

Library Matters @ McGill

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E AND E - TO EXCHANGE AND ENCOURAGE

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. Send your input to the *you never heard it from us* editorial team:

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FROM THE TRENHOLME DIRECTOR OF LIBRARIES

An article in last Sunday's *Gazette* by Naomi S. Baron entitled "Why read when you can google?" caught my attention. Her view was that the use of search engines and the quick satisfaction of the internet are endangering a literate society. Her article concluded with:

If we approach the written word primarily through search-and-seizure rather than sustained encounter-and-contemplation, we risk losing a critical element of what it means to be an educated, literate society.

Do these kinds of views represent a generation gap, a digital divide or a genuine problem in our society? How do we ensure that as we assist our users in their search for information content that they not only seize the content but engage with it? Our role is to provide the information, ensure easy access, promote its availability and together with the many others involved in educating students at McGill, provide skills in accessing, using and evaluating information.

As we conclude the year, there are many achievements of which we can be proud. The climate control installation was completed, ensuring that our precious rare books can be maintained in appropriate conditions. The new Music Library was opened to great acclaim. New software was acquired to support innovative approaches to database management of our resources. Our e-books collections rose to over 1 million in number and our e-journals to almost 30,000. We acquired additional rare manuscripts like the 51 voyageur contracts of the early nineteenth century. These contracts between the voyageurs and such companies as the Hudson's Bay Company and the North West Company will facilitate research and improved understanding of the establishment of trade in the early days of what became Canada. Another notable acquisition was a circular describing losses in the fire in Montreal on May 18, 1765. Digitization of our Napoleonic collections has exposed them to the world. We mounted a new website, gained improved funding from the University – although we are still at no. 8 in Maclean's, adopted new orientation programs for students and extended our information skills training programs. We continued to lend, discharge and shelve hundreds of thousands of books. Millions of journal articles were read, both in print and online. Thank you to all who have made this possible.

Examination time and the festive season are both with us. We wish our students all the very best in their endeavours. We also wish everyone a safe, relaxing holiday season.

*To your enemy, forgiveness.
To an opponent, tolerance.
To a friend, your heart.
To a customer, service.
To all, charity.
To every child, a good example.
To yourself, respect.*

(Oren Arnold)

**Janine Schmidt,
Trenholme Director of Libraries**



*Every book teaches a lesson,
even if the lesson is only that
one has chosen the wrong book.*

- Mason Cooley

PSSSST: STAFF NEWS

Ann Marie Holland, Preservation Librarian (Rare Books and Special Collections) recently completed a one-year certificate program at the Preservation Management Institute of Rutgers University, located in New Jersey. The Institute offers unique and comprehensive training in developing and managing preservation operations. The year was divided into 3 one-week sessions with corresponding assignments covering topics such as: environmental control, facilities and storage, collection conservation, disaster planning, exhibits, selection for transfer, reformatting with digital technologies and digital preservation. Instructors came from the New York Public Library, Columbia University, the Smithsonian Institute, as well as OCLC and included invited speakers such as William Lull, a top consultant in conservation environments. The Preservation Management Institute is a US acclaimed program supported by NEH (National Endowment for the Humanities). The Institute has the advantage of providing training in a broad range of preservation issues, technologies and management strategies to advance a preservation program while allowing networking opportunities with colleagues who face similar challenges in comparable environments.

On Friday, November 18, **Marika Asimakopulos, Liaison Librarian (Schulich)** attended a book launch which was held at Bombardier Aerospace.

