



Library Matters @ McGill

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



Usage has increased dramatically following renovations at the Schulich Library of Science and Engineering.

FROM THE TRENHOLME DIRECTOR OF LIBRARIES



**JANINE SCHMIDT,
TRENHOLME
DIRECTOR OF
LIBRARIES**

Many libraries and their users were excited several years ago when Google established a project to digitize the collections of five major research libraries. It sounded like a dream come true to make the content of these libraries freely available worldwide. However, not all were enthusiastic about the vision or the reality of the project. The Authors Guild sued Google insisting that their members receive financial recompense for the use of their content accessed via Google. Google finally settled with the Authors Guild through an agreement on royalty payments that is still to be finally approved. Where does this leave the libraries involved? Public domain works remain outside the settlement. A Book Rights Repository will be es-

tablished with an up-front payment of \$45 million. Users will be able to access scanned books, both for free and for fee via institutional subscriptions. An ARL (Association of Research Libraries)/ALA (American Library Association) summary provides further detail (<http://www.arl.org/pp/ppcopyright/google/index.shtml>). Libraries worldwide are uniting to share their digital content in a variety of ways—there is the Open Content Alliance (<http://www.opencontentalliance.org/>), the HathiTrust (<http://www.hathi-trust.org/>); and numerous joint ventures which are regionally, nationally, linguistically or continent based. Many libraries have signed non-exclusive agreements and will continue to

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make digital versions of their own collections (mostly in the public domain) available on their own websites. At McGill, we are working on our own digitization projects of our collections, primarily from our Rare Books and Special Collections, focusing on content in the public domain. We are seeking to share our content with the world and to participate with others in the democratization of knowledge. Targeting appropriate content and developing metadata standards and applications which will expose that content are both important components of our strategy as we go forward to facilitate access to our magnificent collections.

Many reports have been completed and surveys undertaken on attitudes of librarians and faculty to the use of online resources for use in teaching and learning and research. The academic world has been faced by ongoing relentless change. Much of the change has been driven by technological developments and scholarship is not what it was. Those of us who support the needs of scholars must understand those changes in order to provide effective support for teaching, learning and research within the university community. Ithaka has sponsored various studies and its August 2008 report highlighted issues in the digital transformation occurring in higher education (www.ithaka.org/research/faculty-and-librarian-surveys). Not surprisingly, faculty value e-resources more than ever. They are not always aware that their access is provided by the Library's payment of subscriptions for e-journals and e-books. The Library's role in supporting scholarship is highlighted in the report in three ways - purchase, archive and gateway. Faculty value the payment role, are reasonably concerned about preservation but

for faculty, the importance of the gateway function of the Library is diminishing. At the same time, librarians see the gateway role as increasing in significance. The mismatch between views by faculty and librarians should cause us all to reflect on our goals and strategies.

The SALT (Senior Advisory Library Team) has almost completed the revision of the Library's Strategic Plan in support of the University's Strategic Directions and activities. A copy will shortly be circulated to all for comment. Take the opportunity to review it, reflect on its content, our goals in the current environment and provide your input to future directions and actions. *None of us is as good as all of us.*



Janine Schmidt
Trenholme Director of Libraries

cordially invites you to the

Annual Festive Fête

Tuesday, December 16, 2008
4:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.
Redpath Hall

RSVP: by December 10, 2008
rsvp.libraries@mcgill.ca
(514) 398-4681



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:

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“The librarian of today, and it will be true still more of the librarians of tomorrow, are not fiery dragons interposed between the people and the books. They are useful public servants, who manage libraries in the interest of the public... Many still think that a great reader, or a writer of books, will make an excellent librarian. This is pure fallacy.”

-Sir William OSLER, 1917

CLEARING THE BACKLOG

Congratulations to everyone who has contributed to work on the cataloguing backlog. We have made some amazing progress over the last year with over 80,000 items loaded on to our online system. Thanks to all for the great achievement!

