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AAAL NEWSLETTER

Spring 2013



AAAL celebrates 40 years! Check out the [larger images](#).



Chair's Message:

These are exciting times for AAAL, and it was great to celebrate our 40th anniversary with cake.

Special thanks to **Susan Brayford** for providing the AAAL branded cake, and for her willingness and ever-lasting enthusiasm in stepping in as co-chair over the past two terms. **Geoff Owens, Kim Halvorson** and **Carol Shepstone** hosted a flawless meeting (I think we all loved the Mexican Fiesta), and thank you to Medicine Hat College for funding our coffee break. **Keith Walker, Kris Samraj,** and

Debbie McGugan presented a pair of engaging workshops – please start thinking about presentations that you could offer in the fall!

As **Leigh Cunningham** mentioned in her update (see www.aaal.ca), we have a lot of work ahead of us. Please feel free to volunteer your services on any of our ongoing projects, and look forward to updates.

Thanks AAAL,

Samuel Cassady

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NAIT

Submitted by Isobel Rancier, Coordinator Information Research & Instruction

Two *Dogs in the Library* events were hosted in April and proved very popular with students and faculty dropping in to visit with therapy dogs for some stress relief during the busy year-end period.

The Library's Roving Reference service (aka Melville the Sharkbrarian and his Friends) was successfully launched this spring, making reference assistance, library resources and services more visible to students. Two instruction librarians go to busy student areas across campus, including the International Students' Centre and EnCana Aboriginal Centre. Students generally stop to ask about Melville, a large inflatable shark, and then discover the librarians who are ready to answer reference questions – anything from refining a research topic or citing sources. Equipped with a tablet to access the library website, librarians also use Twitter to advertise their upcoming roving times & locations, upload photos, and post answers to questions about the library and resources. Check out a photo of Melville and his Friends (**Amanda Derksen, Myah Slade, Jen Waugh and Kalin Jensen**) on the [Sharkbrarian's schedule](#) posted weekly on the library website.

The Library recently embedded its Twitter account on the website. Instruction librarians share Twitter responsibilities during the week between 8:30 am and 4:30 pm.

The Library created & launched five self-enrolling Moodle classes available to any student, in any program, to complete at any pace, in any order. Access to these classes is available from the library website, and the classes provide help on topics such as searching for library resources, formatting citations in RefWorks, evaluating the quality of information sources, and using advanced search techniques in Google. These online classes provide an excellent review for students who have

attended library classes; they are also an excellent starting place for students who have not yet attended a library class and need help getting started doing research.

The Library's [INAIT](#) assignment tutorial was selected by the Association of College and Research Libraries' PRIMO (Peer-Reviewed Instructional Materials Online) project as an exemplary library tutorial, and the resource is now included in the PRIMO database of resources.

NorQuest College
Submitted by Liz Fulton-Lyne



New Staff

Two 1st Year MLIS students joined our team this year. We are hoping this is the start of a long relationship with the University of Alberta's School of Library and Information Studies. Our students are gaining valuable experience working at the front desk and building LibGuides; we are benefitting from the extra support and the opportunity to mentor bright young librarians-in-training.

NEOS

NorQuest Library has joined the NEOS library consortium and after months of planning and preparation, we are set to go live in July! Good-bye system maintenance, hello millions of resources! And, in an effort to enrich user experience and improve access, we are implementing WorldCat Local as our catalogue's discovery layer.

NorQuest College Writing Centre

NorQuest librarians are playing a leading role in the development of NorQuest College's first truly integrated Writing Centre. The centre is envisioned as an integrated service that combines the contributions of instructional librarians, tutorial staff, learning strategist support and faculty involvement.

E-Reader Projects

After a successful e-reader lending pilot in the fall, the library acquired 24 e-reader devices (Kobo and Sony). They go out to students and staff in neat little “man-purses,” loaded with a variety of fiction titles at various levels of accessibility.

The library is embarking on a pilot e-reader program for incarcerated NorQuest students in the Ft. Saskatchewan Correctional Centre and Edmonton Remand Centre. E-readers without wireless capability have been purchased for the classroom and will be loaded with grades 10-11-12 English curriculum resources as well as general fiction works with an Aboriginal emphasis. Currently there are little or no library services at these facilities.

