



SUMMER 2006

LIBRARY EDITION

Information ♦ Innovation ♦ Service

McGill



The Library: The Locus of Student Life and Learning

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Coordinator

Steven Spodek
Development Officer
Libraries

Consulting Editor

Helen Dyer
Communications Officer
Development and Alumni
Relations

Writer

Andrew Mullins

Graphics

McGill Instructional
Multimedia Services

Photographers

Claudio Calligaris
Owen Egan
Klaus Fiedler
Nicolas Morin
Helen Rimmer

Office of the
Director of Libraries
3459 McTavish Street
Montreal, Quebec H3A 1Y1
Canada

Tel.: 514-398-4677
E-mail:
doadmin.library@mcgill.ca
Website:
www.mcgill.ca/library/

Cover Photo:
Tanya Peixe, BSc'03,
in the Lande Reading Room,
Rare Books Division



Dear Alumni, Parents and Friends:

It is a great pleasure to present this edition of *In Focus*. I have been at McGill for just over one year now and am honoured to hold one of McGill's most prestigious chairs.

Over three million people use the McGill Library's collections and services each year. McGill is a truly unique meeting ground for students and faculty from around the world, and much of that meeting occurs within the Library. Always a vital

locus of student life and learning, the Library is becoming even more important as changes in higher education, information technology and scholarly communication take place at an increasingly rapid pace.

The Library is central to student life. For every hour spent in class, at least four hours are spent outside of class in learning experiences. And many of those hours are spent in the Library, where users connect with each other, with library staff for assistance, occasionally with faculty, and with information resources to gain knowledge and advance scholarship and research.

The library retains its role as a repository of knowledge, a symbol of the long thread of the human search for enlightenment going back to Confucius and Herodotus. However, the ongoing developments in the electronic production and delivery of information, as well as the widespread use of electronic devices among the younger generations known as "millennials," have presented the library with many new challenges and are forcing major modifications to library practices. We must be aware of the uses of new technologies as we take books and journals from shelves to screens.

Libraries and librarians are critical in assisting students and researchers to navigate the universe of information available to improve their teaching and learning experiences and their scholarship. With in-depth knowledge of the collections, proficiency in the use of sophisticated resources and growing expertise in building online collections, McGill's librarians are an important part of a student's education. Librarians are now sometimes described as information consultants, knowledge brokers or knowledge managers.

In closing, I would like to acknowledge every gift that the Library has received in the past year. Each one has added to our holdings and enriched our services. It is the honour and the privilege of library staff to serve current and future generations of students to the best of our ability. Please free to contact me with any comments or questions that you may have.

Yours sincerely,

Janine Schmidt
Trenholme Director of Libraries

Macdonald Centennial Project

Macdonald Campus marks its centenary this year, and the cornerstone project of the 2006–07 celebrations is a complete makeover for the Macdonald Library building. Staff, architects and construction crews will be on a tight schedule as the library shuts down for the summer to undergo a total renovation.

“People are quite fired up,” says Chandra Madramootoo, Dean of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences. Everything from the wiring and floors to the design of study spaces and “e-zones” is being overhauled. “The library has been one of those traditional places with everything in hard copy, and it is largely out of date. We want to get students the latest information, with much more electronic access than they currently have. We’re putting in electronic classrooms, and spaces for working in a team setting where they can consult with one another, get onto the electronic resources and download what they need for their reports and term papers.”

Macdonald’s Head Librarian Erica Burnham says that the project has been in the planning stages for four years, and the Macdonald community has been thinking about it for some time. “The Library is separate from the classrooms and laboratories, difficult to access and there’s always been a desire to incorporate it more effectively into learning and teaching on campus.” The huge growth in the provision and use of e-resources has not diminished the importance of a vital space for student use on campus.

To bring the library closer to the academic heart of the campus, an atrium will link the Macdonald-Stewart Building and the Barton Building where the library is housed. Overlooking McEwen Field, it will serve as the main entrance to the library, as well as a new public space featuring a café and wireless connectivity for exploring library resources.

