



Library Matters @ McGill

Steven Spodek displaying an item from Rare Books and Special Collections at the Parents' Breakfast in the Cyberthèque

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www.mcgill.ca/library-about/pubs/newsletter/

FROM THE TRENHOLME DIRECTOR OF LIBRARIES



**JANINE SCHMIDT,
TRENHOLME
DIRECTOR OF
LIBRARIES**

Felicitations and congratulations to everyone. This month's column is devoted to recognizing the numerous achievements made recently by library staff. The recently released *Globe and Mail* survey reported an A grade for the Library. This is an improvement on last year's result of A- and a considerable improvement on earlier results. The improvement is due to the dedication and commitment of every single person on the staff of the Library and a big thank you goes to everyone. Several staff have attained 40 years of dedicated commitment to the McGill Library and we wish to mark that auspicious occasion. The staff are:- **Rosemary Brijodhan; Dorothy Gowen; John Hobbins; Avrill Hodge and John MacNeil.** On 28 November 2008,

Barbara Finlay is retiring after her 40 years of dedicated commitment to the McGill Library. Barbara has made an outstanding contribution during this time, working as a cataloguer in Collection Services and been responsible for creating thousands of records which make our holdings known and accessible to all. She has taken a key role in ensuring quality of authority work and in training other staff and we will have the occasion to wish her a happy and enjoyable retirement.

Congratulations are also due to the six staff who recently marked 25 years of sterling service to the McGill Library, **Anne Avery, Zofia Domanska, Angella Lambrou, Bozena Latincic,**

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Carlos Rojas and Richard Virr. Five of them took the opportunity to have their contributions recognized and rewarded publicly at a splendid reception at the New Rez which was attended by others who had already attained the status of the 25 year. We are fortunate to have a cumulated bank of knowledge available to us.

Very special congratulations are also made to Steve Blaise. Steve has won one of this year's Principal's Awards for Administrative and Support Staff 2007-2008.

Steve is one of the Library's quiet achievers. He ensures that the mail always gets delivered. Nothing is too much trouble and he ensures that new library materials are received and transported efficiently, that inter-library loans are dispatched, and that materials are transported as required from one branch to another. It is wonderful to see his commitment rewarded. Steve will receive his award at the forthcoming Convocation ceremonies.

LIBRARY STAFF MEETINGS

FRIDAY, 28 NOVEMBER

10:00 - 11:00 AM

MS-24, McLENNAN LIBRARY BUILDING,
STREET LEVEL

2:30 - 3:30 PM

MS-42, McLENNAN LIBRARY BUILDING,
STREET LEVEL

"I was obliged to work hard. Whoever is equally industrious will succeed just as well."

- Johann Sebastian Bach,
1685-1750

FORMATS FOR SOUND PRESERVATION

by Joel Natanblut,
Life Sciences Library

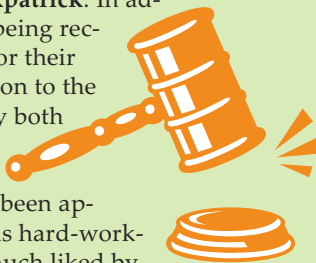
Sound quality is an important concern for the preservation of digital audio. Elements linked to fidelity are sampling frequency, word length, distortion, watermarking, compression and surround sound support.

Linear Pulse Code Modulated Audio (LPCM) records audio without deteriorating compression. It is widely used on audio CDs, DVD-Audio discs and computer file formats such as .wav and .aiff.

Direct Stream Digital (DSD) is a newer scheme for digitizing sound which also records audio without compression. Judged against the traditional LPCM method, this digital processing potentially increases fidelity by diminishing noise or distortion. DSD is employed on the optical audio disc format called Super Audio CD (SACD). More information can be found at the Library of Congress - http://www.digitalpreservation.gov/formats/content/sound_quality.shtml.