Janine Schmidt

Trenholme Director of Libraries

Total Complete 83,886 Date updated 11/20/2008 Total in progress 6,520 Total left to do 25,245 Total of collections 115,651

Collection	Status	Date	Number complete	Number in progress	Number left to do	Number in collection
Blackader Cutter	Complete	11/13/2008	2,027			2,027
BlackerWood Cutter	Complete	10/27/2008	1,500			1,500
Fraser Hickson	New project	11/19/2008	182	50	1,000	1,232
HSSL Cutter	In progress	10/27/2008	16,202	1,500	16,298	34,000
Islamic Recon	In progress	11/17/2008	10,000	2,200	1,800	14,000
LTS Backlog Project 2006/2007	Complete	12/1/2007	5,000			5,000
Music Scores	Complete	12/1/2007	1,000			1,000
Osler Paris Theses	Complete	12/1/2007	2,000			2,000
RBD B. Morgan	Complete	10/27/2008	567			567
RBD Colgate	New project	11/19/2008	400	80	2,630	3,110
RBD Cutter	Complete	10/27/2008	1,200			1,200
RBD Fisher	Complete	10/27/2008	465			465
RBD Friedman	Complete	10/27/2008	542			542
RBD Guidebooks	Complete	10/27/2008	650			650
RBD Klibansky Collection	In progress	10/27/2008	5,807	990		6,797
RBD Lande	Complete	10/27/2008	11,949			11,949
RBD Long 18th Century Plays	Complete	12/1/2007	1,200			1,200
RBD Map Room (Maps)	Complete	10/27/2008	1,249			1,249
RBD Max Stern	In progress	11/20/2008	2,370	700		3,070
RBD Play Scripts	Complete	10/27/2008	2,449			2,449
RBD Redpath Tracts	In progress	10/27/2008	17,127	1,000		18,127
RBD Stearn Collection	New project	11/19/2008			2,517	2,517
Stephen Leacock	New project	11/19/2008			1,000	1,000

DISCOVER THE WILLIAM OSLER PHOTO COLLECTION

by Megan Chellew, Greg Houston
and Chris Lyons



The McGill Library is pleased to introduce The William Osler Photo Collection, a searchable and browsable website of 384 images drawn from the Osler Library's collection of photographs of Sir William Osler (1849-1919), who graduated from Medicine at McGill in 1872, taught here for ten years, and went on to become one of the most famous doctors in history. His bequest of 8,000 rare medical books formed the nucleus of the library that bears his name. The Osler Library has an extensive collection of photos of Sir William from all stages of his life, along with pictures of Lady Osler, Revere Osler and other family members. Our current project has been to digitize the collection for the following reasons:

1. To make these images freely available to the public, especially seeing that there is a persistent and worldwide interest in Sir William;
2. To help preserve the material by creating high resolution digital surrogates (tiffs) to reduce handling of the originals and to act as

archival backups in case anything happens to the originals;

3. To develop a prototype for future McGill Library digitization projects.

In 2007, to our good fortune, we received a \$25,000 grant from the John P. McGovern Foundation of Houston, Texas, to digitize the Osler photographs. The Foundation has been a staunch supporter of Sir William Osler's legacy and medical history in general for a number of years.

The project really took off at the beginning of 2008. A team was put together consisting of a number of



people from across the McGill Library system and beyond, pooling considerable expertise and talent. Those involved from the Library include:

- **Pamela Miller** (History of Medicine Librarian) and **Chris Lyons** (Liaison Librarian) from the Osler Library;
- **Louise O'Neill** (Associate Director, Library Technology Services, **Elizabeth Thomson** (Systems Ana-

lyst), **Mutugi Gathuri** (Web Developer and Programmer) and **Greg Houston** (Digitization Administrator) from Library Technology Services;

- **Megan Chellew** (Cataloguing Librarian) from Collection Services; There were others involved as well, namely:
- **Alan Burk**: Special Consultant on Metadata and Digitization, who was here at the beginning of 2008 to help develop metadata for this and other projects;
- **Jacqueline Barlow** (a librarian who was hired as a cataloguer and researcher for the project);
- **Deepak Matthews** (a student hired to scan the images and do basic transcriptions).

The tasks needed to complete the project were many. The first step was to examine digital projects that had been undertaken by other institutions. Examining other projects allowed the team to see what best practices and metadata standards already existed and could be adopted or adapted for McGill's needs. Projects examined include Harvard University's VIA project (http://via.lib.harvard.edu/via/deliver/advancedsearch?_collection=via), and Picture Queensland (<http://www.pictureqld.slq.qld.gov.au/>); metadata standards examined include Dublin Core (www.dublin-core.org) and CARLCore (<http://carl-abrc-oai.lib.sfu.ca/>).

