ca/files/senate/D08-26_Committee_on_Libraries_Annual_Report.pdf

A presentation was also made to the Senate Committee on Libraries on the work of Collection Services within the Library by Joseph Hafner, the Associate Director for Collection Services. Carole Urbain and Diane Koen also made a presentation on changes being made to
the organization of the Humanities and Social Sciences Library.

The SALT (Senior Advisory Library Team) continues its work on the Strategic Plan which will be distributed to all library staff for comment in the near future. In the last two months, various staff have attended meetings, many of them investigating the changes libraries need to make in response to changes in the environment and varying client needs. These meetings have included a National Summit on Library Human Resources in Ottawa, sponsored by the Canadian Library Association as well as CARL (Canadian Association of Research Libraries) and numerous other groups. The 8 Rs report was revisited - Recruitment, Retention, Remuneration, Repatriation, Rejuvenation, Reaccreditation, Retirement and Restructuring. Training gaps were also addressed. Much of the summit focused on the need for effective leadership in a time of change and transition. The development of competencies required by library staff was noted and targets set for work to be undertaken in the next few years. This reflects some of the directions taken at McGill more recently, with the new Induction Programme, the training and staff development sessions over the summer, and our regular scheduled staff development activities. The CARL (Canadian Association of Research Libraries) meeting followed and addressed issues of future collaboration on areas like digitization. Scholarly communication remained a vital topic of conversation and CISTI’s work in the development of cyber-infrastructure was outlined. The importance of harnessing the vast amounts of data available was again addressed. The ARL (Association of Research Libraries) meeting followed and the data theme remained significant, with a full day seminar on e-research and changes in science librarianship. Papers are available on the website at http://www.arl.org/resources/pubs/fallforumproceedings/for um08proceedings.shtml.

Homecoming and Parents Weekend were very busy for the Library. A breakfast for parents was held in the Cyberthèque and Richard Virr and I presented on the topic Our Treasures: your children: our collections. Significant items from our outstanding Rare Books and Special Collections were on show and every parent was presented with a chapbook of Robinson Crusoe produced on our new robotic scanner. Chapbooks were produced in the 16th – 19th centuries. They comprised alphabet books, nursery rhymes and abridged versions of novels, were 8 – 32 pages in size and sold by chapmen or peddlers inexpensively. They supported the growth of popular culture. The chapbook we used formed part of a donation from one of our outstanding donors, Sheila Bourke, to whom we are extremely grateful. Some spare copies are available from the Office of the Director of Libraries, if anyone would like one. A wonderful debate took place on the Saturday afternoon in the Classes without Quizzes series. The sassy students took on the learned librarians and provided excellent entertainment and inspiration. Further details are available in the October issue of Library Matters @ McGill.

We have one new staff member this month. We welcome Mila Bozic Erkic who is working in the Nahum Gelber Law Library to our team.

A final triumphant note. The Currie Gym is all but empty. For some years, little-used parts of the Library’s collections have been stored under inappropriate conditions in a section of the Currie Gym. Users expressed concern about the inaccessibility of the material. Over the last 18 months, material has been repatriated to several branch libraries, including the Howard Ross Library of Management, the Education library and Curriculum Resource Centre, the Macdonald Campus Library, the Life Sciences Library and the Schulich Library of Science and Engineering. Much of the material has come to the Redpath storage area. Materials in that area are being re-arranged into one sequence, and further work is being undertaken to render the material easier to find and consistently stored. Some material was sent to CISTI in Ottawa to fill taps in their collections. A wonderful team of people, including our student navigators, has worked extremely hard and very effectively to ensure the success of the project. There have been many people involved and the names are too numerous to mention but a big thank you to everyone who was involved – and yes we do plan to have a celebration and a thank you!

"Th' first thing to have in a library is a shelf. Fr'm time to time this can be decorated with lithrachure. But th' shelf is th' main thing."

-Finley Peter DUNNE (1867-1936)
"Books" Mr Dooley Says
QCCAML REPORT

First Annual Meeting of the Quebec Chapter of CAML (Canadian Association of Music Libraries, Archives and Documentation Centres) Université Laval, Quebec City; October 24, 2008

by

CATHY MARTIN, LIAISON LIBRARIAN, MARVIN DUCHOW MUSIC LIBRARY

Since 2005, representatives from music libraries across Quebec have come together annually to share information and consider opportunities for collaboration. Over time, the group decided to formalize its structure by establishing a regional chapter of the Canadian Association of Music Libraries, Archives and Documentation Centres (CAML).

