

# Library Matters @ McGill

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

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## FROM THE TRENHOLME DIRECTOR OF LIBRARIES



The Library Leaders faced off against the Library Laggards in McGill Staff Softball League action on July 18.

“Delicious” used to be a word to describe the taste of food. “Mash” was what one did to potatoes with a fork. Both these words have taken on new meanings with further developments of the Internet and social networking. Del.icio.us (<http://del.icio.us/>) is a social bookmarking site where one can store one’s bookmarks and use other people’s preferred bookmarks. Forget metadata and subject authority files—tags and tagging are how one applies descriptive words to bookmarks. <http://del.icio.us/tag/> lists the most commonly used tags. <http://mashable.com/> provides social networking news. There are descriptions of how churches are using social networking. YouTube, MySpace, Friendster, Facebook—it is all about sharing.

During August, there will be a series of update sessions exploring a variety of topics. All library staff are invited to attend. Check out this newsletter for the titles of the sessions, the times and the places, but social networking will be one of the topics as we examine the possibilities of the various library applications. You might not be ready for your avatar identity in Second Life ([www.secondlife.com/](http://www.secondlife.com/)) but come along and learn more about the changes occurring.

Libraries provide quality information resources for all their clients to use. Yet many of our users do not know about their availability. Our own website seeks to categorize resources and make them available for use. Each library does its best to ensure that users discover the resources they need for teaching, learning and research. Each day it becomes more difficult as the quantity of information available grows constantly and the quality of it becomes more difficult to assess. One solution in the United Kingdom is Intute ([www.intute.ac.uk/](http://www.intute.ac.uk/)). Universities are working cooperatively to create a website which provides links to sites which have been evaluated and grouped together for easier access. Extensive descriptive data are provided. Numerous categories outline resources and information. While [www.intute.ac.uk/sciences/worldguide/](http://www.intute.ac.uk/sciences/worldguide/) does not tell

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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)

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# MEET THE YOU-NEVER-HEARD-IT-FROM-US EDITORS

BY YOUR HUMBLE EDITORIAL TEAM



The you-never-heard-it-from-us editorial team, Rebecca Nicholson, April Colosimo, Louisa Piatti and Emma Buckley, catch up on their reading.

## Louisa Piatti

*Where were you born?*

Montreal

*What part of town do you live in?*

Downtown

*How long have you worked at the library?*

33 years and change

*Do you have any pets?*

Yes – a cat called Jake Blues

*What are your favorite places in Montreal?*

The Botanical Gardens and the Old Port

*What is your favorite dessert?*

Homemade chocolate pie with real cream topping

*What are you reading and/or listening to?*

Reading: Boris Akunin “Murder on the Leviathan”; Lauro Martines “Scourge and Fire Savonarola and Renaissance Italy”; Richard Overly “The Dictators: Hitler’s Germany and Stalin’s Russia”

Listening: Blues: Stevie Ray Vaughn;

Classical: Bach, Liszt and Shostakovich

*What are your other interests?*

Architecture and decorative arts

*What is your pet peeve?*

Clutter

*What are your favorite quotes?*

“Power tends to corrupt and absolute power corrupts absolutely.” (Lord Acton)

“The Answer to the Ultimate Question of Life, the Universe and Everything is simply...42.” (Douglas Adams)

“Have nothing in your home you do not know to be useful or believe to be beautiful.” (William Morris)

*What is one thing that people do not know*

*about you?*

I have no 3D vision

## Emma Buckley

*Where were you born?*

Kempsey, Australia

*What part of town do you live in?*

The Plateau

*How long have you worked at the library?*

Almost 4 months

*Other interests?*

Lots of things! I like to read, write, cook, play guitar, go to the cinema.

*Do you have any pets?*

Yes – My apartment sublet includes Basho the cat.

*What is your favorite place in Montreal?*

The lookout on the Mount in the early morning.

*What is your favorite dessert?*

This is like asking for an all-time favourite album – very difficult! My mum’s baked cheesecake is one.

