

# Off The Shelf

The Newsletter of the  
Robertson Library @ UPEI

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## CHANGE CAPACITY & GREAT PEOPLE

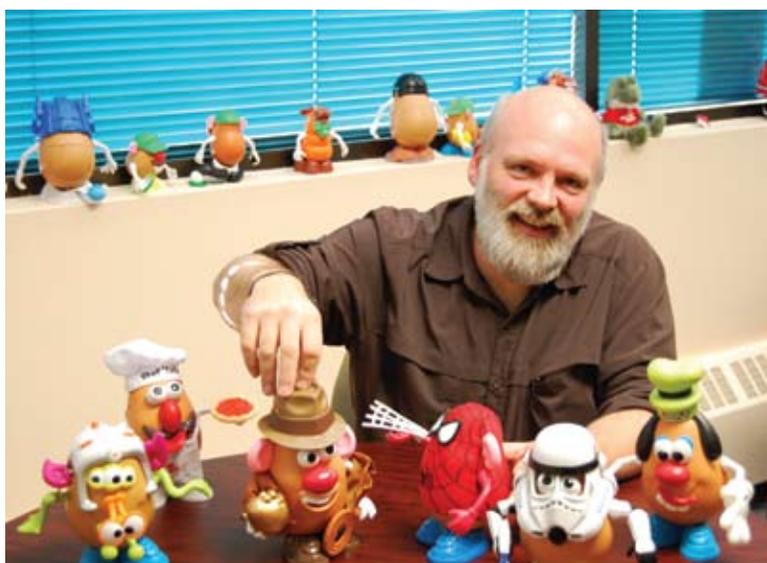
Academic libraries are in the unenviable position of having to adapt quickly to change while at the same time making sure our services support the traditional models of delivery. While this may sound tricky, it is actually very interesting and invigorating and is most evident in how Library staff, individually and collectively, are adapting to the change.

For example, the product you are looking at now is organized and designed by Suzanne Jones and Dorothy Peters, who have learned some of today's most challenging and complex desktop publishing software (Adobe InDesign and Photoshop) in order to produce this polished newsletter publication.

In the cataloguing and government documents arena, Melissa Belvadi, Judy Callaghan, Dale McClure, Simon Lloyd, Cathy Callaghan and others are looking at ways to transform how we describe and manage new material, especially the P.E.I. resources we steward. This is being done with an eye to providing better access to the wealth of digital information while linking to older print resources. Of course, you know our approach will be innovative!

Circulation staff (Chris MacLauchlan, Gordon Connors, Peggi Lyriotokis, Wendy Collett) are building a new system for providing students with access to course readings, learning how to use new web tools, and running high-tech scanning equipment in the process.

All the staff at the Robertson Library are rapidly re-educating themselves and transforming the academic library. Having worked in a number of Canadian universities, I can say with thankful confidence that the staff here are among the best in the world. They are helping redefine the modern academic library – and having fun at the same time!



*Mark Leggott*, University Librarian ... at play  
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## ISLANDLIVES PROJECT

Made possible through a generous private donation, the IslandLives project builds on the Robertson Library's mission to preserve and share unique material relating to Prince Edward Island and demonstrates UPEI's ongoing commitment to making P.E.I.'s cultural and published heritage available to all.

Utilizing the Library's Prince Edward Island Collection and the latest in digitization technology, IslandLives will begin by digitizing 300 or so published community histories dating from the mid-1800's to the present day. These transformed community histories will form the basis of a rich online repository.

IslandLives will provide a variety of search interfaces that will allow users to browse and search the content by name, community, time period, and keyword. The Island community will have a whole new way to rediscover, search and share their stories.

This project will engage and build community – recruiting interested individuals from the cultural heritage community and everyday Islanders. Project staff will travel to communities and host *Digitization Days*, introducing community members to the project and its goals, providing them with an opportunity to digitize their own content, and to contribute their content to the IslandLives collection.

If you have any questions about this project or would like to contribute to, or participate in, IslandLives, please contact me.

