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ALBERTA ASSOCIATION OF COLLEGE LIBRARIANS

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MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

Hello everyone,

I hope the stains of Desiderata have finally faded away since our meeting on April 3. What a wonderful way to celebrate our 30th Anniversary!

Many thanks to Susan Brayford and the SAIT staff for hosting the event. The historic MacDonald Hall was a perfect place for the disco ball and the pictures of us (minus thirty years) and many of our libraries. All of this took me right back to that wonderful time of promise and youthful enthusiasm. The 30-year statistical review also pointed out some interesting trends.

Some other thanks I would like to make are to James Carter for his work as the secretary treasurer. James brought a lively perspective to his role. And thanks to Joyce Van Scheik for her decade of editorial prowess as the editor of the AACL Newsletter. Joyce and other CUC staff members have held this position for many years.

As we move into the summer and start planning for the new academic year, we have many things to look forward to such as a new library at Medicine Hat College, an award presentation to Doug Poff at our fall meeting, and promises of more collaboration and collegiality.

Have a super summer everyone. See you at NAIT in November.

Alice McNair
Chair, AACL

AACL 30th Anniversary Meeting Display

Minutes of the
Alberta Association of College Librarians
30th Anniversary
Spring 2003 Meeting
Held at SAIT MacDonald Hall, Calgary
Thursday, April 3, 2003

PRESENT

Carolyn Alho	Nazarene UC
Leslie Beattie	RDC
Susan Brayford	SAIT
Bob Bruce	Northern Lakes
James Carter	Portage
May Chan	SAIT
Jerremie Clyde	TAL
Ann Gish	GPRC
Stephen Green-Dowden	Keyano
Pearl Herscovitch	MRC
Zehina Iqbal	SAIT
Noreen James	NorQuest
Helga Kinnaird	NAIT
Sona Kothari	RDC
David Larsen	Keyano
Patrick Lawless	Banff Centre
Nicolle Lemay	Lakeland
Anita Luck	Fairview
Colleen Mares	RDC
Debbie McGugan	GMC
Alice McNair	RDC
Anca Medesan	MRC
Janet Monteith	St Mary's
Carol Nicks	CUC
Geoff Owens	MRC
Kristine Plastow	RDC
Mary Anne Proolanovic	Nazarene UC
Nora Robinson	SAIT
Christine Sammon	ACAD
Linda Scott	NorQuest
Barbara Smith	Olds
Pat Taylor	MRC
Jennifer Thomas	GPRC
Joyce Van Scheik	CUC
Keith Walker	MHC
Meagan Weber	MRC
Katherine Wiebe	RDC

MINUTES

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 10:10 AM. A brief introduction from the Chair Alice McNair.

Thanks to Susan Brayford for putting meeting and lunch together.

Introductions were made, with each member describing something about what they did in 1973.

2. Approval of Agenda

Agenda approved
Moved: Christine Sammon
Seconded: Linda Scott
CARRIED

3. Approval of Minutes

Motion: Minutes of AACL Fall meeting approved as posted
Moved: Patrick Lawless
Seconded: Joyce Van Scheik
CARRIED

4. Chair's Report (Alice McNair)

Alice pointed out that activities were keyed to the Action Plan:

Listserv: Library Advisory, exchange of information
Sharing: What we have done; Sponsored session at LAA and U of A Library School
Voice: Awards that we nominated, visual identity,
Advocacy: Later will have a LISSA representative, TAL representative;
Encourage people to attend meetings for LAA
PD Activities: see afternoon session: Geoff will write report
Retirement card & letter sent to Alan MacDonald
Moved: Alice McNair
Seconded: Keith Walker
CARRIED

5. Treasurer's Report (James Carter)
Pointed out that some members still have not paid and Annual Audit shows lowest budget balance in many years.

Annual budget statement was circulated.
Moved: James Carter
Seconded: Patrick Lawless
CARRIED

6. Director at Large [Keith Walker]
Keith submitted material for CTCL Communiqué under CACUL. Keith continued to send items to the Letter of the LAA; submissions will be quarterly with people focus.