*What are you reading and/or listening to?*

Reading: Milan Kundera ‘Life is Elsewhere’; Dianne Ackerman ‘A Natural History of the Senses’ and ‘Mastering French Vocabulary’.

Listening: Patrick Watson, The Kinks, Gillian Welch, some jazz from back home.

*What is your pet peeve?*

Aggressive people.

*What is one thing that people do not know about you?*

I do a suitably dramatic rendition of Meatloaf’s ‘Two Out of Three Ain’t Bad’ on piano. My ex-housemate used to contribute vocals using the broom as a microphone. Needless to say, we only performed for close

friends.

## April Colosimo

*Where were you born?*

Montreal

*What part of town do you live in?*

Mile End / Outremont

*How long have you worked at the library?*

11 months

*What is your favorite place in Montreal?*

Musée d’art contemporain de Montréal, Jean-Talon market

*What is your favorite dessert?*

Cherry pie

*What are you reading?*

Reading: Robert Jordan, The wheel of time series

*What are your other interests?*

Baking

*What is your favorite quote?*

“Then a miracle occurs” (Gary Larson, Far Side)

*What is one thing that people do not know about you?*

I’m walking 60km for the Weekend to End Breast Cancer in August.

## Rebecca Nicholson

*Where were you born?*

Lindsay, Ontario—there’s no hospital in Fenelon Falls.

*What part of town do you live in?*

I just moved to Verdun.

*How long have you worked at the library?*

9 years as a full-timer, 4 years

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# ONE WAY OR THE OTHER

## SIMPLIFIED/TRADITIONAL CHINESE CHARACTER AUTO CONVERSION

BY HEATHER CAI (LSO)

Following the Aleph 18 upgrade, another new feature has been added to the catalogue lately. The system is now able to convert simplified and traditional Chinese characters automatically. You may use either the simplified or traditional form of Chinese characters to search the catalogue for a complete list of results. I talked about this in the second Aleph 18 upgrade session on July 12 and was asked to write something for the Newsletter. Hope you will find the information below useful and interesting.

We launched the CJK (Chinese-Japanese-Korean) indexes earlier this year. At that time, the system was made to be able to retrieve CJK materials using the vernacular characters. While it was recognized as a milestone, we identified some major issues related to CJK, in particular, Chinese search functionality. One major issue was that searching in simplified Chinese form did not return records catalogued in its traditional counterpart, and vice versa.

For example, a famous Chinese classic work, “Dream of the Red Chamber”, may appear as “红楼梦” (simplified) or “紅樓夢” (traditional) in bib records. Suppose there are 10 records related to this work, 3 in simplified and 7 in traditional. Searching in simplified and traditional forms would return 3 and 7 hits respectively. This is not the worst case. Imagine, if all the records are in one form and you search in another, you would unfortunately get zero hits!

A tentative solution was provided. We instructed users to use Boolean operator “OR” to include both simplified and traditional characters in the search syntax, e.g. [“红楼梦” OR “紅樓夢”]. This worked

most of the time, but did not guarantee a complete list of results, as there are those records in mixed forms – you would have little chance to retrieve them unless you knew exactly how they are catalogued! In addition, this solution requires installations of two input method editors (IME). Users would have to switch between the two IMEs when entering search terms.

During the ELUNA 2007 conference in June, I had a chance to address this issue to Ex Libris in person. I was told that they had recently re-programmed the

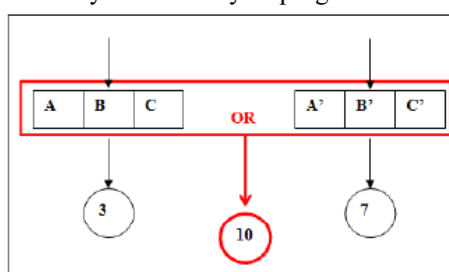


Figure 1: Before

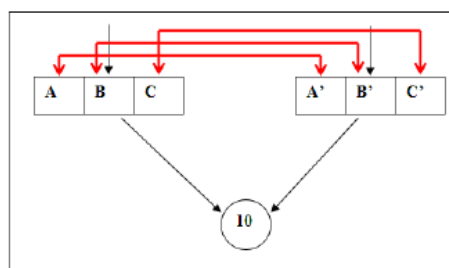


Figure 2: After

1	<a href="#">红楼梦. Selections.</a>
1	<a href="#">红楼梦诗词鉴赏</a>
1	<a href="#">红楼梦研究罕见资料汇编</a>
1	<a href="#">红楼梦與中華文化</a>

