

# Library Matters @ McGill

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## FROM THE TRENHOLME DIRECTOR OF LIBRARIES



Angella Lambrou, Frances Groen, Bruna Ceccolini, Hanna Waluzyniec, Janine Schmidt

Another successful round of convocation ceremonies concluded the academic year. I was privileged to introduce Mrs. Frances Groen, the former Trenholme Director of Libraries, when she was honored by the award of Emeritus Librarian. We all extend our congratulations to her.

The first session in our *Future Focus* series was presented by Colin Steele, Emeritus Fellow at The Australian National University, who was visiting Canada for the 9th International Symposium on Electronic Theses and Dissertations in Quebec City (June 7-10, 2006). An excellent presentation—*Gutenberg Revisited?: Twenty first century issues in scholarly publishing and communication*—stimulated discussion about the roles of librarians and publishers in reassessing their future roles in access and distribution of digital research and scholarship. New scholarly publishing models are needed if all are to benefit from research. Perhaps the Wikipedia is one of those solutions.

Some of you may have seen media coverage of the splendid restoration and refurbishment of the Parliamentary Library in Ottawa. The Parliamentary Librarian, Dr. Bill Young, provided several university library directors, including me, an inside view of the project. From a beautifully restored facility with superb carvings, carefully crafted iron lacework and parquet floor, services of excellence in support of Parliament committee work and parliamentarian activities are provided. New technology and excellent study facilities happily coexist with the reminders of yesteryear – an outstanding successful restart. Hopefully we can achieve similar results with some of our projects, albeit not on such a grand scale.

A white marble statue of the young Queen Victoria graces the circular domed room of the Parliamentary Library in Ottawa and reminded me of a similar one in the Victorian State Parliament in Australia. Staff from the Parliamentary Library in Ottawa are involved in the committee work of the Canadian Parliament and do much to ensure that all citizens benefit from good access to quality information.

**Janine Schmidt,**  
Trenholme Director of Libraries

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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/](http://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](mailto:louisa.piatti@mcgill.ca); **Cecilia Tellis**, [cecilia.tellis@mcgill.ca](mailto:cecilia.tellis@mcgill.ca); **Rebecca Nicholson**, [rebecca.nicholson@mcgill.ca](mailto:rebecca.nicholson@mcgill.ca)

## WHAT'S NEW

### Staff comings and goings

**Genevieve Gore** has been appointed to the position of Web Services Librarian. Gen has been the acting Web Services Librarian since last summer and has taken a vital role in the development and maintenance of the Library's website.

**Jim Henderson** has been promoted to the rank of Associate Librarian with tenure, effective June 1. Jim is Life Sciences Librarian, head of Life Sciences areas of the Library.

**Amitsu Huang** has been appointed as Financial Administrator in the Office of the Director of Libraries. Amitsu has been working for the Library for some time on a term appointment and now joins the staff on a permanent basis.

**Edward Dorneanu** who has served the library well assisting with the Banner implementation and other financial matters has concluded his employment with the Library.

**Michael Lifshitz** will be leaving the Library at the end of June. Michael has been on loan from the central accounting office to the Office of the Director of Libraries for some time. Michael is leaving the University and will establish his own business as a financial consultant.

**Elizabeth Gibb**, Liaison Librarian at Schulich Library of Science and Engineering, will be retiring at the end of July. Elizabeth has been a librarian at McGill since 1985, serving many years as Public Services Librarian at PSE/Schulich.

We wish all of you the very best in your future endeavours!

### Awards season is here

**Penny Aubin** (LTS) has won the Principal's Award for Administrative and Support Staff in the library assistant category. She will receive her award at the Fall Convocation. The award comes with a prize of \$5,000. Last year Penny was awarded the McGill Libraries' Staff Excellence Award.

