Over the summer, several Library staff have been working on a new training programme to assist graduate students in finding the information they need for their research and the successful completion of their projects. Other librarians are working on a training programme to ensure that we can effectively deliver such training programmes. Worldcat Local is being installed to help all of our clients to find and effectively use the resources they need.

While information resource discovery is vital, and finding specific information essential to research, learning and scholarly endeavours, Stephanie Simard from our Schulich Library of Science and Engineering, reminded me during the week of the importance of “browsing”. For many, the element of surprise has enabled successful outcomes of their endeavours – finding the unexpected has led to new ideas. The New York Times echoed this idea with an article “Serendipity, lost in the digital deluge” <http://www.nytimes.com/2009/08/02/business/02ping.html>. The article draws attention to the fact that while online resource discovery has brought us much, it has also robbed us of the ability to “happen upon” the information we did not know we wanted to see. How do we best ensure the serendipitous discovery? How do we expand our minds with new ideas and new hopes? The ingenious minds that provide many of our new digital services are working on it – let us hope we can keep up. One new service that has emerged to meet the need is Stumbleupon - http://www.stumbleupon.com/. The topics
Volunteers at the Library's table at the ID Centre last year

FROM THE DIRECTOR - CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

range from transparent aluminium (a report from researchers at Oxford) to 20 tasty cupcakes. Is this a new way of information access? Maybe…

The summer projects continue. One of the areas being addressed is pandemic preparedness and more details will be made available as the University’s plans are developed. The Library’s Orientation giveaway this year will be a hand sanitizer and we are ordering sanitizers for each of our branch libraries. The online course reserve project may become more important for students who might be unable to visit the University and we thank the library staff and student navigators who are all working so hard on this project. The construction holiday is over and the work on our various facilities upgrades will continue – thanks to you all who have been patient and continue to be patient and understanding during this work.

A thank you is also merited by those working on the re-match of our records against OCLC, matching some 2 661 437 records. While there was one slight glitch with some 75 000 records which is an easy fix – there remains under 1% of the records which did not match and which need further checking. A huge thank you to Christine Oliver and her team who have been working on this project to ensure we deliver quality records and enhance resource discovery. If you want to try a sneak preview, the test version of WorldCat Local is available at: http://mcgill.worldcat.org. We are planning to go live with the site in September.

For those of who have returned from vacation, I trust you enjoyed it. For those of you who have yet to have some days off, do enjoy some rest and relaxation.

Happiness keeps you Sweet,
Trials keep you Strong,
Sorrows keep you Human,
Failures keep you Humble,
Success keeps you Glowing,
But Only Hope Keeps You Going!
--Arthur Ashe

Thanks for Volunteering!

by Carole Urbain, Associate Director

The McGill Library will again be present at the I.D. Centre to greet incoming students as part of our 2009 Library Orientation events. Thank you to all staff members who volunteered to work with student navigators for brief two hour shifts handing out brochures and answering questions.

This is a real opportunity to give new students a welcoming, positive first impression of the Library and an early idea of all that we can do for them!

This year, the I.D. Centre in the Trottier Building will be open from 9 am to 5 pm, August 19-28, including the weekend.

Staff who helped out at the I.D. Centre last year said that it was enjoyable to meet and speak with new students. Please help out this year and participate in this Library Orientation event – many hands make light work.

Thank you on behalf of the 2009 Orientation Team.

Technology Tidbit

by Louise O’Neill,
Library Technology Services

Office 2007 Training Courses

Need an introduction to Microsoft Office programs (Outlook, Word, Excel, etc) or just want to brush up your skills? There are short video training courses available right in the software that allow you to work at your own pace. Optional self-tests and practice sessions are also available.

To access the MS training site, just click on the help question mark icon (usually located in the top right-hand corner) of any Office program and select Training, then (name of product) training courses, or link to: http://office.microsoft.com/en-us/training/FX100565001033.aspx

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
Jessica Hunt, jessica.hunt@mcgill.ca
Cathy Martin, cathy.martin@mcgill.ca
Joel Natanblut, joel.natanblut@mcgill.ca

Volunteers at the Library’s table at the ID Centre last year
McGill Library’s new OverDrive download service will go live in August. OverDrive is a website which will allow our clients to log in and download e-books, audio files, videos and more to their iPhones, laptops, Sony Bookreaders and other mobile devices for a two-week loan period (please note that this is not an Aleph loan). This will provide significant advantages to our “mobile” users.

All library staff were welcome to attend the following webinar sessions, at which OverDrive experts demonstrated how to browse, check out, download and place holds on items and answer questions.

General overview: August 26 at 10-11:30 am, in the CS/LTS meeting room. Please discuss with your supervisor and register with Joanne Hay via email at joanne.hay@mcgill.ca. For liaison librarians: Thursday August 20 at 10:00-11:00 am, in the CS/LTS meeting room. Liaison Librarians who want more information or training on ordering materials for Overdrive, should contact Valerie Fortin.