Action Report: Margaret Law will do report of her site visits.
Executive developed Action plan
AACL Listserv has been updated
Moved: Keith Walker
Seconded: David Larsen
CARRIED

7. Election of Officers
Kristine Plastow is looking after elections. Elections held every 2 years.

President: Alice McNair was elected by acclamation for next 2 years
Motion: Carol Nicks
Seconded: Leslie Beattie
CARRIED

Secretary/Treasurer: Keith Walker was elected by acclamation
Moved: Christine Sammon
Seconded: Susan Brayford
CARRIED

Director at large: Nora Robinson
Motion: Keith Walker
Seconded: Leslie Beattie
CARRIED

8. Committee and Other Reports

a) Workshop Committee (Geoff Owen & Linda Scott)
Looking for items not covered by Netspeed or LAA. Request members submit recommendations for next meeting.

b) RSS (Sona Kothari)
Sona will be in contact with TAL regarding status of RSS implementation.

c) TAL Exec Representative Report: Ross Thrasher [Keith gave report]
Keith Walker is our representative elect. Thanks to Ross for his service on this committee over past few years.
Motion: Keith Walker
Seconded: Leslie Beattie
CARRIED

d) Knowledge Network (Keith Walker)
David Larsen & Susan Brayford are also on committee. Unofficially Post secondary side of TAL: KN coming to end as money is spent.

E-Resources Symposium will be held early May.
Resource Sharing: Meeting in late May in Calgary; focusing on Public Services.
AAQ: Funding proposal has been sent to all libraries.
Site Visits: Margaret Law has visited all post-secondary libraries. Margaret's position will continue to end of 2003; she will write report of her visits. It was suggested that this report be posted to our Web site.
ARIEL delivered to all sites.
TAL Online committee still active giving input to Margaret.
Three reports are being produced.
There will be some funding for Subscriptions Alberta for 2003-2004.

e) Coordinator of Post Secondary Libraries [no report]

f) Newsletter Committee
Joyce will produce in May. Deadline April 30
We are looking for a new editor. A thanks was expressed to Joyce for her 10 years as editor. A job well done!

g) Statistics
Susan gave brief intro on behalf of Tom Skinner.
Tom working on 30-year summary; how do we print results? Suggestion made to group by size/type of institution.

h) SLIS presentation (Linda Scott)
Linda gave presentation on Feb 7th to the students at SLIS

9. AAQ (Kristine Plastow) [RDC]
Collaboration with Public Libraries: RDC answer Parkland Regional and all the guest questions. In February 2003 answered 90 questions of which 2/3 were Public/guest. Univ. of Alberta will be joining in near future. She said no problem between philosophy of Public give answers) and Colleges give process).

10. 30 Year Statistics at a glance (Keith Walker & Barbara Smith)
No statistics done for first 10 years. Stats actually started in 1983 but not all colleges participated. So they did 10-year summary; 1993 best year for funding; big cuts came in 1995 and most colleges still recovering from these cuts. Charts are posted showing averages. Trends are all up, especially student enrolment. But circulation has gone down.

11. Closing remarks
We will make a presentation of Doug Poff's award at the next meeting in the fall.

12. Next Meeting
Thursday, November 21st, 2003 in Edmonton
Site to be Determined

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Alice McNair, Keith Walker, Nora Robinson

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WORKSHOP SUMMARY

AACL Workshop Summary
April 3, 2003

Ross Thrasher
Mount Royal College
http://library.mtroyal.ca/

Ross spoke about his library's recently completed administrative review. The process for this review grew out of the perception among library staff that all positions should be on an equal footing in terms of the classification process. Tied into the review were influencing factors such as physical expansion, larger enrollments and future degree granting status.

College funding was obtained for a consultant and Mary Kelly, the University of Calgary is Human Resources manager for Information Resources, was seconded for two months. She examined existing planning documents and reviewed literature but mainly derived her research through interviewing staff and observation.

Comparisons were made to other academic libraries in Canada as well as to existing ACRL standards. Recommendations included advancing partnerships for technical services, opening communication with IT, increasing librarian positions, as well as reclassifying positions and merging of public service desks.

Darlene Warren
University of Calgary
http://www.ucalgary.ca/IR/infocommons/

Planning an Information Commons
Darlene began the session on Information Commons' Experiences.

The vision for the U of C's Information Commons began with Alan MacDonald in 1992: "provide the space, technology and expertise needed to support the scholarly use of information resources and act as a focal point for information services."