**Lise Hackett** (LTS) was awarded the Library Staff Excellence Award at a ceremony held on May 30 in the Staff



Lise Hackett receiving the Library Staff Excellence award from former winner, Penny Aubin and Trenholme Director of Libraries, Janine Schmidt

Café.

Congratulations, Penny and Lise!  
Keep up the good work!

### Journals, from A to Zyzzyva

You may have noticed a change in access to electronic journals from the Library's Journals webpage. A new A to Z eJournals list went live on July 12. The new list reflects all our eJournal holdings, and is in sync with the records in the catalogue.

The new A to Z list of eJournals is generated from our SFX Knowledge-Base. The list will be in sync with the MARCIt records in the catalogue, so whenever there is a new MARCIt load, the A to Z list will also be updated. MARCIt updates generally happen shortly after the monthly SFX update from Ex Libris.

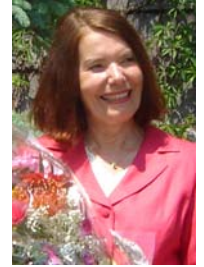
Kudos to the hard-working Systems Office staff and the new Search Interface Committee for a job well done!

### Limited access to Life Sciences/Osler

Don't forget to take Pine or Drummond if you are going to Life Sciences Library or Osler Library. Access to the McIntyre Medical Sciences Building which houses the Osler and Life Sciences libraries, is via Pine Avenue and Drummond/Promenade Sir William Osler only. The driveway to Peel Street is blocked due to the construction of the new Francesco Bellini Life Sciences Building and Pavilion for Cancer Research.

### Frances Groen, Librarian Emerita

**Frances Groen**, Trenholme Director of Libraries from 1996 to 2005, was made librarian emerita of McGill University at the spring convocation. Fran was named Trenholme Director Emerita of Libraries—a fitting honour for her invaluable contributions to our libraries.



### CLIENT SERVICE TIPS

by Joseph Hafner



**Make sure happy endings really happen.**

If you aren't sure whether a customer handoff was concluded satisfactorily, remove all doubt with a follow-up—and not to the internal referral but to the customer herself. Only she can speak to her state of mind. Ask if she got what she was looking for, and if there's anything else you may do. If there is, see that it gets done.

*"The number of books will grow continually, and one can predict that a time will come when it will be almost as difficult to learn anything from books as from the direct study of the whole universe. It will be almost as convenient to search for some bit of truth concealed in nature as it will be to find it hidden away in an immense multitude of bound volumes."*

- Denis Diderot, French author, encyclopedist, & philosopher (1713 - 1784)

## A CONFERENCE TIDBIT

### Cecilia Tellis, Liaison Librarian (Nahum Gelber Law)

This year, Cecilia was once again able to attend the annual conference of the Canadian Association of Law Libraries (CALL) through the generous support of McGill Library and the Professional Development fund. This conference, held in Edmonton, May 7-10, was attended by law librarians from law firms, courthouses, government and academic libraries along with vendors and publishers of legal information.

At the first meeting Cecilia attended, the Academic Law Libraries SIG, representatives of the academic law libraries in Canada highlighted key activities and new developments that occurred within their organization. It was interesting to hear about the common challenges faced but also about the innovative ideas presented to draw faculty in the library. University of Windsor's law library for example, encourages faculty to sign up to Washington & Lee Law School table of contents service (for more information see: [www.uwindsor.ca/units/law/PaulMartin.nsf/inToc/AE28E7C4348175DA8525715B00585EC5](http://www.uwindsor.ca/units/law/PaulMartin.nsf/inToc/AE28E7C4348175DA8525715B00585EC5))

At the first plenary session entitled *Legislation Repeal: Cleaning Out the Attic*, Senator Tommy Banks spoke about Federal Statutes which have received Royal Assent but have not been brought into force.

The session on *Public International Law* given by Denis LeMay from Université Laval proved to be very informative. It was an introductory workshop-like presentation that outlined the links between international law, reference questions and UN documents.

