
ALBERTA ASSOCIATION OF COLLEGE LIBRARIANS

NEWSLETTER

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Editor - Joyce Van Scheik

LIST OF ATTENDEES

NAME	INSTITUTION
Carolyn Alho	Can. Nazarene
Harriet Arnold	NAIT
Susan Brayford	Keyano
Jim Carter	Portage
Sue Colp	NAIT
Sherry Crowther	RDC
Joanne Doucet	St. Mary's
Valerie Footz	GMCC/NAIT
Bill Glaister	Keyano
Nancy Goebel	Augustana
Zahina Iqbal	SAIT
Norene James	NorQuest
Rita Jandrey	Newman
Hazel Kellner	GPRC
Joanne Kemp	GMCC
Helga Kinnaird	NAIT
Patrick Lawless	Banff
Anita Luck	Fairview
Debbie McGugan	GMCC
Carol Morgan	NorQuest
Carol Nicks	CUC
Frank Ostlinger	NorQuest
Geoff Owens	LCC
Mircea Panciuk	Lakeland
Liz Pegoraro	NAIT
Kristine Plastow	RDC
Margaret Russell	Concordia
Christine Sammon	ACAD
Linda Scott	NAIT
Barbara Smith	Olds
Natasha Stairs	RDC
Ross Thrasher	MRC
Joyce Van Scheik	CUC
Keith Walker	MHC
Aileen Wright	NABC

**MINUTES
of the
ALBERTA ASSOCIATION
OF COLLEGE LIBRARIANS
MEETING
Fall Meeting
held at
NAIT
Thursday, October 28, 1999**

- | | |
|-----|--|
| 1.0 | CALL TO ORDER |
| | The meeting was called to order at 1:10 p.m. |
| 2.0 | APPROVAL OF MINUTES |
| | The minutes of May 13, 1999 AACL meeting were approved. |
| 3.0 | APPROVAL OF AGENDA |
| | The agenda was approved with one addition under "Other":
"TAL list of electronic resources" (D. McGugan). |
| 4.0 | CHAIR'S REPORT
(K. Plastow) |
| | Kristine will be attending the TAL Board of Directors' Meeting October 29, 1999, representing AACL. |
| 5.0 | SECRETARY-TREASURER'S REPORT
(B. Smith) |

Reported a balance of \$3,536.42 as of September 30, 1999. Following the report a question was raised about posting the membership list to the listserv.

MOTION: That the secretary/treasurer post the membership list on the AAACL web page. Those objecting to having their name posted may inform the secretary/treasurer and their names will be omitted from the posting.

MOVED: B. Glaister

SECONDED: Mircea Panciuk

6.0 REPORT FROM COMMITTEE REPRESENTATIVES

6.1 Newsletter

(J. Van Scheik)

The newsletter will be posted on the AAACL listserv. Joyce will mail out a print version to anyone not having access to the listserv. Submissions for the newsletter are due November 19, 1999.

6.2 Union List of Serials

(K. Powell)

No report was available. Any information received will be posted on the listserv as a part of the newsletter.

6.3 Director-at-Large

(B. Glaister)

Bill reported that he will be contributing articles to the *Letter of the LAA* and the *CTCL Comminique*.

6.4 Yearly Statistics

Coordinator

(Z. Iqbal for T. Skinner)

Zahina distributed the AAACL Survey. Completed surveys are to be returned before December 3, 1999.

6.5 CTCL Update

(S. Brayford)

Susan thanked Micromedia for their sponsorship of the Award of Merit and indicated she is encouraging them to increase the amount of the award. Micromedia's Award of Merit is given to a college librarian or library in recognition of an innovative or significant contribution. The deadline for nominations for this award is January 31, 2000. The current CTCL's term of office will end June, 2000. Nominations for this position must be submitted by December 31, 1999.

7.0 BUSINESS/DISCUSSION ITEMS

7.1 Bylaw Amendments

(K. Plastow)

Kristine led a discussion regarding suggested changes to the AAACL Bylaws and the Meeting Guidelines. Revisions will be made and distributed at least twenty-one days prior to the AAACL spring meeting so they can be voted on at that meeting. Procedure and cost of registering changes will be investigated.