This fall, the first meeting of the Quebec Chapter of CAML (QCCAML) was hosted by Université Laval. Close to 40 participants from a range of music library types – academic, CEGEP, conservatory, public and special – convened to discuss issues related to providing and enhancing access to music library collections and services in Quebec.

The meeting organizers had prepared a full day which included presentations, panel discussions, a tour, and the annual general meeting. There was also sufficient time for informal interaction among attendees, which offered a valuable complement to the formal sessions by providing a forum for meeting individual colleagues and continuing discussion of common issues.

“Music Collections of Quebec City” was the first of the day’s sessions. During this session, participants learned that the Université Laval’s Archives de folklore et d’ethnologie holds the fonds of a number of Quebec musicians. A later presentation, given by Daniel Paradis of the Université de Montréal, was on the subject of the new cataloguing standard, Resource Description and Access (RDA). After outlining its objectives and the reasons for its development, Paradis discussed the implications RDA would have for music materials. One example he gave was the replacement of the general material designation (GMD) by new terms related to content, medium, and format. Over the course of the presentation, he emphasized the potential of this new standard to improve collocation and to provide more possibilities for refining searches based on relationships among entities. These enhancements are of particular relevance for music resources due to the existence of multiple manifestations (arrangements, transcriptions, translations, etc.), media (printed and digital scores, audio/video and mixed media, etc.) and formats (ranging from cylinder recordings to ever-evolving digital formats).

The first of two panel discussions was on the topic of processing music materials. Processing procedures tend to require constant adjustment, due in part to the changing nature of physical formats and the way certain music materials are presented. One such example was offered by Danielle Poitier of the Bibliothèque et Archives nationales du Québec, who demonstrated a book-like binding for sets that include multiple CDs as well as lengthy booklets. The second panel discussion, “Designing Music Library Spaces,” featured panelists Brian McMillan, Roseline Petitclerc (Bibliothèque Félix-Leclerc, Québec), and Denise Prince (Conservatoire de musique de Montréal). Each presented details regarding recent building design projects in their respective libraries. During the session, McMillan had the opportunity to describe the way client feedback has contributed to ongoing adjustments and improvements related to use of the space in McGill’s Marvin Duchow Music Library.

A session of “Lightning Talks” was scheduled in order to provide willing participants with a 5-minute time period each in which to share information about new services, projects, or solutions to common work issues. One such contribution was from Justine Lamoureux, music librarian at the Université du Québec à Montréal. She demonstrated her implementation of “SubjectsPlus”, an open source software for managing subject or research guides. Another contribution, from Daniel Paradis, provided information regarding online cataloguing resources for French Baroque music.

Finally, a tour of the Arts and Music section of Université Laval’s Bibliothèque des sciences humaines et sociales allowed for a close-up view of a collection frequently consulted online by other music libraries. It also afforded an opportunity to view displays of new acquisitions and to consider similar presentation approaches in participants’ home libraries.

This first annual meeting of the Quebec Chapter of CAML served its purpose well by inspiring continued effort in the work that needs to be done to provide access to Quebec’s diverse music collections.

1 The organizing committee consisted of Justine Lamoureux (Université du Québec à Montréal (UQAM)), Audrey Laplante (Université de Montréal (UdeM)), QCCAML Chair Brian McMillan (McGill), and Daniel Paradis (UdeM), while Melissa Gravel (Université Laval) and Pierre Plante (Conservatoire de musique de Québec) served as local coordinators. Sponsoring organizations for the meeting were the libraries of McGill University, Université Laval, and UQAM, as well as Alexander Street Press, Gibson Library Connections, and Naxos.
The Osler Library Newsletter has been published since 1969, and all 109 issues are available on the McGill Library website in pdf format. I encourage you to read each one, of course, but for those Oslerians who haven’t time to do so and want to see what the Newsletter has to say about Harvey Cushing, or who can’t recall which issue described Osler’s relationship with the artist William Raphael, there is now a Google Custom Search Engine to serve your needs.

The Google Custom Search Engine allows you to add a search box to your site that will search only the links on the Newsletter page, and since all past issues were listed there, the Newsletter gained its own powerful search box.

Please visit the Osler Library Newsletter’s page, try out the search, and think how the Google Custom Search Engine might improve the Library website’s subject guides, online reference section, and other pages. Any ideas?

http://www.mcgill.ca/osler-library/about/introduction/newsletter/

The quotes in this month’s newsletter were submitted by David Crawford (Emeritus Librarian-Life Sciences). The you-never-heard-it-from-us editorial team issues a challenge to all to send us quotes … it could be in a specific discipline, or quotes you find particularly interesting, insightful, intriguing or just quotable! Send us your quotes and see if they make it to a future issue of the newsletter.