FACULTY OF LAW HONOURS LIBRARY STAFF

The Faculty of Law has made a generous gift honouring two long-serving staff members at the Nahum Gelber Law Library, **Inge Hernandez** and **John Kirkpatrick**. In addition to being recognized for their contribution to the University both staff members have also been applauded as hard-working and much liked by Faculty. The generous gift, made possible through the Dean's Discretionary Fund, will provide for the preservation of rare books in the Nahum Gelber Law Library. Thank you to the Dean and the Faculty of Law.



Library Matters @ McGill

The Library Matters @ McGill newsletter, brought to you by the *you-never-heard-it-from-us* editors, seeks to exchange and encourage ideas, innovations and information from McGill Library staff at all levels.

The newsletter is published monthly. The latest issue, as well as an archive of past issues, can be found at www.mcgill.ca/library-about/pubs/newsletter/.

We welcome your contributions. 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

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Joel Natanblut, joel.natanblut@mcgill.ca

F. R. SCOTT LECTURE: COUNTER-TERRORISM, CIVIL LIBERTIES, AND THE LEGACY OF F.R. SCOTT

5:30 P.M.

WEDNESDAY, 26 NOVEMBER 2008

CHANCELLOR DAY HALL, MOOT COURT,
3644 PEEL STREET

The Friends of the Library present the 19th F. R. Scott Lecture, featuring the Honourable Mr. Justice W. Ian Binnie of the Supreme Court of Canada.

Mr. Justice Binnie, B.A., LL.B., LL.M., LL.D., was appointed to the Supreme Court of Canada on January 8, 1998. Prior to his appointment, he was a senior partner of McCarthy Tétrault from 1986 to 1998, an Associate Deputy Minister of Justice for Canada from 1982 to 1986 and practised litigation in Toronto from 1967 to 1982.

All are welcome. RSVP by 20 November.

514-398-4681/ rsvp.libraries@mcgill.ca

LIBRARY HOSTS PARENTS

The third weekend in October saw Homecoming and Parents Weekend take place at McGill. The Library was directly involved in the festivities, opening its doors to hundreds of parents, alumni, friends and visitors over the course of the weekend.

PARENTS' BREAKFAST

On the morning of October 17, a corner of the Cyberthèque was populated by a crowd a little older than the usual occupants. Looking quite at home seated on the banquettes around the tables, parents of McGill students learned about the vital role the Library plays supporting student life and learning at McGill. For many, it was their first visit to the Library and the University, having come from across North America and even further afield for a weekend of activities as part of the University's inaugural Parents Weekend. Principal Heather Munroe-Blum and Senator Michael Meighen, Capital Campaign Co-Chair, greeted parents before Janine Schmidt and Head of Rare Books and Special Collections, Dr. Richard Virr, presented a dynamic talk titled "Your Children: Our Library's Collections: all of our treasures". Parents were treated to a display of treasures from Rare Books and Special Collections, including the largest book in the library. Parents enthusiastically received the books for a closer look as they were handed around by staff members. The Library also had an eighteenth century chapbook, *The Renowned History and Adventures of Robinson Crusoe*, digitized with the recently acquired Kirtas robotic scanner and printed as a small take home gift for parents. The breakfast concluded with an opportunity to tour the Rare Books and Special Collections, and view the exhibition 'Find-

ing Robinson Crusoe in the Library', showcasing some of the rare and unique collections material donated to the McGill Library over the past century and a half. The parents were very impressed by the Cyberthèque, and the cozy ambience and the genuine curiosity and appreciation shown contributed a tangible sense of warmth and camaraderie to the morning's activities.



'CLASSES WITHOUT QUIZZES'

The following day, the Library hosted one of the University's Homecoming 'Classes Without Quizzes', a fun, lively session consisting of the Sassy Students debating the Learned Librarians on the subject, 'With the Second Coming of the Library, the Librarian Has Become Obsolete'. Parents and alumni attending were surprised when the first Learned Librarian took to the stand for the affirmative! The team of Learned Librarians, Amber Lannon (Howard Ross Library of Management), Greg Colley (Rare Books and Special Collections) and Cynthia Leive (Marvin Duchow Music Library) and the Sassy Students team of Eric Erickson, Alexander DeGuise and Amara Possian, highlighted the implications of the Library's second coming in the digital age and looked at the dynamic, shifting role of the modern library and librarian. The presentation was well-received, with the Sassy Students coming out winners on the day, and the debate sparking a lively question and answer session.