ACTION: Kristine Plastow will update the Bylaws and Meeting Guidelines and distribute the revision at least twenty-one days prior to the AAACL spring meeting. Barb Smith will investigate the procedure and the cost of registering changes as per the Societies Act.

7.2 ARIEL Station Update

(B. Glaister)

A show of hands indicated that only Red Deer College and Banff Centre have working ARIEL stations. Other libraries with ARIEL stations indicated

the problems with getting these stations operational included: lack of time to get installation complete; transmission blocked by firewalls; blue screens. Bill passed on a question from Doug Poff (Knowledge Network Committee) regarding the level of interest for the committee to pursue production of a common web-based interlibrary loan form. There was agreement that libraries would want an ILL form integrated into management software.

ACTION: Kristine will contact Heather Morrison (Concordia) regarding AACL concerns about a web-based ILL form.

7.3 CANCEOPY License Renewal (S. Brayford)

Concern was expressed about the increase in both the per capita and per page costs in the new CANCEOPY contract, and about the working of Item 39, page 15 in the new contract.

ACTION: Susan Brayford will find out about the Alberta college libraries' current representation on copyright/CANCEOPY issues. Carol Morgan will check on who has replaced Linda Richardson as the copyright legal counsel for Alberta colleges.

7.4 CACUL/CTCL CLA Session Update (J. Kemp)

Joanne indicated that CACUL/CTCL would be sponsoring ten sessions at this year's CLA Conference in Edmonton. Details of the sessions are available from Joanne or Pat Waterton.

7.5 AACL Stats Survey (K. Plastow)

It was suggested that the AACL annual survey form be reviewed, considering inclusion of more questions in such areas as technology, databases, and bibliographic instruction. Any changes would be made for the year 2000 survey.

ACTION: Zahina Iqbal will contact Lucy Pana regarding APLEN's (Charles McClure) statistics project. Kristine Plastow will contact Tom Skinner, AACL statistics co-ordinator, regarding what SAIT is doing and what could be considered for inclusion in the year 2000 survey.

7.6 Workshop Committee

Linda Scott from NAIT volunteered to work with Dave Weber on the Workshop Committee.

7.7 The Alberta Library Update (C. Sammon)

Christine reported on TAL activities, including such highlights as: completion of the planning document, restructuring of work teams, a grant from the Bill Gates Foundation, negotiating licenses for electronic databases, and the TAL card. Further information is available from the TAL web site (www.library.ualberta.ca/altalib/)

8.0 OTHER

8.1 TAL List of Electronic Resources (D. McGugan)

Debbie distributed a list of electronic resources for members to check off the products their libraries were interested in. The results will be given to The Alberta Library to provide them with direction

regarding licensing agreements to pursue.

9.0 DATE AND LOCATION OF NEXT MEETING

The spring meeting of AAAC will be held on Thursday, April 13, 2000 at Banff Centre. If Banff Centre does not work out, a Calgary location will be sought.

ACTION: Pat Lawless will check on accommodations in Banff and post costs to the listserv.

10.0 ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

MERRY - GO – ROUND

AUGUSTANA UNIVERSITY COLLEGE

Elvis has entered the building! Yeah, right! Really!! ELVIS is the name of the new library server at Augustana. We have had lots of fun with the name already. Posters in the main entrance of the library greet people with "Hello, my name is ELVIS...I will be your server", etc. ELVIS was a project of the Knowledge Network funds and has allowed us to expand from two non-graphical index stations and three telnet PAC stations to sixteen full Internet/Index/PAC stations. The space was created as a result of the purchase of a building about two kms from Augustana. It primarily houses our Centre for Community Education but we also moved about 30,000 volumes there this summer as well. The space is now called "Augustana Secondary Stacks." It was a VERY busy summer!

Augustana recently hired a sessional reference librarian. Her name is Virginia Clevette. Virginia moved to Edmonton in the summer from

Saskatoon and commutes to Camrose for two days per week. Her primary

responsibilities are reference and bibliographic instruction. Virginia can be reached at clevv@augustana.ab.ca and 780-679-1593. Welcome, Virginia!

