

# Library Matters @ McGill

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[www.mcgill.ca/library-about/pubs/newsletter/](http://www.mcgill.ca/library-about/pubs/newsletter/)

## FROM THE TRENHOLME DIRECTOR OF LIBRARIES

The end of the calendar year comes all too quickly. Everyone is completing projects, coping with students who are finishing examinations, preparing for the festive season, anticipating next year's activities and reflecting on the year with a view to resolutions for the New Year.

I wish everyone the very best for a safe and peaceful holiday period and a happy time with your families and friends over the festive period, whether you are celebrating Christmas, Hanukkah or just the opportunity for a relaxing few days.

We have concluded the year with various functions. A festive Friends gathering was held, recognizing both our Friend of the Year, Dr Richard Tomlinson, and Justice John Gomery, the President of the Friends. Both have provided outstanding service and commitment to the Library, enabling all of us to do our work.

A celebration of the achievements of Bob Clarke and Diane Koen was filled with both pleasure and pain as we paid tribute to their wonderful work at McGill and wished them all the best in their future endeavors—Bob at Trent University and Diane in an alternative career. Bob has spent 18 years at McGill and his contributions both to McGill and to the professional community at large have been significant. Diane has done excellent work in the short time she has been with us at McGill and of course in her many years of commitment to the online information business at both Geac and Ovid.

The Library Festive Fête will be held on Tuesday evening and everyone is invited. We look forward to celebrating with each other. My Drop In sessions will re-commence in January, so do come to see me if you have any matter you wish to raise.

Best wishes for the festive season and thank you to all for an outstanding year.

**Janine Schmidt,**  
Trenholme Director of Libraries



The Friends of the Library celebrated the end of the year and the festive season at a very pleasant and convivial gathering on the evening of Monday, December 11.

The Annual Friend of the Year award was made to Dr Richard Tomlinson. His very considerable financial gift allowed the Library to participate in the CRKN (Canadian Research Knowledge Network) which made possible the purchase of many online journals for the Library. In addition, most of the innovative digitization projects undertaken by the Library, involving many participants across the University, were made possible by the generosity of Dr Tomlinson. The Library and the University are extremely grateful for his generosity. He has been a true Friend.

Former Trenholme Director of Libraries, Fran Groen, presented the award, and Dr Tomlinson, who was unable to be present because of ill health, sent a very moving thank you.

The evening also recognized the close of Justice John Gomery's term as President of the Friends' Committee. His leadership of the Friends in the last few years, particularly at a time when he was extremely busy elsewhere, has been outstanding. His generosity of spirit and commitment were recognized by Janine Schmidt, Trenholme Director of Libraries.

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

What's new	2
Conference Tidbit	3
Library Ambassadors & Data Librarians	4
Year in Review & Photo Gallery	5
Diversions	6

### 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:

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## WHAT'S NEW

### Staff news

Anna Stoute (Liaison Librarian, Macdonald Campus Library) has been appointed Acting Head Librarian of Macdonald Campus Library. Anna brings her considerable knowledge and experience of the Macdonald campus to her role, replacing Erica Burnham as she goes on maternity leave.

A very pleasant farewell function was held for Robert Clarke and Diane Koen last Friday evening.

This week will mark Bob Clarke's final week at McGill. He has served McGill University in an outstanding capacity for 18 years. Following his work in the Nahum Gelber Law Library, the Howard Ross Library of Management and as Special Libraries Coordinator, Bob most recently served in an acting capacity as Principal Librarian for Information Services in the Humanities and Social Sciences Library.

