

Off The Shelf

The Newsletter of the
Robertson Library @ UPEI

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Suzanne Jones (902-566-0393 or sjones@upei.ca)
Outreach & Communications

Circulation Desk (902) 566-0583
Reference Desk (902) 566-0696
Our Web Page <http://library.upei.ca>

THE INFORMATION CROSSROADS

The staff at Robertson Library have been busy over the last few years with new efforts designed to build on the Library's role as the Information Crossroads on campus. The easiest way to see this impact is in the number of people actively using the Library. Recent comments I have received include: "Wow! Where did all the students come from?"; "I've never seen so many people in the Library!"; "Is it always this busy in here?"

Yes, it is true – we have seen a significant increase in traffic to the Library and no, there is no single reason for that increased use. Whether it stems from the development of the new computer facilities and collaborative space (Language Lab, Collaboratory, Learning Commons), the new Samuel's Coffee Shop, Global Issues 151 classes, the Webster Centre being co-located in the Robertson building, or the host of innovative new resources, services, and events that are available, UPEI's Robertson Library is a vibrant and welcoming place for people to be. It is also increasingly a place where members of the larger UPEI community come to engage in a range of learning activities. In other words, the Robertson Library is truly the campus Information Crossroads – a place where people meet to learn.

As we work hard to continue to serve you and the larger Island community, we encourage you to let us know what else we can do to make it all even better. Check out our library contact page (described at <http://library.upei.ca/help>) and let us know what you think.

Mark Leggott,
University Librarian
(902-566-0460 or mleggott@upei.ca)



STUDENT LOCKERS!

In late November, 104 small lockers were installed in the Library Breezeway for undergraduate student use, at a rental cost of \$25.00 per semester.

Please check with the staff at the Circulation Desk if you are interested in obtaining one for the January - April term.

If you wish to honour someone by donating \$50.00 or more to our Bookplate Donation Project, please contact :

*Advancement
(902) 566-0615*

or

<http://www.upei.ca/support/ways-to-give>



To ensure your donation is earmarked for the Robertson Library, please designate it as the target destination.

OPEN JOURNAL SYSTEMS AND OPEN CONFERENCE SYSTEMS

Robertson Library hosted half-day workshops on the Open Journal Systems (OJS) and Open Conference Systems (OCS) from October 26-27, 2009, with Kevin Stranack from Simon Fraser University Library and the Public Knowledge Project (PKP).

OJS (<http://pkp.sfu.ca/?q=ojs>) is an open source journal management and publishing system that assists with every stage of the refereed publishing process, from submission through to online publication and indexing. OCS (<http://pkp.sfu.ca/?q=ocs>) comes from the same project and is a free Web publishing tool that creates a complete Web presence for your scholarly conference. Features include the ability to send a call for papers, electronically accept paper and abstract submissions, post conference proceedings and papers, register participants, and integrate online discussions.

Robertson Library provides support for university groups interested in setting up an OCS or OJS site. Please contact Mark Leggott for more information.

Dawn Hooper

(902-566-453 or dhooper@upei.ca)
Data & Research Services

GAMES NIGHT @ THE LIBRARY



The Robertson Library hosted a "Games Night" for the campus community on Friday, October 23. Approximately seventy participants tested their skill at a variety of games from Wii and RockBand, to chess, crokinole, Tower of Hanoi, Pente, and mini-golf, with trivia questions interspersed throughout the evening. Many participants gave the night a "thumbs up" and left asking for a follow-up event.



Congratulations to Arvin Sepahdoost, a UPEI student, who won the Games Night draw for the iPod Nano!



Games @ the Library Week was an event promoted by the Atlantic Provinces Library Association (APLA).

Dawn Hooper

Data & Research Services

ACCESS 2009

For the first time, the Access Conference was held on P. E. I. It was hosted by the Robertson Library and held from September 30 - October 3. Approximately 160 participants from North America attended this cutting-edge library technology conference.

Keynote speakers were Cory Doctorow and William J. Turkel.