Highlights
- Can't have experts on everything at service desk but can provide one-step referral to an expert; thus became collaboration between IT, department experts and librarians
- All library staff, regardless of skill, was required to take training on all Information Commons software in order to promote staff confidence in upcoming venture
- Student navigators are used for peer-to-peer assistance
- An anonymous donation allowed for 24-hour access Sunday-Friday. The decision on how to spend the money was made after student suggestions.
- The service desk is located off to the side and not right in front of the main entrance. Other service desks are located at MADGIC and with photo duplication
- A 50 seat classroom with dividers is open when classes not in session
- A noticeable and appreciated feature of the Commons is donations from the Faculty of Art
- Initially 15 of the 250 computers were Macs. However, they were the least used, had more problems than others and, therefore, are declining in number
- 10 collaborative rooms with Ethernet whiteboards; booked through homegrown online system
- Networked printing allows students to pick up jobs at any one of 5 printers. Recent upgrade to all PCs after 3.5 years.
- 95% of users are undergrads; 20 minute wait is maximum for a computer
- Reference questions have increased (against trend)
- Susan Beattie is the current head of the Information Commons

Helga Kinnaird
NAIT
http://www.nait.ab.ca/lr/library/facility/index.asp

- 208 computers in 4 main areas:
- (1) Library: 36 stations, Word and Excel only, library staffed
- (2) Project Factory: 40 stations near A/V, includes PageMaker, AutoCAD, CD burners, scanners; staffed by experienced techies
- (3) Info Literacy Lab for library instruction
- (4) NAITSA Computer Commons; 5,000 square feet; 6 months old; 110 flat panel stations; 24x7, wireless enabled, self serve, students login therefore no outsider use, no bookings; stations ghosted ½ at a time

Kristine Plastow &Team
Red Deer College
http://library.rdc.ab.ca/

- Took inspiration & some ideas from U of C
- First floor: 100 flat panel computers + 28 in Instruction Lab
- 6 stand up stations; 20 laptops with wireless for student sign-out; 20 carrels with plug-ins; 10 study rooms with 6 having computers
- Multimedia stations with Dreamweaver, Flash, video editing

- Help provided by staff at Info Desk, which may be librarian or library assistant
- Tutors similar to U of C's navigators
- Moving into memory sticks and burners
- The library is also a Red Deer community library with a collection from the Parkland Regional Library
- Recently completed survey done by 349 students; awaiting results

Susan Brayford
SAIT
http://learnat.sait.ab.ca/library/

- 10 programs part of a laptop purchasing policy; 1,965 students; $400/semester + $500 deposit
- Recently renovated library has 60 computers for 11,000 FTE; no space for any more
- 2-floored library; laptop work stations right outside main entrance; very popular area
- Quiet study area on lower floor; no computers in classroom

Ross Thrasher
Mount Royal College
http://library.mtroyal.ca/

- Undertook a large renovation 2 summers ago
- 3 study rooms and a need for many more
- 40 station teaching lab
- 50 stations throughout rest of library
- Library expansion in future required
- On verge of wireless
- Noise is a concern; students find the space inviting but this has led to high noise level

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Bibliozine.com – The E-Magazine for Librarians
http://www.bibliozine.com/index.shtml

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TAL @your library™

Ask A Question
http://www.lrc.macewan.ca/research/ask

The Ask A Question email reference service is growing up and becoming self-sufficient. Marcus Roesner, the Administrator and Margaret Law, the TAL Coordinator for Post Secondary Libraries have been busy showing the service to colleges and universities not already participating.

They've received a fantastic response and are in the process of contacting libraries regarding further participation as the project takes wing and becomes a self-sustaining service. More information will be coming in June.

During the past few months, demonstrations of AAQ were given to Northern Lakes College, Concordia College and the University of Alberta.
Northern Lakes College has already arranged to start using the service and hopes to have their initial training within the next few months. Welcome Northern Lakes!

If a library is interested in joining the Ask A Question service, please feel free to contact Marcus Roesner, the AAQ Administrator at 780.497.4286 or at mroesnerm@MacEwan.ca.

Find out more about the project by going to the project home page for the post-secondary sector at
http://www.lrc.macewan.ca/research/ask

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RSS Implementation Update

Due to ongoing difficulties with RSS, staff members of The Alberta Library have decided to place the College RSS project on hold to determine the best way to move forward.

TAL will be exploring the following options:

1. Asking Dynix to release the source for all compiled code under some sort of "open source" license.

2. Hiring a developer to customize workarounds that other institutions have written. This would increase the usability of the product, but would not solve many of the problems with the workstation software.