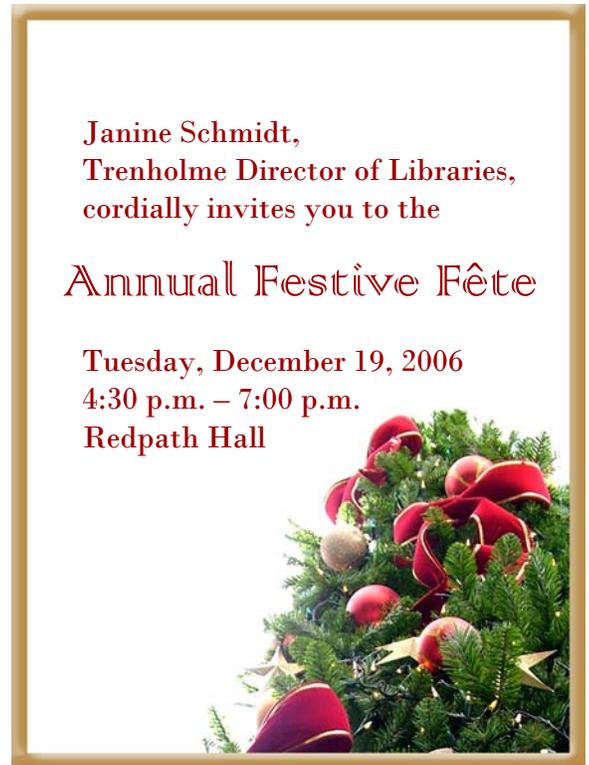
Lonnie Weatherby has very kindly agreed to take on the role of Interim Principal Librarian in the Humanities and Social Sciences Library. This appointment will be for an initial period of January and February 2007. Cynthia Leive will continue in her role of Acting Coordinator, Special Libraries. Jane Aitkens and Christine Oliver will continue their current leadership roles in Systems and LTS, following Diane Koen's departure as Associate Director, Information Technology Services.

Lonnie Weatherby and Joseph Hafner will join the Senior Management Group to ensure appropriate representation of the Humanities and Social Sciences Library.

The recruitment process for the Associate Directors continues. The initial short list will be finalized this week and evaluation of applications and interviewing will occur in January. The composition of the Director of Libraries' Advisory Group on the appointment of the Associate Directors is still being finalized but the following people have so far agreed to serve: Christopher Manfredi, Dean, Faculty of Arts; Janet Henderson, Associate Dean (Research), Faculty of Medicine; Bill Foster, Associate Provost (Policies and Procedures); Daniel Boyer, Wainwright Civil Law Librarian; Cynthia Leive, Head Librarian, Marvin Duchow Music Library and Acting Coordinator, Special Libraries; and Finn Upham, Vice President (Student Affairs) SSMU.

## RETURNS: THE "AFTER" SHOTS

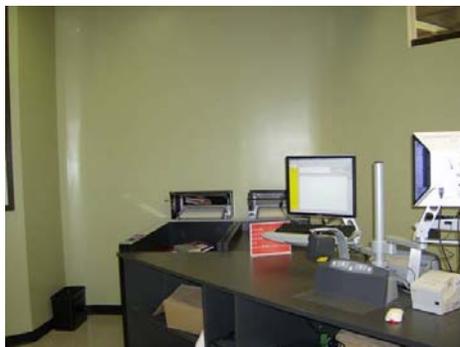
As promised, here are some after photos of the refurbished returns area at the Humanities and Social Sciences Library.



Did reading the Diversions article about Dragon Boat Racing in the August issue of Library Matters @ McGill get your interest piqued?

EyeCatch, the all-women Dragon Boat team Debra Yee (Government Information) paddles with, is looking for new members. You can be part of a group of dynamic women who are committed to staying healthy in a friendly and competitive team.

Contact Debra (debra.yee@mcgill.ca) or EyeCatch (team.eye.catch@gmail.com) for more information.



## CONFERENCE TIDBIT

### Chris Oliver (Head, Library Technical Services), The Future of the Integrated Library System

Chris Oliver attended the ILS Symposium hosted by the University of Windsor, November 15, 2006 in Windsor, Ontario.

An integrated library system (often shortened to ILS) is an integrated set of applications that share the same data, manage the library's assets and automate the library's main functions. It is sometimes called a library management system. It automates functions such as giving access to the library's resources through an online catalogue, lending, acquisitions, cataloguing, serials check-in, management and tracking of collections money, etc. NOTIS was McGill's first ILS, and in 2000, we migrated to Aleph, the ILS that we currently use.

