

## **Yellowhead Regional Library p. 5**



## **Plus:**

**IF on the Net: Quick Hits from LAA's  
Intellectual Freedom Committee**

**Taking the Library to the People**

**Graphic Novels Attract Teens into  
City Libraries**

**The COOLing of Books: Making the  
Library Attractive and Relevant to Teens**

**Open Access: Basics and Benefits**

**Girls AND Boys Equally Interested  
in Reading**

**ACLU Challenges Hawaii Law Allowing  
Ban on Visiting Public Places**

**Radical Librarian Believes  
"Information Wants to be Free"**

## LIBRARY ASSOCIATION OF ALBERTA

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# PEOPLE P PEOPLE P PEOPLE

The Library and Information Studies Alumni Association is pleased to announce that **Marnie Swanson** is the recipient of the 2004 LISAA Distinguished Alumni Award. Ms. Swanson was a graduate of the first year of the University of Alberta's library studies program (then a Bachelor's degree) and has served as the University Librarian at the University of Victoria since 1988. She is past president of CLA, and has devoted over three decades of her time, energy, and considerable expertise to the library community. Some of her past and present endeavours include the Directorship of the Canadian Association of Special Libraries and Information Services, the Presidency of the Canadian Association of Research Libraries, and a membership on the Board of Directors of the Canadian Research Knowledge Network. LISAA is honoured to present the award to such a deserving recipient.

The Canadian School Library Association is Pleased To Announce **Lois Barranoik** as the 2004 Recipient of the CSLA/National Book Service's Teacher-Librarian Of The Year Award. Lois has contributed to the development of school library programs through her work in many professional roles—as a teacher, as a teacher-librarian, as a school district consultant, as a school library educator, as a researcher, and as a conference and workshop presenter.

**Christine Brown** has taken a one year position as Circulation Supervisor in the University of Alberta's Rutherford Library.

**Wendy Sears Ilnicki** is now Bibliographic Services Manager at Yellowhead Regional Library.

*The School of Library and Information Studies is proud to announce that so far this year, their students and graduates have been awarded 43 scholarships and awards, 15 academic prizes and honours, and 21 travel awards. Among them are:*

**H.W. WILSON Scholarship**  
Canadian Library Association  
Kenneth Gariepy

**JEANTHORUNNLAW Scholarship**  
Manitoba Library Association  
Joycelyn Jaca

**LIBRARY AND INFORMATION STUDIES ALUMNI ASSOCIATION Scholarship**  
CJ de Jong  
Cameron Hoffman

**LIBRARY ASSOCIATION OF ALBERTA Scholarship**  
Kenneth Gariepy

**NATIONAL ABORIGINAL ACHIEVEMENT FOUNDATION Scholarship Program**  
Kenneth Gariepy

## **ALBERTA'S 100th!!!**

Let us know what you're doing to celebrate Alberta's history and commemorate the Centennial at your library. Contact Lindsay Johnston at [lindsay.johnston@ualberta.ca](mailto:lindsay.johnston@ualberta.ca).

*This year marks the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the NEOS Library Consortium. An event in celebration will be held on November 19. Her Honour Lois Hole, Lieutenant Governor of Alberta, has graciously accepted our invitation to attend. Please watch the Jerome-L list or check the NEOS website at <[www.neoslibraries.ca](http://www.neoslibraries.ca)> for details. NEOS will also be holding a Collections Workshop on November 24. The NEOS office has relocated to Cameron Library in recognition of its new relationship with the University of Alberta Libraries.*



***Award of  
Excellence  
in Library  
Service***

**Call for Nominations**

*Intent* P To recognize excellence in service, program or public relations/advocacy achievement in library service in Alberta

*Eligibility* P Individuals or institutions

*Criteria* P must benefit clientele  
P must enhance library operation  
P must meet its stated goals and objectives

*Procedures* P Nominations must include:  
P name of service or program  
P purpose of service or program  
P description of activity  
P contribution to library operation  
P photographs, if applicable  
P other supporting documentation  
P letter of support

*Deadline* P January 31, 2005

*Please send your nomination to:* Award of Excellence  
80 Baker Cres. NW  
Calgary, AB  
T2L 1R4

# FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK



Pam Ryan  
President, 2004/05

Hello LAA  
Members.

Our Fall Board meeting is taking place after this issue's editorial deadline so in lieu of an update on meeting issues, I'll take this

opportunity to highlight a few LAA initiatives and member services currently underway.