Cecilia also attended a session entitled *Planning and Moving into a New Library*. This seemed like a very relevant session to attend what with the current redesign processes in motion here at McGill Library. The presenters outlined some best practices and useful techniques to follow in planning and moving into a new library space.

At the CanLII Open session the following morning, librarians were strongly encouraged to give their comments and feedback to the creators and editors of this free but very powerful legal resource. There were demonstrations of advanced searching within the database and promises of continuous improvements.

The second plenary session was given by Allison Sivak, a Research Associate at the University of Alberta who is contributing to the *8Rs Canadian Library Human Resource Study*. This national research project is examining important facets of library human resources from both organizational and individual perspectives over a period of two years.

The Academic Law Libraries SIG moderated a panel session called *Doing the Cross-Disciplinary Conga*. Panelists shared some very interesting perspectives on the growing trend of cross-disciplinary courses and how they have impacted collections and personnel.

By far the most entertaining session was the one called *Games Students Play*. Three long-time law firm librarians revealed their experiences with training articling students which included the 'games' they use to reach Generation Y. It was clear that a sense of humour and a creative streak were key components to developing memorable teaching sessions.

## A VIETNAM MEMOIR

by Daniel Boyer, Wainwright Librarian (Nahum Gelber Law), Photo by Tom Bruce

Last April I lectured on Comparative Law and Materials at Hanoi Law University. I was both impressed by the immense amount of service given by our colleagues despite the limited resources at their disposal and overwhelmed by the financial and human efforts required to fulfill the mission lying ahead. I was very impressed by the use made of technology both by clients and librarians. Having met colleagues from the Third World at various conferences over the years and having had many discussions about technology's possibilities for them, I was glad to witness technology's positive impact on the Library of Hanoi Law University. For example, the use of ELIN at [www.lub.lu.se/headoffice/elininfo.shtml](http://www.lub.lu.se/headoffice/elininfo.shtml) works out very well for all.



Vietnam's economic future is promising as its 83 million people enjoy a literacy rate of 92% as well as a booming economy; however the political outlook remains bleak: There is no freedom of the press and the Communist Party is still enjoys a monopoly of power. This spells out many challenges for both Vietnamese jurists and the Librarians who serve them.

## A PAT ON THE BACK

From Mary Pattison, BA U1:

The Redpath Library is a wonderful facility that I, as an Arts undergraduate student, use everyday in my studies.

I would like to give you some feedback, from a user's point of view:

Your reserves staff is wonderful. They are very helpful, always with a smile and always pleasantly accommodating.

The "fish bowl" area is always quiet and clean, and a pleasure to study in. As is the computer area.



## “TO LEAVE NO STONE UNTURNED”

by François Chevrette, Professeur Titulaire, Faculté de droit,  
Université de Montréal

C'était par une belle matinée d'octobre, peu de temps après l'inauguration de la nouvelle bibliothèque de la

Faculté de droit de McGill. J'arrivais pour y faire cours et, disposant d'un peu de répit, je contemplais la façade du nouvel immeuble et surtout la grande inscription de l'extrait, si beau et si approprié, du poète grec Euripide : Παντα χίεσαι πετρον bien traduite en anglais par *To Leave No Stone Unturned*, et peut-être moins bien en français par *Remuer ciel et terre*.

J'oubliai ma rêverie jusqu'à ce que, revenant la semaine suivante, je constatai que la citation originale grecque, pourtant gravée dans la pierre, n'était plus là. Je

m'affolai à l'idée d'avoir une mémoire, et plus encore, une santé mentale déficiente et je m'affolai encore bien plus en constatant, une semaine plus tard, que le texte grec était de retour.

Je me décidai à consulter, non point un psychiatre comme peut-être aurais-je dû le faire, mais mes amis de McGill qui eurent tôt fait de dissiper le mystère. Une experte en langues anciennes ayant décelé une toute petite erreur dans l'inscription grecque, la Faculté, à raison, voulut tout de suite y porter remède et demanda à l'entreprise de maçonnerie de retirer, retourner et de faire regravé la pierre.