The focus of discussion at the symposium was chiefly the possibility of adding to the ILS a front-end interface based on open source software. The discussions and presentations were mainly at an abstract level, except for one—the Evergreen presentation. Proposals were fascinating but most were not yet tested for feasibility. It was a stimulating discussion because ideas could be exchanged without presenting any 'proof of concept'.

A few advocated throwing the ILS out completely, but these tended to be library staff who did not have financial or administrative responsibilities for the library's assets, for the library's audit trail, or for confidential patron information, etc. Many agreed that the ILS was good at the management of library assets and it should not be thrown out, or at least not yet. Most discussion focused on potential developments in the area of non-traditional use of the traditional ILS. The ILS has good metadata stored in it that can be used in non-traditional ways. It also has library management features that are not easily replicated.

Art Rhyno (University of Windsor), Peter Murray (OhioLINK), and Alan Darnell (OCUL Scholar's Portal) each presented ideas for possible future exploration, based on the premise of creating new front-end interfaces to existing databases of metadata and/or digital objects. There was a

recurrent theme of breaking away from the concept of "integrated" library management systems and moving to systems made of components, some specializing in the management of assets and some in the enhancement of the user experience (an idea that Ex Libris has already adopted as part of their strategic plan, presented at ELUNA 2007).

There was also a presentation about Evergreen, a home-grown software built out of open source components, developed by PINES, the consortium of public libraries in Georgia. Evergreen cannot be called a true library management system yet, because it lacks any acquisitions, claiming and serials control functions. However, it supports a state-wide union catalogue and an innovative loans system, e.g. it has the capability to allow borrowing from and returning to any PINES library in the state. It has flexible system administration that allows the local level to control appropriate elements, e.g. their own closing hours. It has a granular permissions structure, it fulfils local auditing requirements, and it has a complex "randomized" matrix for setting holds (so it is not always the same copy put on hold). PINES online catalogue: [gapines.org/opac/en-US/skin/default/xml/index.xml](http://gapines.org/opac/en-US/skin/default/xml/index.xml) Evergreen development log: [open-ils.org](http://open-ils.org)

During the symposium, we were often reminded to think broadly when considering the user experience. When we talk about the "user experience", we need to look not just at the user's experience with the library system, but also at the range of different systems with which our current user interacts on a daily basis.

Art Rhyno also made a passionate plea to look for solutions that everyone can use. By basing new applications on open source software, we can create something that can be used both by resource-rich and resource-poor countries. Open source software has the potential to equalize access to high quality library systems in resource-poor countries. A library in Zimbabwe deserves software that is the same quality as the software we use in Canada. He likened using open source software to community barn building/barn raising.

Please let me know if you would like to read a copy of the full report: [chris.oliver@mcgill.ca](mailto:chris.oliver@mcgill.ca)



*Festive greetings from  
the Editorial team!  
You never heard it from us....*

## OUR DIPLOMATIC CORPS

### STUDENTS' SOCIETY OF MCGILL UNIVERSITY (SSMU) LIBRARY AMBASSADORS

by Karen Nicholson, Liaison Librarian (Humanities & Social Sciences)

You may have worked beside a friendly undergraduate wearing a red T-shirt at the I.D. Centre this summer, or crossed paths with one who was leading tours of your library. These are our Library Ambassadors, eleven students whose mandate is to promote Library resources and services to undergraduates and the community at large, and to work with the SSMU on library-related issues. The position of Library Ambassador was the brainchild of the SSMU under the leadership of Max Reed, SSMU Vice-President (University Affairs), and was enthusiastically received by members of the 2005-2006 Library Improvement Fund Committee, including Janine Schmidt, Diane Koen and Robert Clarke. Funding for the positions was generously provided by the SSMU.