Scenes from the Parents' Breakfast held on October 17 in the Cyberthèque

WHITHER GOEST THOU?

SESSION PATHS FROM THE LIBRARY HOME PAGE, SEPTEMBER 2008

by Andrew Collier,
Library Technology Services

Session paths tell us where users go when they visit the Library’s website. The session paths for September are especially interesting because many users are new to the site, or have been away from it for some time. We used the session paths for September to chart the 25 most popular pages visited from the home page, what percentage of users clicking through to these pages then left the site, and what percentage immediately returned to the home page. It is important to understand that in this context, when a visitor goes to the Library Catalogue, Metalib, or Find an eJournal, he has left the Library website. Usage of these Library resources is not recorded by the same server logs.

There’s no easy rule to interpreting these numbers. These session paths do not tell us what the site’s most popular pages are, they tell us what the most popular links on the home page are. We need to consider each page on its own, and question why it might be visited more often than others, whether the user leaves the site from that page because he has been directed to the ideal resource or whether he has given up, and whether the user returns to the home page because he is disoriented or because he has completed one task and wants to tackle another.

SOME OBSERVATIONS

- “Other library catalogues”, and “Internet searching” are pages designed to point users to external

sites but about a third of the users visiting them from the home page return to the home page. The “Course materials” page guides students towards the Catalogue, yet about 28% step back to the home page. These high numbers of visitors tracking back could be a sign that the links for these pages are too prominent or that the titles for them aren’t clearly understood.

- Only one of the top level pages (“Finding information”, “Seeking assistance”, “Using the Library”, “About us”, “Support for”) is among the 25 most popular paths from the home page. Is this because the information on those pages isn’t useful, their titles lack appeal, or because users don’t recognize the labels for

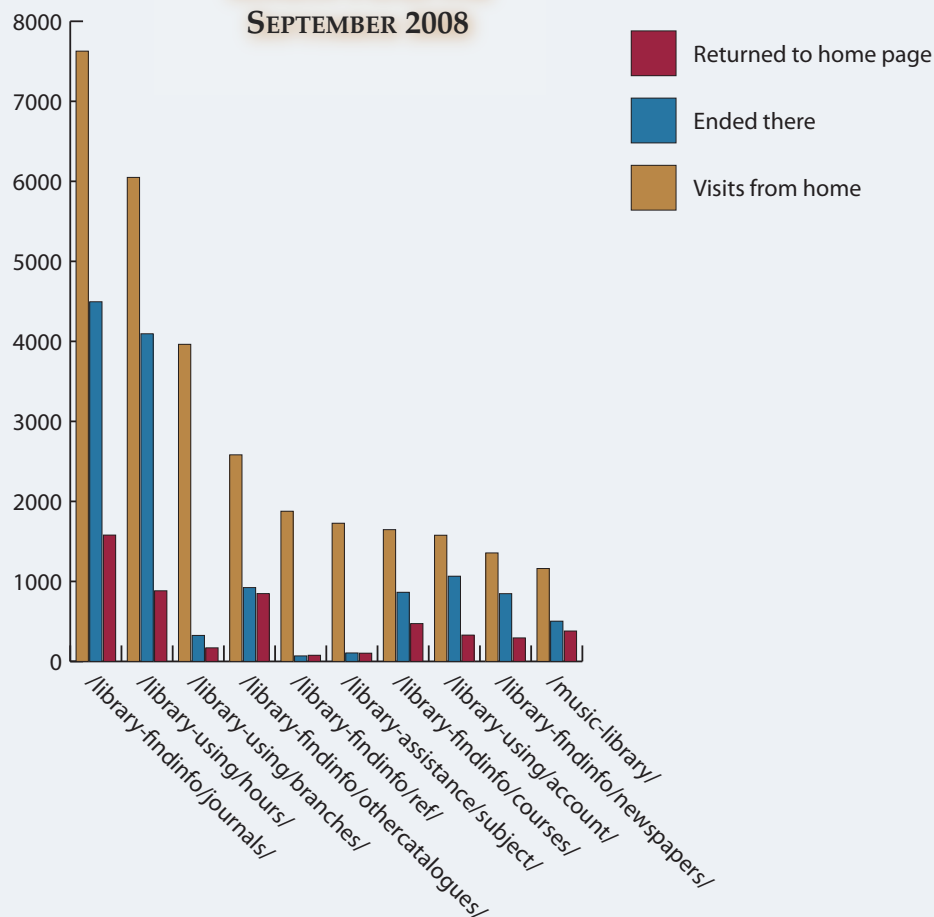
these pages as links?