Figure 3: System retrieves a record in a mixed form

component to allow auto conversion between simplified and traditional Chinese characters. With support from Ex Libris, we reloaded a table that is used for Chinese indexing and re-indexed more than 27,000 Chinese records, of which about 10,000 records contain Chinese bib data in one form or the other. We tested and verified the functionality with both browse and keyword searches. We were satisfied with the results.

The way the system works now is that when a user enters a string of characters in simplified form, ABC, the system looks for its traditional counterpart, A'B'C' (or vice versa) and returns a complete list of records in both forms. Let's take “Dream of the Red Chamber” as an example, users will only need to enter either “红楼梦” or “紅樓夢”, the system will return the same set of the complete 10 records. For those records catalogued in mixed forms, e.g. AB'C, or A'BC', the system can still retrieve them properly. There is no need to include OR in the search syntax any more. Users do not have to install an additional IME and switch between the two IMEs. Figures 1 through 3 illustrate how the system works.

This is a major improvement to the CJK component in Aleph 18. On one hand, it increases the recall rate; on the other, it eases the use of the catalogue for searching Chinese materials. It will benefit our patrons and the staff when dealing with CJK materials.

The Basic Search page and the Chinese Help page in the catalogue have been updated to reflect these changes. For details, please visit [catalogue.mcgill.ca/F/?func=file&file\\_name=help-chinese](http://catalogue.mcgill.ca/F/?func=file&file_name=help-chinese).

## WHAT'S NEW

### STAFF NEWS

© Steve Burliuk, erstwhile local technician at Life Sciences Library, has taken the leap over to ICS. Steve has worked in McGill libraries for over 10 years and we are sure he will be a valuable addi-

tion to the ICS team. All the best, Steve!

© Terry Tsiampouras of the Electronic Resources and Serials Unit, is retiring after 40 years at McGill. And he finally got the ruby pin! Congratulations and best wishes for the future, Terry! □



Lise Hackett, Terry Tsiampouras and Janine Schmidt at Terry's retirement party, where Terry shows off his pin



## CONFERENCE TIDBITS

**Beth Dunning**, Liaison Librarian at the Howard Ross Library of Management, attended the Canadian Library Association (CLA) conference in St. John's, Newfoundland, from May 23-26, 2007. The conference theme, "Retain, Recruit, Restructure: Regenerating the Library Community", was 'a timely topic that was carried through many of the sessions.'

The opening keynote was a presentation by Linda Duxbury, a professor at Carleton University and expert in the field of workplace health. Says Beth, 'Generational war threatened to break out as she introduced the results of her research – namely that in the context of favorable labor market and demographic conditions, younger "Generation Y" workers are insisting on jobs that offer flexibility and balance. On the other hand their older, "Boomer", colleagues keep pedaling away on the career treadmill and expect the same from younger hires. Fortunately this tension was exploited for many laughs and her evidence-based approach won over the crowd'.

Besides a spot of cod-kissing (!), Beth enjoyed the chance to build on connections with Fiona Black, 'the erudite, frank and enthusiastic director of Dalhousie's MLS program' and the Students-to-CLA (a student travel grant program), for whom she coordinated conference volunteer schedules.

The following month, HSSL Liaison Librarian, **Sonia Smith Silva**, presented a paper at the Association of Jewish Libraries Annual Convention in Phoenix, Arizona. Sonia's paper, "The Public Library in a multiethnic enclave: adapting

to changes", presented the challenges and realities facing public libraries in Montreal in light of the city's cultural and ethnic diversity, and changing immigration patterns. From new multi-lingual collections and variety in programming to new staff with different language skills, Sonia aimed to show how libraries are striving to adapt to a different clientele.