The next step was to develop an application profile for McGill that would outline how the metadata would be entered for the Osler project and, potentially, for future projects. The profile describes each metadata field and explains how it

is to be used; this includes specifying what controlled vocabularies are to be used where and ensuring that the metadata entered is consistent. The application profile needed to be compliant with Dublin Core, which is a recognized metadata standard, and also to accommodate local needs. For the Osler project, this included finding a way to make use of the Oslerian eras that were originally used within the Osler Library to organize the physical project.



At the same time as the application profile was being developed, work began on several sample metadata records, which helped take the project out of the abstract. By looking at actual photos from the collection, team members were able to see how the metadata fields would work and how information could be included.

Once the application profile was in place, a user guide was created. This user guide is specific to the Osler project, and outlines how each metadata field is to be used. As the descriptive metadata was entered, many new examples of metadata were encountered that had not been anticipated. Any time a decision was made about how to handle a particular example of metadata, the user guide was updated to reflect that de-

cision.

A selection of the photos was made by the Osler Library to determine which photos were originals. If there were multiple copies of a photo, the best image was selected. Once the photos were selected, a digitization guideline was prepared for the scanner. Every image was carefully scanned in colour at 600 dpi and uploaded to a network folder accessible by different members of the team. After archival images were backed up, web surrogates were generated including thumbnails. Image processing was done to restore a small number of damaged photographs.

A descriptive file-naming convention was developed to help reference scans back to the original material. The filename was divided into two sets of numbers: the prefix is based on collection level information and



the second set is the work item number. The filename structure was also expanded to include other aspects such as document type (photo or letter) and front/back indication.

Once the photos were uploaded, a MySQL-based editor was created to help input and modify descriptive metadata based on the application profile. This editor was accessed by

different members of the team and included an image preview function for close analysis of the scans. Descriptive information was based on a several sources including catalogue cards. The technical metadata was extracted automatically when the images were processed into DigiTool, our digital asset management system.

A website template was developed as an API driven web front end which could be used on different back-end technologies and therefore as a model template for future digital projects. The look and feel of the design reflects the Osler project but can be easily adapted to other collections. A persistent navigation bar is used at the top; it includes a search box and other browse options. Other sections include a biography, a description of collection and a "contact us" page. Having an API driven web template should allow for changes to be made to the back end technologies in the future, without affecting the look and feel of the front end.

The URL for the project is <http://digital.library.mcgill.ca/osler/>. We invite you to explore it and welcome any feedback you might have.



GETTING TO KNOW YOU

AMY BUCKLAND

Liaison Librarian,

Howard Ross Library of Management



Amy and her Second Life avatar Jambina Oh

Where were you born?

- Pointe Claire, QC

What part of town do you live in?

- I just moved to The Deege (NDG).

How long have you worked at the library?

- I started in Sept 2008 officially, but did my MLIS practicum and worked over the summer in Library Technology Services.

Do you have any pets?

- One cat, Mizi. One conjoint, Jon. (I <3 bad jokes)

What is your favorite place in Montreal?

- Any terrasse on a summer evening. And the Fluevog store on St Denis.

What is your favorite dessert?

- Bilboquet ice cream cake – the pear and chocolate one.

What are you reading and/or listening to?

- Books: Clay Shirky's Here Comes Everybody

- Blogs: Fast Company, Ideas and Thoughts (Dean Shareski's blog), I Can Has Cheezburger (and about 200 others)

- Listening: my friends' channels on Last.fm

What are your other interests?

- Rugby, educational technology, figuring out new ways to ingest chocolate, trying to MacGyver my work PC to act more like my Mac at home.

What is your pet peeve?

- People who complain about/dismiss things without having tried them.

What is/are your favorite quote(s)?

- "The internet is made up of words and enthusiasm." Erin McKean, Editor in Chief, Oxford American Dictionary (check out her TED talk here - http://www.ted.com/index.php/talks/erin_mckean_redefines_the_dictionary.html)

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

- I can (mostly) read Hebrew and Russian but I have no idea what I'm reading.

VALERIE FORTIN

Coordinator, Collection Development



Valerie at her desk

Where were you born?

- Sherbrooke, Quebec

What part of town do you live in?

- Pointe Claire

How long have you worked at the library?

- 31 years

Do you have any pets?

- Not any more, but my son has a pug

What is your favorite place in Montreal?

- The mountain first thing in the morning

What is your favorite dessert?

- Anything with chocolate

What are you reading and/or listening to?

