At this time of year, we receive many greetings from colleagues all over the world. The card from the University of Arizona Libraries had the following message which referred to the difficult times experienced by many during 2009:

Muster our strength and endurance; 
Face our fears and misunderstandings; 
Find ways to adapt and adjust ourselves, and 
Apply what we have learned.

In seeing our challenges as opportunities the future will stand like an open book before us and we can learn to run with the wind again. May your spirit be enriched with a new spark of hope this season.

This seemed like a good message for all of us at this time of year as we reflect on 2009 and prepare for 2010.

In looking back on 2009, one of the library lists, LISNews Librarian and Information Science News (http://www.lisnews.org/ten_stories_shaped_2009) identified ten stories which had shaped 2009.

- Decline of Newspapers - dwindling newspaper subscriptions are threatening the ongoing existence of this medium
- Whither Wikipedia - growing pains and a loss of volunteers have led to some bumps on the road
- Bookless School Library - a private boarding school in Massachusetts established a library with no printed books
- Google Books Settlement - changing the...
future of digital copyright and potentially library service

It's (Still) the Economy – money woes continue to plague libraries.

As we all go on holidays, let us reflect on the past in 2009 and prepare for 2010. May all enjoy fellowship with family and friends.

CAROLLING AT THE LIBRARY

Members of the McGill community were invited to celebrate the holidays on a high note with the Campus Community carolling event on December 16 on the main floor of the Humanities and Social Sciences Library. They were invited to drop by to listen or sing along to traditional Christmas carols and other festive favourites, and raise a cup of holiday cheer - complimentary hot chocolate or coffee - with friends and colleagues.

The choir, composed of McGill faculty, staff and students, was directed by McGill graduate John Wiens, Director of Music at St. Matthias Church in Westmount.

Megan Fitzgibbons was perusing her journal alerts recently and noticed that a recent issue of Reference Services Review features an article by Stéphanie Simard. For those who haven’t seen it:


Congratulations Stéphanie!

The McGill Alumni Association hosted coffee breaks for over-worked and sleep deprived students during early December. Free coffee, cookies and fruit were available for the hungry hordes in branch libraries across campus, including the Humanities and Social Sciences Library (pictured).

CONGRATULATIONS ARE IN ORDER!

Congratulations Stéphanie!

TECHNOLOGY TIDBIT

by Louise O’Neill,
Library Technology Services

GIVE US YOUR SOFTWARE SUGGESTIONS

CIO’s call to students, staff and faculty:

“We want to hear about the software applications you suggest for distribution across campus. Remember that the software program invests in campus-wide licenses and not all software is available as a site license.”

Please read “Give us your software suggestions” at http://blogs.mcgill.ca/fyi/
It was a terrific evening of singing and mingling at the Library’s Festive Fête on December 17, bringing together Library staff and friends to celebrate a successful year and to welcome the holidays. There was plenty of holiday cheer going round, a surprise song for Janine Schmidt sung to the tune of the well-known Australian folk song *Waltzing Matilda*, the baby pictures from our guessing contest displayed on the big screen and some karaoke to get everyone in the party mood.

The *Who’s that baby contest?* proved to be quite challenging, with no one matching all names correctly. The Festive Fête Organizing Committee has tallied up the ballots and is pleased to announce the winners. There were two $50 McGill Bookstore gift cards and three people from the Macdonald Campus Library, **Vincci Lui, Jan Sandink and Natalie Waters** obtained the highest score. It is up to them to work out how to share the $50 gift cards! Thank you to everyone who sent in their photos and to all who filled out ballots. Happy holidays!

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**CALLING JANINE!**

A song prepared for Janine Schmidt to the tune of *Waltzing Matilda*. Performed by staff at the Library’s Festive Fête.

Once a fine woman directed a library
Under the shade of a Queensland tree
And she sang as she worked, managing the library
Until she got a call from Tony Masi

Calling Janine, calling Janine
Will you come work at McGill for me?
We need information, innovation, technology
Will you come a-working at McGill for me?

Up came Janine to transform the library
Down came the signs, one two three
And she sang as she worked revisioning the library
Will you come a-working at McGill with me?

Calling Janine, calling Janine
Will you come work at McGill for me?
We need information, innovation, technology
Will you come a-working at McGill for me?

Once in frosty Montreal, Janine and Barry settled in
Learning to speak French, “Un, deux, trois”!
Joining in the jolly CREPUQ reunions
You’ll come a saying, “Je suis australienne.”

Calling Janine, calling Janine
Will you come work at McGill for me?
We need information, innovation, technology
Will you come a-working at McGill for me?

In came marketing, Cyberthèques and fluencies
In came the e-books, DOD and POD
With our jolly staff, super students, faculty and BYTs
Janine’s left us with a great legacy.

Thank you Janine, thank you Janine
Thank you for working at McGill with me
For you came and you made a remarkable difference
Janine, you’ll be missed tremendously!

-------everyone join in!--------

Waltzing Janine, waltzing Janine
You’ll go a-waltzing Janine with Barry
And he sang as he sat and he waited by the billabong
You’ll go a waltzing Janine and Barry.
ACKNOWLEDGING OUR FRIENDS

On December 1, the Friends of the Library held their Annual General Meeting in Rare Books and Special Collections. A short ceremony recognized the annual ‘Friend of the Year’ award, which went to outgoing President, Friends of the Library, Janet Blachford BA’61, MA'63. Professor Paul Yachnin applauded Janet for her unwavering dedication and commitment, expressing the immense gratitude of the Friends of the Library. Since 2004, Janet has been a pivotal member, tirelessly leading as its President for the last three years. Janet has given generously of her time and made a significant contribution to the Library and its activities. Her impact has been felt through her influential guidance and innovative suggestions. She has helped expand the community’s knowledge of the Library, promoted interest in its events and encouraged awareness of the Library’s resources. The Library is very fortunate to have Janet as a friend.