J'en tirai deux leçons. D'abord, il ne faut pas trop vite s'inquiéter de sa santé mentale. Ensuite la maxime *To Leave No Stone Unturned* est sage et exigeante au point qu'elle fut ici rendue applicable même à la pierre sur laquelle était gravée.

Article from *Le Pigeon dissident*, vol.29, numéro 6, p.15. (student newspaper of the Faculty of Law at Université de Montréal)

## 2006, A VERY SPECIAL YEAR

This year, Marika Asimakopulos, Liaison Librarian (Schulich Library), is honorary co-chair with Gerald Tremblay, mayor of Montreal, of the year-long celebrations of the centenary of Montreal's Hellenic Community.



The following is the statement in English that Marika delivered at a March 9 press conference.

*It is an honour to be honorary co-chair of the celebrations of the 100 years of Montreal's Hellenic Community. It is an honour that I owe to my father, the Very Reverend Nicholas Salamis. His life in Montreal is intertwined with the history of the Greek community. He arrived in the city with very little in 1918. The community was tiny compared with what it later became. I have a long photo from 1933 of most of the community at an annual picnic. That would be impossible today! Those early years were a struggle; but my father flourished here and so did the Community which went on to change the flavour of Montreal.*

*I remember as a child that everyone knew each other by name; they came to be called the "old-timers". The period after the Second World War and well into the 70s saw an immense influx of immigrants fleeing the bad times. That's when the Greek community became a force to be reckoned with.*

*I remember in 1954 going with my father to greet a Halifax train bringing those immigrants to a new life of hope but also hardship and struggle. I rarely saw my father during those years because of the growing Community. Saturdays and Sundays it was a steady stream of weddings and baptisms. It's strange to remember those days. I look around and Greeks are thriving in every walk of life. It's now impossible to imagine Montreal without the Greeks.*

The photo was taken at the Montreal parade celebrating Greece's National Day, March 25, by Maki Papadopoulos. Photo reprinted courtesy of [Community-online.com](http://Community-online.com).

## PHOTO GALLERY



Juanita Jara de Súmer, Liaison Librarian (Humanities and Social Sciences) and Darlene Canning, Liaison Librarian (Schulich) outside the library at the Monasterio de La Rábida in Spain

While on vacation around Andalusia last April, Darlene Canning and Juanita Jara de Súmer met up while visiting the Lugares Colombianos (from where Christopher Columbus sailed to discover America). They wanted to visit the library at the Monasterio de La Rábida but decided against it when they realized they might risk being excommunicated after reading the plaque at the door. They wondered if signs of similar nature would help to preserve the integrity of our Library.

For those who don't read 15th Century Spanish, this is what the plaque says:

*His Holiness [i.e. the Pope] has the right to EXCOMMUNICATE any person who takes out, moves out of place or in any way damages any book, parchment or paper from this LIBRARY. These persons cannot be absolved until the library is perfectly restored.*

## COMING ATTRACTIONS

- ❖ July 4 to August 4, 2006 – *World eBook Fair - eBook Celebration*, [www.worldebookfair.com/](http://www.worldebookfair.com/), 1/3 Million Free eBooks
- ❖ Tuesdays: July 25, August 1, August 8, August 15, 10:00 a.m to 2:00 p.m. – *Donations for the McGill Book Fair*— Book donations of all kinds accepted at the terrace entrance to Redpath Hall (via main campus entrance). The McGill Book Fair will take place on October 25 and 26, 2006.

For more McGill events, consult the  
Community Calendar:  
[www.mcgill.ca/calendar/](http://www.mcgill.ca/calendar/)

"Besides the noble art of getting things done, there is a nobler art of leaving things undone...  
The wisdom of life consists in the elimination of nonessentials."

- Lin Yutang, O Magazine, October 2002