- No “Support for” pages appear in the list. Is that because the links for these pages are in the least prominent section of the page?
- The “Journals” page is the most popular. Is it time for a search box on the Library’s homepage to save our users an extra step to locate our collection?

Monthly summary usage reports of the Library’s website are available on the LTS Wiki (<http://wikisites.mcgill.ca/lts/>).

Staring at numbers spewed out by server logs is no substitute for listening to the opinions of our clients, so please feel free to share your observations about the homepage and other aspects of the website.

LIBRARY TOP 10 SESSION PATHS FOR SEPTEMBER 2008



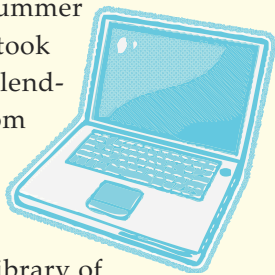
NEWS IN REVIEW

LAPTOPS TO GO

by Rebecca Nicholson,

Schulich Library of Science and Engineering

Now, along with their textbooks, research materials and pleasure reading, McGill students and staff can pick up a laptop at the Loans Desk in six of McGill's branch libraries. This summer McGill Library took over the laptop lending program from the ICS Audio-visual Service.



On August 6, Howard Ross Library of Management, Humanities and Social Sciences Library, Macdonald Campus Library, Marvin Duchow Music Library, Nahum Gelber Law Library, and Schulich Library of Science and Engineering began lending 135 laptops to members of the McGill community.

All McGill students and staff members with a valid McGill ID card may borrow a PC or a Mac laptop for two days at a time for use on campus or at home. All of the laptops have wireless cards and are equipped with the same software that is provided on the public workstations in the Library. Additionally, the newer PC models have MATLAB installed. The six branches that are involved in the laptop lending project now have special cabinets to store and charge the laptops while they're not signed out. The cabinets house electrical plugs, network hookups and cooling fans, and lock up securely while the libraries are closed.

So far, the laptops are proving popular with McGill users. A review of the project is scheduled for December 2008.

Recently, I sat down at my computer and Louise O'Neill, Associate Director, Library Technology Services, sat down at hers for a brief email interview.

RN: Why did the Library take over laptop lending from IMS/ICS Audiovisual Service?

LO: The Library was approached by ICS when IMS was reorganized; laptops formerly available from IMS would be transferred to the Library along with some extra new ones. ICS was aware that at most Canadian universities, laptops are lent out by their libraries. In our case, the Library had already been lending laptops at a few branches. We welcomed the opportunity to increase the number of locations and expand our offerings to clients.

RN: When did the Library and ICS begin planning the transition?

LO: At the beginning of 2008.

RN: How many PC laptops are there in total available for loan? Macs?

LO: There are 135 laptops in all (in addition to the laptops that were being lent out previously) 13 are Macs, and the PCs are a range of makes and models.

RN: Are the laptops getting a lot of use so far?

September circulation was over 800.

RN: What is your overall impression of the Library's laptop lending initiative?