The \$4.25 million construction project is funded by the university, alumni, class gifts, charitable foundations, McGill faculty and staff - and Macdonald students, who have been involved from the start, levying a special fee on themselves to support the project with over \$320,000. There is a shortfall in the funds available for the project and further financial support would be much appreciated. A skeleton library will run in the Macdonald-Stewart Building over the summer and the new library will be opened officially in a ceremony scheduled for Homecoming 2006 in October. For further details, visit the library’s website: www.mcgill.ca/macdonald-library/

Sketch of the library link project



Students Katy Gavrilchuk and Adam Cappuccino look over the final Macdonald Library and Learning Centre plans with Director of Libraries, Janine Schmidt, Macdonald Library Head Librarian Erica Burnham and Dean Chandra Madramootoo.

Music Library Moves Back Home



Marvin Duchow Music Library

“It’s been a long time coming,” says Cynthia Leive, Head Librarian at the Marvin Duchow Music Library. When the library moved from the Strathcona Music Building to an office building across Sherbrooke Street, “a stay that was meant to be temporary turned into a 15-year odyssey.”

Since the opening of the New Music Building last September, the library is once again housed in the heart of the Schulich School of Music. “I think everybody would agree that it’s great to have the library back on this side of the street,” says Leive.

Occupying three middle floors of the new building, the Music Library is an attractive, modern space with an abundance of natural light spilling in across its white oak floors. Its design cleverly integrates the old and the new, from the shelves of books, periodicals and scores, to the latest digital and audio-visual tools for students and faculty, who have redis-

covered the library in droves. “Our statistics are way up for attendance,” Leive points out.

Chad Linsley, a Master’s student in Jazz Performance, spends almost as much time in the new library as he does in music practice rooms and says the location and design makes his busy student’s life easier. “I can maximize my time. You have a few minutes to spare – you can

just run to the library, and the staff are easily accessible.”

Library users have discovered a treasure trove of research and learning resources. Seminar rooms with a variety of audio-visual equipment are booked solid and are being used for a wide array of activities such as master classes in music composition or sound recording. The Music Student Computer Room on the fifth floor – funded in part by students themselves – features computer workstations outfitted with music notation and audio editing software, electronic keyboards and scanners. “People go crazy in there,” says Leive. “They input all their jazz charts and print out the various parts. They write orchestral pieces and piano pieces – it’s great to see all that creativity.”

The fifth floor is also home to the once separate Performance Library, which holds scores for large ensembles, while on the fourth floor, the audio, video and multimedia collections hold sway. A home theatre-style viewing room is being set up for a variety of uses, including live video feeds from performances in the Tanna Schulich Recital Hall on the ground floor of the new building. Multimedia carrels give stu-



Music student computer room in Marvin Duchow Music Library. Students use computers and piano keyboards for music score production, recording, audio editing, transcription and ear-training,

E-resources Revolution Trail



dents access to the library's LP archive, and CD and video collections. "For the first time," says Leive, "we've been able to take all our audio collections out of boxes: about 65,000 LPs, over 22,000 CDs and hundreds of videos."

More student activity goes on at the popular group listening tables set up with multi-headphone amplifiers that can accommodate up to nine students plugging in as they review course listening materials or performance pieces they're working on. They can also listen to streaming music collections on the library website via services from Classical.com and Naxos. And the library is launching a pilot program for the fall in which course listening material will be available to students through Apple's iTunes software and preloaded on library-owned iPods for students to borrow. "We've had some experiments this year with putting all the materials for a Renaissance course online," says Leive. "So we thought it would be an interesting next step to provide audio on iPods."

Some of the improvements are behind the scenes. Compact shelving sitting atop load-bearing floors allows for more storage in less space, and temperature and humidity controls in the Special Collections room protect rare materials. For students working on their own laptops, the entire library is an "e-zone" with wireless Internet access.

Reviews of the new library are overwhelmingly positive. "There was something about the old space that didn't feel like home," says Chad Linsley. "I feel much more comfortable in the library now." See details about services at www.mcgill.ca/music-library/libraryservices.