Social Media Outreach

As part of a greater overall focus on communication and outreach through social media, NorQuest Library began using Pinterest in the fall. Pinterest has been a great tool for promoting our collections. Check out our Pinterest site at [http://pinterest.com/norquestlibrary/!](http://pinterest.com/norquestlibrary/)

Medicine Hat College **Submitted by Kris Samraj**

Shared Internship Program

The Shared Internship Program in Medicine Hat is a paid internship that rotates between the Medicine Hat College (MHC) Library, Shortgrass Library System (SLS), and the Medicine Hat Public Library (MHPL). This project was intended to give a recent MLIS graduate experience in academic, regional, and public library settings. Our three libraries understand the importance of developing the next generation of professionals and benefit as well from the influx of new ideas and energy. Our first intern, **Kris Samraj**, undertook a number of tasks this year; working at the Reference, Information and Circulation desks at MHC Library and MHPL, embedded librarian, library research instruction, space-use study, collection development, and some design work.

All parties involved are very happy with the initial year and pleased that MHC Library, MHPL and SLS are committed to continuing this internship program. This internship was a great success in its first year and remains a unique internship opportunity in the Canadian library world.

New Information and Technology Librarian

In January 2013 our Information and Technology Librarian, **Lillian Li**, left the MHC Library to head to the Library of the University of Calgary - Qatar. While we wished her all the best we were sad to see her go. We are now delighted to welcome our new Information and Technology Librarian, **Joanne Mokry**. Joanne returns to the same position she held ten years ago at the MHC Library. During the past decade Joanne spent time at Red Deer College and Parkland Regional Library working as a

public library consultant. MHC Library is pleased to have its administration team once again at full strength.

Shared Human Library Collection

MHC Library is pleased to partner with MHPL to offer the first permanent living library collection. Living or human library collections are local people with interesting experiences willing to share them with others. These human books are cataloged in our college catalog and in the public library's catalog and can be checked out at either the MHC Library or MHPL. Our human book subjects range from alderman to funeral director to animal research and help facilitate community connections on a personal level.

Embedded Librarian Program

Beginning in the winter term of 2013 the MHC Library started a new embedded librarian program for MGMT 443: Business Plan Development. This program is in addition to our ongoing embedded librarian program in the Arts Division. **Kris Samraj**, our intern librarian, regularly attended classes to understand the information literacy capacity of these business students and keep abreast of their assigned projects. The regular contact informed Kris' lesson plan when he taught the students how to conduct secondary research for business information. The clearer understanding of the classroom environment led to the recommendation and subscription of two new business databases, SuperDemographics and Print Measurement Bureau, which provided needed information for their business plans. The familiarity from regular contact also made it easier for students to ask Kris for assistance with their assigned classwork.

Space-use Library Study in Medicine Hat College Library

Leigh Cunningham and **Kris Samraj** undertook an assessment of the physical space of MHC Library and the Brooks Campus Library. Over the course of the winter term library staff collected data on the demographic characteristics of MHC Library users and the activities they were engaged in to determine if the interior layout of the two libraries met the needs of our users. The project's goal was to find possible improvements and tweaks to better serve our audience. Preliminary analysis of our findings underscores the desire of library users for many choices (for example collaborative study areas and quiet study areas) and the difficulty of providing all these features during times of budget cuts.

Copyright Officer Hits Her Stride

The Copyright Office falls under Library Services at MHC. **Chelsey Reid**, our copyright officer, was hired in December 2012 and has shown a passion for copyright legislation and creating policy. Chelsey has created a new online copyright guide for MHC and revamped the copyright compliance policy. Chelsey also responds to interrogatories from the Copyright Board on behalf of MHC. Currently Chelsey is organizing the music licensing reporting process, creating records management

policies for reserves and course packs, and of course, working on a plan to increase copyright awareness at MHC.

SAIT
Submitted by Luke Malone

Samuel Cassady is now our permanent collections librarian.

Seeking to help apprentices and increase use of our Trades and Apprenticeship ExamBank subscription, the communications team set up an outreach in SAIT's Trades and Technologies complex. They spoke to over 290 people and we soon saw a spike in practice exams written.

SAIT runs an annual Faculty Showcase event that celebrates the work of instructors as well as presents information of interest to them. The event ran last week, and three of our staff presented sessions. **Kristian McInnis** and **AnneMarie deGroot** presented *The Publisher Isn't Stupid* to 23 attendees, while **Samuel Cassady** and instructional designer **Catherine Farr** presented *Re-Energizing Courses: CITD/Library Resource Support* to 15 attendees. The former dealt with the challenges libraries face in obtaining ebooks and what sorts of resources are available. The latter explained the collaborative approach that the library is taking with the Centre for Instructional Technology and Design to integrate library resources into courses.

Working with Alumni and Development, SAIT's student callers fundraised a whopping \$30,000 for library ebooks. As we diversify both our ebook products and our methods of buying, this money is much appreciated.