Nancy Goebel

CANADIAN UNIVERSITY COLLEGE

The return of students, increased enrollment, and excitement of fresh beginnings has brought new life and vibrancy to all areas of the campus, including the library. English 101 students, busily working on library research worksheets, are full of questions. New students, intimidated by their first assignments, cautiously approach the workstations. Returning students, confidently postponing course work, browse the Internet or a newspaper. All of these activities have strained our already busting-to-the-rafters library to new levels.

NEOS consortium activity in books and articles has more than doubled over the past year. When our ARIEL station becomes functional, we anticipate a further increase in article exchange. In October we finished up the database cleanup project left over from the record transfer into DRA. What a huge job it was! A big thank you to Carol and assistants! The Alberta Library's licensing agreements have given us the ability to increase our full-text database offerings. In January we'll be coming on stream with The Alberta Library Card Program.

Joyce Van Scheik

CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY COLLEGE

Recent months have seen a number of staff changes at Concordia. Lynette Toews-Neufeldt is on maternity leave until September, 2000. Dan Mirau, a recent Library Science graduate from the University of Alberta, is filling in as

Acting Reference Librarian. Ann Nelson, Library Systems coordinator, resigned in July to take up a new position at Bethel Lutheran Church in Sherwood Park. Sharna Luiken replaced her in September, bringing extensive experience from Grande Prairie Regional College Library, NAIT, and the Edmonton Public Library.

Concordia has a brand new WEB page that provides students with all of our procedural guidelines and information services. We also include Library Pathfinders (by subject) and Quick Guides to our indexes on the WEB. You are welcome to check this out at [www.Concordia.ab.ca](http://www.concordia.ab.ca) <<http://www.concordia.ab.ca>. under the section "Real Resources Begin".

Concordia continued investigating information services for undergraduate science students. Funding from HRDC under the Summer Career Placement Program resulted in an update of the chapter references in our Biology 107 Lab Manual. A study was conducted to compare Biological and Agricultural Index/General Science Index with BasicBIOSIS and a decision was reached to cancel the former and institute BasicBIOSIS as the introductory index for Biology and Environmental Science students at Concordia.

We offered Expanded Academic ASAP on a trial basis at Concordia in 1998/99 and subsequently participated in the TAL analysis of the EBSCO/GALE evaluation. We will continue to offer Expanded Academic ASAP as part of the TAL initiative, but we will be closely monitoring GALE's coverage of full-text academic titles.

In October, Grande Prairie Regional College Library staff visited for half a day to see NEOS procedures throughout the library and to share other common interests. Staff worked together in pairs and everyone quickly established rapport and enjoyed the afternoon with their post-secondary counterparts.

Heather Morrison has published an article: Online catalogue research and the verbal protocol method. *Library Hi Tech* 17:2 (1999):197-206.

A new NEOS task force is in the process of being formed to discuss services for remote clients. Heather Morrison will be coordinating the first meeting and would appreciate hearing from AACL members with interests in this area.

Access Services at Concordia is having a very busy semester this fall. Interlibrary loan activity continues and so far, we are able to provide quick turn-around times both to our students and other libraries. Thanks to Eva Ervin for all her work in providing this service.

In closing, I wanted to recommend that all AACL libraries consider the Travelling Exhibitions Program of The Alberta Foundation for the Arts. We now regularly receive exhibits on one- or two-month rotation and they greatly enhance our library environment. Christal Pshyk is our contact in Edmonton. Phone 426-4180, or check out their web page at www.compusmart.ab.ca/awecans ,<http://www.compusmart.ab.ca/awecans>.

Margaret Russell

FAIRVIEW COLLEGE

Fairview College is a busy place since spring. A concerted effort has been launched to complete record conversion to the DRA NEOS database. In May we welcomed Tora Volkens and Christine Hansen to our staff. They are working almost exclusively on the conversion. The standing joke at the library is that Tora and Christine are chained to their stations and will only be released next May when their term contracts expire. Joan King, our regular cataloguer, also spends three-quarters of her day cataloguing while Amber Zary and Monica Macdonald keep the fourth station busy. It is estimated that approximately one-third of the

circulating collection has been added to the database.

Since part of our collection now appears on the Internet, our ILLs have increased dramatically. We are getting requests from across Canada. This is a bit of a surprise to us, although we knew that we had materials covering unique subject areas.