For Louis Houle, the McGill Library's electronic resources are all about access. "The primary reason we're going online is access for our clients:

from wherever they are and whenever they want, 24/7, all year round." The Head Librarian at the Schulich Library of Science and Engineering, Houle is responsible for electronic purchases and is a keen promoter of e-resources. The disciplines in science and medicine were early adopters of e-journals. Today, there is an explosion of e-resources in all fields, with at least 50 percent of the Library's \$14 million collections budget going to electronic journals, books, article indexes, databases, statistical data and more.

"McGill has around a million e-books, over 30,000 electronic journals, and hundreds of databases for different disciplines," says Houle. That number keeps increasing with electronic versions of encyclopedias, handbooks, dictionaries, streaming music catalogues, government documentation – "almost everything you can think of is coming in electronic format now in almost every discipline," he explains.

The subjects covered are wide ranging. Recent major acquisitions in the Library include the Eighteenth Century Collection Online, which offers every significant work printed in Great Britain in that century – 150,000 titles in all. Early English Books Online digitally collects 100,000 works printed in England, Ireland, Scotland, Wales and British North America from 1473-1700. Another acquisition, ARTstor, is the most comprehensive art database online, comprising images from sources such as the Museum of Modern Art, the Huntington Archive of Asian Art, and the Smithsonian Institution's anthropological collection of Native American art.

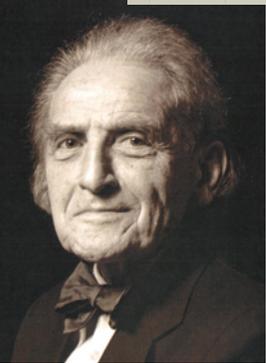
"Many journal publishers are digitizing their back-files now as well using current material," adds Houle, "which is great. The Science Direct back-files include copies of the famed UK medical journal *The Lancet* dating back to 1823 – all available on computer through a simple McGill login.

Houle points out more and more scholarly publications are also being made freely available online through the open access movement. "There are a lot of journals available now: close to 2,500," he says, and the number is growing. These are "born digital" and are usually available gratis to the users.

McGill is digitizing its own material via the Digital Collections Program, making unique collections available to the world on the Internet, says Houle. In addition, a new library project called eScholarship@McGill will be a digital repository of scholarly work done by professors, researchers and grad students. Research publications and theses will be archived and available online in a searchable electronic showcase of McGill scholarship.

Will we move to a completely virtual library one day, with no print in sight? "Probably not," says Houle. "The bookless library is as real as the paperless office. But in some fields, like science and medicine, I wouldn't be surprised if electronic formats are completely adopted. Doctors, for example, are consulting clinical diagnostic tools when working. These include module devices like palm pilots or PDAs (personal digital assistants) We can see where it's going." Further details are on the library's website: www.mcgill.ca/library/findinfo/.

Voyageurs and Philosophers



Two significant additions to the McGill Library

The Raymond Klibansky Library

Shortly after Raymond Klibansky (above) left Germany in 1933 as the Nazis took power, he was described by a colleague, endeavouring to find him work in England, as “one of the four or five greatest academics in the world of medieval philosophy.” The McGill Emeritus Professor of Philosophy died last August at age 99. Now, thanks to the generosity of Klibansky and his wife, Ethel Groffier, the McGill Library has received one of its largest collection donations – the gift of his private library, totalling some 7,000 volumes, many of them rare treasures.

“It’s a substantial working library,” says Ann Marie Holland, Preservation Librarian in the Rare Books and Special Collections Division. “It’s made up principally of philosophy but also includes theology, astronomy and the medieval sciences, as well as literature and poetry.”

The collection includes true rarities: an incunable (a book printed before the year 1501), featuring the work of Petrarch, and an early edition of Thomas Hobbes’ *Leviathan* printed in 1670. It also features many editions of Plato and Aristotle throughout the centuries and original German publications of works by Kant, Fichte and Nietzsche.

Other notable items are four “Aldines,” from the Venetian publishing house of Aldus Manutius dating to the Renaissance, one an early folio of the work of medieval Scottish philosopher, John Duns Scotus. “These books are extraordinarily well produced, well thought out in terms of layout, content – the whole gamut of production,” says Holland.