3. Delaying the project, with the intention of working with Dynix to beta test their successor to RSS.

TAL will keep you current with their explorations and discussions. If you have questions or comments, please contact Margaret Law at mmlaw@thealbertalibrary.ab.ca

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NEWS @your library™

Fairview College Library

Another busy year is underway for Fairview College Library. Student enrollment is up, resulting in increased Library use. Although much of the increased activity centers on computer use, other areas of the Library are also very busy.

Providing adequate service to the smaller centres is a challenge. The library staff at the Fairview Campus is trying to ensure that students at campuses that have a minimal or almost no library-staffing component are able to access required information and materials. It is nothing short of miraculous that the front office person in the small centres is able to incorporate such diverse tasks as reception, building maintenance, registration, accounting and library into one position. A small collection is being built up at the new St. Albert campus. NEOS membership has assisted us in providing service to our St. Albert students. A workroom has been converted into a quiet study area for the students. This has been a student request for some time now but had never progressed beyond the "good idea" phase. The project will allow for more group work in the main library area and allow students access to a quiet study area at the same time.

The most significant news from our Library is of course our partnership with NAIT. As with other areas of the College, the Library is not sure of the impact this partnership will have on our operations. Within the next few months the initial planning will take place at the upper management level, and as the organizational structure is formed, I'm sure we'll fit into the overall plan. The Library provides excellent support to the instructors and staff and even if some restructuring takes place the basic services will remain.

Although the NAIT partnership will probably have a major impact on the Library, we have even more important news. We have a library kitty! "NEOS" moved in on May 12 and has made himself right at home. His job is to keep the little furry grey creatures at bay but I think his talents lie in schmoosing with the staff and students. We will have to give him a trial period to make sure that allergies both of students and staff are not a concern. Already there is a line-up of takers if he has to move on because of health concerns.

Submitted by
Anita Luck

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Grant MacEwan LRC

Grant MacEwan College Faculty Association recently completed collective bargaining for the period July 1, 2002-June 30, 2004. The contract, retroactive to July 1,2002 provides for a salary increase of 5% in the first year and 4.5% in the second year. In addition an additional grid step was added to the current grid benefiting any members who were at the top of the their salary scale.

The College has completed the budgeting process for fiscal year 2003/04. The total college budget has been reduced by about $2 million. The LRC's operating budget was decreased by $75,000.00 for the coming year. We managed the budget reduction by not filling a vacancy in the circulation department at City Centre campus, by eliminating a term circulation position at our Alberta College LRC and by cutting part-time term staff hours in our Learning Skills Centre.

It was announced recently that the high school at our Alberta College Campus will close effective the end of June. This campus will continue to offer English as a Second Language programming, college and university preparation courses, and the Conservatory of Music program offerings. It is expected that many of the 966 high school students affected by the closure will enter the college preparation programs.

Our South Campus and Centre for the Arts campuses are undergoing renovations this summer. The LRC at South will close for the summer due to the disruptions caused by renovations. The journalism program and the Bachelor of Applied Communications in Professional Writing programs will move to the Centre for the Arts campus in August to form the new MacEwan School of Communications.

Plans are underway to develop degree programs at the College in anticipation of a change in the legislation that governs post-secondary educational institutions. A degree granting committee has been struck which includes a member from the LRC, and a coordinator has been hired to develop curriculum for a Bachelor of Arts degree. It is anticipated that the curriculum for the BA will be ready for September 2004.

Enrolment at the college increased by about 9 % this year with a total FLE of just over 11,000 students enrolled in credit programming. The College is planning to build a student residence and fund raising continues for a 200,000 square foot health sciences center to be built at the City Centre Campus.

The LRC Technology Support Desk began providing Web CT support to students in January. This is a cooperative project between the LRC and the Instructional Media and Design Department who were only able to provide support weekdays. The LRC will assist students with login problems, WebCT navigation, and basic system functions and the college is now be able to extend Web CT support to evening and weekends through this collaboration between departments.

Submitted by
Debbie McGugan

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Medicine Hat College

Twentysomething more sleeps!

After years of hoping, months of planning, and one heck of a lot of waiting, the Medicine Hat College Library is about to move to its new home. On April 22, we will host a College-wide open house; shortly after that, the move will commence. Faculty and staff who have visited the new facility at it nears completion have been very enthusiastic. An official opening is being scheduled for late September.