The additional workload of conversion to DRA, increased ILLs, and a completely revamped computer infrastructure at the college, has kept all staff working hard and learning many new things. Sometimes feelings of confusion and frustration reign; at other times the feelings of accomplishment and achievement take center stage. Linda DeConto has been hired to look after our branch library in the Northern Region. She will also serve as an instructional assistant and look after various other responsibilities. Her appointment relieves some of the pressure from the staff at Fairview who tried to look after the High Level branch from a distance. It is certainly not a boring year for Fairview College Library, but we are looking forward to the future when the new system will be fully operational and we can lay our tired and confused "Mac the Librarian" to rest.

Our college has undergone a major technology infrastructure upgrade. The library is now able to offer the students access to eleven Internet stations compared to the four we had previously. Students also access software through the network, rather than stand-alone stations. This has resulted in a rather steep learning curve. The library, in conjunction with the Learner Services area, is offering the services of a computer tutor for two evenings a week; thereby reducing the pressure on the regular staff to have all the answers.

Our ARIEL send/receive station has arrived. Because of the preoccupation with the TIP plan, our computer people have been unable to set it up. It is hoped that this will happen within the

next few weeks. Amber is anxious to test it out and see how it works.

With all the activity that is going on here, we haven't had much time to concentrate on any other issues. Until NEOS circulation is up and running, we'll probably avoid taking on any other major projects. In fact, we don't even want to acknowledge that there might be more interesting and challenging jobs than NEOS cataloguing.

Anita Luck

GRANT MACEWAN COLLEGE

The college has been undergoing some change over the past number of months. In September, the board of Governors approved a mission, values and strategic directions document. Essentially, programming in the college will focus in two areas in the future: University studies (i.e. university transfer programs) and career studies (i.e. diploma or certificate programs). The college will significantly downsize non-credit/non-post secondary activities such as adult basic education and some academic upgrading programs.

Another development resulting from the college's new strategic direction is that the college's name will change from Grant MacEwan Community College to Grant MacEwan College.

The college has received approval to offer four-year applied degrees that are composed of three years of instruction and one year of work experience. The first such degree will be offered in January, 2000 in the area of International Business.

The LRC began direct borrowing with libraries belonging to NEOS in October. Now MacEwan students can borrow in person from any NEOS member library by presenting their Grant MacEwan photo identification/LRC card. NEOS patrons can also borrow in person from our LRC by presenting a NEOS borrowers card.

The LRC's virtual Ask a Reference Question service went live in early September. Since then, over 45 reference questions have been received and answered electronically through the new service. This project is funded by KNF collaborative funds and we are working collaboratively with NAIT and Red Deer College to develop a comprehensive service to students from the three institutions.

In October, a new web-based computer booking system was introduced in our Learners Centre. Students can now reserve a computer in the Learner Centres at any of our campuses from home or from any computer connected to the Internet.

In January, we will be cancelling our subscription to EBSCO's Academic Search in order to take advantage of TAL's new provincial license for GALE's Expanded Academic Index ASAP. We are also evaluating Micromedia's web version of CBCA and CNI and will decide in the month whether or not we will switch from the ERL version of these databases to the new version which has been licensed through TAL.

As you can see, a lot is happening here at the college these days – never a dull moment!

Debbie McGugan

KEYANO COLLEGE

Since the spring meeting, we have embarked on several new initiatives of interest:

The college is going through a space shortage, including the library. At the present rate of growth, we expect to run out of space in about five years. The college hired a consultant team to come up with a building plan for the library. We met with this team, expressed our future space needs, and also came up with a space planning report. Our present space is too small in a number of critical areas, including student study space, room for teaching/computer

study areas, and collection space. Efforts are beginning to raise the capital to meet the expansion needs. In mid-October, Jim Carter from Portage College Lac La Biche visited our library to check out the changes in our collection, etc., as well as to talk about our new library system. We welcome all visitors, if you happen to be passing through!

October 18-22 was the first week of training on our new SIRSI Unicorn Library system. We were most impressed with the quality of training. We are now in the process of checking our converted records, as well as preparing the different modules, for an unveiling to the public at the start of the new millennium. We are excited to provide web-access to our catalogue for the first time, as well as adding acquisitions and serials modules. We hope to have our technical training in mid-January.