Dr. Klibansky’s working library and office were actually housed in the McLennan Library in his later years. “He was a familiar face,” says Holland. “People here all knew him personally and worked with him in different capacities. So it’s a great honour to have his legacy here.” The collection is being prepared for processing and evaluation, with something new uncovered each day, she adds. “We’re just discovering the range, depth and richness of the library, so it’s very exciting.”

The McGill Reporter featured a memorial tribute to Professor Klibansky. See www.mcgill.ca/reporter/38/01/klibansky/.

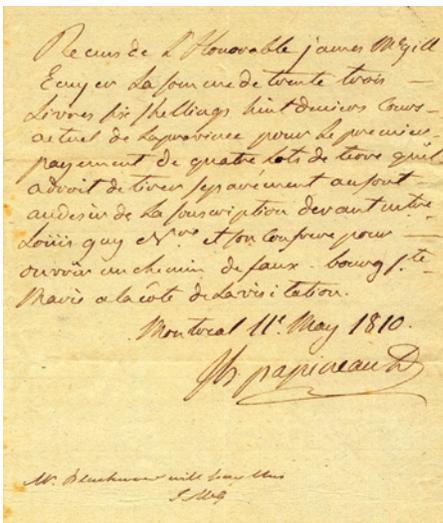
The Copenrath Collection

For those interested in the history of the fur trade in 18th- and 19th-century Canada, McGill has long been a required visit, whether it is to the Rare Books Division, where major fur trade collections like the Masson Papers are housed; or online, where digital versions of those documents are available to the public on the In Pursuit of Adventure website (digital.library.mcgill.ca/nwc/). Now, with the addition of the Copenrath Collection of Voyageur Contracts and Historical Documents through a generous donation from the Copenrath family, McGill has added even more depth to its fur trade holdings. An unusual set of 51 voyageur contracts dating from 1800 to 1821 is at the centre of the collection.

“What’s interesting about this is that the people named in these contracts are the people who did the work – they paddled the canoes, they dealt with the skins,” says Richard Virr, Curator of Manuscripts in the Rare Books Division. “So from this kind of collection, you locate particular regions where people were being recruited. The fur trade down into rural Quebec is revealed and people earning their livelihood are brought to life.”

Virr notes that fur-trade documents can today do historical double duty, telling the story of early Canada. “These kinds of documents often provide some of the only information for First Nations studies.” Artifacts like the voyageur contracts are valuable demographic tools as well. “They tell you a person’s origin, describe his home – and his salary. A lot of them weren’t paid very well!”

Receipt signed by Joseph Papineau for payment of land from James McGill, May 11, 1810



Ask a Librarian

Students use chat technology, either on computers or via telephone messaging, to communicate with each other online all the time. So it was a natural step to take the library’s reference and inquiry services into the virtual world, meeting students’ needs through a mode that is second nature to many of them. The “Ask a Librarian” virtual reference service, launched at the end of January, features librarians from across the McGill Library network manning the cyber-reference desk and fielding questions from students and faculty through electronic chat software.

“The chat is intended for quick enquiries,” says Erica Burnham, who coordinated the team implementing the new service. “We receive a lot of questions about loans. Some people want help in using of our collections. We’re pointing students to different pages of the Library’s Website to answer queries, and to solve their problems. If people need in-depth help, we direct them to specific branches of the libraries.”

The chat service is proving popular, says Burnham. “People love it. When they sign off they say, ‘Thanks so much – this is just great.’ The Library is using high tech and high touch to reach out to students wherever they are and helping them work remotely, whether from home, in a computer lab, or even a quiet corner of the library.” Find out how: <http://www.mcgill.ca/library/assistance/askus/>.



Students Elizabeth Pellicone and Jessica MacDonald chatting online with McGill Librarian.