Currently the website is on soft launch mode and can be accessed by library staff at: http://mcgill.lib.overdrive.com

Meebo/Twitter orientation

This fall, librarians who work on QP will also begin to use Meebo to receive Instant Messages (IM’s) from clients. Twitter will also be used for communication and monitored for “tweets” about McGill Library. While both require minimal monitoring and are easy to use, another Twitter and Meebo orientation will be held for librarians:

Friday, August 14, 2:00-4:00 pm,
in the Nahum Gelber Law Library computer lab

HandHeld Librarians’ Conference

The first Handheld Librarian Online conference was held on Thursday, July 30. We participated online with over 3500 library professionals from around the world and shared ideas, trends, strategies and important philosophical questions about the role that mobile devices are playing in our organizations. It appears to be the first library conference to make it into the top ten Twitter trends (even ALA hasn’t accomplished that). To access the conference recordings: http://www.handheldlibrarian.org/schedule (Login: mcgilllibrary, Password: mcgill2009). All conference recordings are available for at least six months. You may also be interested in the additional information at the Handheld Events Tracker at http://www.flexyourinfo.com/track/hhlib2009/.

EScholarship@McGill

There are currently two categories of items in eScholarship@McGill: e-Prints and e-Theses. During the week of August 10, 2009, a third category appeared - Honours Theses, to be used for undergraduate honours theses which are now being submitted to the repository. Information on the eScholarship@McGill website will also be changed accordingly.

Clean PCs

“Clean PC” computer cleaning foam is a spray-on product that safely cleans keyboards, laptops and other computer equipment in seconds – just spray and wipe. It can be used on other electronic equipment as well, without worry about damage to electronic components. http://cleanpc.com/

Staff Changes

We are pleased to announce that Susan Murray has been appointed as Head Librarian, Life Sciences Library and commenced on August 3. Susan comes to us from the Toronto Public Library where she has been managing a consumer health information service for 18 years. Susan was formerly employed at the Canadian Health Network and at the University of Toronto in the Science and Medicine Library and the Faculty of Dentistry Library. Susan has undertaken leadership roles within the Canadian Health Libraries Association and the Medical Library Association. She has been awarded the Margaret Ridley Charlton Award of Outstanding Achievement by the Canadian Health Libraries Association. She has published in the field and made many presentations at various conference, with strong contributions to consumer health and health literacy. Please join me in welcoming Susan.

Graham Lavender has been appointed to a one-year term. He will be working half time in LTS and half time in the
Director’s office. Graham is a recent SIS graduate who did a practicum with the Library earlier this year. He has also been working as a casual staff member for the Library.

Jessica Lange has been appointed to a one-year term and will be working initially in the Howard Ross Library of Management. Jessica is a recent SIS graduate who did a practicum with the Library earlier this year and has also been working as a student navigator in the Marvin Duchow Music Library.

Please welcome both Graham and Jessica who commenced on August 3 and are replacing staff taking various leaves.

Amy Buckland who has been adding considerable value to the services provided by the Howard Ross Library of Management is moving to the Library Technology Service where she will be undertaking some of the duties of the coordination of eScholarship@McGill while Genevieve Gore is still on leave. We welcome Amy to her new role.

WorldCat Local

The preparations for OCLC WorldCat Local as our new discovery tool are moving along. Currently OCLC is matching our Aleph records against WorldCat in a reclamation project that will ensure our records are in sync with WorldCat. Once this is complete we will update our records on a daily basis with OCLC to keep in sync. We hope to have a roll out of WorldCat Local in September. To view the test setup go to: http://mcgill.worldcat.org/

McGill Library Blog

The McGill Library is pleased to introduce its blog. Written by the librarians in the Desautels Faculty of Management, the blog will cover new services and resources, offer tips and tricks for research, and highlight recent faculty publications.

Read about it: McGill Library Blog

Library Partners

The McGill Library has several library partners who have included their holdings in the McGill Library Catalogue for many years now. Some of these libraries have been interested in using more than just the catalogue functions and would like to loan their materials online using Aleph. Presbyterian College Library and the Montreal Neurological Institute Library have both started projects to barcode their collections on Aleph, so that they can use the Aleph circulation module. Other partner libraries, including the Jewish General Hospital Libraries and the Douglas Hospital Library, are hoping to begin barcoding their collections, too.

Course Reserves

Dawn McKinnon and Amin Merani led sessions for all available branch staff on the new Course Reserves in Aleph and reviewed this summer’s Course Reserves Project. Sessions took place on August 4, 5 and 11. More sessions will be planned as needed.
With the new academic year beginning I thought I'd take a moment of your time, and a few inches of page real estate, to refresh everyone about eScholarship@McGill (http://www.mcgill.ca/library-findinfo/escholarship/).