LAA is pleased to feature **Yellowhead Regional Library** (YRL) on the cover of this *Letter of the LAA* issue in celebration of their system completion. With the addition of the Town of Devon, the final municipality with a library board in their region has become a member of YRL. Read on in this issue for an update from YRL Director Clive Maishment on the celebration activities.

Interested in having your library on an upcoming issue cover? It's easy! Contact Christine Sheppard with your ideas!

Does the autumn buzz make you think about going Back to School? Investigate the convenient and affordable on-line and teleconference learning opportunities offered through **LAA's partnership** in the new **BCLA-LAA-OLA-SLA Education Institute**. A sample of upcoming course topics include: Getting Started on Weblogs and RSS, US and International Government Information on the Web: A Primer for Canadians, Choosing and Using Business and Investment-related Web Resources, Choosing and Using Web Resources for Teens, and Beyond Google: Searching Faster and Smarter on the Web. Visit [www.thepartnership.ca/calendar.html](http://www.thepartnership.ca/calendar.html) for more information. LAA members are also eligible to apply for LAA Continuing Education grants to off-set course registration costs.

Along with Donna Phillips (ALTA) and Irene Masciuch (LRC), I am serving as this year's Alberta Library Conference Co-Chair. The response we received from the Alberta library community to the *ALC 2005* call for proposals was just super and we're looking forward to a great program in our biennial welcoming of Learning Resources Council members to the conference. Our 2005 conference theme is **Alberta Libraries: Celebrating our Past, Embracing our Future**. It recognizes the 2005 Alberta Centennial celebration and the role that

libraries have played in our province's history while looking forward with enthusiasm to the future of library service in Alberta.

Joining us in Jasper are our confirmed keynote speakers: Lawrence Lessig and **Susan Aglukark**. Friday keynote, Susan Aglukark, is one of Canada's most unique artists. She blends the Inuktitut and English languages with contemporary music arrangements to tell the stories of her people, the Inuit of Arctic Canada. Maclean's magazine named her one of "100 Canadians to Watch". Saturday keynote, **Lawrence Lessig**, is a Professor of Law at Stanford Law School and founder of the school's Center for Internet and Society. He is the author of *Free Culture*, *The Future of Ideas* and *Code and Other Laws of Cyberspace*. He is creator and chairman of the Creative Commons project and was named one of *Scientific American's* Top 50 Visionaries. Watch the LAA website for the launch of the 2005 ALC conference web site!

Also now available on the LAA website as well as in a flyer insert in this issue is product and purchase information for our 2005 calendar project: **Writers on the Wall**. This high-quality calendar, begun as a *Boys and Literacy* advocacy initiative, features popular Canadian Young Adult authors and their work. Significant discounts are available for multiple-copy orders. While less racy? headline-grabbing? than our 2004 calendar offering, we're pleased to partner with OLA, BCLA, and SLA in the sales and marketing of this product.

Special thanks goes out to Punch Jackson for acting as Captain for our national "**Librarians Run for the Cure**" Team. Forty-nine team members participated in the October 3rd walk/run for the Canadian Breast Cancer Foundation. It was a great event!

And, with much thanks to project Chair, Rachel Sargeant-Jenkins (LAA Treasurer) and Christine Sheppard (LAA Executive Director), our Department of Children's Services-funded "**Parenting Resources @yourlibrary**" project is well underway and expected to be complete by year end. See Rachel's project update in this issue for more information.

As a final note, now is the time to start thinking about running for a position on next year's LAA Board. The nomination form and position descriptions are inserted in this issue. If participating on the Board isn't on your list of 2005 LAA member activities, I encourage you to contribute to the *Letter of LAA*. Write about what is going on in your library or share your expertise and opinion on library-related issues. Take the opportunity to let the rest of the Alberta library community know what you've been up to. Share your stories!