The book being launched was *Computational Fluid Dynamics for Engineers: from Panel to Navier-Stokes Methods with Computer Programs* by, amongst others, two Bombardier engineers. The lead author, **Tuncer Cebeci**, is a well-known professor-researcher-author, at the Boeing Company and Cal State University at Long Beach. The Schulich Library has 13 of his books. As the author remarked when informed of this number, thirteen is an unlucky number. Marika replied that with the new one, it will no

longer be 13. There are two publishers logos on the book cover, Springer is recognizable but not Horizons Publishing. During his presentation, Professor Cebeci related that he had started a publishing house and called it Horizons Publishing. The local Bombardier authors convinced him to lower the price for Canadians to \$100.00. The book launch invitation to Marika was extended at the request of McGill Professor W. Habashi, Director of the Computational Fluid Dynamics Laboratory and NSERC-J.Armand Bombardier Chair of Multi-disciplinary CFD. Marika had to reply a week in advance for security reasons.

Library Trends 2006

In 2005, **Karen Nicholson** and **David McKnight** launched the monthly Library Trends Series. The purpose of the series is to provide McGill Library Staff with the opportunity to share with their colleagues interesting developments and initiatives that help better understand the changing world of academic librarianship.

Are you working on a collaborative project? Have you given a paper at a conference that you would like to share with your colleagues? Karen and David are seeking proposals for the winter term 2006. If you are interested in participating, please contact Karen Nicholson (karen.nicholson@mcgill.ca) or David McKnight (david.mcknight@mcgill.ca).

Genevieve Gore from the Life Sciences Library has agreed to continue in the role of Website Coordinator until April 30, 2006.

As a result, **Debbie Meert** has agreed to continue in her role as replacement in the Life Sciences Library.

New Librarian Appointments

Rajiv Johal joins McGill as a Liaison Librarian in the Howard Ross Library of Management. He holds Bache-

lor of Commerce and Master of Library and Information Studies degrees from McGill, and a Master of Arts from Concordia University. A native Montrealer, Rajiv comes to McGill from Concordia University, where he has worked for the past few years as a Liaison Librarian at the Vanier Library. He takes up his new duties on December 19.

Sara Holder is appointed Liaison Librarian in the Education Library. Sara is no stranger to the McGill Library, having worked as a Data Specialist in the Electronic Data Resources Service (EDRS) since January 2005. Prior to coming to McGill, Sara held appointments as a Reference Librarian and as a Project Manager at the Princeton University Library. She has a Bachelor of Arts degree from Vassar College and a MLIS from Dominican University. Sara assumes her new duties on December 16.

Welcome, Rajiv and Sara!

MCGILL LIBRARY LENDs BOOK TO MUSEUM EXHIBITION by Valerie Mayman, Interlibrary Loan Service

A book from the collection of the Humanities & Social Sciences Library has been loaned to the Pointe-à-Callière, Musée d'archéologie et d'histoire de Montréal for display in the current exhibition, *Jules Verne, Writing the Sea*. The exhibition commemorates the 100th anniversary of the death of Verne (1828-1905).

The book that was loaned is Jules Verne's, **Une Ville flottante: suivie des "Forceurs de blocus."** Paris, [s.n., 19--?]. Objects for this exhibition have also been obtained from libraries and museums in France.

The exhibition at Pointe-à-Callière opened November 1, 2005 and ends April 20, 2006. A newspaper article about the show appeared in the Montreal *Gazette* on Saturday, November 19, 2005, p. G2.

CONFERENCE TIDBITS

Marc Richard, Cataloguing Librarian (LTS)

Marc Richard attended the CRE-PUQ Workshop titled "*Les ressources d'enseignement et d'apprentissage en format numérique : conservation, diffusion et réutilisation*," which was held at UQAM on October 6, 2005.

The workshop examined the use of metadata to provide access to digital learning objects (or "REAs" -- *ressources d'enseignement et d'apprentissage*, i.e. teaching and training resources). REAs are didactic materials created by teachers, professors and institutions to support teaching. They can be as large and complex as an entire online course, or as small as a one-page document, a single image, a sound recording or other type of electronic file.