We joined the Alberta Library Card consortium and gave out our first Alberta Library cards to some of our distance education students in Edmonton. We will get more use of the agreement when the Fort McMurray public library joins the card consortium in the new year.

In the 1998/99 academic year, we had 29,134 visits to the library's Internet stations. As we add more web-based databases, Internet and Web-OPAC stations this year, we anticipate this number will increase significantly.

Susan Brayford

LAKELAND COLLEGE

A whole lot of personnel changes have taken place at Lakeland College. Pat Moore, Systems Librarian, left to go to the University of Windsor in June. Marlice Schmidt, Interim Manager, left to go to the Provincial Courts Library in Edmonton in September. Since the beginning of the semester we have had a new president in the person of Dr. Mark Lee from Briercrest College, a

new VP College Development in the person of Paul Driscoll from Lakeland College, and a new VP Academic in the person of Brian Larson from SAIT. The Learning Resource Centre hired a new manager in the person of Mircea Panciuk who came back into the library scene after being in private business for the last five years.

We, like many others, are struggling to get the Ariel work station up and running while we get back up to speed and on track in terms of the library world. We are in the process of advertising for an assistant manager/systems librarian to replace Pat Moore. It was a great pleasure to see old colleagues and make new acquaintances at the AAAL meeting of October 28.

Mircea Panciuk

LETHBRIDGE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

The big news is our migration to Endeavor, February 23, 2000. Geoff Owens and Jeannette Strong went for training November 18 and 19 in Des Plaines, IL. With the knowledge they gain we have to decide if the data migration will happen on a contract basis with DRA or through a shared process with Mount Royal College, who is also migrating to Endeavor. Training for the whole library staff will happen December 13-17 and the plan is that we will do a test data migration of our actual holdings and staff can use the test as a practice database. A final data migration will happen February 23. To go with the new software a new server has been ordered and will be installed November 30. Geoff will also take part in the technical training about the setup of the server. It is not clear when we will go live with Acquisitions and Serials. LCC's fiscal year does not end until June 30 and we would prefer not to change software mid-year. Serials has never been automated so there will be a large time commitment to input all the new data and that won't be accomplished right away.

Students and faculty are really enjoying the ProQuest Career and Technical Education database. Gale's "Expanded Academic Index ASAP", CPI.Q, CBCA and Canadian News Disc, all of which are possible with TAL money, are a wonderful antidote to criticism about diminishing paper subscriptions. We've also negotiated some transitions to e-versions of journals such as American Fisheries Society and Environmental Knowledgebase Online. Geoff has been able to set up access for students at the Yellowhead Tribal Council which contracts with LCC to provide the Criminal Justice program to its students, remotely. This could be a prototype for us to set up all electronic library DE service to off-campus students.

Our local consortium, SARIN, is now behind members using the courier system set up for the TAL card to be used for ILLs within the Parkland/CARLS/Lethbridge areas. Sorting will be carried out by CARLS staff so that ILLs will be kept separate from TAL book returns. With the Ariel computer workstation, scanner and printer and this new delivery system, ILLs will be significantly expedited for patrons.

Students want PCs in the Library to be more like workstations rather than have fragmented signups for different services scattered throughout the Library. In that spirit, Geoff and Kathy are meeting with the Vice-President, Student and Enrollment Services to talk about a re-design of the facility.

That's it from the South Central.

Kathy Lea

MEDICINE HAT COLLEGE

In 1998, the Medicine Hat College Library began the search for a new automation system. On September 3 of this year, we celebrated (with the University of Lethbridge) the inauguration of the Innovative system

that we now share with the university. The contributions of the provincial government through its Knowledge Network funding, the two institutions involved, and the automation team members were recognized at a lunch and cake-cutting ceremony held at the college. As a collaborative venture, the project has been an unqualified success. Not surprisingly, there are technical glitches that are still being addressed.

To further support the link between Medicine Hat and Lethbridge, SARIN (the Southern Alberta Regional Information Network, a consortium of public, college, and university libraries) has worked out a once-a-week delivery system between the two cities. Twice weekly is the ultimate goal.