LO: There are always kinks to work out when beginning something new. In our case, it's making sure that the information we provide to clients is clear and complete, and dealing with requests to book laptops for conferences and special events (ICS is dealing with the latter). Overall, it's clear that students welcome the opportunity to borrow laptops.

REVIEW OF THE ELIZABETH B. MCNAB LECTURE

by Andrew Collier, Library Technology Services

It's not every day that an academic lecture begins with the 20th Century FOX fanfare and ends with James Cagney lying dead on the floor, but this is what the audience was treated to at Emily Thompson's talk "The Boys Upstairs: Projecting Change in the American Film Industry, 1926-1933". Professor Thompson delivered this year's Elizabeth B. McNab Lecture in the History of Science, and brought to life that brief period in the history of the film industry when projectionists were responsible for creating sound effects during the screening of movies. The projectionist was like our club DJs, spinning discs on multiple turntables, mixing music with sound effects - even using records on which each track had a different breed of dog barking (a marked improvement over what DJs are currently spinning). Adding spice to the story was the arrival of organized criminals muscling their way into the business, fire-bombing cinemas and making an already difficult and dangerous job even more risky. But that approach doesn't always work out in the end, if Mr. Cagney's film is anything to go by.



Jean McNab, Janine Schmidt, Prof. Bruce Minorgan and Prof. Emily Thompson

CONFERENCE TIDBITS

Several staff members attended conferences over the summer and early this autumn. For the full conference reports, see [U:/common/Administration/conference reports](#).

ELUNA 2008 CONFERENCE AND EX LIBRIS TECHNICAL SEMINAR

Long Beach, California; July 27 – August 1, 2008

Heather Cai, Information Technology Services

Librarian; Library Technology

Services

This year the conference was much more attractive and informative, partly because a large number of customers from the EndUser community officially joined ELUNA and contributed to the discussions on the Ex Libris cross-platform products, such as, SFX, MetaLib, and Primo.

Mr. Carl Grant was appointed President of Ex Libris North American subsidiary. In his speech, Mr. Grant shared his vision and confidence on the company. He articulated that open source and proprietary are going to exist side by side; neither is going to replace the other. It is not which approach you take; it is what works for you, in terms of providing library services.

The Uniform Resource Management (URM) framework was introduced at the conference. It was built based on the perception of global trends and future needs of library services in the next 5-10 years of time frame. The framework will guide an architecture and infrastructure redesign on the current integrated library system.

Open Platform is an open and collaborative interface, used to develop extensions to the out-of-the-box version of Ex Libris products to meet specific needs. Through the open interface, local development can be shared with and adapted by others

and be built in to the existing products. Ex Libris has created EL Commons to support this new strategic direction.

Central E-Book Repository (CER) is a conceptual model developed by Ex Libris in response to the e-book focus group recommendations. CER was described as a reference database that includes all metadata for e-books. It will fit into the URM framework as part of the Data Services component.

Primo figured prominently in many of the sessions and hallway discussions. Over 100 institutions worldwide have purchased this software



and are at various stages of implementation. Primo has been installed in all major ILS systems. It was observed that people from other ILS communities also attended Primo sessions, indicating that it is a competitive product in the market.

I presented a speaker session (on behalf of J. Aitkens and myself) on McGill Cyberthèque room booking implementation and a poster session on saving and mailing records for course reserves. Both sessions received valuable feedback. The presentation and the poster are available under [U:\Library_Technology_Services\ELUNA 2008](#).

12TH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON ELECTRONIC PUBLISHING (ELPUB): OPEN SCHOLARSHIP: AUTHORITY, COMMUNITY AND SUSTAINABILITY IN THE AGE OF WEB 2.0

June 25-27 2008

Hosted by Knowledge Media Design Institute at the University of Toronto.

Louise O'Neil, Associate Director,

Library Technology Services

Presentations are available at conference

website at: www.elpub.net

The 12th International Conference on Electronic Publishing welcomed delegates from 24 countries, with representation by every continent. The conference thus presented an almost overwhelming global perspective on Open Scholarship. Almost everything I learned was new to me. While many presentations were about projects or services still in experimental stages, the trend towards sophisticated applications of automated information resource discovery to scholarly artifacts, incorporating strategic use of human input, was clear and bears monitoring.