### **Librarians Run for the Cure**

*We had 49 people run, walk or amble in the event. There were people from five provinces and we raised \$3,300. We had people running from Brampton, Calgary, Lethbridge, Claresholm (and other points in southern Alberta), Edmonton, Halifax, Kitchener/Waterloo, London Ont, Ottawa-Gatineau, PEI, Saint John NB, and Toronto. Alberta won the "Run for the Cure Challenge Cup" for 2004 – to be awarded at CLA 2005. It was a great start to what I hope will become a tradition. A time to reflect on colleagues that didn't make it; a time to celebrate all those survivor colleagues wearing pink shirts and a time to contribute a few hours and a few dollars to the fight for a cure. I look forward to the 2005 Run for the Cure with every province and territory participating.*

*-- Team Captain Punch Jackson*



*"I want to congratulate librarians, not famous for their physical strength or their powerful political connections or their great wealth, who, all over this country, have staunchly resisted anti-democratic bullies who have tried to remove certain books from their shelves, and have refused to reveal to thought police the names of persons who have checked out those titles.*

*So the America I loved still exists, if not in the White House or the Supreme Court or the Senate or the House of Representatives or the media. The America I love still exists at the front desks of our public libraries."*

*-- Kurt Vonnegut*

# YRL Celebrates System Completion

Yellowhead Regional Library (YRL) officially celebrated the joining of the Town of Devon and Devon Public Library on September 18, 2004. This is a doubly auspicious event for YRL; not only does the joining of the town of Devon add another member to YRL, it is the last municipality in the region with a library board to become a member of YRL.

As of September 2004, YRL serves 40 municipalities, 45 public libraries (including Devon), 32 municipal library boards, 62 school library service points, and 5 school boards.

In attendance at our "System Completion Celebration" on September 18th, 2004 held at the YRL Headquarters in Spruce Grove, Alberta, were the Honorable Gene Zwozdesky, Minister of Community Development, Doug Horner, MLA for Spruce Grove-Sturgeon-St. Albert, civic and school officials, past and present YRL Board members and Board Chairs and staff from a number of YRL member libraries.

The event began with an official welcome and introductory speech by YRL Board member Derril Butler (Reeve of Lac. Ste. Anne County) in which he traced the history of YRL prior to School Board regionalization and the resultant need to restructure the system. Mr. Butler concluded his speech by introducing the theme of the event: 'the YRL book is now complete, but the story continues'.

Maureen Wilcox, current YRL Board Chair, spoke next about the impact of school board regionalization and how this forced YRL to restructure in 1997-1998, as well as other major events in YRL history to date. The Minister was introduced and gave a speech that concluded with a special surprise presentation of books for the Devon Public Library and YRL. The Mayor of Devon added his public commendation. A cake cutting ceremony as well as a ceremony to add the last pages to the YRL book, pages featuring Devon Public Library, followed. The Minister was given a special tour of the building and given presentations by each YRL department while the rest of the guests enjoyed food and beverages and visited.

There have been many exciting episodes in the YRL story to date. In fact, on two separate occasions the YRL story almost ended. Harvey Treleaven has explained, at one time near the beginning of its existence YRL was on the verge of folding due to lack of funding. He was appointed by the YRL Board as a one-man-committee to go to the Minister and "cry for money" so that YRL could continue to exist. The Minister at the time (the Honorable Horst Schmidt) cut through his speech and asked "You're here for money, aren't you?", adding "How much do you need?" Treleaven answered "\$9,000.00", and the



*Left to right: Clive Maishment, Director of YRL, Derril Butler, YRL Board Member, M.C. of the event and Reeve of Lac Ste. Anne County (in back), Doug Horner, MLA of Spruce Grove-Sturgeon-St. Albert, Bob McDonald, Mayor of Devon, Maureen Wilcox, YRL Board Chair and representative of Northern Gateway R.D, The Honourable Gene Zwozdesky, Minister of Community Development.*

Minister said "You've got it". If only it was that easy all the time, and only took \$9,000.00 to keep the YRL going today!

Later, during the restructuring phase from January 1997 to May 1998, YRL's existence was threatened again. 'We almost didn't make it' was the comment echoed by many in attendance, especially Debbie Mardy, the YRL Board Chair at the time. Maureen Wilcox referred to the re-structuring process in her speech, a process that was needed as an unanticipated result of the regionalization of the school boards. Wilcox included reference to a very effective presentation that was given during this time of restructuring that used a coffee can, representing Yellowhead Regional Library, jars of varying sizes representing municipalities and school boards of different populations, candies representing services, and peanuts representing the costs involved. She also commented on Community Development staff's remarkable patience and respect for YRL's desire to keep our successful partnership between schools and public libraries alive.

Automating library services has added a new chapter to the YRL story. The creation of the TRAC (The Regional Automation Consortium) partnership among Northern Lights Library System, Marigold Library System, and YRL in 1999 was a milestone achievement in terms of sharing technology and streamlining resource sharing and providing collaborative technical services. In 2004 TRAC was proud to gain another partner, Peace Library System. As of September 15, 2004, the 4 TRAC partners share amongst them 764, 969 titles and almost 3 million

items (2,848,108 items) using the Dynix integrated library software system housed at the YRL headquarters.

