Off The Shelf

The Newsletter of the Robertson Library @ UPEI

Contents

2009 CAUBO Award Winner in Atlantic Region

Robertson Library's VRE is the winner of the 2009 CAUBO (Canadian Association of University Business Officers) Atlantic Regional Award.

Out of 33 submissions, the Atlantic Regional winner was the VRE (Virtual Research Environment) at the University of Prince Edward Island. The VRE software provides an innovative system which stores research data (regardless of its type or subject area), ensures the easy accessibility of that data, and then stewards it throughout the life-cycle of research programmes and beyond.

The CAUBO Quality & Productivity Awards promote excellence and innovation in improving the quality of higher education.

VRE Library Folk

(L-R back) Dawn Hooper, Melissa Belvadi, Peter Lux, Paul Pound, Kris Bulman and Donald Moses
(L-R front) Grant Johnson, Mark Leggott, and Alexander O'Neill.

A 'Day in The Life' of Library Student Assistants ...

As student assistants at the Robertson Library, we enjoy many perks: nice coworkers, convenient location, flexible hours, and full-size lockers. But, in our opinion, the best part of the job is the variety of people that use the library. We have the pleasure of getting to know the regulars, representing all walks of life.

The front desk is the first place to which a patron turns. Therefore, we must think quickly on our feet. In fact, we frequently get strange requests that we happily oblige: helping a student find material for a paper due in two hours, reading citations aloud to a far-sighted mature student, scanning anything from family photos to immigration documents, and guarding a bicycle when a patron forgot his lock at home.

Another thing that is we love is our relationship with the books. We organize books, share books, move books, mend books, and discard books. The student assistants are present at every stage of a book's life. A day at the library is far from boring!

Charlotte Hince & *Kristin Nicholson* & *Nelly Silva Polanco*

THE ISLAND IMAGINED:

THE STORY OF PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND IN MAPS

The **Island Imagined** is a collaborative community, grant-funded project that will see approximately 1500 Prince Edward Island maps digitized and enhanced with metadata. The project will allow users to add, view, and manage digital objects stored in open-source Fedora software repository. Data will be added using Islandora, the Robertson Library's enhancement of the Drupal content management system (also know as the VRE). This digitization project will include enhanced applications such as the ability to overlay historical maps with contemporary versions, as well as, linking images from one image to a related one through geo-tagging. Rich content features include interactive learning guides outlining

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Collections & eResources

the historical context of the maps as well as the details of the digitization processes.

This project is a partnership between the Robertson Library, the Prince Edward Island Public Archives and Records Office, and the Prince Edward Island Museum and Heritage Foundation. The grant money, which will support the project, originated from the Department of Canadian Heritage through the Archival Community Digitization Programme. Allocation of these funds is administered by Library and Archives Canada, with assistance from the Canadian Council of Archives.

The project will be completed by March 2010.

CURRENT EVENTS

The second Red Island Repository Institute (RIRI) 2009 workshop was hosted by UPEI on July 20-24. Instructors for this 2009 event included Chris Wilper and Thorny Staples (Fedora Commons), Matt Zumwalt (MediaShelf) and Mark Leggott (UPEI). Participants came from Canada, Europe, and the United States. The Fedora repository software is the focus of this workshop.

UPCOMING:

The Access 2009 Conference (September 30- Oct. 3) will come to PEI this year – for the first time! This well-attended annual gathering communicates the latest in library/computer applications, mash-ups, work-arounds, and fixes. Access is a fly-by-the-seat-of-your-pants conference where one is blown away with the creativity and cutting-edge possibilities of library technology. It often points the way to what "could be done, if only ... ."

Register now at: http://vre2.upei.ca/access2009/catalog/37/registration
Or go to **http://vre2.upei.ca/access2009** for more information.

> "The University Island concept is an emerging one at UPEI and the Library represents the *Information Crossroads* for the campus and the community — a nexus of information and learning."
>
> Mark Leggott
> University Librarian

LANGUAGE LAB.

A new modern language lab in the Library was created and stocked with 30 student stations equipped with iMacs, specialty audio headset equipment and an instructor station that includes a SMARTboard and classroom management software. Over the summer, it was used by the University's Spanish and ESL classes.

Paid for in part with ACOA funds, the facility will also be available in the Fall for booking by interested off-campus groups.

Academy: named for a Greek farmer?

This is a pleasant story about a Greek farmer. It seems that a Spartan maiden, named Helen, was kidnaped by the legendary hero Theseus. Her twin brothers, Castor and Pollux, who are now in our heavens as two bight stars, searched for their sister without success until they met the farmer, *Akademos,* who seems to have given them some hint as to the whereabouts of the kidnapper and his victim. As a reward for his alertness the grove of *Akademos* was eternally watched over by the gods. It was in this grove that the great philosopher Plato held his classes. The grove was called *Academeia,* and for many years after his death his pupils and followers met in this same spot for their discussions. Plato never did verify the story of the farmer, but he gave us the word *academy* that now means a place of learning.

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

Donations

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

Advancement Services
(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.

Media Centre "Collaboratory"

The Library has transformed part of its Media Centre into a Collaboratory area which contains 16 high-end Mac Pro work stations intended for computationally intensive graphics and media work.

Included in the area will be media digitizing peripherals including equipment to digitize vinyl LPs, audiocassettes, and videocassettes, as well as flatbed scanners for print material.

The goal of the collaboratory is to provide the University community with an interactive space for creative and group work.

