



LIBRARY MATTERS @ MCGILL

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April Colosimo, Brian McMillan, Robin Canuel and Louise O'Neill at the annual Teaching and Technology Fair on April 30, sponsored by the Chief Information Officer and the Deputy Provost (Student Life and Learning).

FROM THE TRENHOLME DIRECTOR OF LIBRARIES



JANINE SCHMIDT,
TRENHOLME DIRECTOR
OF LIBRARIES

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Many librarians attended a recent strategic planning session where time was spent examining the actions and the targets to be met in 2009/10, as we continue to face changes in our environment, including financial pressures, fresh research approaches, innovative information technologies, student-centred learning and teaching demands and new student and faculty needs. We continue to use the mission statement we have been espousing the last few years:

McGill University Library advances teaching, learning, research and community service by providing outstanding collections, access to the world of knowledge, excellence in service and an appropriate library environment, all of which are client-focused and responsive to the needs of the McGill community.

The top priorities developed thus far are:-

- Analyse and respond to the results of recent user surveys
- Acquire, organize and preserve outstanding print, multimedia and electronic collections of information resources to support curriculum outcomes and research productivity
- Ensure effective search interfaces and physical access to the collections, addressing client needs particularly for integrated access and content delivery
- Create an open, inviting and friendly environment, both physical and virtual, in support of student life and learning initiatives and research and graduate studies
- Ensure that the library website is current, usable and responsive to client needs, particularly those identified in the Libqual survey

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

FROM THE DIRECTOR - CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

- Recruit, train, develop and retain library staff who are responsive to client needs and committed to the provision of excellent service
- Develop plans and implementation strategies for cost-effective support of RUIS, the MUHC (McGill University Health Centre) and the hospital libraries linked to McGill

These will be further refined over the next few weeks and the Plan re-distributed.

The Canadian Library Association will be holding its conference in Montreal in May and many of our staff will be attending or participating in both the Conference itself and various preconference and special meetings. No doubt there will also be visitors on campus and we ask all library staff to make them feel welcome. The Association is also examining its strategies, vision and mission and a recent issue of *Feliciter*, the journal of the Canadian Library Association (vol. 55, issue no.3, 2009), featured an article on the future of the profession, referring to a vision statement of the 10th Northern Exposure to Leadership Institute, which was attended by **Sara Holder**. Various expressions were used to describe the work of a *librarian*: *designer of learning or community spaces; embedded information expert; information liaison officer; diversity coordinator; knowledge facilitator; community outreach librarian*. New terms help us re-think and maximize the value we add to our community of users and the work we undertake.

The same issue of *Feliciter* focuses on a vital topic for the Library, information literacy. The ability to discover, access, evaluate, interpret and use information effectively is seen as central to good citizenship, continued lifelong learning and effective participation in the workforce. More information is not necessarily better information and all library staff can help our students gain the information skills they need to analyze and synthesize what they find. Our structured classes and our answers to inquiries, both face to face and online, all help students to think critically and to create personal knowledge.

TECHNOLOGY TIDBIT

by Heather Cai,
Library Technology Services

LINKING INTO ALEPH COURSE RESERVES

If you are familiar with persistent linking to the Catalogue, this will not really be a new thing to you. A new keyword index for course name (wcn) has been built in Aleph Course Reserves to enable direct and persistent linking to the items placed on reserve for a specific course.

You can construct a link from the following by replacing xxxx with your course code (such as engl for English), and ooo with your course number: http://catalogue.mcgill.ca/F/?func=find-b&find_code=wcn&request=xxxx+ooo&local_base=course_reserves. For example, if you want to construct a link for English 305 course, you can do this: http://catalogue.mcgill.ca/F/?func=find-b&find_code=wcn&request=engl+305&local_base=course_reserves.

You can add this link to *MyCourses* (WebCT Vista) or any web page as you like. Note that the value for the "local_base" parameter in Aleph 19 will be changed to "local_base=u-course_reserves". Please update your links accordingly when Aleph 19 is live.