When it rains, it pours! Special funding for acquisitions has come from a variety of sources: \$8,000 from the provincial government to support our Addictions Counselling Program, \$20,000 from the Community Lottery Foundation to support new college programs like Police and Security, and \$50,000 from the Learning Enhancement Envelope to support the Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree that we are now able to offer on campus through the University of Calgary.

Renovations are a regular feature of college life during the summer months. Some of the Knowledge Network funds were used to buy furniture and construct a new circulation desk. A quiet study area was built next to the Open Learning Centre on the second floor of the library. The centre offers open-entry and open-exit instruction at the upgrading level, and is funded through an anonymous \$1 million donation. The functions of the library and the Open Learning Centre complement and support each other. On a larger scale, a Campus Development Plan submitted to the provincial government has indicated that a new library is a priority. Computer Services and the computer lab would be moved closer to the library under the new plan. The College

Foundation is hoping to raise \$1.5 million in support of the project.

The college has experienced an 18% increase in enrolment this fall. This is good news, though parking problems and line-ups at the circulation desk for student ID cards are the predictable results. Library use statistics are not available yet, but Reference staff are speculating about a decreased use of books, indexes, and periodicals by students relying upon the Internet for research.

The Alberta Library (TAL) Card has been available at the Vera Bracken Library since the spring, but relatively few have been issued. We think that interest will increase when the Medicine Hat Public Library becomes a member of TAL in January.

December 1st is being designated as Student Appreciation Day in the Vera Bracken Library. Details have yet to be worked out, but the aim is to promote good relations with our primary users. Draws for prizes, drinks (in covered cups!), and free photocopying have been proposed.

On the staff front, Joanne Mokry returned from her maternity leave in July. The Innovative system was in place but much remained to be done before students arrived in late August.

You may have heard that Keith Walker accepted the position of Chief Librarian at Capilano College, effective early October. A house-hunting trip to Vancouver in September, along with family considerations, led Keith to reconsider the move. Medicine Hat College welcomed him back with open arms, and the Division of Academic Services (of which the library is a part) turned a farewell party into a 'glad-you're-staying' event. All in all, an eventful autumn!

Sheila Drummond

MOUNT ROYAL COLLEGE

Since assuming the reins of Director, Library Services, from Madeleine Lefebvre in August, I've been working on a couple of major projects.

Library Consultants' Report:

The final report of our external library consultants (Bookham, Harris & Whiteley), entitled Mount Royal College Library: Operational & Facility Needs Assessment, was released at the end of May. The objectives of the report were (1) benchmarking – to compare us with similar institutions and with prevailing library standards; (2) anticipating – to project future MRC Library needs re staffing levels, collection development and physical facilities; and (3) space planning – to prepare specific design options for the renovation and expansion of library facilities. Among the key findings of the report were that: MRC is unique among Canadian post-secondary institutions, both in its program/enrolment mix and in its predominantly single-campus operation.

In library staffing and collection size, we are comparable to the four BC university colleges, and above average when compared to two-year colleges in Alberta and other provinces. The consultants employed pro-rated standards, combining the 1995 ACRL Standards for College Libraries (for the

proportion of our students in UT and degree programs) and CLA's Standards for College LRCs (for the proportion of students in other programs). They found that we had less than half of the recommended number of librarians; that our book collection fell short by 10% (and that 30% of it was obsolete!); and that our facilities, while adequate in terms of square footage, were inefficiently designed and inadequately equipped. Based on the college's own long-term enrolment projections (1,000 more FLE students by 2005 and a doubling of current enrolments by 2025), the consultants calculated that library staffing should be increased annually by two librarians and 1.5 FTE support staff until the standards are met. The book collection will continue to be an important resource in the foreseeable future, the growth of

electronic resources notwithstanding. Each year the library should add 15,000 new monographs, and 7,500 obsolete titles should be weeded annually. In assessing current library facilities, the consultants identified deficiencies in building systems (lighting, wiring, etc.); inadequate furnishings for students and staff (user stations, office areas); and operational inefficiencies (too many service points, under-utilized shelving, etc.). They developed a three-phase renovation/expansion plan that would address present and future needs more effectively. I have been "rolling out" the findings of the consultants in a number of presentations to college administrators, faculty and students. We in the library feel that this document gives us excellent ammunition in our quest for increased support.