In preparation for their work, Library Ambassadors participated in tour guide training, library orientation workshops and "Sorry, Glad, Sure: Skills for Service Excellence" client services training sessions.



To date, the Ambassadors have been engaged in a variety of tasks: during Discover McGill week and the month of September, they greeted new students while handing out Library brochures, bags and candy at the I.D. Centre and SSMU Activities Night; they led library tours in various branch libraries and assisted with "Beyond Google" orientation sessions; during Homecoming, they were on hand in the Humanities and Social Sciences Library to lead tours for members of the Alumni and to assist Janine Schmidt during her presentation, "We've been Google-ized!" Currently, the Ambassadors have been delegated to work with branch librarians to provide peer assistance and liaise with undergraduate student groups.

Thanks to everyone who has contributed their time and energy to this initiative to date. If you have suggestions for future projects for the Ambassadors or would like to be involved, please contact Cynthia Leive, [cynthia.leive@mcgill.ca](mailto:cynthia.leive@mcgill.ca), or Karen Nicholson, [karen.nicholson@mcgill.ca](mailto:karen.nicholson@mcgill.ca).

## DATA LIBRARIANS COMING TO MCGILL

by Sara Holder, Liaison Librarian (Education)

In May 2007, McGill Library will be hosting the 33rd annual conference of IASSIST (International Association for Social Science Information Services & Technology). IASSIST is "an international organization of professionals working in and with information technology and data services to support research and teaching in the social sciences. Its 300 members are from a variety of workplaces, including data archives, statistical agencies, research centers, libraries, academic departments, government departments, and non-profit organizations." (See [www.iassistdata.org/](http://www.iassistdata.org/).)

The theme of this year's conference is *Building global knowledge communities with open data*. The conference will explore what is required to make data more "open" and available and what the role of the data community is in helping to make this happen.

The local conference organizers are the staff of the Electronic Data Resources Service, with assistance from a num-

ber of other McGill Library staff members. The committee eagerly solicits participation from Librarians and Library staff, as well as McGill professors and graduate students interested in the issues of collection, use and preservation of electronic information.

The main conference begins Wednesday, May 16, and ends Friday, May 18. It will be preceded by workshops on Tuesday, and will be followed by a meeting of the DDI Alliance on Saturday.

Local arrangements committee members are: Adrian Aranha, McGill University; Susan Czarnocki, McGill University; Joanna Hobbins, McGill University; Sara Holder, McGill University; Zeynep Kadirbeyoglu, McGill University; Anastassia Khouri, McGill University.

For more information about IASSIST 2007 please visit [www.edrs.mcgill.ca/IASSIST2007/index.htm](http://www.edrs.mcgill.ca/IASSIST2007/index.htm). Note that the site is still under construction. More information about this conference will be made available later.



## LIBRARY MATTERS: THE YEAR IN REVIEW

by Louisa Piatti (*You-never-heard-it-from-us* Editorial Team)



The year 2006 is drawing to a close. The editorial team thought a little stroll through past issues would be in order to revisit what we have accomplished.

At the beginning of the year we acknowledged the retirement of former Trenholme Director of Libraries Francis Groen and at June convocation she was made Librarian Emerita.

Throughout the year we inaugurated several new services.

On January 30 we went live with our new Chat service, "Ask a Librarian". We replaced our green shipping bags with plastic shipping boxes. The heavy white plastic bags that had been used by the library to protect books signed out by our patrons were also replaced. The new colorful mesh bags which fold into pouches are becoming increasingly popular since their introduction at the Orientation activities in September 2006.

May 2006 saw the launch of the new ILL service Colombo. This web based interlibrary loan system allows users to search Quebec and Canadian university library catalogues simultaneously.

Beginning in September 2006 we subscribed to the Press display service. This online newspaper collection allows readers to access 300 newspapers from over 55 countries in 30 languages. In the newly refurbished reading area on the ground floor of the Humanities and Social Sciences Library, we provide same day quality copies of

selected national foreign newspapers.