CARL INSTITUTIONAL REPOSITORIES MEETING AND ACCESS 2008 LIBRARY TECHNOLOGY CONFERENCE

October 1-4 Hamilton, Ontario, Canada

Louise O'Neil, Associate Director, Library Technology Services. Presentations are posted at the

conference website at:

<http://access2008.blog.lib.mcmaster.ca/program/>

CARL IR MEETING

This was a pre-conference day-long informal meeting chaired by Kathleen Shearer simply as a networking opportunity and as a forum for reviewing the issues and concerns from the various CARL members who have institutional repositories. All attendees represented Canadian university

libraries, except for representatives from CISTI, the IDRC and Kathleen herself.

LIBX – AN OPEN SOURCE COMMUNITY PLATFORM FOR DELIVERING LIBRARY SERVICES

LibX is a “mashed-up view of the web”, an open source browser extension which becomes a virtual librarian that guides users to library resources while they use the web. They can go from a citation on a page to an article paid for by library. It wraps library catalogue into Google (Google search also returns results from the library catalogue, but results will be only as good as the catalogue). It can also be used with Amazon, OCLC Identity and xISBN, and integrates Citeulike.

LibX can be set up in 1-2 hours. LibX 2.0 is a community platform. There are 150 publicly available editions which libraries can use or customize.

More information can be found at: <http://www.libx.org/>.

USING WORLDCAT GRID SERVICES IN LIBRARY APPLICATIONS

Grid Services are APIs, i.e. structured methods for one application to exchange data with another application. They require some development on the clients' part to be implemented. Examples of APIs offered by OCLC (all free) include: Identify xISBN, xISSN, etc. Registry Services e.g. Institution Registry; Terminologies, Metadata Crosswalk WorldCat Search API. For example, with the Search API: if you send bibliographic results to OCLC, they will send you back the citation in various forms. There are applications for Facebook, Citeme, Wordpress and the iPhone.

More information can be found at: http://www.oclc.org/us/en/services/brochures/213093usf_worldcat_grid_services.pdf.



Quarter Century Club Library Inductees on October 19, 2008. Anne Avery, Dr. Richard Virr, Zofia Domanska, Bozena Lantincic, Angella Lambrou (absent: Carlos Rojas)



First snow fall of the year on October 29, 2008

“Music is the art of thinking with sounds.”

- Jules Combarieu
1859-1916

“When the music changes, so does the dance.”

- African proverb

Library Matters @ McGill

As you can see, the quotes in this month's newsletter have to do with Music. The *you-never-heard-it-from-us* editorial team issues a challenge to all to send us quotes ... it could be in a specific discipline, or quotes you find particularly interesting, insightful, intriguing or just quotable! Send us your quotes and see if they make it to a future issue of the newsletter.

COMING ATTRACTIONS

EXHIBITION

TOWER OF BABEL OR UNIVERSAL UNDERSTANDING?

The Art of Translation in the Eighteenth Century.

October 2008 – January 2009
McLennan Library Building Lobby

"Traduttori, traditori" is an old Italian proverb: "translators, traitors". Are translators really traitors? Does translation undo the confusion of tongues wrought by the destruction of the Tower of Babel or only add to the confusion? What role does translation play in the dissemination of ideas and of the results of the voyages of discovery? Does translation aid or impede understanding among societies and cultures? What is the role of women in translation? This exhibition tries to address these and other interesting and sometimes perplexing questions about the practice of translation in the eighteenth century.



The exhibition is organized in conjunction with the conference "The Eighteenth Century: Influence of the Past, Presence of the Future" of the Canadian Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies, 15-18 October 2008.

Guest Curator: James Wallace, PhD Candidate, Department of History, McGill University.

All the materials in this exhibition are drawn from the holdings of Rare Books and Special Collections, McGill University Library.