What will happen next in the story of YRL? Supernet is expected to bring new challenges and opportunities to enhance library services and YRL services. However, a salient point about YRL's future made by Maureen Wilcox in her speech of September 18 is that "advanced technology is not the point. The point is to provide a service to people in our communities, to provide the human touch and to help preserve a sense of community", adding that "we are so very pleased that, with Devon on board, we will face this future as a completed system".

### Historical Highlights

- 1971 - YRL began operations
- On March 10, 1971, the Town of Spruce Grove offered to supply land free of charge for the new Yellowhead Regional Library headquarters.
- Interlibrary loan was introduced in 1974.
- The 80s was a period of steady growth. On December 16, 1988, a provincial capital grant of \$1,461,500.00 was received to fund building a new building for the YRL Headquarters.
- The 90's were difficult because of funding issues for libraries.
- In 1996, YRL celebrated its 25th anniversary.
- Restructuring of the membership model took place between January 1997 to May 1998.
- In 1999, TRAC (The Regional Automation Consortium) was formed by agreement between Marigold Library System, Northern Lights Library System and Yellowhead Regional Library. It was agreed that the server used to house the jointly purchased integrated library software system (Dynix) would be located and managed at YRL Headquarters.
- In spring of 2004, Peace Library System joined TRAC and their records were successfully merged onto the TRAC Dynix database.
- September 18, 2004 was the official date of celebrating the joining of the Town of Devon; this signals system completion for YRL in the sense that all municipalities with a library board within our geographic area have now joined.

### From the archives:

- YRL has been actively defending intellectual freedom since its inception. As noted in the minutes of Oct. 15, 1971, "It was stated that the Librarian should discourage censorship of material at the local level, other than on literary merit."

- Oct. 15, 1971, 'Report of the Librarian' (Ernest W. Redmond) included this comment: "I request the Board's permission to appoint a part-time van driver for the difficult part of the winter ahead. Already we have had problems with mud, and the snow and ice may prove difficult for Mrs. Kerestes. I have included \$600.00 in the Budget under 'other salaries' should the need arise for an experienced male driver."
- Oct. 15, 1971, "Report of the Librarian" (Ernest W. Redmond): "I hesitate to suggest that the average book can cost less than \$4.00. If we are to provide the best possible material (at the best price) we cannot look at a figure of less than \$4.00." In comparison, in 2003 the average cost of reference titles, regular hardcover and paperbacks the price was about \$21.00.
- In 1975 a total of 121 items were loaned within the YRL system. In comparison, in 2003 YRL members lent a total of 317,710 items to other members of TRAC.
- In 1971 a total of 11,700 books were handled by headquarters staff. In comparison, in 2003 a total of 44,701 books and related materials were handled by YRL headquarter staff.
- In 1971 the YRL funding formula was \$1.00 per capita, based on 80,000 citizens within the 5 original counties represented, with the provincial government adding another 75 cents per capita, bringing the total operating budget to approximately \$140,000. In comparison, in 2003 member municipalities contributed \$3.00 per capita and school boards contributed \$11.85 per student. With the addition of the annual operating grant through Alberta Community Development YRL's budget was approximately \$1.7 Million.
- The Spruce Grove Star, October 9, 1971, reported that computerized catalogue service was introduced for all 90 libraries in YRL. In comparison, 44 YRL public libraries and a total of 149 libraries in Alberta are 'live' on TRAC's Dynix database. That's 51 more branches than Toronto Public library (TPL has 98 branches) and 64 more branches than the New York Public Library (NYPL has 85 branches).
- In 1971 YRL served 18 public libraries service points, and 64 school libraries; the total population served was 65,183. In comparison, as of September 2004, YRL serves 40 municipalities, 45 public library service points (including our newest member, Devon Public), and 62 schools. The population served is 221,761 people and 16,832 students.



## Yellowhead Regional Library: Then and Now

Now that the YRL System Completion Celebration on September 18, 2004 to welcome Devon to YRL officially and commemorate the joining of the last municipality in the YRL area with a Library Board to YRL is done, it is timely to pause and reflect on how far YRL has come since it began operations in 1971.