Two other major library events were held in October. The ribbon cutting ceremony held on Saturday October 21, inaugurated the newly refurbished Macdonald Campus library which coincided with the Macdonald College's centenary Homecoming weekend.

A ceremony opening the "Window of Shanghai" was held on October 25th 2006. This program initiated by the Shanghai library aims to promote friendly relations with overseas libraries which either have cooperative programs with the Shanghai library or are in the sister cities of Shanghai. Montreal became a sister city to Shanghai in 1985. As an initial gift McGill has received approximately 500 titles chosen by Faculty members of the East Asian studies department.

Library Staff participated in many activities and told us of their hidden talents. Through the pages of the newsletter we learned about Steve Burliuk's musical journey (Dec 05); George Forbes' talent with singing (Nov 05); Brock Cummings' Toastmaster duties (Feb 06); Adele Toutant's Tai Chi sessions (April 06); Cecilia Tellis' interest in food (May 2006); Debra Yee's dragon boat racing (Aug 06) and finally John Black's poetry (Dec 2006).



## PHOTO GALLERY FROM MARYVON CÔTÉ (HSSL)



Bibliothèque Louis Nucera, Ville de Nice, France

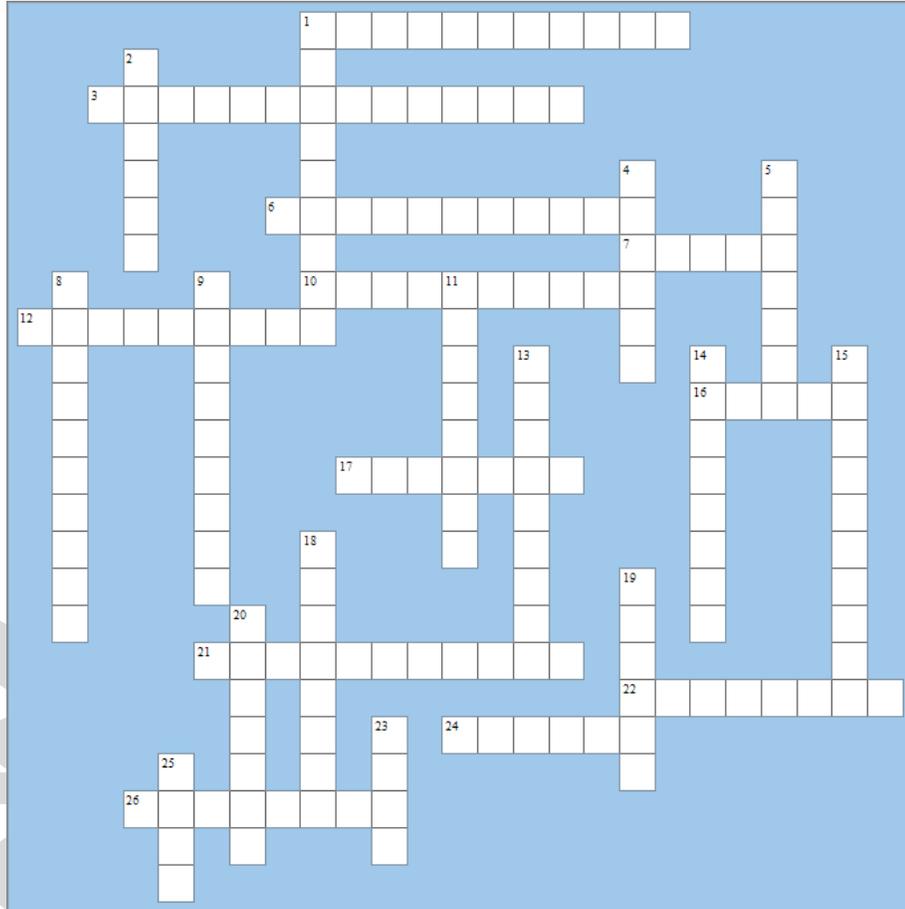


*"You never know  
what lonesome is,  
until you get to herding  
cows, Jellybeans."*