- Reading: No. 1 Ladies Detective Agency Series by Alexander McCall

Smith

- Listening: classical music

What are your other interests?

- My kids, cooking, travelling, reading, theatre, concerts, walking and biking, volunteer work

What is your pet peeve?

- Bad drivers

What is/are your favorite quote(s)?

- "When one door closes, another opens."

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

- I am an avid biker and go on several bike trips every summer.

MAYA KUCIJ

Liaison Librarian,

Education Library & Curriculum

Resources Centre

Where were you born?

- I was born on the island of St. Croix in the U.S. Virgin Islands.

What part of town do you live in?

- I live in NDG.

How long have you worked at the library?

- I've been a liaison librarian at the Education Library since September. I spent the summer in Rare Books after graduating from SIS.

Do you have any pets?

- Not since the ants in my son's ant farm died.

What is your favorite place in Montreal?

- Breakfast at St. Viateur on Saturday mornings with my family, especially when we can sit outside in the summer.

What is your favorite dessert?

- I will name you five: Mandel-hörnchen (almond crescents), chocolate cake, peanut butter pie, mint chocolate chip ice cream, Oreo cookies.

What are you reading and/or listening

to?

- Books: Gulf Music by Robert Pinsky, The Astonishing Life of Octavian Nothing, Traitor to the Nation v. 2 The Kingdom on the Waves by M.T. Anderson, A Visitor For Bear by Bonny Becker
- Podcasts: Radiolab, This American Life, Daniel Pinkwater on children's lit
- Music: Margaret Whiting

What are your other interests?

- I have 2 small children. Does that answer the question?

What is your pet peeve?

- Being asked for a snack right before bedtime.

What is/are your favorite quote(s)?

- "You get what you get and you don't get upset," the mom in Pinkalicious, by Victoria Kann.

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

- I once had a poem published in Sassy.
- I'm related to Charles Dickens.
- I know a lot of very silly camp songs.
- I was an exchange student in northern Germany when I was 16.

ADAM LAUDER

Liaison Librarian,

Humanities and Social Sciences Library

Where were you born?

- Toronto

What part of town do you live in?

- The Plateau

How long have you worked at the library?

- 9 months

Do you have any pets?

- No

What is your favorite place in Montreal?

- The mountain

What are you reading and/or listening to?

- Les Choses (with the help of a dictionary!)

What are your other interests?

- Art, film, classical music, architecture

What is your pet peeve?

- Leading questions (joking)

What is/are your favorite quote(s)?

- Glass has no secrets (Walter Benjamin)

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

- I am curating an exhibition of artworks, advertisements and films by Canada's first abstract painter, Bertram Brooker (1888-1955), and his contemporaries, which opens on January 10 at the Art Gallery of Windsor. The exhibition, "It's alive! Bertram Brooker and vitalism," will travel to Sarnia in the summer before opening at the Agnes Etherington Art Centre at Queen's University next November.

DAWN MCKINNON

Liaison Librarian,

Howard Ross Library of Management



Dawn at the Howard Ross Information Desk

Where were you born?

- Wiarton, Ontario

What part of town do you live in?

- West Island (Pierrefonds)

How long have you worked at the library?

- 52 days (almost 2 months)

Do you have any pets?

- Not currently

What is your favorite place in Montreal?

- My home

What is your favorite dessert?

- My homemade brownies

What are you reading and/or listening to?

- Reading: Queen of the South by Arturo Perez-Reverte
- Listening to: The Killers' new single,

Human

What are your other interests?

- I'm interested in everything – at least once! (Cooking, playing outdoors & reading, of course.)

What is your pet peeve?

- Intolerance, rudeness

What is/are your favorite quote(s)?

- "Simplicity is the ultimate sophistication." - Leonardo da Vinci
 - "We do not inherit the earth, we borrow it from our children."
 - "It is never too late to give up your prejudices." - Henry David Thoreau
- What is one thing that people do not know about you?
- I have a weakness for Kraft Dinner.

"The old man was peering intently at the shelves. "I'll have to admit that he's a very competent scholar."

"Isn't he just a librarian?"

Garion asked, "somebody who looks after books?"

"That's where all the rest of scholarship starts, Garion.

All the books in the world won't help you if they're just piled up in a heap."

- David EDDINGS

King of the Murgos, 1998 Del Rey

Library Matters @ McGill

The quotes in this month's newsletter were submitted by David Crawford (Emeritus Librarian-Life Sciences). 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.