What the Library Means to Me

Andrea Tone

Canada Research Chair in the Social History of Medicine



As a scholar and writer dealing with the history of medicine, Andrea Tone's research can take her in many different directions: from what *The New York Times* of the late 19th century was saying about patent medicines to what court case records from the 1970s reveal about the addictive properties of valium. "I like the fact that McGill has a buffet of research options," she says: it suits the truly multidisciplinary

nature of her work.

A frequent user of the Osler Library of the History of Medicine, Tone cares passionately about preserving old materials that may not be seen as relevant by today's medical practitioners but are crucial to her research. "So the fact that Osler has such a long and illustrious tradition of preserving medical documents – not just journals and medical newspapers but also archival collections and manuscripts – is fantastic."

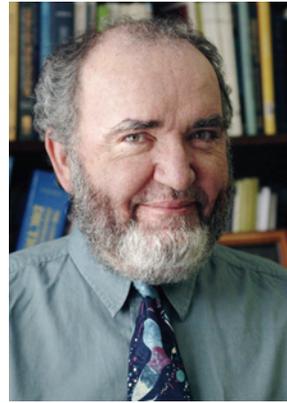
As a social historian, Tone also needs access to "things like the lay press, *The New Yorker*, journals as well as newspapers that appeal to a more general audience." The work may lead her to the Humanities and Social Sciences Library, or online to scour the Library's many databases and electronic collections. "I was trying to get some more information on one of the characters who surfaces a lot in a book I'm writing now on anxiety. And I'm really just three clicks away from being able to retrieve that information from the 1880s."

Tone's teaching also relies on a variety of library services, from the historical materials used by her graduate-level researchers to the library resources training offered to students in her seminars. "[Liaison librarian] Chris Lyons is my main contact at the Osler Library, and he is a thousand times more efficient and enthusiastic than I am, and I consider myself to be fairly efficient and enthusiastic." Lyons' custom guidance takes Tone's students "out of the classroom and into the world of the library."

Coming from an American institution where cutbacks often meant that libraries would not renew journal subscriptions or couldn't afford the preservation necessary to take care of old books, "It's really refreshing to be at an institution that takes books as well as the newer electronic databases seriously," says Tone. "And that has a generosity toward its library that means librarians are available, first-rate, knowledgeable, and that they make accessible such a wide array of artifacts and materials."

Terry Spithill

Canada Research Chair in Immunoparasitology



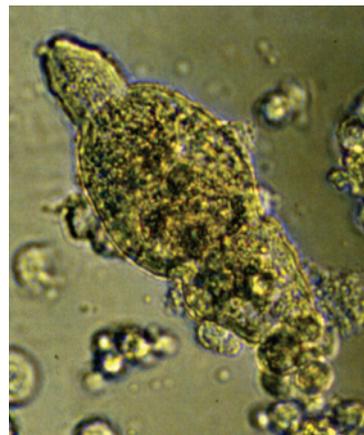
When he came to McGill four years ago from Australia, Terry Spithill recalls, "it was striking the difference between here and Monash University in Melbourne, where we had access to certain journals, but not as many as we have at McGill."

That access is today largely electronic. For Spithill, e-resources are an essential part of his work in molecular parasitology – investigating malaria and other

parasitic diseases. "I'm a research scientist, so we use electronic journals all the time. We're writing papers and want to see who's done what, so me and my students having access to those journals is absolutely critical for our research. You want to find out who's published what on malaria vaccines in the last six months, for example. You do a search, find a paper you're interested in, download it, and you've got the paper in two minutes. The access provided through the McGill Library is fantastic – world-class, in my opinion."

Spithill explains how the breadth of electronic resources has greatly facilitated research, and can even accelerate scientific discovery. "You can have an idea over coffee at 9 a.m., do a search, and by the afternoon, you've confirmed your idea, validated it based on the literature, and you and your student can say, 'well, let's go and do that experiment, because this paper from two years ago suggests that we're on the right track.'"

The Director of the Institute of Parasitology out at Macdonald Campus, Spithill mainly uses the Macdonald Library and looks forward to its renovation taking place this year: "I think it will make a huge difference here and become much more a focus of the campus." Although with all the e-resources offered, Spithill notes one change from past routines. "I don't physically go to the library that often. I don't go to browse the journals like I used to 20 years ago. Now you browse on your computer."