Science Cataloguing Librarian, **Karen Jensen**, was one of 28 000 attendees descending on Washington, DC for the annual ALA conference, June 23 - 25. 'My main reason for going to Washington was to participate in the pre-conference "Rare, Antiquarian, or Just Plain Old: Cataloging Pre-twentieth Century Cartographic Resources"'. The two-day workshop sessions covered a range of issues dealing with early cartography, including recognising primary map-making techniques, early map terms and features, recording and providing access to early letter forms and symbols and sources of information for the catalogue record. The pre-conference session also included a tour of the Library of Congress' Geography and Maps Division; the largest and most comprehensive cartographic collection in the world with over 5.2 million maps. 10 000 are online, as part of the LC's map digitisation projects. Karen commented that, 'I hope that now that we are using DigiTool for the management of digital assets, we will eventually be able to scan more of McGill Library's rare maps and put links in our cataloguing records to the digital images'.

Assistant History of Medicine Librarian Osler Librarian, **Chris Lyons**, also participated in this year's ALA con-

ference in Washington (which, incidentally, drew the largest numbers of attendees in the event's history). Seminars attended by Chris included 'Utilizing learning theory in the online environment', which investigated the interactive nature of teaching, and drew on social learning theory to explain how librarians can "infiltrate" or set up groups in places like the virtual world of Second Life and help teach others; and 'Transforming your Library and your Library's future with technology', which emphasized that rather than approaching technology 'backwards' (ie starting with the technology and then figuring out how to apply it), libraries need to start with a goal and then figure out the right technology to achieve it.

Other sessions looked at how library instruction can benefit from the integration of today's learning styles and technology; social bookmarking; and advancing the abilities of library search engines and catalogues.

Says Chris, 'The point was also raised that libraries need to collaborate with other professional groups on campus to develop rich media integration in the curriculum and to adapt to changing learner styles. We can also work on teaching media skills and critical thinking skills, such as fair use and how to assess the credibility of sources in an online environment. Here at McGill, we might want to consider what opportunities lie in greater collaborations with Teaching and Learning Services and IMS to develop technologically savvy and useful information services and instruction'.

□

### FROM THE DIRECTOR, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

you everything you might need to know about Canada, it is a good beginning. Perhaps we should be working with other university libraries in Canada to develop such a site.

While many library staff are enjoying their vacations, others are working hard to prepare for the new term. There are many improvements being undertaken to our facilities. Thank you to everyone who voted on the name for the e-zone. Infozone and Cyberthèque gained the top votes in equal numbers closely followed by I-place. So watch this space—decision yet to

be taken. Work is proceeding in the Education Library and Curriculum Resources Centre as well as in the Schulich Library of Science and Engineering, with activity also in the Life Sciences Library. Other staff are working on preparations for orientation so that new students find out all about our services. Best wishes to all who are enjoying a well-earned time of relaxation and rest and thanks to all who are beavering away on preparations for the new term.

Finally, welcome to the new editorial team! Thanks again to Cecilia Tellis who

has left us for the greener pastures of the University of Ottawa. Louisa Piatti and Rebecca Nicholson continue their excellent work and are joined by April Colosimo and Emma Buckley. We are all grateful for the work the editorial team does in keeping us in touch with each other and with new developments.

**Janine Schmidt,**  
Trenholme Director of Libraries

□

## CONFERENCE IN FOCUS: ASSOCIATION OF HISPANISTS AND THE LEARNED SOCIETIES

BY JUANITA JARA DE SUMAR (HUMANITIES & SOCIAL SCIENCES)

Conference of the Association of Hispanists and the Learned Societies

I recently participated in the 43rd Conference of the Association of Hispanists, part of the 2007 Congress of the Canadian Federation for the Humanities and Social Sciences which took place in Saskatoon at the end of May. Thanks to the successful proposal by Saskatoon librarian Donna Canevari, a librarian's panel was included at the conference.

The title of our panel was Treasures revealed: Iberian and Latin American Collections in Canadian Research libraries. We participated in two sessions: a morning session in English where we presented two papers on un-catalogued and special materials in University of Alberta (in Edmonton) and McGill University libraries. The afternoon session was in Spanish and again we gave two papers illustrating cases in which librarians were instrumental in finding the works and texts needed by the researchers.