McGill Library
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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:

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TEACHING AND TECHNOLOGY FAIR 2009

by Louise O'Neill,
Library Technology Services

The annual Teaching and Technology Fair sponsored by the Chief Information Officer and the Deputy Provost (Student Life and Learning) took place on April 30 at the Faculty Club this year, a classically beautiful building that contrasted nicely with the hi-tech demonstrations and presentations. The Library exhibit was the most popular and well-attended, hands-down. It's not going too far to say that we were mobbed most of the time. Faculty and visitors were fascinated by the demos of all that they could see on iPhones and other hand-helds courtesy of the McGill Library – not just the catalogue and the website, but also rare books, e-books, and e-journal articles. They also were impressed by the demo music course reserve page in Aleph with every one of a variety of formats and items, including an e-thesis and a You-Tube video, just one click away. The accessibility of the course reserve page and WebCT was emphasized even more by our "giant iPhone" – in reality a large image of an iPhone on a sign, with the display screen cut out and a full-sized computer monitor peeking through, showing emulated use of Course Reserves. Finally, the Second Life machinima on taking exams in Continuing Education, created in collaboration with Continuing Education staff, attracted attention and questions, as did the Lincoln North exhibition video – these were run on continuous loops. It was great to see the teamwork efforts of all the participants come together spectacularly on one day.

WHAT'S NEW



STAFFING

An epoch will end on May 31 for the McGill Library. **Carole Renahan** will retire. Carole, our guru of Human Resources and Personnel matters, came to the University in 1970 and to the Library in 1981 and has offered wise counsel to individual staff members and members of the library and university management ever since. She has carefully balanced her support of individual staff members with the strategic directions of the Library and the University and the accountability we all have for the effective use of our resources. Carole has seen many changes and helped implement them all - numerous union agreements, Librarian Regulations, the use of new information technologies and improved services to our clients. She has been the honest broker. She has provided enormous help to individual Head Librarians, particularly in the early stages of their new roles. We shall pay tribute to her at a function to be held in June and further details will follow. We all join in thanking Carole for her commitment and dedication to McGill and wish her every good wish as she moves to the next exciting stage of her life.

On April 14, we welcomed our new Senior Human Resources Advisor, **Laurence Cormier**, who comes to us from University Services. Laurence has studied civil law at the University of Ottawa and has a Bachelor of



Laurence Cormier

Industrial Relations from the Université de Montréal. She has been at McGill since 2002, having worked in human resources in the private sector prior to that time. When she is not busy at work, she manages to fit in being an aerobic dance instructor. Laurence will have some time to "understudy" Carole and to learn much from her before Carole leaves and Laurence steps in to the new role.

Marika Asimakopulos will also be retiring on August 31, 2009. Marika has worked with us in the Schulich Library of Science and Engineering since 1988. She has provided services of excellence to generations of students. Her work with the Departments of Mathematics and Statistics, Mechanical Engineering and Physics, has been excellent. She has provided the underpinnings for research activity and community outreach for faculty. She has also provided training for new librarians and assisted her colleagues. We wish her all the best in a healthy and happy retirement - a new page turns and it will no doubt be an exciting one.

We welcome **Joanne Tidball** who will be working on an Information Skills/Literacy Project with us on a part-time short term approach. We have a small team of **Sara Holder**, **Amber Lannon** and



Joanne Tidball

April Colosimo working on some new directions for a Graduate information skills project as well as a training program and Jo will be helping them. She will also be assisting the Macdonald Campus

library in a joint venture with the Faculty of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences. Jo has qualifications in education and working experience with museums and will help us achieve some goals we have already articulated in our Strategic Plan.

We are pleased to announce the appointment of **Natalie Waters** to the position of Head Librarian, Macdonald Campus Library. Natalie has been a liaison librarian in the Schulich Library of Science and Engineering since 2002. Natalie has made a significant contribution, improving the Library's outreach and initiating many client service initiatives, particularly in relation to the Departments of Earth and Planetary Sciences, Atmospheric and Oceanic Sciences and Mining and Materials Engineering. Natalie has provided highly valued support to countless students and faculty and implemented innovative information skills programs. Before coming to McGill, Natalie had worked in the Kirkland and Pointe Claire Libraries. Natalie has degrees from McGill in Arts and Anthropology as well as library and information studies and she participated in the Archaeological Field School at the University College, London. She also learned cataloguing - of archaeological specimens! Please welcome Natalie to her new role.