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Special Projects



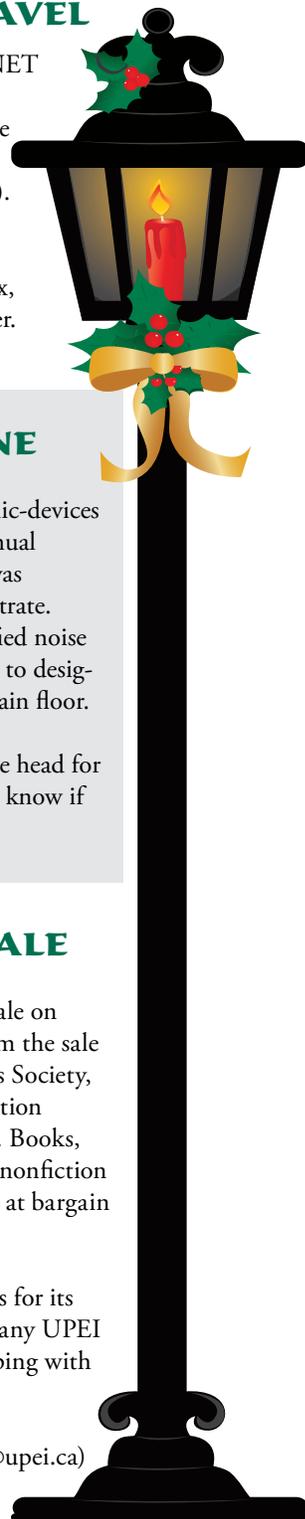
## LIBRARY STAFF UPDATE

A warm *welcome back* to Donald Moses who has returned to the Library on a nine-month contract, seconded from the library at Holland College. While here, Donald will be overseeing the Library's IslandLives projects.

## PRESENTATION TRAVEL

Mark Leggott presented at the NELINET consortium in New England on December 9, 2008. Mark discussed the joys and pitfalls of implementing an open source library system (Evergreen).

On February 16th, at the Information Without Borders conference in Halifax, Mark Leggott will be a keynote speaker.



## A CLICK FREE ZONE

One of our sunrooms is going electronic-devices free! Some users told us that the continual clicking of laptop and PC keyboards was interfering with their ability to concentrate. Since our libQUAL survey had identified noise as an issue for our patrons, we decided to designate a device-free quiet zone on our main floor.

We are curious to see how many people head for this device-free space. So, please let us know if this arrangement is working for you!

## LIBRARY BOOKSALE

We held a very successful used book sale on September 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>. Proceeds from the sale were shared with the U.P.E.I. Business Society, the very efficient student-run organization selected this year to help with the sale. Books, ranging from popular novels through nonfiction and textbooks, were eagerly picked up at bargain prices.

The Library is already collecting books for its next sale and would like to hear from any UPEI student organization interested in helping with the sale.

*Norine Hanus* (566-0479 or [nhanus@upei.ca](mailto:nhanus@upei.ca))  
Collections & eResources

## MEMORABLE AND DISTINCTIVE DEFINITIONS!

*Anxious and Eager*: “Famous last stand of the language purists: You’re not anxious to spend a languorous evening with your oldest married friends, you’re *eager* to spend it. Unless, that is, you’ve been sleeping with one of them for the past three months. Then you *are* anxious.”

*Enormity and Enormousness*: “Straightforward enough. Enormousness is the one that’s a synonym for immensity: The enormousness of the cosmos. Enormity refers to something so far outside the moral *norm* (the root in both words) that it’s monstrously wicked, unthinkable, the lowest of the low: The enormity of his crimes. Of course you can talk about the enormousness of somebody’s crimes, too, if all you mean is they’re big. But do try not to refer to the enormity of the cosmos — unless you know something we don’t.”

from: Judy Jones and William Wilson. *An Incomplete Education*. Rev. ed. (New York: Ballantine Books, c. 1995)

### ISLANDSCHOLAR REPOSITORY

In the last few decades, scholars have become keenly aware of the crisis in scholarly communications, whereby publicly funded research is published in high-priced journals and bought back by cash-strapped libraries, often at subscription prices too high for all but the richest institutions. In response to this, libraries and their academic colleagues have taken a number of steps, including two national site licensing projects, CNSLP and CRKN, which have allowed libraries to provide access to more journals – although cost remains a major factor. As well, additional approaches to redefine the scholarly publishing landscape are leading to the development of the *open access* movement.