My paper was titled Spanish collections in the McGill University Library. In the introduction I mentioned some of the materials available in the Rare Books and Special Collections Division which are not searchable via our online catalogue. In the first part of the paper I provided an overview of the holdings in our collection about the History of Spain, classification numbers DP1 to DP 272.4, and about Literature from the Iberian Peninsula

(Spain), numbers PQ 6000 to PQ 6723. This data complements the information on our Latin American holdings that I presented last year at another conference. In the second part I elaborated on one of the sets that I found in the RBD, a collection of primary materials from the Spanish Civil War period. These findings are particularly important as one of the hottest topics in the current Spanish literature relates to that historical period. I talked about how they came to be at our library, and suggested that I would like to prepare an annotated inventory of the 150-200 documents. Several session participants urged me to do so.

Our participation in the Conference had several positive outcomes for librarians:

- it reinforced the link between librarians and the Departments for which we are responsible
- it allowed me to relate on equal terms to the faculty members and PhD students we usually see in the office, the class or at the desk; and to interact with faculty from other universities, particularly from Montreal and Quebec
- it showed the academic community that librarians can help them get their hands on important research materials that they may not be aware of
- it showed that our collections indeed include hidden treasures, and provided an opportunity to make them visible and known beyond the McGill

Community

- it provided us with the opportunity to analyze in depth a section of the collection we are responsible for developing
- we learnt more about the research of our professors and students through the papers they presented
- it was a step forward in our aim to form a Hispanic Studies Librarians Group

I liked the way the 2007 Congress was arranged, with many small conferences occurring simultaneously or subsequently at one major location, over the course of 8 days. As all the learned societies of Canada were present, and we had the opportunity to attend sessions organized by other Associations, such as the interdisciplinary symposium "Reassembling the Disassembled book" presented by the Society for Digital Humanities, the Canadian Society of Medievalists and the Canadian Association for the Study of Book Culture.

I was impressed with how libraries and librarians used the opportunity to highlight their collections during the Congress. There were several exhibits, and a Research Lecture was given by the University of Saskatchewan Library Dean during the conference (Jean-Claude Guédon Of mice and (wo)men: opening up research in the digital age, concerning open access and copyright).

□

*"Books are the quietest and most constant of friends, they are the most accessible and wisest of counsellors, and the most patient of teachers."*

— Charles W. Eliot

### MEET THE EDITORS CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

shelving during my undergrad before that.

*What do you like to do in your spare time?*  
I'm addicted to pencil puzzles. I also enjoy rock climbing, doing as much as possible in/on the water, playing guitar and playing video games.

*What is your favorite place in Montreal?*  
Any sunny terrasse on a hot summer's day.

*What are you reading and/or listening to?*  
Reading: Murder mysteries and magazines in the sun—it's summertime!

Listening: Whatever iTunes picks for me.

*What are your favorite quotes?*  
"Thanks, for the trouble you took from her eyes/I thought it was there for good so I never tried." (Leonard Cohen)

*What is one thing that people do not know about you?*  
I was born on my dad's birthday.

□

## READING MATTERS

BOOK REVIEW BY APRIL COLOSIMO (SCHULICH)

### *Evidence-based Librarianship: Case studies and active learning exercises*

Edited by Elizabeth Connor

Chandos information professional series  
HSSL Z669.7 E95 2007

“Once upon a time in a land far, far away the library staff decided to cast a spell to help everyone get the library materials they need.”

This is the opening line of Chapter 5, *Evidence-based librarianship Down Under: improving a nation’s resource-sharing*. If only it were that simple, we could cast a spell or snap our fingers and reap the rewards of a job well done.

Since we all live in the real world you may be interested in this title on evidence-based librarianship (EBL), the use of scientific methods in library research. This book works well as an introduction to the subject. It can also serve as a reminder of the advantages of EBL for those already familiar with the movement, which has its roots in evidence-based medicine.