Natalie Waters

We are pleased to announce the appointment of **Daniel Boyer** to the position of Head Librarian, Nahum Gelber Law Library. Daniel has been the Wainwright Librarian in the Nahum Gelber Law Library since 1998. In this role, he has done much to strengthen the collections in the Law Library and the teaching of legal research within the Faculty. His dedicated work and commitment have ensured that the collections have the capacity to support the wide-ranging research directions of the Faculty. His teaching skills and expertise have integrated new technologies into legal research and enabled hundreds of law graduates to leave the University with learning, skills and attitudes which will serve them well throughout



Daniel Boyer helping a student

their careers. Daniel also brings to the position a rich knowledge of the local environment, having worked in almost all university law libraries in Quebec before joining McGill - Bibliothèque de droit, Université de Montréal; Bibliothèque de droit, Université de Sherbrooke; and the Bibliothèque des sciences juridiques, Université du Québec à Montréal. He has also taught in the School of Information Studies at McGill and participated in a project with the Swedish International Development Agency, Strengthening Legal Education in Vietnam, where he has done much to train law librarians and develop law libraries in Vietnam. Daniel brings outstanding knowledge and skills from both legal and librarianship backgrounds. He has a B.A. and M.L.I.S. from McGill and an LL.B. from the Université du Québec à Montréal.

He has also studied at the City of London University and the Swiss Institute of Comparative Law. Daniel was called to the Quebec bar, École du Barreau du Québec, in 1983. Please welcome Daniel to his new role.

FACILITIES

Work continues on the installation of the compact shelving on Level 5 and preparations are underway for electronic compact shelving on level 6. Contracts are being finalized for new furniture on Level 5 and Level 2 in the **Humanities and Social Sciences Library**. We are grateful to the SSMU Library Improvement Fund and the Arts Students for financial contributions to facilitate the introduction of new seating.

Work has begun on the **Life Sciences Library** Stage 1 refurbishment. Congratulations to all the staff in the Life Sciences Library who cleaned up and made ready for the work to be done - thanks to all for being patient and understanding during what can be trying.

Work on the **Walter Hitschfeld Geographic Information Centre** is a collaborative project with the Department of Geography, the Teaching and Learning Service as well as others. Thanks to our staff who are preparing for the changes and to those who are working on them. The project will be undertaken over the summer.



WEBSITE

Work continues on amendments to the website to ensure that we respond to the issues that have been raised. As social networking tools become more commonplace with our user community, we need to implement their use and also ensure that our search capacities meet client needs. You will all have noticed Twitter appearing on our website and we

are looking at further implementation strategies of these new approaches to providing "answers" to our clients who consult us mostly remotely these days.

NEW PROCESSES

From May 1st, 2009, payments for **library fines** will be received in cash in only the Humanities and Social Sciences Library and the Macdonald Campus Library. Other branch libraries will accept payments only through the use of debit or credit cards. The reason for this is because of security concerns with cash payments.

Interlibrary loan invoicing is being streamlined through centralization of the activity through Planning and Resources and through the creation of invoices on a twice-yearly instead of individual basis.

NEW CATALOGUE OVERLAY

Over the last few months, the One Website Committee has been undertaking a review of various catalogue overlay search interfaces to overcome many of the concerns that have been raised by our clients in the Libqual survey. Different features were offered by the various approaches examined. A decision has now been taken to trial the use of **Worldcat Local** as the search interface overlay.

We are facing difficult financial times. It is by far the cheapest alternative and does not require any additional workload or server space. It is a hosted solution. Many universities have reported smooth implementation experiences. The McGill Library already uses and is satisfied with other OCLC library products and services. The use of OCLC Worldcat will facilitate synchronization of our existing data with OCLC and also assist in the improvement of workflows. We shall be able to load book jacket images and relevancy ranking of search results is possible.

We shall still be continuing the use of the existing Aleph search interface which provides a level of sophistication required by many of our users. Our holdings are also currently searchable through Google Scholar.