Presentation Travel

At the Access 2009 Conference, the following staff will be making presentations:

Paul Pound and Donald Moses will present *IslandLives*: *A Flexible Digital Repository Framework* on Oct. 1.

On Oct. 3, Mark Leggott will offer a session entitled *Virtual Research Environment – 2 Years Later.*

Attending the Sun Preservation and Archiving Special Interest Group (PASIG), in San Francisco on Oct. 7-9, Mark will speak on *Islandora*, including a demonstration and discussion.

Library Learning Commons

Renovation work including wiring and collection weeding, is underway for a new Learning Commons on the main floor near the Reference Collection. This area is expected in the fall to temporarily house 40 Dell and Mac computers for general use.

The longer term plan is to have new seating furniture for approximately 85 students and at least 50 computers provided in the area for individual and collaborative use.

"For every cloud engenders not a storm." – William Shakespeare

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

PROFILE ᴒ REFERENCE AND CIRCULATION UNIT

Reference provides personal assistance to students, faculty, staff and the general public in the use of the Library and its resources. This includes, but is not limited to, providing answers to questions that require specific information, teaching bibliographic skills and search techniques, developing skills necessary for the evaluation and interpretation of information, and teaching how to cite information using the various citation styles.

These services are provided through in-person reference assistance, reference by phone, e-mail reference, on-line reference (Library Ask Us), and reference by appointment. The reference librarians (Betty, Cathy, Dawn, Donald, Melissa, Simon, and Suzanne) are available to provide in-depth, one-on-one consultations for your library or research related needs.

Library Ask Us is a real time online reference service available to U.P.E.I. students, faculty and staff. The service is being staffed by the librarians and library technicians who staff the Information Desk. *Library Ask Us* is available Monday - Thursday 9:00 a.m. – 10:00 p.m. and Friday 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. during the academic semester.

Computer Help will be available again this semester at the Robertson Library's Information Desk. Student assistants will be available to help you with your problems with e-mail, wireless access, word processing, presentations, power point, spreadsheets, printing etc. The hours for this service will be posted in the Library.

The Information/Reference Desk is amalgamating with the University and Special Collections Help Desk and is relocating to the new Learning Commons. We invite you to visit us in our new location.
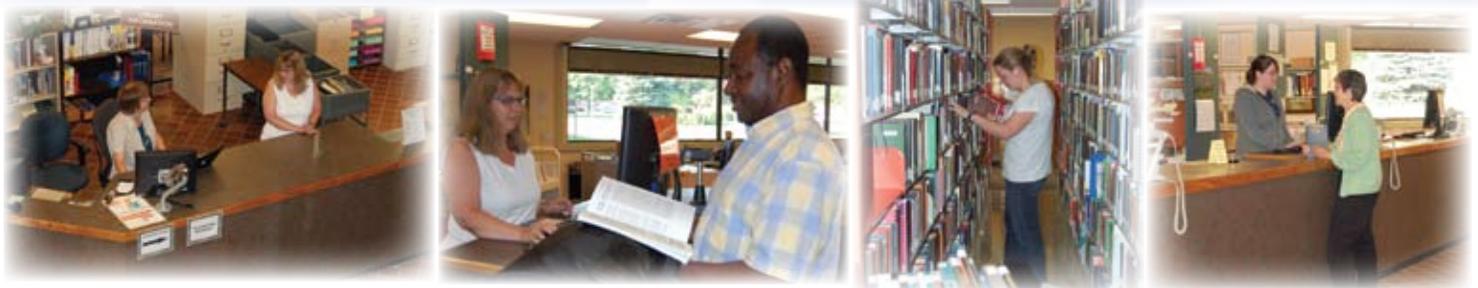
The Circulation Desk staff circulates library material, including laptops, ensures that the materials are properly checked out and checked in, maintains borrowers' records, recalls circulating material, searches for missing materials, notifies borrowers re the status of Library materials, and maintains a reserve and e-reserve collection. In addition, the Circulation staff is responsible for stack maintenance, booking group study rooms, providing equipment maintenance, maintaining a *lost and found* area, and making change.

Both Circulation and Reference respond to a variety of directional questions both related to the Library and the University. These include location of a building, a meeting room, a public presentation, or a Seniors College classroom.

Reference Staff: Melissa Belvadi, Cathy Callaghan, Leo Cheverie, Wendy Collett, Gerry Forsythe, Dawn Hooper, Betty Jeffery, Suzanne Jones, Simon Lloyd, Christine MacLauchlan, Cindy McKenna, Donald Moses, James Murphy, and David Weeks.

Circulation Staff: Wendy Collett, Jerrad Gilbert, Peggi Lyriotokis, and Christine MacLauchlan and approximately twelve student assistants.

Cathy Callaghan (902-566-0681 or ccallaghan@upei.ca)
Reference & Circulation

DIGITIZATION SUMMIT – JUNE 15TH & 16TH AT UPEI

Robertson Library hosted a gathering of Island culture and heritage stakeholders during its first Digitization Summit. Loren Fantin (OurOntario), Mark Jordan (SFU), and John Teskey (Canadiana.org) provided examples of existing projects and best practices from their regions and nationally. Others, working in the cultural and heritage sectors on the Island, provided a local perspective.

The Summit offered participants an opportunity to learn more about digitization efforts on the Island, to explore possible digitization initiatives and partnerships, and to discuss the potential of a provincial digitization strategy. A final report from the event will be forthcoming.