Each chapter of the book outlines a case study, offering a look at the different approaches to EBL. The case studies are written by various authors and in general cover the setting, research plan, methods, and results where EBL was employed. The focus here is not on the ‘how to’ but rather on the processes involved, such as the action research process (observe, plan, act, evaluate) in chapter 2, or ‘what, so what, now what’ used in chapter 4. Success stories are always inspiring, and for those of us who never had a course on the topic there are exercises developed by the editor at the end of chapters 2-8 to get us thinking.

This book is easy to read, short and manageable. I would recommend it, although I was expecting more detailed case studies in terms of the methods used to obtain and analyze evidence. It can be considered as a friendly prompt to “pose questions, research the literature, observe user behavior and activities and continually collect qualitative and quantitative data.” (xviii). □

## COMING ATTRACTIONS

### **Summer Session: Career Planning and Development**

**Friday, July 27, 12:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m., McLennan Library Building, MS-24**  
Jim Henderson, Louise O’Neill and Anna Stoute present.

### **Libraries gaining a second life**

**July 31, 11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m., Room 326, Bronfman**

What do you know about Web 2.0? Genevieve Gore, Rajiv Johal, Debbie Meert and Louise O’Neill will demonstrate some of the social networking and other applications of Web 2.0 being used in some libraries and other organizations. Discussion will follow: how can McGill Library adapt and use some of them to enhance our service delivery? Your ideas will be welcome!

### **Improving information literacy - ours and theirs**

**August 14, 2:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m., Room 326, Bronfman**

Richard Dearden, Kelvin Grove Branch Library Manager, Queensland University of Technology Brisbane will address the topic: Library collaboration in learning and teaching at Australian universities. A team led by Lorie Kloda, including Chris Lyons and Brian

McMillan, will talk about our own developments at McGill.

### **Lessons from Eluna.**

**August 22, 2:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m., Room 326, Bronfman**

The team who attended the Eluna (Ex Libris Users of North America) 2007 conference will reveal all on new capacities and approaches to Aleph and other Ex Libris products. Jane Aitkens, Heather Cai, Joseph Hafner, Louise O’Neill and Elizabeth Thomson will report on what they learned and provide their insights on what it might mean for McGill Libraries.

## SUMMER BY THE NUMBERS

FROM UNIVERSITY OF WINNIPEG’S LIBRARY NEWS BLOG  
(BLOG.UWINNIPEG.CA/INFORESOURCES/ARCHIVES/002831.HTML)

**1.2 million:** The average number of students (four-month average) who held summer jobs during the months of May, June, July and August 2006.

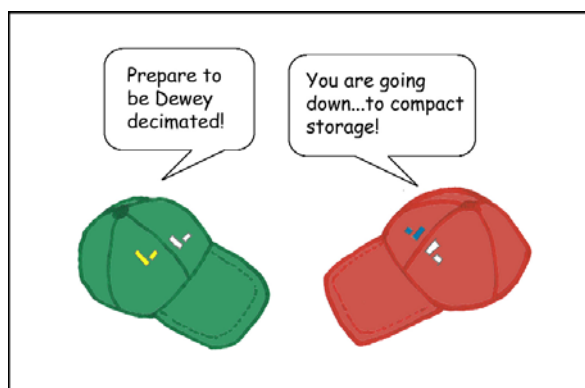
**86.7 billion kilometres:** The distance driven (on average) by vehicles registered in Canada during the July to September quarter, the busiest quarter of the year.

**85 litres:** The volume of soft drinks consumed per capita in Canada in 2006, continuing a downward trend. Conversely, energy and sport drink consumption has been on the rise in recent years.

**\$1.52 billion:** The value of sales of flowers and plants in Canada in 2006. The largest purchasers of these products were wholesalers, followed by consumers.

**58,945 acres:** The total sod area in 2006. Sod is in high demand for golf courses, homes and parks.

Statistics from **Summer...by the Numbers** from Statistics Canada [www42.statcan.ca/smr08/smr08\\_084\\_e.htm](http://www42.statcan.ca/smr08/smr08_084_e.htm).



**LIBRARY TRASH TALK**