Particular attention was devoted to the NORMETIC (normetic.org/) metadata standard, which was recently developed by the GTN-Q (*Groupe québécois de travail sur les normes*) in collaboration with agencies such as CRE-PUQ to encourage the sharing and reuse of REAs in Quebec. NORMETIC is an application profile of the LOM metadata standard (IEEE Standard 1484.12.1-2002 for Learning Object Metadata). NORMETIC's level of detail and complexity is approximately midway between the basic Public Core standard and the full LOM standard.

The workshop mentioned some current projects to which NORMETIC is being applied, such as the ENPAIRS website, Université Laval and the Virtual Campus for Health, a joint initiative of five Quebec universities (McGill, UdeM, UQAM, Laval and Sherbrooke).

The VCH (www.cvs-vch.ca/en/accueil/index.asp) is a portal which provides access to materials, including

courses, which support both the training and the in-practice work of health care professionals. The workshop concluded with a round-table discussion of concerns related to the sharing of REAs, such as persuading REA creators to share their materials without financial compensation, managing intellectual ownership rights and user access levels, and the funding required to set up projects of the type described during the workshop.

Lorie Kloda, Liaison Librarian (Life Sciences)

On November 18, **Karen Nicholson, Darlene Canning and Lorie Kloda** facilitated a workshop for Teaching & Learning Services. The three-hour workshop, entitled "Fostering Academic Integrity in Students' Work," attracted instructors and librarians from various faculties and departments. The session explored different definitions of plagiarism and its incidence at Canadian universities, including McGill. Morton Mendelson, Associate Provost, Academic Programs and Services, presented an overview of the current situation at McGill. The workshop included activities and discussions during which participants suggested strategies for promoting academic integrity through course design, library instruction, and collaboration with the writing centre. The workshop proved to be a success and will be offered once again in the afternoon of March 14, 2006. For more information, or to register, contact Teaching & Learning Services at tls@mcgill.ca.

PAT ON THE BACK

Submitted to the Ask a Librarian web form:

This isn't a question, but I just wanted to provide feedback on an electronic resource. I really like Books24x7. I've been using it mostly for access to books in the area of knowledge management, and I think it's great! Although I generally prefer reading a book in hard copy, it's very disappointing to go to the library & find that the book one wants is on loan and won't be back for a month. With Books24x7 I can easily find appropriate books & browse through their contents looking for information about whatever topic I'm dealing with in an essay or project. I just wanted to let you know how useful I'm finding it.

Regards,

Brenda Taylor

CLIENT SERVICE TIPS

by Joseph Hafner, Music Cataloguer (Library Technical Services)

☞ **Let them feel that you have all the time they need.**

You've got your hands full. The boss is concerned about productivity. Calm yourself: a relaxed tone of voice and patient approach with customers goes miles toward keeping customers satisfied—even if they don't get everything they want. Jane Hiller Farran, from the Wharton Business School's executive education program, remembers to this day a General Electric employee who tried hard—and failed—to find information she'd been looking for. "The person who took my call scanned computer directories and called associates who might be able to help, to no avail. The effort, though, made me feel very good about GE, because that employee clearly went to some lengths to try to get me an answer."

Season's Greetings
from your you-never-heard-
it-from-us editorial team!

CONSERVATION PROJECT FOR RARE ISLAMIC CODICES

by Ann Marie Holland, Preservation Librarian / Photo by Eli Brown, Digital Collections Program



In 2005, the McGill Library joined forces with ARA (*les Amis de la reliure d'art*), an association of bookbinders in Quebec, to construct tailor-made boxes for one hundred bound Islamic manuscripts of significant cultural, historical and artistic value. Items were selected from the varied and rich collections of the Islamic Studies Library and the Rare Books Division, based on condition, date, value and associated storage problems such as unusual formats, warping and fragile covers.