MORE RECORDS IN THE CATALOGUE AND MORE E-BOOKS

There have been issues in ensuring that there are records available in the catalogue for all the items we hold in our extensive collections. Our cataloguing backlog has been of concern and the issue of records not being loaded for our e-book collections has also reduced access. Most recently, 37,387 records have been loaded for Evans Early American Imprints. We are persisting with seeking to obtain records for Springer e-books and an additional 8,502 records have been loaded. The load of 11,700 records for newly acquired e-books through the recent CRKN (Canadian Research Knowledge Network) purchase of Taylor and Francis materials has also enhanced access and availability. Oxford Scholarship Online has a cross-searchable collection of 2,257 books in economics and finance, philosophy, political science, biology, business and management. More details of what has been acquired are available on the blog. Congratulations and many thanks to all involved.

STAFF DEVELOPMENT

We shall be organizing sessions over the summer and they will be shortly announced. All of us need to be sure that we are growing and learning every day. A small planning group will be put in place and suggestions for topics on which you would like further information or discussion would be appreciated. Just send them in to the Director. A tailored 12 month leadership training program is being developed to meet the needs of

our Team Leaders, Coordinators, Head Librarians, Library Operations Supervisors and all involved in the leadership and management of staff in the Library.

FINANCIAL MATTERS

There has been plenty of bad news about the impact of the reduced Endowment on the University's general income and there will be serious implications for the Library. In addition, we continue to face inflation in the prices of books and journals and a downturn in the value of the Canadian dollar. We remain unclear about other impacts on the Library budget but we are hoping to introduce further efficiencies in our processes to ensure that we can reduce our costs and thereby maintain our improvement strategies and our collections. The University has been collecting ideas about cost saving initiatives and recording them in a blog. <http://blogs.mcgill.ca/economictaskforce/>. The Library is also extremely interested in any ideas you might have for reducing costs – please submit any suggestions to the Director's Office. The good news is that the SSMU Library Improvement Fund will continue – the referendum by which students volunteer their own funds to the Library was passed. We meet regularly with the SSMU representatives to ensure we understand their needs and provide the collections, services and facilities they want. We continue to be truly grateful for their contributions, which have facilitated many of the facilities improvements we have undertaken in recent years as well as the 24 hour opening which continues to be extremely popular with students. The PGSS (Postgraduate Students Society of McGill) has recently also voted for the very first time YES in a referendum to provide a voluntary fund to the Library and we are extremely grateful. We look forward to working further with the group to ensure we understand and provide what is required.

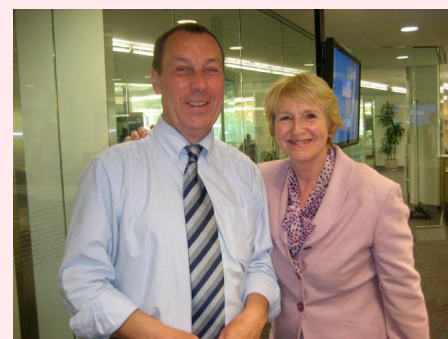
WORLD CAT SELECTION REFRESHER SESSION

There will be a refresher session on WorldCat Selection on Wednesday, May 20, for anyone who feels they need some help using the system more efficiently. If you have any questions about this session, please contact Valerie Fortin.

PRESENTATION: SUPPORTING THE 21ST CENTURY SCHOLAR

We welcomed Professor **Jeff Haywood**, Vice Principal Knowledge Management, CIO & Librarian, University of Edinburgh, <http://homepages.ed.ac.uk/jhaywood/> on May 13 in the Cyberthèque, Humanities and Social Sciences Library.

The title of Jeff Haywood's presentation was *Supporting the 21st century scholar*. In a very informative session, Jeff discussed major challenges facing the University of Edinburgh and actions undertaken on open access publications repositories, research data storage and curation, technology-rich learning spaces and national initiatives to share access to physical and digital journals and other materials.



Jeff Haywood and Janine Schmidt

PRINCIPAL'S AWARDS

The deadline to submit nominations for Administrative and Support Staff 2008-2009 is June 30, 2009 at 5:00 p.m. <http://www.mcgill.ca/hr/awards/>

THE LIBRARY'S ROLE IN THE LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

by Chris Lyons,

Osler Library of the History of Medicine

Photos are at the Kate Edger Information Commons, University of Auckland Library

On May 6 staff from the Library, Teaching and Learning Services and other McGill departments were very fortunate to hear a stimulating presentation by **Janet Copsey**, University Librarian at the University of Auckland in New Zealand. Entitled *The Library's Role in the Learning Environment at the University of Auckland*, the speaker described how the physical space, the collections and the services offered by her library supported the university's academic mission. The University of Auckland is the largest university in New Zealand and is quite similar to McGill in several ways: it serves a large, multi-ethnic and international student body at all levels; there is a full range of programmes on multiple campuses; and there are 13 branch libraries.