This past year, the Library initiated and completed two special projects. An article in College and Research Libraries News inspired the first. We asked faculty members who had won the College's Academic Achievement or Instructor of the Year Awards, as well as two library-loving retirees, to each select a book to put into the Library's collection. We placed a bookplate in each book naming the selector, his or her achievement, and the reason why this particular book was chosen.

One year after this program was initiated, all 25 books were finally ready. The Library hosted a College-wide reception with the books and their selectors as the guests of honour. It was a very successful event, and the honoured guests were truly appreciative.

Our second project was inspired by that venerable library institution, the *Read* poster. With the artistic and photographic assistance of a Visual Communications student, we created three library posters. The first poster features two students in camping gear, a tent (in the Library), and lots of books. The message is 'Get away from it all @ your library'. The second shows one of our instructors, surrounded by the books and tools of his trade, in the Library ('Get smart @ your library'). The third poster stars two of our reference staff at the Information Desk in the new Library ('The Information Advisors are in! Ask us @ your library'). Our posters, along with some of the official Read posters, will be on display throughout the Library and College in September.

'What are we going to do after the move?' Keith has been heard to wonder. "Information literacy", was Joanne Mokry's speedy reply. With our new in-Library classroom equipped with 30 terminals, we will be in a better position to offer group instruction to classes. I (Sheila) am looking forward to attending the Workshop on Instruction in Library Use (WILU) in Windsor, Ontario in May.

But first, we gotta move!

Submitted by
Sheila Drummond

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Mount Royal College

Staffing News:
The big news on campus is that David Marshall, President of Nipissing University in North Bay, Ontario has been appointed to replace our retiring College President Tom Wood. In the MRC Library, Corry Miko has replaced Kathryn Oldham as Administrative Assistant. Media Technician Peter Barnett has moved temporarily to Information Services, replacing Maureen Bedard during her incumbency as President of the Support Staff Association. Stephanie Hawes was promoted to Peter's old position in Media and Craig McConnell was appointed Media Desk Technician to April 30.

Library Administrative Review:
As outlined at the Spring AACL Workshop, MRC Library contracted with Mary Kelly, HR Manager of the University of Calgary Information Resources Dept., to conduct this review in Winter 2003. Her report has now been produced, and its recommendations will be discussed at our librarians' spring retreat in May and our Library Professional Day for all staff in June.

College Budget:
MRC is struggling to overcome a shortfall of almost $5 million in the 2003-2004 College budget. This will likely result in some program reductions and staff reductions. However, the Library is not expected to suffer significant cuts because there is general acceptance that we are already under funded.

Noise Problem:
One of our biggest challenges this year has been to control excessive noise in the Library. We have received many complaints from students about this. The problem is a consequence of crowded conditions, group study activity, the design of the Library (large open study area with a high ceiling), and the lack of "hangout space" elsewhere on campus.

We have mounted a noise abatement campaign with signage, PA announcements, ads in the student newspaper, etc. -- with limited success. An expansion of the Library, whenever that happens, will probably be the only effective solution. However, we will be working on some design adjustments over the summer. Suggestions are welcome.

New Library Services:
We have just installed a point-of-sale system for debit and credit card payment of Library fines and fees. We have finally implemented remote access to Library databases through the MyMRC gateway and EZProxy software. We are now adding Table of Contents data to our catalogue records through Blackwell's TOC service. Our Endeavor Voyager integrated library system is being upgraded on May 1, with some new user-friendly OPAC features.

Library Consolidation:
MRC's ESL programs are moving from the City Centre Campus into the new Bissett School of Business building, which opens this fall. As a result, our branch library at CCC will close at the end of June. Staff, collections and services will migrate to the Main Library.

Submitted by
Ross Thrasher

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NAIT Library

The NAIT Library is continuing its contribution to two of NAIT's international education projects by providing consultative assistance and library operations training to international partners in Argentina and Cuba. The Argentine partner is the Instituto Argentino del Petroleo y del Gas (IAPG) in Buenos Aires, Argentina and the Cuba partner is the Centro Nacional de Certificacion Industrial (CNCI) located close to Cienfuegos, Cuba.

The Argentine project is winding down and will be completed by November 2003, and the Cuba project is scheduled for completion in mid-2004. Both projects are funded by the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA).

