We know that the Library is purchasing increasing numbers of e-books and that users are reading them in growing numbers. Until now, we have purchased most of them for use by our faculty and student on laptops and PCs via our library website, although some are being used by some of our clients via PDAs and other mobile devices. Recent articles in The Globe and Mail (http://www.theglobeandmail.com/servlet/story/RTGAM.20090227.webooks0228/EmailBNStory/globebooks/home) have highlighted the growth – the future is indeed now. Lisa Charters, Senior Vice-President of Digital Production for Random House was quoted as saying E-books will be available, essentially, on any and all mobile devices, and since pretty much everyone has a mobile phone, that changes the game completely. In the near future, as well as lending real books, e-books, IPods, and laptops, we may indeed be lending e-book readers like the Sony Reader and Amazon’s Kindle.

Our current exhibitions have proved to be very popular. The celebration of Abraham Lincoln’s 200th birthday on February 12th led to an exhibition on the foyer of level 4 of the McLennan Library Building of selected items from the Joseph N. Nathanson Collection of Lincolniana. The Nathanson Lincoln Collection is one of the most unusual research collections housed in Rare Books and Special Collection. In 1986, Dr. Joseph N. Nathanson (1895-1989) donated to his alma mater, the contents of his eclectic Abraham Lincoln collection. For almost fifty years, Dr. Nathanson avidly collected Lincolniana.

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from his base in Ithaca, New York where he taught Obstetrics and Gynaecology at Cornell University for five decades. The collection is comprised of approximately four thousand items including books, pamphlets, prints, manuscripts, ephemera and realia. Also on display is the Second Life approach to Abraham Lincoln which includes several images from our collections.

A small exhibition on Charles Darwin marks the 150th celebration of his life and some items are on display within the Rare Books and Special Collections on Level 4 of the McLennan Library Building.

In addition, on the main entry floor of the Humanities and Social Sciences Library is a splendid exhibition on the Moravian beginnings of Canadian Inuit literature. Items displayed have been selected from McGill’s Rare Books and Special Collections including The Lawrence Lande Collection of Canadiana, The Lande Eskimo Collection and The Lande Arkin Collection supplemented by the collections of McGill’s Humanities & Social Sciences Library and McGill’s Education Library.

This exhibition is part of the “Entendre et communiquer les voix du Nunavik/Hearing and sharing the voices of Nunavik”, a joint Université du Québec à Montréal and McGill University initiative funded by the Canadian program of the International Polar Year (IPY), 2008–2011. This exhibition is also supported by a McGill University-SSHRC Institutional grant. It was made possible in part thanks to the AVATAQ Cultural Institute. This exhibition was prepared by Sharon Rankin, Marianne Stenback, Lindsay Terry and Jennifer Campbell. Thanks and congratulations to all involved.

The exhibitions provide us with a wonderful opportunity to extend our collections to wider viewing by both the McGill and wider communities. Thanks to all who have contributed to putting them together. We are also working on online versions of the exhibitions so that they might remain with us in perpetuity.
The dynamic floor plans are popular with laptop users.

If no other changes or corrections are required, it is anticipated that the dynamic floor plans will be completed and available for all branches by the end of 2009.
Albert Schultz, Actor, director, and founding artistic director of Toronto’s Soulpepper Theatre Company

Thursday, March 19, 2009
5:00 – 6:00 p.m.
Moyse Hall
Arts Building, McGill University
853 Sherbrooke Street West
Reception to follow
RSVP by March 12
514-398-4681 Email

Annual Shakespeare Lecture presented by the Friends of the Library and Making Publics Project

Albert Schultz studied drama at Toronto’s York University and the London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art. At the Stratford Festival, Mr. Schultz was in Romeo and Juliet, King Lear, Twelfth Night and As You Like It, and at Soulpepper held the title roles in Shakespeare’s Hamlet and Chekhov’s Platonov. Schultz’s television career includes “Street Legal”, “Side Effects” and “Shades of Black.”

Albert Schultz has also directed several Soulpepper productions as well as Susan Coyne’s Kingfisher Days for the Tarragon Theatre. Schultz is the recipient of several awards including a Gemini Award, the Joan Chalmers National Award for Artistic Direction, Toronto Life Award to name a few. Mr. Schultz received an honorary doctorate at Queen’s University in 2008.

Happy Anniversary – to both Charles Darwin and On the Origin of Species!