Much of the first part of the talk focused on the Kate Edger Information Commons, the largest of the three ICs at the University and an immensely popular facility with students. A five-storey building which opened in 2003, it provides a wide range of services to students, such as group and individual study areas, instructional classrooms with computers and self service reserves and laptop loans. The Student Learning Centre has an outlet that provides workshops and drop-in help for academic work, English language proficiency and computer skills development. There are also commercial shops, such as a bank, grocery store and hair salon. The building

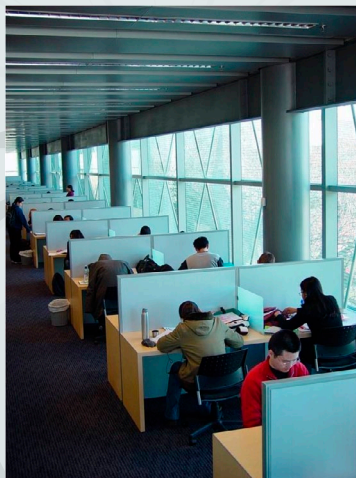
is open longer than the branches and is intended to be the primary place for students to study, thus freeing up space in the libraries for the collections. Given the numbers and the enthusiastic comments it would appear that they have succeeded.

The Library also supports the academic life of the University by providing content and services. It has been very active in

licensing e-books and journals and digitizing material, including dissertations, early New Zealand books and, due to comparatively liberal copyright laws, course readings. Although one of the general goals of the Library is self-service, there is still a critical need for information skills enhancement. In response, the Library

has developed four types of services to meet this: generic workshops on such things as library basics; individual sessions for specific courses (e.g. on finding information for an assignment); integrating information literacy into the

University of Auckland has been towards curriculum integration, in no small part due to the university's requirement that information literacy skills are amongst the attributes of graduating students. This requires a greater degree of collaboration between librarians and professors than doing in-class presentations, but the expectation is that the benefits will

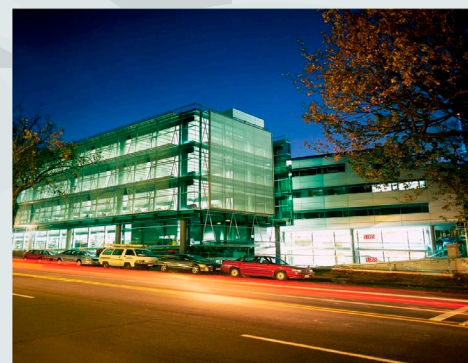


Chris Lyons, Janet Copsey and Diane Koen

be greater. Some of the professional programmes, such as law, have established full credit courses as they have found that the ability to find information makes their graduates more capable. Given this emphasis on the librarian as teacher, the University provides them with specific training. I should point out that here at McGill a teaching workshop is being developed specifically for librarians. One last point bears particular emphasis: the Library has been able to do as much as it has in part because the University is made aware of its value, in other words marketing pays off. I think we all felt encouraged by Janet Copsey's presentation.



objectives, activities and assessment of courses (curriculum integration); and providing credit courses specifically on research techniques. The trend at the



HONOURING OUR STAFF

Library Staff Excellence Award

Halyna Carpenter was introduced by Lynda Scott, Lending and Access, Humanities and Social Sciences Library.

Halyna Carpenter started out with the McGill Library as a student casual over 40 years ago, and has worked in the Social Work, Engineering, McLennan, Undergraduate and Library/Information Studies Libraries. She has, at one time or another, done pretty well every job the libraries have to offer from circulation to reserves, cataloguing to collections, staff and student training, reference work, and everything in-between. She has coordinated many library projects, staff and students, and volunteers regularly for library events such as Homecoming, Open House and Orientation week.