- J. Jellybean

# HOLIDAY FOOD AND DRINK

Crossword by Cecilia Tellis and EclipseCrossword  
([www.greeneclipsesoftware.com/eclipsecrossword/](http://www.greeneclipsesoftware.com/eclipsecrossword/))



## ACROSS

1. You mean they're not called Marocs?
3. Homer likes these...a lot
6. A boozy dessert containing suet
7. A Finnish mulled wine
10. This makes turkey a natural sedative
12. Also a region in France
16. Traditionally served at Hanukkah
17. A German breakfast fruit bread filled with marzipan
21. Sometimes jellied; also a band
22. Boiled or fried Ukrainian dumplings
24. A cocktail but also the name of a yellow flower
26. Moravian spice cookies always have this ingredient in them

## DOWN

1. Thought to have some aphrodisiacal properties
2. This common legume is mixed into many soups and stews and served during

## Kwanzaa

4. Typically served as a Christmas drink
5. Traditional cut of meat served at Hanukkah
8. A type of cookie although it doesn't sound like one
9. An edible ornament
11. Both versions are decadent
13. An Italian bread with lots of eggs and candied fruit
14. A cousin to the banana that's typically fried and served during Kwanzaa
15. This vegetable of the genus *Brassica oleracea* often appears on the menu of many Christmas meals in Spain
18. Can be sweet or savoury; caviar anyone?
19. A Japanese toast at New Year's
20. Swedish specialty sliced paper thin
23. An Italian Christmas Eve meal tends to feature this
25. Dig these types of vegetables

# HOLIDAY EATING TIPS

1. Avoid carrot sticks. Anyone who puts carrots on a holiday buffet table knows nothing of the Christmas spirit. In fact, if you see carrots, leave immediately. Go next door, where they're serving rum balls.

2. Drink as much eggnog as you can. And quickly. Like fine single-malt scotch, it's rare. In fact, it's even rarer than single-malt scotch. You can't find it any other time of year but now. So drink up! Who cares that it has 10,000 calories in every sip? It's not as if you're going to turn into an eggnog-alcoholic or something. It's a treat. Enjoy it. Have one for me. Have two. It's later than you think. It's Christmas!

3. If something comes with gravy, use it. That's the whole point of gravy. Gravy does not stand alone. Pour it on. Make a volcano out of your mashed potatoes. Fill it with gravy. Eat the volcano. Repeat.

4. As for mashed potatoes, always ask if they're made with skim milk or whole milk. If it's skim, pass. Why bother? It's like buying a sports car with an automatic transmission.

5. Do not have a snack before going to a party in an effort to control your eating. The whole point of going to a Christmas party is to eat other people's food for free. Lot's of it. Hello?

6. Under no circumstances should you exercise between now and New Year's. You can do that in January when you have nothing else to do. This is the time for long naps, which you'll need after circling the buffet table while carrying a 10-pound plate of food and that vat of eggnog.

7. If you come across something really good at a buffet table, like frosted Christmas cookies in the shape and size of Santa, position yourself near them and don't budge. Have as many as you can before becoming the centre of attention. They're like a beautiful pair of shoes. If you leave them behind, you're never going to see them again.

8. Same as pies. Apple, Pumpkin, Mincemeat. Have a slice of each. Or if you don't like mincemeat, have two apple and one pumpkin. Always have three. When else do you get to have more than one dessert? Labour Day?

9. Did someone mention fruitcake? Granted, it's loaded with the mandatory celebratory calories, but avoid it at all cost. I mean, have some standards.

10. One final tip: If you don't feel terrible when you leave the party or get up from the table, you haven't been paying attention. Re-read tips; start over, but hurry, January is just around the corner.

Remember this motto to live by:

"Life should NOT be a journey to the grave with the intention of arriving safely in an attractive and well preserved body, but rather to skid in sideways, chocolate in one hand, Coca Cola in the other, body thoroughly used up, totally worn out and screaming 'WOO HOO what a ride!'"