The conservation boxes have been modelled on the design by Library of Congress. They are called clamshell boxes because the lid closes tightly over the book. Inside, the book is held firmly in place with interior walls. On the outside, the boxes are covered with neutral sail cloth and are made of 100% acid-free materials. Their main function is to ensure protection during handling and re-shelving, while providing a more solid support structure. This is particularly valuable for Islamic bindings with a soft cover and structure. Tailor-made according to the height and width and depth of the book, conservation boxes take time to measure and construct: a professional might take up to five hours to complete one box. Consequently, these boxes are only suitable for valuable, permanent items. In fact, conservation boxes are a relatively low-cost alternative for the stabilisation of rare and special collections when compared to specific

restoration and conservation treatments.

With regards to the process, some fifteen bookbinders from the ARA signed up as the production team, working Saturdays in a basement classroom of the Islamic Studies Library, which was transformed temporarily into a buzzing workshop. Ms. Sylvie Bompie of the National Archives Preservation Centre provided introductory training for building the boxes. Her expertise set the standards for the results that we

are seeing today. Production is complete for all but a few difficult items such as a scroll and wooden tablets.

The McGill Library is grateful to the dedicated members of the ARA, in particular Anne-Marie Saint Onge and Saskia Roukema. We



also wish to acknowledge the donors for their financial support which allowed us to purchase the appropriate supplies and pay for training. In addition, Donald Hogan of the Rare Books Division played a large role in giving advice on matters of selection and in preparing the items for the boxes. Steve Millier of the Islamic Studies Library dedicated extra hours to workshop supervision. Finally, the recent Islamic manuscript exhibition by Adam Gacek, in which some of the boxes were put on display, also served to highlight the co-operative spirit that formed an integral part of this project, while promoting the exceptional Arabic, Persian and Turkish manuscripts.

Hence! home, you idle creatures, get you home: / Is this a holiday?

- William Shakespeare: Julius Caesar



...WINTER SOLSTICE, YULE LOGS AND OTHER SEASONAL FARE

Winter solstice

The **winter solstice**, which occurs between Dec 20th and 22nd is the longest night and shortest day of the year. The idea of celebration marking the time when the sun is less and the darkness is longer, has a history of thousands of years. The celebrations begin the next day when the sun returns and the days start to get longer. Many peoples celebrate this transitional day.

Yule logs and Christmas trees

From the ancient Roman pagan festivals of Saturnalia (December 17) and New Year's come the merrymaking and exchange of presents. Old Germanic midwinter customs have contributed the lighting of the Yule log and decorations with evergreens. The Christmas tree comes from medieval German mystery plays centered in representations of the Tree of Paradise (Genesis 2:9). Francis of Assisi popularized the Christmas crib, or crèche, in his celebration at Greccio, Italy, in 1223.

Through the Dutch the tradition of St. Nicholas (Sinterklaas, hence "Santa Claus") was brought to America in their colony of New Amsterdam, now New York. The sending of greeting cards at Christmas began in Britain in the 1840s and was introduced to the United States in the 1870s.

"church year." *Encyclopædia Britannica* from Encyclopædia Britannica Online. <<http://www.search.eb.com/eb/article-67665>> [Accessed November 30, 2005].

Wassail

The word wassail derives from Old Norse *ves heill*, meaning "be well, and in good health." The name has come to be generally applied to any bowl from which a toast is drunk, as well as to the actual drink itself.

Kwanzaa

Kwanzaa is an adaptation of an African harvest festival, celebrated from December 26 to January 1. It was created in 1966 by **Maulana Karenga**, a professor of black studies at California State University in Long Beach, who added an additional "a" to the end of the name to distinguish it from the African festival. Although Kwanzaa is primarily an African American holiday, it has also come to be celebrated outside the United States, particularly in Caribbean and other countries where there are large numbers of descendants of Africans. It was conceived as a non-political and nonreligious holiday for the affirmation of African family and social values.

"Kwanzaa." *Encyclopædia Britannica* from Encyclopædia Britannica Online. <<http://www.search.eb.com/eb/article-9046553>> [Accessed November 30, 2005].

WHAT'S YOUR TALENT?