Special Funding for Books:

Our college administration had already recognized the shortcomings

of our library collection, and had set aside a substantial sum in supplementary one-time funding for library acquisitions this year. In consultation with the librarians, I have prepared a formal request for the release of these funds, specifying book purchases to support the plethora of new courses that have been mounted by the college in recent years without adequate library resources. This request has been successful and the funds have now been released.

Knowledge Networks:

The lion's share of our KN funding has been targeted at the purchase of the Voyager system from Endeavor Inc. The contract has been signed, an implementation plan is in place, and three of our key staff have already been to Endeavor HQ in Chicago for a two-day system orientation. We hope to have Voyager up and running in May, 2000.

Knowledge Networks funding has also enabled us to engage in a number of collaborative projects, such as licensing agreements for electronic resources (through COPPUL, TAL, and other

partners); participating in the Data Liberation Initiative to gain access to Statistics Canada data files; and an electronic reserves project.

SmartCard:

The college is implementing a SmartCard system this winter, which will function as an all-purpose ID, library, and cash card. SmartCard should eliminate many cash transactions in the library for printing, photocopying, and fine payment.

Ross Thrasher

NORQUEST COLLEGE

Alberta Vocational College – Edmonton has undergone an official name change to NorQuest College, effective October 25, 1999. There were many reasons for the name change, but the main one was to distinguish NorQuest as a learning institution whose scope was beyond the “vocational”, focusing on Academic Upgrading, ESL, and Trades occupations. The “Nor” part of NorQuest represents “North”, of course, and “Quest” signifies the students’ quest for knowledge and furthering their skills.

An open house was held on November 17th, with the library providing demonstrations on the Electric Library, InfoTrac, and Micromedia databases.

Norene James

NORTHERN ALBERTA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

Status of Knowledge Networks Projects: The library now has an upgraded network infrastructure as well as a new and improved Information Connection area, with 37 new computers for student use. The workstations have been organized into three groups, each of which provides access to a unique set of resources. 1. The Catalogues. We have reserved the stations nearest the entrance for catalogue searches. 2. The Research Stations. These are set up in front of the Help Desk and are intended for in-depth research. 3. The Information Connection Stations. With a student, staff, or alumni ID card, these

stations provide one hour of free Internet access per session. Students use them to check web-based email accounts, to access online resources at NAIT or to search the Web. This area also offers some stations for public use.

So far, response to our changes has been very positive. The students spend less time waiting for a computer and the library now has the space and equipment to provide the crucial one-on-one training students need.

The selection process for a new integrated library system is almost complete. We hope to announce the successful vendor in December.

The Information Blueprint Project is well underway, with Liz Pegoraro interviewing instructional program staff to find out the current and future information needs of both staff and students.

The Virtual Reference Project is progressing well, as Valerie Footz reported at the fall AACL meeting.

New and Returning Staff: It is a pleasure to report that: 1. Linda Scott joined Learning Resources in September as Co-ordinator, Access Services. 2. Diane Clark accepted the position of Instructional Librarian in July. 3. Darlene Weber began in September with several roles, including reference, instruction and cataloguing electronic resources. 4. Nicola Zazula and Cindy Thierstein have both returned from maternity leave.

Buenos Aires Update: Learning Resources spread its wings southward in October as a result of involvement in a NAIT international project. In the summer of 1998, NAIT’s International Education program asked the library to participate in drafting a proposal for the development of a virtual library for a petroleum institute in Argentina. The proposal was successful in attracting funds and as a result the NAIT library under the auspices of NAIT International Education is providing consultative services to the Argentine client. Active involvement began in October when Pat

Waterton and Diane Clark made the first visit to Buenos Aires to work with the client on a project implementation plan that will result in the transformation of the client library. They are now relying heavily on email. First priority: select an integrated library system. (Some things don't change!)

Helga Kinnaird

OLDS COLLEGE

This fall Phase II of our student housing complex was officially opened with the college now providing accommodation for 675 students. Olds College has the most on-campus student accommodation of any college in Alberta, a statistic that means pressure on all student services, the library included. In response, we have changed the library hours slightly, opening at 7:45 a.m. and providing extended hours the weekends preceding exam weeks.