READER FEEDBACK REQUESTED!

This newsletter is at a possible turning point and we need your input.

- Would you:
- a) like to access this newsletter online only?
 - b) like to continue receiving a print copy of newsletter?
 - c) like to be deleted from our mailing list?

Please let us know your wishes by phone (902-566-0697) or e-mail offtheshelf@upei.ca

Or ... you can contact us by regular mail at: *Off The Shelf*, Robertson Library, UPEI, 550 University Avenue, Charlottetown, PE C1A 4P3



A TECHNOLOGY TRIO

The Library has recently opened three new computing areas on its main floor – all open to the PEI community. For all three, printing is available for students only, using the same printing system that students use throughout the campus. Users are asked to remember that all library computers are intended for educational/research uses and are subject to the Library's acceptable use policy.

Language Lab

Laid out like a traditional classroom, this space has an instructor's workstation with SMARTBoard/projector and 30 computers for students. The computers are 20" iMacs equipped with specialty headsets (headphones plus attached microphone) and DVD players. These computers are available for anyone to use (primarily during evenings and weekends) when not booked by language classes. They serve best for general internet-based research, study work, or watching DVDs. They also include the Rosetta Stone software for learning the basics of many modern languages, including French, Spanish, Japanese, Chinese (Mandarin), Korean, and Russian, with an emphasis on oral communication. Rosetta Stone *learns* your voice and tracks your learning progress over time, so you need to register for a personal account at the Circulation Desk before using it.

Learning Commons

The Learning Commons opened with temporary, borrowed furniture in the fall but is expecting new expansive workspaces in the spring. This large area, next to the reference collection, will eventually boast up to 50 computers with seating for many more people both in groups and individually. Power outlets throughout the space will accommodate patrons' own laptops and other devices. A mixture of Windows/Dell computers running the campus-standard "student network" software and 20" iMacs running the Mac OS X system are already in place, with more coming. The iMacs currently are best for Internet-based uses, such as library research, email, and Moodle, but they also include the OpenOffice word processing and spreadsheet suite which is compatible with the Microsoft Office products.

Media Centre/Collaboratory

This room has 16 high-end Mac Pro workstations with large displays (mostly 24", a few 30" cinema displays) and loaded with hardware and software appropriate for multimedia editing. Each computer includes Final Cut Express software for advanced video editing/DVD authoring, as well as the "Audacity" software product for audio recording/capture/editing. If you have a digital video camera, you can use these computers to download your video onto your own removable media (e.g. flash drive or portable hard drive) and edit it. (Please bring whatever connecting cable your camera uses.) Some of the computers have scanners for scanning images of all kinds, including OCR technology for document conversion. Others have VHS conversion hardware for converting your home VHS movies to digital files for burning to DVD or other digital uses. Still others have vinyl LP turntables for converting old-fashioned albums to digital format (e.g. mp3 files or audio CDs). Coming soon will be audio cassette players that will be able to do the same for that medium. You can also just play any of these media (VHS videos, DVDs, LPs, etc.) on these computers. Small groups who wish to watch a movie or listen to a recording together can obtain from the Circulation Desk a special audio-splitter to allow up to 4 people at a time, each with separate headphones and their own volume control, to gather around one of these large displays.



A TIMELY WORD ORIGIN

Inoculate: a gardening term

When the doctor inoculates you, he [she] "plants" in your body a small seedling of the virus to make you immune to attack. But at first the word inoculate was a purely horticultural term and meant to insert an eye or bud in a plant for propagation. It came from the Latin *in*, "into," and *oculus*, "eye." Its present use dates from the time of the first inoculation against smallpox.

from: Wilfred Funk. *Word Origins and Their Romantic Stories*. (New York: Grosset & Dunlap, 1950)

eBOOKS

Through our Canadian Research Knowledge Network (CRKN) agreements, the Robertson Library recently acquired and loaded over 300 *new* ebooks from Cambridge University Press, Oxford University Press, and Taylor & Francis. They are available through the library catalogue.