But it is not the long and dedicated service to McGill that makes Halyna stand out amongst her peers; it is her innate ability to calm frayed nerves and tempers; to be the rock in the storm, as it were, and to always be professional in her approach to her work, her teamwork and when dealing with the library users.

Halyna is extremely approachable, intelligent, even-tempered and dignified. She has the skill to listen to both sides of any argument and to put things in perspective and discuss issues or problems in a logical and effective manner, and to always move forward in a positive way. Halyna is a strong, innovative, forward-thinking colleague who always seems to have time to answer questions and provide detailed explanations and solutions to problems.

Halyna has a deep well of sympathy and kindness which she brings to her work, and her quiet dignity is a welcome presence to frustrated library users and staff alike. She is the epitome of a team player, and often times the glue that holds everything, and everyone, together.



Kendall Wallis, Halyna Carpenter, Adam Gacek, Janine Schmidt, Lynda Scott

Library Career Recognition Award

Adam Gacek was introduced by Kendall Wallis, Liaison Librarian, Humanities and Social Sciences Library.

Today we were proud to honour Adam Gacek, Head of the Islamic Studies Library and recipient of this year's Career Recognition Award. Adam's distinguished library career started from a firm scholarly foundation which included a Masters degree in Oriental Philology from the Jagiellonian University of Kraków in 1973 and a graduate diploma in librarianship from the Polytechnic (now University) of North London in 1977. That was followed by work on Arabic manuscripts at the School of Oriental and African Studies of the University of London and appointment as Head Librarian of the Institute of Ismaili Studies in London in 1982. In September 1987, Adam left London to become Head of the Islamic Studies Library at McGill.

In the words of Dr Eric Ormsby (former Director of the Institute of Islamic Studies and currently Professor and Chief Librarian at the Library of the Institute of Ismaili Studies in London), having arrived at McGill, "Adam Gacek took our rather dilapidated Islamic collections firmly in hand from the first day on the job. He acquainted

himself with virtually every holding we possessed, from Arabic and Persian manuscripts to book and journal collections to maps, microfilms, and dissertations, with the result that within his first year, he had developed an unparalleled knowledge of our collections. On this foundation he proceeded to build, and the Islamic Studies Library has benefited ever since. He has expanded and improved the collections; he has streamlined services and overseen the installation of automation as well as of retrospective conversion of the cataloguing; he has established important contacts with other libraries and institutions; he has offered our students incomparable guidance in the consultation of rare and handwritten materials. He has taught on a regular basis in the Institute and from all reports, he is an inspiring teacher."

Since arriving, Adam has been conspicuously active in opening the richnesses of that collection, teaching regular courses on "Research Materials" to graduate students. He has prepared over a dozen exhibitions presenting the treasures of McGill's libraries to the McGill community and the wider Montreal public.

Adam's publishing record is impressive by any standard. He has compiled five catalogues of Arabic and Persian manuscript collections in London and Montreal, including those

of McGill. The first volume of his *Arabic Manuscript Tradition: a Glossary of Technical Terms and Bibliography*, a work of almost 300 pages, appeared in the prestigious series, *Handbook of Oriental Studies*, published by Brill in the Netherlands in 2001, followed by a second volume of greater length in 2008. His *Arabic Manuscripts: a Vademecum for Readers* is in press with Brill and due later this year. From 1989 to 1992 he served as co-editor of the journal, *Manuscripts of the Middle East*, published in Leiden. His CV lists over forty-five journal articles, encyclopedia articles and book chapters, and some twenty book reviews. To quote Prof. Jamil Ragep, current Director of the Institute of Islamic Studies, Adam Gacek's work "is characterized by exacting attention to detail and clarity of presentation. His work has been transformative in ways few others have been in Islamic studies, allowing us to understand the workings of bookmaking, reading, and writing within Islamic civilization."

Islamic culture is a culture of the book, as are many others, but for countless cultural and philosophical reasons, the manuscript has retained a place of honour in that world which has faded in our own more print-oriented (and perhaps, post-print-oriented) world. To quote Prof Ragep again, "in the last 30 years he, along with a handful of other researchers, has managed to provide a much deeper understanding of the Islamic book than had heretofore existed." He has been invited to give week-long workshops on Arabic and Persian codicology and palaeography at the Universities of Pennsylvania, Princeton, Yale, Columbia, Brown and Pisa. He has presented seminars in Montreal, Jakarta and London and has given countless lectures at universities from Berlin and Bologna to Toronto, Paris and Istanbul. He is truly one of McGill's most widely recognized scholarly figures.

