

Off The Shelf

The Newsletter of the
Robertson Library @ UPEI

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BRINGING ISLAND CULTURE TO LIFE

Over the last year, the Library has started building an innovative, new framework to steward the Island's digital record. In general, access to digital information has transformed academic work and learning; increasingly, our community must go online to access the information it needs.

Our new digitization facility will allow us to transform the significant collections we hold, as well as those of other Island institutions, to a digital format. This will include a suite of scanners that will efficiently digitize any document – from large maps to microfilmed newspapers. A unique software system will help to produce digital versions of these artifacts and enhance their delivery to the community.

With this infrastructure in place, we will deliver an increasing amount of P.E.I.'s heritage online to our community. Some current projects are:

- 1) *A Living Archives*: a collaboration with the Department of Education, PARO, Museum and Heritage, Western, Eastern & French School Boards, and Canadian Heritage. *A Living Archives* delivers historical documents and a collaborative authoring environment to grade 7 students who are creating narratives about life on P.E.I. at the turn of the 20th century.
- 2) *IslandVoices*: an effort to digitize the Island's historical newspapers, starting with *The Guardian*. When complete, *IslandVoices* will provide online access to all P.E.I.'s newspapers (up to the 1930s), including fulltext search.
- 3) *IslandLives*: a project to digitize the Island's community histories and transform them into documents that can be updated and enhanced with images and other material. This collaborative effort will work closely with local community groups and facilitate the inclusion of artifacts housed in smaller institutions and held in private hands.

These and future projects will be combined into a single comprehensive effort called *IslandArchives* which will benefit all Islanders and help us tell our story to the world. P.E.I. has a special history and we have a unique opportunity to steward that history for future generations. Feel free to contact me for more information or check our website for updates on these projects in the coming months.

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



LIBRARY SURVEY WINNERS!

Tiffany Myers won a \$200 giftcard to the UPEI Bookstore.



Lori MacRae won a \$200 reduction off her tuition totals.



Anthony James Scott won an 8-GB iPod.

*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
<https://www.upei.ca/~legacy/>*



*To ensure your donation is earmarked for the
Robertson Library,
please identify that target destination.*

CANADA'S COPYRIGHT CONTROVERSY

Canada's *Copyright Act* is nearly a century old, and hasn't been significantly changed for a decade, but some fear Ottawa's plans to update our legislation for the Digital Age are based on the controversial US *Digital Millennium Copyright Act* (DMCA). Touted as an effort to thwart digital piracy of music, software, etc, the DMCA provides for legal and technological restrictions that have been criticized for too strongly favouring the economic interests of copyright owners (including publishers, record labels, and creative folks like authors and musicians – though creators, especially, are divided, with some favouring more restrictive copyright and others less) over the rights of users of copyrighted material (including ... well, everyone). So, when a copyright reform bill finally appeared on the Parliamentary order paper late last year, copyright activists, led by legal scholar Michael Geist,* launched a whirlwind campaign against the bill's rumoured DMCA-like provisions. An issue that typically attracts little public attention is now all over the news, but the government has offered no details on their copyright plans. Though the bill has since been withdrawn, sight unseen, the furore and speculation continue.

Because so much of what our Library does involves the sharing of copyrighted material, we are watching this issue carefully, and encourage you to do likewise. Please visit our Web site for more information and updates.

Simon Lloyd (902-566-0536 or slloyd@upei.ca)
Archives and Special Collections

(* Michael Geist will be a speaker at the upcoming APLA Conference in May.)

COLLECTIONS UPDATE

The Robertson Library has recently added two scholarly digital resources to its collection: the *Eighteenth Century Collections Online* and *The Times Digital Archive, 1785-1985*. These resources make hard-to-find material in every academic discipline more readily available to researchers.

The *Eighteenth Century Collections Online* (ECCO) includes 150,000 printed volumes equaling a total of over 26 million pages. It is based on the *English Short Title Catalogue* bibliography which contains every significant title published in the United Kingdom as well as thousands of important works from the Americas. *The Times Digital Archive, 1785-1985* contains every page as it was published over a period of two hundred years. Known as the "world's newspaper of record," *The Times* covers all major international events from the French Revolution to the Falklands War. The addition of this archive makes three of the great English language newspapers available online at the Robertson Library. The Library also has access to the *Globe and Mail* from 1844 to 2003 and the *New York Times* from 1851-1922 and from 1987 to the present.

Norine Hanus (902-566-0479 or nhanus@upei.ca)

LIVE CHAT WINNERS

Winners of \$20.00 photocopy cards on behalf of the Library's
LiveChat promotional draw were:

Shannon Nicholson and Ashley Johnston

NEW SIGNATURE EVENTS

The Robertson Library will be hosting the Red Island Respository Institute on August 11th-15th. This will be a 5 day hands-on course shepherded by Fedora gurus such as Sandy Payette (Fedora Commons Executive Director), Richard Green (Manager, RIDIR, REMAP and RepoMMan Projects, e-SIG, Academic Services, University of Hull), and Matt Zumwalt (MediaShelf). All those interested in planning or running repository programmes are invited to attend. For more information, go to: <http://vre.upei.ca/riri/>

On August 18th-22nd, The L. M. Montgomery Institute (LMMI) will be hosting SeaWords Creative Writing workshop at Shaw's Hotel, Brackley Beach. Inspiration and instruction will be provided by some of Canada's leading literary talents: Anne Simpson, Anne-Marie MacDonald, and Jackie Kaiser. For more information, go to: <http://vre.upei.ca/seawords/>



Book Quotes

We invite and encourage you to submit your favourite quotations about books to 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!