Last September, we began the process of manually converting our records to the DRA shared NEOS database, and now have all our book records entered, most of the audio visual records entered, and now are cleaning up our periodical archives in preparation for entering these records next. As a smaller library, being a part of NEOS has greatly enhanced our service. Our users are enthused about the size and scope of the material available to them, and pleased with the speed with which they can get requested items. We look forward to getting our Ariel station working so we can receive documents even more quickly.

We have been gradually changing our CD-ROM databases to online format, a move the students have responded to very positively. With a new system, and with this format change, library staff have been spending a lot of time in instruction. As we receive the new Knowledge Network-funded databases, instruction time will again increase as we make our students aware of the new products.

We have been fortunate in being able to extend the contract of our two staff members hired a year ago to assist with the collection conversion. Clara Leischner's contract has been extended to the end of June, 2000, and Mark Lomheim's till the end of August, 2000. This has helped immensely in keeping the completion of the conversion project on target.

Barb Smith

PORTAGE COLLEGE

Not much is unusual or earth shattering, but we did do minor renovations to our Computer Centre and developed a recreational Reading Area that is quite popular.

I also have developed a 100-page annotated listing of Aboriginal materials that is a work in progress. If anyone wants a copy they can e-mail me at james.carter@portagec.ab.ca.

We have also revised all our handouts and placed them on our web site at <http://www.portagec.ab.ca/departments/library/index.htm> under the "Library Guides".

James Carter

RED DEER COLLEGE

"Over the summer, thanks to Knowledge Network funds, RDC Library embarked on the reconfiguration of our Library space into a Library Information Commons. You may ask, "What is a Library Information Commons?" It is a meeting place where technology and traditional information sources coexist to provide the user with a "one stop shop" for all the student's research needs. It is a place where qualified staff can assist in the development of the information literacy skills needed to identify, locate, retrieve and manipulate information.

The reconfiguration involved the installation of 58 multimedia IBM compatible PCs placed strategically throughout the Library main floor to

accommodate various functions including research, e-mail, word processing and Library instruction. Five "quick access" stations allow for quick Library catalogue and database searches. To accommodate the increased number of computers, the traditional Library space was modified as well. Some of the main collection was moved upstairs and the Reference collection was moved to lower shelving on the main floor to improve accessibility. The Information desk was moved closer to the front of the Library and double staffed to accommodate student's needs. By altering the flow of activities that occur in various parts of the Library, study areas are quieter than they have been in the past, while the front of the Library Information Commons is hopping with activity.

This summer also saw the addition of a new librarian to RDC Library. Sherry Crowther joined us as Web Services/Virtual Reference Librarian. Sherry came to us from Florida International University in Miami. In other staff changes, Alice McNair has become part-time, working 60 per cent. Kristine and Alice are co-chairs for this year and it has been an interesting experience for all!"

Kristine Plastow

SOUTHERN ALBERTA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

Excavation for the new building which has space allocated for our new library is now complete. The fill from the site has been shifted from

the new building site behind Heritage Hall to the front of Heritage Hall. A new plaza and playing field will be built with the fill.

Nearly two thousand students received a scheduled orientation to library services in September and October. Most of these students completed the Library Skills Workbook. Several orientation presentations were delivered

in laptop computer labs. This enabled students to follow the instruction on library research tools such as the Webcat with their own laptops. There are currently over 500 students completing their programs with laptops leased from SAIT. A computer managed learning version of the printed Library Skills Workbook is in the development stage.

Tom Skinner is continuing his participation in the new building planning. He is involved with library layout and interior design for the library space.

Zahina Iqbal has undertaken three library service for distance learners pilot projects with students from Emergency Medical Technology (focusing on distance access for information in electronic formats), Instrumentation (with a focus on physical delivery of hard copy information formats) and Business (with a focus on delivery of videos). She is also developing a distance learner library services page that will link with the main library page. This will include a virtual reference feature.

Document Delivery Service/Inter-Library Loans has completed its transition to Web-based location and delivery tools with the addition of trace-It, Amicus, Dialogweb, and Dissertation Abstracts Express.

Dave Weber