REMEMBERING MARILYN COHEN

There was a special celebration of Marilyn Cohen’s life and a tribute to her held in the Education Library and Curriculum Resources Centre on Tuesday, December 8. Speakers Janine Schmidt, Marilyn Berger, Cynthia Leive and Sara Holder from the Library, and Professors Jacob Burack, Lise Winer and Bruce Shore from the Faculty of Education made moving tributes to a colleague and friend who will be deeply missed. Marilyn's son Yisrael Cohen (pictured below) also spoke and her husband Arnold Cohen was present.

Janet Blachford, Janine Schmidt, John Blachford, Bruna Ceccolini

Sheila Goldbloom, Cecil Rabinovitch, Janet Blachford

Yisrael Cohen
Library Technology Services Open House welcomed almost 100 staff members on December 2. People from each branch visited to take part in our many drop-in activities. LTS staff members opened their office doors to fellow library staff for an afternoon.

In Redpath Library Building on the 2nd floor, team leaders made themselves available in their offices to answer questions, give details about their work and explain the functions of LTS focusing on services provided for staff. A hands-on Technology Petting Zoo was available for staff to try their hand at Second Life, The Knowledge Base and the Library Blog.

Print on Demand (PoD) and Digitization on Demand (DoD) were highlighted on the 4th floor of the McLennan Library Building. Library staff members were given the opportunity to witness a demonstration of the Kirtas Robotic Book Scanner and the Espresso Book Machine. Staff members were pleased to see the types of work being undertaken to make McGill Library’s rare collections available to the public at large.

The Library technology Services would like to thank everyone who participated.
Bruce Osler
Humanities and Social Sciences Library

Bruce was the recipient of this year’s university-wide Principal’s Award for Administrative and Support Staff. We take a look at the profile of a staff member who has been recognized for his outstanding contributions. Congratulations, Bruce!

Customer Service / Service Excellence
Bruce Osler is dedicated to meeting the expectations and requirements of internal and external clients. He welcomes students and faculty and goes out of his way to help library staff. Bruce ensures daily that the Library is a welcoming space for Humanities and Social Sciences Library clients: he sorts and shelves materials from the Reference Collection, he puts away books, journals and newspapers recently received on shelves, etc. Bruce establishes and maintains effective relationships with his colleagues and gains their trust and respect.

Quality of Work
Bruce has always been extremely conscientious and industrious in all tasks given. He shows great sense of pride in a job well done especially when he is called upon to fill in for staff and always meets challenges successfully with minimum training and supervision. Since joining the Library, relocating from Stationery Stores, Bruce brought with him a customer service commitment and continued in the same vein, a quality which is truly valued in the Library’s milieu. He ensures that a quality environment is maintained in the Humanities and Social Sciences Library.

Initiative / Innovation
Bruce has on numerous occasions shown initiative and imagination in dealing with the challenge of unfamiliar tasks. In implementing the new Interlibrary Loan process in Humanities and Social Sciences Library (HSSL), Bruce thoughtfully assessed the new method of delivery of material, compiled statistics, proposed changes to improve the process, and shared his findings and experience with colleagues.

Teamwork
The ability to work as a team member is one of the Bruce’s strengths. He is always positive and friendly. He accepts responsibility willingly and lends a hand to others, especially during peak periods and also when we implemented in January 2009 the new Interlibrary Loan process. His flexibility is demonstrated daily by his willingness to take on more work, to replace absent staff or to take an unforeseen task in hand.

Service to the Community
Bruce interacts with users of the Humanities and Social Sciences Library on a daily basis and plays a significant role in public relations for the Library. He has proven to be most diligent and completely dependable. Bruce works quietly and efficiently with a pleasant personality. He is always ready and willing to go above and beyond regular work duties to assist clients and colleagues. There is never any problem in asking for his help at the last minute set up for a presentation or for welcoming visitors. The Library’s goal in the delivery of quality client service is also Bruce’s!

If you have visited Library Technology Services on the 3rd floor of the Redpath Library Building lately, you may have noticed a very festive looking book tree. A stack of green books, the tree was created by Amy Buckland and Graham Lavender from Pre-1956 imprints of the National Union Catalog.
A retirement party was held for two staff members from Collection Services—Heather Cumming, who retired with 25 years of service and Jadwiga Kudlaciak, who retired with 35 years of service. The party was on December 16, 2009 in the Staff Café. We wished them all the best for the future. Thanks to Kathy Watt in Collection Services for the photos.

Farewell and good luck
Denise Gaulin, Michel Morin
Eleanor Turner, Maureen Rahaman
Heather Cumming, Joseph Hafner
Jadwiga Kudlaciak, Zofia Domanska
Kathy Watt, Louise Nadeau, Rosa Palucci, Angela Murgita
Denise Gaulin, Michel Morin

WORLDCAT LOCAL AS THE MAIN CATALOGUE ON THE LIBRARY’S HOMEPAGE

The week of January 4, 2010 the Library will make WorldCat Local the default catalogue on the homepage. The Aleph catalogue will become the Classic Catalogue.

WORLDCAT LOCAL ORIENTATION SESSION

A 5th WorldCat Local Orientation Session for all library staff will be hosted on Thursday, January 14 from 2:00 to 3:30 p.m. in the LTS Conference Room. RSVP to Joanne Hay at joanne.hay@mcgill.ca
We are pleased to announce that by popular vote the winners of the best Halloween costume are Greg Houston and Jennifer Innes of Library Technology Services. Greg was dressed as the devil and Jennifer as “death”. They will each receive a McGill Bookstore gift card worth $20. Great effort!