One bit of information (is both very impressive and very touching) shows that Adam's renown has spread very wide indeed. When Prof Ragep was teaching at the University of Aleppo one semester, he was

asked to oversee a thesis based on the work of one Adam Gacek.

To close with another quote from Eric Ormsby, "I cannot imagine any McGill

librarian better qualified or more deserving of this distinction than Adam Gacek;" a statement with which we can all happily concur.

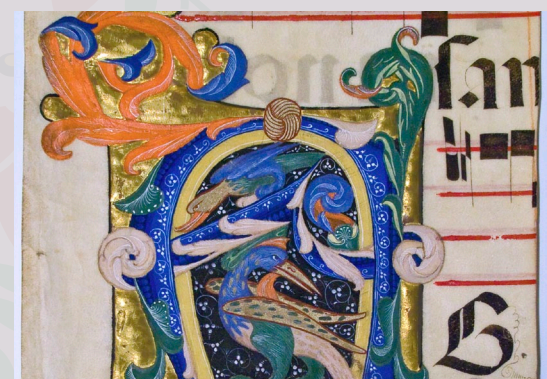
MCGILL LIBRARY ON THE ROAD

by Steven Spodek,
Development and Alumni Relations Officer

Gail and **Douglas Todgham** graciously hosted an event on April 27 entitled "From Prayer Books to PDAs – library collections today" in their wonderful home in Toronto. Janine Schmidt and April Colosimo spoke to 25 people in the Todgham home about the McGill Library and library collections today. In addition there was an opportunity to view some of the wonderful treasures from Rare Books and Special Collections. Although the Library organizes a number of well attended public lectures during the year in Montreal (this past year: Albert Schultz, Charlotte Gray, Justice Ian Binnie), this gathering was a bit of an experiment for the Library having never organized an event in someone's home before. An alum in Montreal has now offered to host something in her home later this year and we hope to organize other small group events.

Gail Todgham BA'67 is the daughter of the late Joan and Clifford Hatch. With seven McGill graduates among their children and grandchildren, it was not surprising that the Hatches would be closely connected to the University. Joan and Clifford Hatch pioneered the way for McGill parents by forming the Parents Fund, which is instrumental in raising annual gifts to develop the collections and resources of McGill's 13 branch libraries.

The legacy of these proud McGill parents lives on through the Joan and Clifford Hatch Family Foundation. The Hatch children are also committed to enhancing the Library's Shakespeare collection through an endowment and generous annual donations.



One of the items on display: Initial A on parchment (MS 47), Late 13th / early 14th century from Italy (Tuscany)

"SO, WHAT IS LIBX MCGILL, REALLY?"


by Heather Cai,
Library Technology Services

"So, what is LibX McGill, really?"
Soon after the announcement I was asked this question and thought I should probably write something to augment the instruction¹, hence this review.

According to Wikipedia², "*LibX is a free, open source scholars' extension for the Firefox and Internet Explorer browsers that lets people use services offered by their library.*" The LibX site³ has a slightly different but more explicit definition as to what it does, "*LibX is a browser plug-in for Firefox and Internet Explorer that provides direct access to your library's resources.*"

If you are not familiar with the terms, "Open Source", "extension", and "plug-in", just bear with them in mind for now. We only need to form a mental picture like this: LibX is *something* that connects *my* browser to *my* library resources. Here "*my* browser" can either be Firefox or IE. LibX currently works better in Firefox, therefore Firefox is recommended. "*My* library", on the other hand, could be any library. When adopted by a library, LibX is configured to work with the library's systems and therefore called that specific library's edition. LibX McGill, for example, is McGill Library's edition of LibX. LibX McGill is configured to search the McGill Library's catalogue and WorldCat. Use of LibX requires installation of a library edition. In theory, you can install any LibX edition, but in practice you would only be interested in installing your own library's edition as you would like to take most advantage from searching your own library's resources to which you have full access.