*Open access* is not only changing how scholarly work is communicated but is also having a positive influence on other things like the impact factor of research. For example, freely available *open access* articles are cited 2-3 times more frequently than those available via traditional subscriptions. These and other efforts are releasing scholarship from behind fee-based walls – ensuring that knowledge is more widely available not just to academics, but also to the broader public. An important aspect in the *open access* movement is the growth of an inter-connected web of institutional repositories which stewards the academic output of individual institutions.

The Robertson Library and the Office of the Vice-President Research & Development jointly launched IslandScholar, the new institutional repository for UPEI on December 2. The well-known repository scholar, Dorothea Salo, was the keynote speaker at this event with presentations as well from Mark Leggott and various UPEI faculty. Initially, this digital repository will contain faculty-deposited publications, with the ability to add theses and research data later. IslandScholar is part of the Library’s innovative Virtual Research Environment (VRE).

### BOOK QUOTES

We invite you to submit your favourite quotations about books to [offtheshelf@upei.ca](mailto:offtheshelf@upei.ca). We will be adding the “best of the best” of these quotes to our walls, study carrels, and pillars – to help fire the imagination, and inspire thought and learning. Cool! ... And we would love to hear from you.

### RELAY FOR LIFE ~ THE DUST JACKETS TEAM

The *Dust Jackets* were among 11 teams at UPEI’s first Relay for Life in October. Chris Bulman, Wendy Collett, Gerry Forsythe, Dawn Hayes, Charlotte Hince, Dawn Hooper, Simon Lloyd, and Dale McClure thank fearless leader (and proud survivor) Peggi Lyriotakis, as well as the fine supporters who made the *Dust Jackets* the #2 fund-raising team, collecting approximately \$3,000 for the Cancer Society. Not to boast, we were also victorious in the Trivia Contest. (Yeah, Team!)

From l. to r. : Dale McClure, Gerry Forsythe, Chris Bulman, Dawn Hooper, Simon Lloyd.



The birth of this department was announced in the premiere issue of *Off the Shelf* (May 2007), and now, after two years of UASC operation, we are happy to offer this short update.

## University Archives

The UASC moniker reflects a renewed emphasis on documenting the institutional memory of UPEI, and its forebears, St. Dunstan's University (SDU) and Prince of Wales College (PWC). This becomes more important and more challenging as the university continues to expand, innovate, and age, and we continue working towards a formalized and coordinated recorded information management (RIM) programme for UPEI.

We continue, as well, to grow our collection of UPEI-related publications, documents, photos, and memorabilia, and to work at making this collection more accessible. We are delighted to announce, for example, the recently-completed digitization of the full 60 years (1909 - 1969) of the SDU magazine, *The Red & White*. We also recently completed, with the UPEI Art Committee, an inventory of artwork on campus which will be available online soon.

## Special Collections

Our main special collection is the PEI Collection, mandated to acquire all Island-related publications, and we are continually adding to the approximately 14,000 book, periodical, and audiovisual titles already in our holdings. This includes a wealth of material from P.E.I.'s most famous author, L. M. Montgomery, and we have shared these riches with hundreds of visitors from around the world during the 2008 Anne centennial.

As with the Archives, digitization is a key part of our efforts to better share the PEI Collection's riches. The Library digitization lab has, for example, recently completed work on a full digital archive of *The Island Magazine* (1976 - present).

Our top priority, of course, is to help you access the treasures on our shelves (and servers), and we are always pleased to assist you, be it in-person or on-line, via e-mail, or over the phone.

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University Archives & Special Collections



l. to r. :  
Simon Lloyd  
and  
Leo Cheverie

## INFORMATION DESK NEWS

Plans are in the air ... or underway ... or in the mix. However it is said, there will be changes in our main lobby sooner rather than later. The Information and Circulation Desks will be undergoing an amalgamation and a coffee shop will be a new addition to our lobby space.

To those who have questions, or need help, please be assured that we are still here! We are just moving across the lobby. You will recognize us - we are the same people that staffed the Information Desk. So, we invite you to visit us at our new location.

The new student-staffed Computer Help service will also move to the Circulation Desk, located between the Reference/Information staff and the Circulation staff. We would like to hear what you think of this new arrangement. Please direct your comments to me.

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Reference & Circulation