In Argentina the focus has been to automate IAPG's existing special library, digitize a wide range of documents and add the content to the catalogue, provide web access to document content, and teach Argentine petroleum specialists how to design web-based instruction and deliver it to industry practitioners throughout Argentina. The Cuba project has focused on the development of a technical library to meet the needs of instructors and students at CNCI where NAIT is working with Cuba's Ministry of Basic Education (MINBAS) to develop curriculum, train instructors to Alberta apprenticeship standards, and manage programs in instrumentation, electrical and millwright technologies.

Both projects have required NAIT Library staff to work closely with staff from the partner libraries to define project objectives, identify workable options for cataloguing and database design, determine training needs, and deliver training. A central focus for both libraries has been learning about MARC and determining how closely to adhere to it. From NAIT's perspective, a big challenge for both libraries has been subject vocabulary. It's not easy to find affordable sources of authoritative subject terminology in Spanish for specialized technical subjects. Alternatives for Cuba are

currently being assessed.

Some of the development work and training for these projects has been done at NAIT, and some on-site in Buenos Aires, Havana and Cienfuegos. Many NAIT Library staff contributed to the training efforts when the Argentine and Cuban librarians came to Edmonton to observe Canadian library management first-hand, and some NAIT staff (Diane Clark, Liz Pegoraro, Pat Waterton) have provided training and consultative assistance in the partner countries. Most recently, Liz and Pat were in Cuba (in February - someone had to do it), and Diane and Pat were in Argentina (in March). In June, Diane goes to Cuba to train CNCI library staff in document digitization.

Now that we have two consultancies under our belts we are ready to share some do's and don'ts. If there is AACL interest in hearing more about these projects, we would be happy to provide a fuller overview at an AACL meeting in the future.

Submitted by
Helga Kinnaird

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Olds College Library

In February we joined other academic and public libraries becoming a part of Ask A Question. After answering our first question with some trepidation and much in-house collaboration, staff have now become quite comfortable with this virtual reference service and our students do appreciate it.

We worked with the faculty and students in a marketing course in one of our applied degree programs in developing and distributing a library satisfaction survey. I secured faculty support to have the students distribute and collect the survey during class time so our response was excellent. The survey was completed in March and the students collated the results.

Due to the results of the survey, and the most helpful statistical charts Tom created for us, we've been granted a new staff position in the library. We feel most fortunate to gain staff in a time when other departments are having to reduce staff.

Partly as a result of student responses, but also due to the closure of daytime access to other computer labs on campus, the Information Commons in the library is going to be expanded. The first phase of the expansion will add ten more computers, and the second phase an additional twelve computers. With the increase in the number of computers the students will have access to, we're looking at a plan to provide better technology support to the computer user.

As with other NEOS libraries, we're preparing for the SIRSI migration. Staff are currently involved in training which fortunately for us, is being offered at Red Deer College, a short distance to travel. We appreciate the "window-friendly" environment of SIRSI and look forward to the June go-live date.

This news from Olds College marks my farewell to AACL. I've resigned my position at Olds College Library effective August 31. After 22 years in the Library, I've chosen to join my husband in retirement. Thanks to all of you in AACL for the tremendous support you've provided. As the only professional working in a small academic library your collective knowledge and your willingness to share that knowledge has been invaluable. I will miss you all, the friendship and the great laughs, and wish you continued success in your own libraries, and in keeping AACL such a special organization.

Submitted by
Barb Smith

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Red Deer College

Red Deer College Library staff have now had an entire academic year in our new building, and we're starting to feel at home. It's been an action-packed year, with more customers than ever, from the community as well as from within the college.

Red Deer College Library is making a name for itself as a place to attend interesting events. Our Friday W/Rites series featured Red Deer College authors reading and discussing their writing, themes and motivations. The talks attracted a variety of writers and readers from staff and student populations as well as from the community. The Philosophers' Café intrigued many people with such topics as "War and Peace: are there any good wars?" and "Religion: what role does it play in a modern society?" We're already taking phone calls from people wanting to know when it begins again in September!

Along with the two series, Red Deer College Library has been pleased to host readings for a variety of well-respected Canadian authors. Poets Laura Lush, Nancy Holmes, and Charles Noble have read, along with novelist and poet Dave Margoshes, short story author Laura J. Cutler, and – the culmination of an excellent year of community programming – a reading by RDC writer-in-residence Sharon Butala, an award-winning writer who has been made an Officer of the Order of Canada. We're proud to have hosted authors from Alberta, BC, Manitoba and Saskatchewan, so far.