The exhibit is open Monday – Friday, 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Lande Reading Room, Rare Books and Special Collections
4th floor, McLennan Library Building
February 5 – March 31, 2009

The Inuit have a strong culture, which is remarkably adaptable and supported by a complex, widely-spoken language, however, its written heritage—historical, documentary and fictitious—remains little known and somewhat inaccessible to the public and even to Arctic communities.

McGill University Library and the Cultural Studies Program in the English Department, are showcasing an exhibition tracing the beginnings of literacy and written literature for the Inuit living in Nunatsiavut (Labrador) and, to a lesser extent, in Nunavik. Moravian missionaries produced text books for the Inuit, allowing them to become literate very early in Canadian history. The Nunatsiavut Inuit were probably more literate than most other people in Canada at that time. It is a fascinating and largely unknown aspect of our history and of literary history.

Photo of three Inuit children courtesy of Unity Archives, Herrnhut, Saxony, Germany. Moravian Archives Herrnhut, LBS 1957.
Kabir Cultural Centre
in collaboration with
McGill University
Is pleased to present a 3-day series of events on

Kabir

Thursday, March 12, 2009 at 6 PM
Film show: Had Arif (Journeys with Rumi and Kabir) The Indian filmmaker, Shabnam Virmani will be available to answer questions from the audience.
Location: Birk’s Heritage Chapel, 3520 University Street Montreal, QC H3A 2A7
Admission: Free

Friday, March 13, 2009 at 4:30-5:30 PM
Location: Senior Common Room, Birk’s Building, 3520 University Street, Montreal.
Admission: Free

Saturday, March 14, 2009 at 7:30 PM
The musical performance, In Quest of Kabir, is given by the renowned Kabir folk singer Pranjal Singh Tipanya and his group. A remarkable exponent of Kabir’s music and meanings, he has received India’s prestigious Sangeet Natak Akademi award. The five musicians sing and play a number of folk music instruments. Professor Linda Hess of Stanford University will introduce the musical pieces.
Location: Ballroom, New Residence Hall, McGill University, 3025, du Parc Avenue, Montreal QC
Admission: $20, $15 (students/seniors), Group Discounts available.
Please call 514-336-0942 or 514-695-3264 514-871-8888
The Winter-Spring Calendar is now available! – To support you in your professional development, we offer a large number of workshops to enhance your communication, leadership and managerial skills. We invite you to discuss your developmental needs with your immediate supervisor. To help you plan your learning activities, please review the overview of this semester’s workshops (below). Once your plan is finalized, please go online to register. If a workshop has no date assigned for this semester or is indicated as “full”, please sign on to the waiting list to express your interest and secure your place in line for the next available session. We will inform you directly once a date has been determined. Have fun learning! [http://www.mcgill.ca/hr/staffdevelopment/courses/]

The “French at Work” session commenced on January 26th. We are already celebrating the 5th year anniversary of our French Program. We are taking this opportunity to revisit the format of the program and invite past, present and future participants to offer their input. Help us ensure that our offerings best meet your needs. Please take a few minutes to complete our brief survey at: French Program Survey

An “English at Work” program is also being considered as a potential Staff Development training offering. Such a program would have a similar design as that of the French Program and would be offered to staff members who would like to improve their English speaking and writing skills in the workplace. In order to assess the need for such a program, and guide us in its design, please participate in this short online survey: Potential English Program Survey Leadership Development Program – The fourth cohort of the LDP is commencing this month. If you are a staff member from the M group, occupy a supervisory role and are interested in the program, please sign up on the waiting list to secure your place at the next information session to be held in the Fall. For more information, visit our web pages: LDP

IT software workshops are now offered through ICS customer service. The workshop OFT 611 – “What You Need to Know - Microsoft Office 2007” is available as well as other workshops, in class and on-line. To register for these workshops, please sign-in to the Minerva platform or contact the ICS customer service at 514-398-4610.

For general information, please contact Emilie Baillargeon: Ext. 4205, cas1.hr@mcgill.ca or staffdevelopment.hr@mcgill.ca. For French workshops, contact Kathryn Lamantia: Ext.2000, kathryn.lamantia@mcgill.ca.

For specific staff development requests, please contact Sophie F. Marcil, Manager, Organizational & Staff Development (ext. 2303, sophie.marcil@mcgill.ca.)