In March, the Library sponsored and hosted the Spring Tech Faire, an opportunity for both the SAIT community and the community at large to showcase their work in technology. The projects were diverse and the event was well-attended.

Concordia University
Submitted by Jenna Innes & Jan Mutch

A lot is going on at the Concordia University College of Alberta as we engage in a little restructuring and welcome a wide variety of new faces to our campus. One of those faces is our new (and first ever) chancellor, his Honour, former Chief Justice of the Court of Queen's Bench, **Allan Wachowich** Q.C., LL.D. Library staff are excited to get to know Chancellor Wachowich.

Dan Mirau, Library Director, is serving as Acting VP of Enrollment Services, which brings **Lynette Toews-Neufeldt** and **Karen Hildebrandt** some new responsibilities as the Assistant Directors of

Information Services and Library Services, respectively. In addition, Karen was just elected as LAA's 1st VP/President-Elect after finishing her two year term as a LAA Director. We are proud to have one of our library technicians serving the LAA membership.

As of July 2012, The University of Lethbridge relocated its Edmonton campus to Concordia, bringing approximately 500 new students into our midst. In addition, Concordia's International partnerships have expanded to include the Faculty of Philosophy, Literature and Human Sciences of the University of Sao Paulo in Brazil and the Altai State University in Barnaul, Russia. These partnerships facilitate international opportunities for students from those institutions as well as for students from Concordia. For a full list, please visit <http://international.concordia.ab.ca/international-partnership/>.

All those new faces will have the option of using our new self-checkout machine to borrow books from the library. This machine offers speedy service and increased privacy for our patrons. Library staff members are still available to check out items and assist patrons with all circulation functions.

On Friday, April 5th, students in the Human Sexual Behaviour class held a poster session in the Library to share their research with the campus community. The session was well attended and participants learned about a wide variety of topics, including prostitution, sexually transmitted diseases, and sexual reassignment surgery. Our thanks to the Psychology department for collaborating with the library to put on this event.

What's coming up next? This spring, library staff are conducting an inventory of our physical collections. In the fall, Concordia is hosting the READ IN Week kickoff event on Monday, Oct. 7th. Join us for a spoken word performance by students in our Education after-degree program and a visit from the mayor as he proclaims the start of READ IN Week 2013, which runs from Oct. 7th to 11th. Further information can be found on the READ IN website at www.readin.ca.

MacEwan University
Submitted by Michelle Bezenar

EPL Lending machine and L-Pass



MacEwan University Library has partnered with the Edmonton Public Library (EPL) to provide EPL memberships for credit students, faculty and staff at no cost through a program called "L-Pass". MacEwan library card holders can register for L-Pass at any time during the year. Memberships expire August 31 of each year and re-registration is

required annually. EPL has installed a state of the art lending machine at MacEwan's City Centre Library. Located across from the Borrower Services Desk at City Centre Campus, the machine is stocked with popular fiction, DVDs, CDs, video games and other materials of interest to the campus community. EPL materials can be returned at the lending machine and materials can be renewed.

Staffing news

A Learning Commons Librarian and an Instructional Design Librarian were recently hired. MacEwan University would like to welcome the following:



Martina King has accepted the new position of Learning Commons Librarian. Martina has been working as a motivated and much sought after sessional librarian for more than a year at City Centre Library, having had a strong formation as an emerging services librarian with Edmonton Public Library. Martina has already distinguished herself among faculty and students as an advocate for their specific learning, access, and space needs.



Jody Nelson has accepted the new position of Instructional Design Librarian. Jody has already been among us at MacEwan University for over 2 years as a proactive and very popular sessional librarian at South Campus. Jody has already developed a reputation campus-wide as a forward-thinking designer and deliverer of student information literacy tutorials online.

Retirement of long time Science Librarian, **Karen Hering**:



After 14 years of dedicated service to MacEwan Library, we are saying a fond farewell to **Karen Hering**, who is retiring. Karen joined MacEwan as a term reference librarian in 1999. She developed a strong information literacy and liaison program in a number of subject areas for which she was responsible over the years, including the sciences, engineering, psychology, and history to name a few! Karen brought energy, enthusiasm, passion, and professionalism to her work and she will be truly missed.

In other staffing news, we said goodbye to term librarians **Bonnie Daley**, **Leah Plouffe**, and **Jason Wong**. We wish them all the best in their future endeavors.

eReserves

We're been working with a small group of early adopter faculty to get our new eReserves system (Atlas Ares) up and running smoothly. We hope to fully launch eReserves this fall, and expect it to be a popular and useful service.