Now that spring is here and library traffic has slowed somewhat, we begin work in earnest on our conversion, along with the rest of the NEOS Consortium, to the new Sirsi catalogue system. We will "go live" with the new catalogue system on June 23, with no interruption in service to our customers. Meanwhile, behind the scenes, our staff have been busily preparing and training, and we're eager to present the enhanced functionality of the SIRSI system to our library users.

Did I say "spring is here?" It's May 7, and here in Red Deer it's been snowing non-stop for days. Let's organize a library conference next week for somewhere tropical! Until then, keep warm and remember to drop by for a tour of our library whenever you're in Red Deer.

Submitted by
Leslie Greentree
Marketing and Promotions Coordinator

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SAIT Library

We were pleased to host the AACL Spring Meeting on April 3 – and thrilled with the number of intrepid library staff who made their way through the snow and cold to get to the meeting. The meeting marked the 30th anniversary of the founding of the Association and, after the business and presentation parts of the day; we celebrated with a pizza party. Several of the attendees brought 1973 photos of themselves and their libraries and some cleaned out their closets to bring clothing and other "artifacts" from the early '70s. We enjoyed seeing everyone and getting caught up on what's happening around the province.

In June, we will be migrating to a new version of our SIRSI library automation system. Staff training will be done June 10-12. Christine Sammon from ACAD will be joining us. In preparation for the upgrade, we are cleaning up our database, focusing particularly on our serials and videos records. We are moving many of our videos from a closed collection designed for classroom use to a circulating collection for home use by students.

The timing for the change is excellent, as we will have time over the summer to work with the new "look and feel" and be ready for the fall semester.

We have also just received the news that we are getting funding for 20 new computers for our library classroom. We will be revamping our library instruction program to be more interactive. The new computers will also be

available for general student use when the classroom is not booked for library instruction. The new workstations will have flat screen monitors, which will look great at the same time as they save on desktop space. We are also getting flat screens for our Information Desk and our "library access only" public workstations.

At the end of April, we said goodbye to the two part-time library technicians who covered our evening and weekend hours. It was great to have the evening/weekend staff for the fall and winter staff and we look forward to their return in late August. We have just hired two students for the summer, one under STEP funding and the other with HRDC funding. Both students, Cathy Fischbuch and Beth Christianson, are both currently enrolled in the SAIT Library and Information Technology program. They will be working on various projects including the serials and video re-cataloguing as well as assisting on the Information Desk.

In April, we hosted a practicum student from the SAIT Library and Information Technology program for 3 weeks. Sylvia Santiago got a firsthand look at our Library as she worked on the Information Desk and assisted staff with audiovisual procedures, display preparation, ILL/DDS services and a variety of other functions.

On May 29, we are having a staff retreat to focus on strategic planning for the library. We will spend the morning in a planning session and, in the afternoon, enjoy ourselves at a social function. We will also be participating in our Centre for Learning department professional development day on June 26. This is the last time the Library will be part of the Centre for Learning day as we are moving to a new department, the Centre for Academic Learner Support, soon.

In May, we started to use the WhenToWork program for Information Desk scheduling. This online system lets Dave Weber and Alison Hart (our master timetablers) design a schedule and lets the rest of us trade or drop shifts.

In February, Susan Brayford and Nadia Nastov, our administrative assistant, worked with the instructors in the Photojournalism program to put on a terrific display of student work. The exhibition was a great success with many positive comments from students and staff.

The grand opening was attended by students and their families. Gord Nixon, SAIT Vice President, Academic, Lee Haldeman, Dean, Information and Communications Technologies Susan Brayford, Library Manager and Willem Sijpheer, Program Coordinator, Journalism, all gave brief remarks. Willem entertained us with a magic trick or two, with the explanation that photography created magic as well for all of us. We are planning on doing more of this type of activity in the coming year.

May Chan and Nora Robinson will be attending the Canadian Library Association/American Library Association joint conference in Toronto. We hope to see others from the Alberta colleges there. Susan Brayford, May Chan and Zahina Iqbal attended the TAL E-Resource Symposium in May.

We are participating in our Teaching and Learning Centre's Professional Development series in May by offering a workshop on our electronic resources and by hosting an open house to showcase library services.
The SAIT Library staff are all looking forward to the summer and vacations as well as all the challenges and projects we will be working on. We hope everyone has a great summer!

Submitted by
Nora Robinson & Dave Weber

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AACL 30th Anniversary Meeting April 3, 2003

Have a good summer, and see you at the fall meeting in Edmonton!