The beauty of LibX is that it provides direct access to your library resources

and serves you at the point of need. LibX appears to you as a browser toolbar when you install it in your browser. Like any other browser toolbar, LibX toolbar stays with your browser no matter where you are online. You can search your library resources any time you like without leaving your current web page. You can search by multiple terms in different fields (author, title, ISBN/ISSN, etc), and by clicking on the down arrow  you can add additional search boxes.

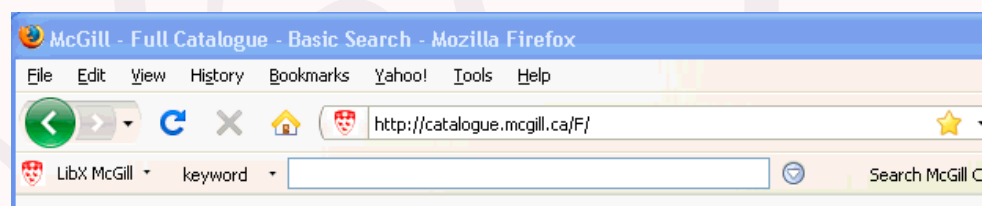


Figure 1: LibX McGill toolbar

As you play around with it, you will find out LibX is in fact more than just a toolbar. When you find something interesting and wonder if your library owns a copy, you can simply highlight the words and do a right-click. The context menu will then take you to the catalogue and do the search for you.



Figure 2: Context menu

1 http://catalogue.mcgill.ca/F/?func=file&file_name=libx_mcgill.html
2 <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/LibX>
3 <http://libx.org/>

LibX lets you search Google Scholar in two convenient ways. You can either right-click on any text then select the “Search Google Scholar” option in the context menu, or drag and drop any text onto the Scholar button in the toolbar. The Scholar button even works from inside a PDF (Windows only). This functionality is especially useful when you have a list of citations to consult.

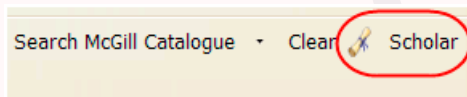

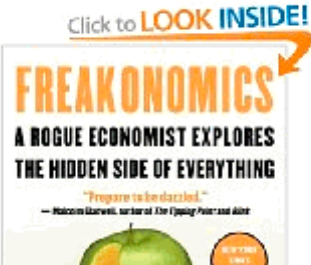



Figure 3: Scholar button

LibX makes your search experience a real joy. It places a “cue”, such as a McGill shield,  on search results in Google, Amazon, Global Books in Print, Yahoo! Search and more that leads you to your library resources. It recognizes ISSNs, ISBNs, PubMed IDs and DOIs and turns them into auto links that you may use to search for specific books and journals. Even more, it may save you money when you look for a book in Amazon – you would be prompted by the cue to check if your library owns the book!

in the library world: patrons have been taken away from the libraries by Google and Amazon; students like to start their work from Google, constantly bypassing library resources; people want the information right away, or otherwise they are somewhere else. Through the use of the state-of-the-art technology, LibX gets library resources with direct access into where patrons are working.

LibX is such a great tool for research and academic activities, plus, it is free, easy to learn and use, that you probably can't afford not to try it out. Remember, soon you may be asked the same question by your patrons, “So, what is LibX McGill, really?”



Freakonomics: A Rogue Economist Explores the Hidden Side of Everything [ROUGH CUT] (Hardcover) 

by [Steven D. Levitt](#) (Author), [Stephen J. Dubner](#) (Author) "Anyone living in the United States in the early 1990s and paying even a whisper of attention to the nightly news or a daily paper..." ([more](#))

Key Phrases: [white boy names](#), [cheating teacher](#), [teacher cheating](#), [United States](#), [New York](#), [Head Start](#) ([more...](#))


★★★★☆  (1,620 customer reviews)

Figure 4: a McGill Shield is placed in Amazon search results page

news and views

Climate change: Cornucopia of ice core results

BERNHARD STAUFFER

Nature **399**, 412–413 (1999); doi:[10.1038/20807](#)

| [Full Text \(HTML / PDF\)](#) |

Figure 5: DOI auto link

The significance of LibX is that it addresses the current issues and challenges