Juvenile liver fluke (*Fasciola* parasite) under attack from the immune system. Macrophages kill the parasite by binding to the surface and releasing toxic molecules. Cattle and sheep can be vaccinated to induce protection to this disease.

Source: D Piedrafita (Monash) and T Spithill (McGill)

The gift of a lifetime



As an undergraduate, Barbara Greeniaus, BA'72, MLS'76, spent her happiest hours at the Redpath Library.

Barbara GREENIAUS: A LIBRARIAN'S Legacy

**I have always imagined that
Paradise will be a kind of library.**
- Jorge Luis Borges, author and philosopher

Barbara Greeniaus remembers a time when the Redpath Library was as inaccessible to the average student as Paradise is to the wicked.

"The library still had runners – students who would go get the books you wanted because the stacks were closed. It was an archaic, labour-intensive system that denied you the chance to browse."

When the policy was changed and the aisles opened to all, Greeniaus, just 16 years old and six months into her undergraduate studies, discovered a whole new world. "I was like a kid in a candy store," she says with a laugh. "As an undergrad, I was overwhelmed by the age of the collection and how the books have passed through so many hands. My happiest hours at McGill were spent at the library."

Her love of books fuelled her English studies and eventually led in 1976 to a master's degree in Library Science. She would go on to enjoy a 20-year career as a librarian, most recently as director of British Columbia's public libraries in Victoria, where she now lives.

Greeniaus decided 10 years ago to leave a bequest to McGill's library system, which today boasts 14 facilities with more than five million books and journals available for public consumption.

"My husband, Bill, and I don't have children, so when it came time to prepare our wills, our lawyer said to me, "Think about how you want to be remembered and at what institutions you can make a difference."

Through her bequest, she will leave a legacy as meaningful to her as it will one day be to every student who walks into a McGill library and experiences the feeling of entering a kind of paradise.



For more information on bequests
and planned gifts, contact:

Bequests and Planned Gifts
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www.library.mcgill.ca/

Branch Libraries

Birks Reading Room (Religious Studies)
William & Henry Birks Bldg., 2nd Floor
3520 University St.
514-398-4127

**Blackader-Lauterman Library of
Architecture & Art**
McLennan-Redpath Library Bldg., 3rd Floor
3459 McTavish St.
514-398-4743

**Education Library and Curriculum
Resources Center**
Education Bldg.
3700 McTavish St.
514-398-5726

**Edward Rosenthal Mathematics &
Statistics Library**
Burnside Hall, Room 1105, 5th floor
805 Sherbrooke St. W.
514-398-4676

Electronic Data and Resources Service
McLennan-Redpath Library Bldgs.
Room RM-23
3459 McTavish
514-398-1429

Life Sciences Library
McIntyre Medical Sciences Bldg., 3rd Floor
3655 Promenade Sir William Osler
514-398-4475

Howard Ross Management Library
Bronfman Building, 2nd Floor
1001 Sherbrooke St. W.
514-398-4690

Humanities & Social Sciences Library
McLennan-Redpath Library Bldgs.
3459 McTavish St.
514-398-4700

Islamic Studies Library
Morrice Hall
3485 McTavish St.
514-398-4685

**Macdonald Campus Library
(Agriculture & Environment)**
Barton Bldg., Macdonald Campus
Ste. Anne de Bellevue
514-398-7881

Marvin Duchow Music Library
527 Sherbrooke Street West
Montreal, Quebec H3A 1E3
514-398-4695

Nahum Gelber Law Library
3660 Peel St.
514-398-4715

Osler Library of the History of Medicine
McIntyre Medical Sciences Bldg., 3rd Floor
3655 Promenade Sir-William-Osler
514-398-4475

**Rare Books and Special Collections
Division**
McLennan-Redpath Library Bldgs.
3459 McTavish
514-398-4711

Schulich Library of Science & Engineering
Macdonald Stewart Library Bldg.
809 Sherbrooke St. W.
514-398-4769

**Walter Hitschfeld Geographic
Information Centre**
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