What is it?

eScholarship@McGill is a digital repository which stores and showcases the publications and theses of McGill University faculty and students. The repository exists in an online, open-access environment, making it easy for researchers all over the world to find and access the University's published research output.

Why are we doing it?

The intellectual output of McGill University needs a showcase. eScholarship@McGill aims to collect all of this output into one repository, and make all of it available to the public without any barriers. Researchers from around the world will be able to access and learn from the publications of McGill faculty. The repository is open access, making McGill's intellectual output freely available on the internet, and crawled by Google’s search algorithms, enhancing the findability of these publications. Finally, by submitting publications to eScholarship@McGill, faculty and students ensure that their work is properly archived, as the formatting done to the documents received ensures that when new technologies are developed, these publications will still be readable. Currently, a number of granting agencies are evaluating whether they should follow the NIH model and require that all research published with funding from their agency, be made available in an open access institutional repository.

Who is involved?

All faculty and students are invited to submit to eScholarship@McGill. Currently we are accepting research articles, electronic theses, working papers, conference papers, books and research reports. Undergraduate students require faculty sponsorship. Liaison librarians play an especially important role in promoting eScholarship@McGill to members of faculty and assisting them in contributing their publications. Training sessions for liaison librarians will be offered in the fall.

If you are planning a presentation to faculty in the near future, I would be happy to prepare one or two PowerPoint slides about eScholarship@McGill for you - please just let me know.

If you have any questions at all, I encourage you to get in touch with me at amy.buckland@mcgill.ca.

Cisco Digital Media Players have been installed in the Humanities and Social Sciences, Schulich, Howard Ross, Macdonald Campus, Gelber Law, and Life Sciences libraries. The player is an improvement over the previous system because it is greener (content is controlled by a small box rather than a full PC, and there are plans to power down screens when the Library is closed) and because it is more stable (evidenced by the decline in foul language used by the Web Services Librarian when editing content).

It can display video (mpg), flash (swf), and RSS feeds, and was used to showcase some videos from TVMcGill earlier this summer. The attractive template currently being used was designed by Joel Natanblut. Each branch with a screen has a librarian creating content, so if you have some creative ideas on what could appear on the public display screens, please let them know.
Eleanor MacLean
Liaison Librarian/Natural History
Collections Coordinator

Where were you born?
Winnipeg.

What part of town do you live in?
NDG.

How long have you worked at the library?
A little over 36 years.

Do you have any pets?
No.

What is your favourite place in Montreal?
The Botanical Gardens.

What is your favourite dessert?
Oh let’s see – Devil’s Food Cake with Seven Minute Frosting, Red Velvet Cake, Butter Tarts, Raspberries – you name it, I love it!

What are you reading and/or listening to?
Reading: Lost worlds: what have we lost, & where did it go? and Living in the shadow of the Freud family. For some reason, at the moment, a lot of piano concertos.

What are your other interests?
Travel and theatre.

What is your pet peeve?
My tendency to procrastinate.

What is/are your favorite quote(s)?
The two I have attached to my email messages – depending on which computer I’m sending my emails from.

“Discovery consists of seeing what everybody has seen and thinking what nobody has thought”, Albert Szent-Gyorgyi and “The palest ink is better than the best memory” (Chinese proverb).

What is one thing that people do not know about you?
I’m a sentimentalist and can’t help weeping over death or other tragic scenes in the novels I read.

Greg Colley
Rare Books and Special Collections Coordinator

Where were you born?
Vancouver, BC.

What part of town do you live in?
The Plateau.

How long have you worked at the library?
One year.

Do you have any pets?
I’ve wanted a dog for years, but my partner has yet to be convinced.

What is your favourite place in Montreal?
Cinema du Parc.

What is your favourite dessert?
Pumpkin pie with ice cream.

What are you reading and/or listening to?
Zima Blue/Alistair Reynolds: “Stuff you should know” podcast.

What are your other interests?
Aimless city walking; talking with crazy people.

What is your pet peeve?
Would vote YES! to non-mural graffiti death penalty.

What is/are your favorite quote(s)?
Caelum non animum mutant qui trans mare currunt.

What is one thing that people do not know about you?
I can’t read.

Ann Marie Holland
Liaison Librarian
Rare Books and Special Collections

Where were you born?
Toronto.

What part of town do you live in?
Mile End.

How long have you worked at the library?
Six years.

Do you have any pets?
No, but lots of plants.

What is your favourite place in Montreal?
Bike path along the Lachine Canal.

What is your favourite dessert?
Trifle.

What are you reading and/or listening to?
Turn of the 20th century poets, Gore Vidal’s biography on Lincoln, and Diderot’s Jacques le Fataliste.

What are your other interests?
Glaciers, the Great Lakes and Gardens.

What is your pet peeve?
Waiting for the bus.

What is/are your favorite quote(s)?
“Hope springs eternal in the human breast: Man never Is, but always To be blest”, adapted by Alexander Pope.