PRESENTATION TRAVEL

May

Mark Leggott will present at the 2008 Atlantic Provinces Library Association (APLA) Conference on the Atlantic Scholarly Information Network (ASIN) on May 8th and the Robertson Library’s Virtual Research Environment (VRE) on May 10th.

Betty Jeffery will be presenting at two conferences in May. On May 9th, at APLA, she will speak on *Revealing the Library Within a Course Management System*, and on May 15th in Kelowna, BC, her presentation at Workshop on Instruction in Library Use (WILU) is entitled *Decanting the Library Within a Course Management System*.

On May 28th and 29th, Dawn Hooper and Betty Jeffery will be presenting a Poster Session at the Canadian Health Libraries Association Conference in Halifax, entitled *Promoting Academic Library Resources Within a Course Management System: Partnering With Faculty*. At the same conference, Mark Leggott will be presenting *Supporting Research Environments in Health*.

June

Mark Leggott will be presenting the keynote address in Austin, TX, on June 5th, at the Texas Conference on Digital Libraries.

At the Canadian Learning Commons Conference (Fredericton, NB), Mark Leggott will be presenting *The Virtual Learning Commons in Your Future* on June 10th.



On February 15th, 2008

The Library’s debut of its *Celebrating The Book* series got off to a good start with speakers (l-r)

James Moran (History), Malcolm Murray (Philosophy), and Lisa Chilton (History).

BRIEF SUMMARY OF CAMPUS RESPONSES FROM LIBRARY’S SURVEY

A big thank-you to the 937 respondents who participated in our library survey – with 770 undergraduates, 65 graduate students, 52 faculty, and 50 campus staff completing the survey!

One much noted concern is the level of noise experienced by patrons in the Library. We will be addressing this issue and asking for everyone’s help and assistance. (So ... are *you* noisy??) The physical library space was identified as needing attention and updating and was expressed in requests for more (and sound-proofed) single and group study rooms; more comfortable, quiet, and inviting surroundings; and consistent temperature levels throughout the building.

For the entire campus community, there were significant concerns around the Library’s provision of, and access to, scholarly resources – both in print and electronic format. These concerns especially resonated with faculty and graduate students, who felt that existing resources were not sufficient for their teaching and research needs.

Field), we need to improve our interactions with you and aim for more consistency in our services, knowledge, and approachability.

Library operating hours remain an issue – somewhat for undergraduates, but much more so for graduate students. Extending Friday evening hours was an oft-mentioned specific request.

So, we look forward to making changes which will improve Library services for you. And it doesn’t require a survey process to make improvement suggestions. Contact any of us directly or click on the **Suggestions** link on our Library website (www.upei.ca/library) at any time!

More details to follow as data are received and analyzed.

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

Cataloguing: the catch-all word for 1) describing an item, 2) giving it a unique address (classification number) and 3) providing subject access. These are three essential components. The Library catalogue, then, is a structure wherein one organizes a vast ocean of knowledge in order that titles with like subjects can be found. The catalogue is evidence of the collective scholarship of libraries and librarians – a pre-digital age “wiki.” It is a work of many hands and many minds going back generations.

Cataloguing provides access to, and description of, content as does metadata, a term largely used to define a cataloguing-type activity for digital repositories. The Cataloguing and Metadata Unit handles both print and virtual bibliographic items. As well as using existing cataloguing records for the hundreds of new books that are added to the Library’s collections each month, this Unit also creates the cataloguing information for items for which there is no record available anywhere else. At the Robertson Library, the material in the Prince Edward Island Collection primarily falls into this category.

The P. E. I. Collection contains works, both current and historical, by Islanders and about the Island. Its subject is Prince Edward Island and the names that are in the catalogue are Island names. There are works by Macdonalds and works about MacDonalds. There are government reports that date back over the centuries and current reports about environmental and industrial aspects of the Island. It documents all aspects of the Island in its community and church histories, biographies and the like. Names on the title page can change with each



publication authored by someone, or there can be two or three names that are the same. For example, in our catalogue there are two name entries for Alexander Campbell. The first was a writer of touring books in the 19th century while the second was Premier of Prince Edward Island (mid-1960s - late 1970s), whose government brought in the Comprehensive Development Plan that touched the lives of every Islander. There are documents by him and about him. There are speeches by him and there are numerous reports in magazines. In the texts of these works, his name appears as Alex B. Campbell, A. B. Campbell, Alexander B. Campbell, Alexander Bradshaw Campbell and other variations. The crucial role this Unit plays is to establish one consistent form of name as the authority or “authorized entry” and use it in all records. In like manner, consistent subject headings unify like materials by using a controlled vocabulary.

Our rare books also need special attention. They require more detail in the record because of either provenance or scarcity of edition or printing. First editions, items signed by the author or signed by someone of prominence either as a gift or as part of this person’s own library, should have notes and added names in order to highlight a particular edition or copy -- to enhance access points for researchers.

Louise Mould (902-566-0581 or lmould@upe.ca)

TRIPPING OVER YOUR TONGUE

“... [S]peaking is one of the most complicated human activities that we do, at any age. ... [W]hy aren’t we better equipped to put units of language in the right order? The problem is that sounds, words, and grammatical items aren’t arranged in our brains as though on a library’s shelves, with all the items ordered and catalogued by topics and authors. Rather, they’re associated with one another in a matrix or a web. Some of these connections relate to the meanings of words; others relate to the sounds of those words.”

from: Michael Erard. *Um...Slips, Stumbles, and Verbal Blunders, and What They Mean*. (New York: Pantheon Books, 2007)