STEVE'S MUSICAL JOURNEY

by Steve Burliuk, Local Area Network Technician (Life Sciences)

A sweet sixteen birthday present had me hooked on guitar from the get go. Before long, I had friends over "jammin" in my mother's sewing room. We cut our teeth on Neil Young, the Sex Pistols and the Who. By the early 80s, I finally got up the nerve and placed an ad in one of the local rags: "Guitarist wants to form a new wave band." This, ironically, led to playing in a country rock band and a love for American roots music.

It's now 20 years later and I still can't shake the music fever. I've always had a weakness for American roots styles (Country/blues/folk/ NYC guitar rock), especially if there's a rock/indie/underdog twist. I also have a thing for sweet songwriters.

The project I'm currently involved in is appropriately called "Burlick", and features ex-members of local Barfly rock groups Chino, Grain Elevator and Little Buck. The music is guitar pop, reminiscent of the late 80s and early 90s indie rock scene. Look for Burlick at a St-Laurent street club near you, or if you'd like to be informed of upcoming events, send an email to steve.burliuk@mcgill.ca.



Steve rocks the Barfly with Burlick, October 2005

Steve Burliuk Discography

- The Damed, *Blast The Blushes*, Mini-LP, 1984.
- The Damed, *Hoarse Opera*, LP, 1987.
- The Damed, *Cigarette Jeans*, Video, 1988.
- The Scraps, Full-length cassette (unreleased), 1989
- Good Cookies, *Port Bau*, Full-length cassette, 1990
- Good Cookies, *bois, bwa, boua*, Full-length cassette. 1991.
- Good Cookies, *Have You Fire*, CD, 1994
- Colossal Egos, *Rural Electrification*, DAT (unreleased), 1995.
- Fidget, *Twitch*, Mini-cassette, 1996.
- Fidget, *Inside the Rooster*, CD, 1997.
- Chino, *Mala Leche* (Guest appearance on mandolin), 1999.
- Fidget, *Singles*, 2001.

Highlights

- Opening twice for K. D. Lang, at the Spectrum.
- Opening for Australia's Midnight Oil at the Spectrum.
- The Good Cookies *Have You Fire* CD launch at Purple Haze, 1994.

Lowlights

- Arriving in Toronto for a CD launch on the same day that the bank had foreclosed on the club.
- Making a total of 50 cents for one gig.

Steve is currently listening to:

The Band, Big Star, Black Keys, Calexico, Johnny Cash, The Clash, Steve Earle, Taj Mahal, Midnight Oil, Thelonus Monk, The Pogues, Ron Sexsmith, Bruce Springsteen, Teenage Fan Club, Richard Thompson, Television, Uncle Tupolo, Muddy Waters, The Who, Lucinda Williams, The White Stripes, Wilco.

Photo: Rebecca Nicholson

PHOTO GALLERY



Snowy photos by Kathleen Vandernoot

Going somewhere warm for the holidays?

We're interested in your pics of sun, surf and sand for our January issue. Please send your submissions to Louisa Piatti (louisa.piatti@mcgill.ca) by January 5, 2006.

Happy New Year!

COMING ATTRACTIONS

- ❖ December 9, 12pm to 1 pm—Library Trends, Room M3-37A
Macy Zheng, Liaison Librarian, will give a presentation on "The East Asian Collection at McGill: Past, Present and Future". Macy will discuss some of the characteristics of Chinese, Japanese, and Korean (CJK) materials and address issues related to cataloguing and retrieval of the CJK collection.
- ❖ December 21, 4pm to 6:30pm — Library Festive Fête, Redpath Hall
- ❖ Sunday, December 18, 2pm to 4pm — Principal's Holiday Skating Party, McConnell Winter Stadium
- ❖ December 20, 4:30pm to 5:30pm — Director's Drop In
- ❖ December 23 through January 2 — All libraries closed

For more McGill events, consult the
Community Calendar:
www.mcgill.ca/calendar/