For a complete title list, please contact your liaison librarian (<http://library.upei.ca/librarians>) or me.

Donald Moses
(902-566-0479 or dmoses@upei.ca)
Collections & eResources

PROFILE & OUTREACH & COMMUNICATIONS UNIT

The Library's Outreach & Communications Unit is a little odd. Well, maybe we're just different. We deal with many different (and sometimes odd) people, organizations, and departments in the run of a day, week, and month, in order to communicate with you regarding the Library's resources and services!

We study ourselves (who doesn't find themselves endlessly fascinating?) to see what we are doing and how well we succeed. We look at the Library in much the same way because we have to tell you, our readers, about new Library changes, how they work, and why they might be interesting or valuable for you. Conveying what we are doing is challenging, especially in this small but fast-paced library environment. But we try! And hearing from you is equally important to the Library, which is why the Outreach & Communications Unit organized a recent LibQUAL survey – to get a better idea of what you need and want from us.

The Unit gathers content, designs, and creates, a Library newsletter (*Off The Shelf*) three times a year which is distributed on campus, to the Island community, other Canadian libraries, library donors, and many others interested in what we are up to. We've turned ourselves into desk-top publishers, learning Adobe InDesign and Photoshop as fast as we can in order to present our best face to and for you! In each newsletter, we try to incorporate one new design feature – making each one visually distinct, yet consistent with an overall look. We interact with other University areas and personnel, write campus notices, updates, and communiques – to bring our news to your attention. We design and create posters to advertise special events and add items to our website News section.

Outreach & Communications also organizes special events that *entice* you into the Library to share in our adventure (with free cookies and drink, of course!), such as **Freedom To Read** or **Celebrating the Book**. The Library's recent **Games Night @The Library** was supported and promoted by this unit – with people from all over the Library participating in its success. And then sometimes we go out to meet you on occasions like the New Student Orientation (NSO). Events like the **Library's Art Competition** are also co-ordinated by this unit. This competition is to encourage and promote the work of local artists and improve the Library's interior spaces. We are currently in our second art competition process. We also bookplate new library acquisitions to honour Library donors and especially noteworthy P.E.I. people and events. These are just a few of things we do for Outreach & Communications and Dorothy and I very much like the wide-ranging variety of our unit.



tall/short
Suzanne & Dorothy

By the way, we both do more traditional library things. Dorothy works part-time in our busy Interlibrary Loans department, which gives her a break from the free-wheeling oddness of this department. I contribute to our Information/Reference service (in-person and virtually), liaise with a number of faculty departments, order new resources for the Library, provide instructional classes, sit on various committees, and (mostly) read what's good for me!

So, Dorothy and I strive to inform, as well as, listen to you. We work hard doing both – in creative and fun ways. Thank you for all your positive feedback, comments, and suggestions. Appreciation always makes us try harder to make a difference. And that difference is not odd at all!

Suzanne Jones (902-566-0393 or sjones@upe.ca)
Outreach & Communications



A LITERARY CHRISTMAS QUIZ

ALL ANSWERS CONTAIN A WORD, OR INDEED COMPRISE, A WORD ASSOCIATED WITH CHRISTMAS.

- 1) Which country is the setting for Louis de Bernieres's novel *Bird Without Wings* – the long-awaited successor to *Corelli's Mandolin*?
- 2) Who's the main character in Truman Capote's *Breakfast at Tiffany's*?
- 3) In George Orwell's *Animal Farm*, which character represents Leon Trotsky?
- 4) Which Austrian writer and thinker founded the movement known as anthroposophy?
- 5) Whose novels include *The Stone Diaries* and *Larry's Party*?

from: James Walton. *Who Killed Iago? : A Book of Fiendishly Challenging Literary Quizzes*. (New York: Penguin, 2009)

1) Turkey; 2) Holly Golightly;
3) Snowball; 4) Rudolf Steiner;
5) Carol Shields