Yellowhead Region Library Board held its first meeting on February 4, 1971. Elizabeth Howery chaired a 12 person Board. The original Board members represented 5 counties: Wetaskiwin, Leduc, Barrhead, Lac Ste. Anne and Parkland. From the very beginning school libraries were included in services. At the time the concept of regional library service was relatively new. The funding formula was \$1.00 per capita, based on 80,000 citizens within the 5 original counties represented, with the provincial government adding another 75 cents per capita, bringing the total operating budget to approximately \$140,000. The first decisions of the YRL Board included hiring a librarian, an assistant, clerical staff and buying a delivery truck.

As reported in *The Reporter* on Tuesday February 9, 1971, the benefits of regional library membership were reported as a way to give better, more economical service to both schools and public libraries, attract larger provincial grants, purchase and process library materials

economically, provide a wider selection of newer titles, and to put the rural resident on equal footing with his urban counterpart. Over time, the ways in which these benefits have been realized has changed and expanded. In addition to services that provide a more economical way of purchasing and processing and otherwise providing (e.g. through allotments and circulating blocks) a greater number of library materials than could be obtained by members independently, YRL now offers children's programming services, training and development, as well as automated library system software support for all members of YRL and TRAC.

A fitting summary of how far YRL has come can be found in an email to Clive Maishment, Director of YRL, on Sunday Sept. 12 from the first Board Chair of YRL, Elizabeth P. Bailey (nee Howery) in which she said:

"[w]hen we originally worked to establish the Yellowhead Regional Library who could have foreseen the wonderful success that your organization has been able to achieve over the ensuing years. We look with amazement on all of your current members, and now the addition of Devon. This growth and expanding service has resulted from the hard ongoing work of many over the years. We expect the library to continue serving your communities far into the future!"



*Left to right: Doug Horner, MLA of Spruce Grove-Sturgeon-St. Albert, The Honourable Gene Zwozdesky, Minister of Community Development; Maureen Wilcox, YRL Board Chair and representative of Northern Gateway R.D., Bob McDonald, Mayor of Devon, Audrey Benjamin, Librarian of Devon Public Library, Barry Fildes, Vice-Chair of the Devon Public Library Board.*

# ASSOCIATION NEWS

## Parenting Resources @ your library

*Rachel Sarjeant-Jenkins*  
*Parenting Resources Committee Chair*

The Library Association of Alberta received a grant from Alberta Children's Services to select and distribute a set of parenting and child development resources to every public library in Alberta. LAA established a committee to coordinate the project and select the resources. The committee held one in-person meeting in July to set a timeline for the project, determine individual areas of responsibility, and establish criteria for resource selection. Since that time committee members have been researching titles and analysing the resulting lists to come up with a resource list.

The selection work is now done. Acquisition and distribution have been contracted with Marigold Library System. Public libraries in Alberta can look forward to receiving a collection of over 40 parenting and child development resources by the end of 2004!

Many thanks for all the work done by members of the committee: Joye Hardman (Calgary Public Library), Debbie Feisst (Edmonton Public Library), Renee Reaume (Marigold Library System), Chris Burkholder (Fairview Public Library), Yvonne Slemko (Trustee, Onoway Village and Yellowhead Regional Library System), Christine Sheppard (LAA, Executive Director).

## LAA Membership Directory Available Online

In order to provide the most up-to-date information and to allow for easy access, the 2004 LAA Membership Directory will be available in the Members Only section of our website at <<http://www.laa.ab.ca>> after November 15. We will no longer be printing a hard copy of the Directory.

To access this section of the website, your username is your last name and your password is your membership number (printed on your membership card). If you are unsure of your membership number or if your last name has changed over the past year, please contact [christine.sheppard@shaw.ca](mailto:christine.sheppard@shaw.ca).

## Continuing Education Calendar

**September 15th, 2004** was the fall deadline for Continuing Education Grant applications. Thanks to everyone who applied!

**February 2005, Edmonton:** Session on FISH! with Margaret LaRiviere. Watch for details!!

**February 15th, 2005:** Next deadline for Continuing Education Grant applications.

For more information and forms, please see - [http://www.laa.ab.ca/continuing\\_education/education\\_grants.cfm](http://www.laa.ab.ca/continuing_education/education_grants.cfm)

**May 31st, 2005:** Application deadline for 2005-2006 LAA Scholarship

***Congratulations to Kenneth D. Gariepy, recipient of the 2004-2005 LAA Scholarship!!***

Dear LAA,

Now that I've settled into the first term of my MLIS programme at the University of Alberta, I'd like to thank you and the members of the Continuing Education Committee again for awarding me the 2004/05 LAA Scholarship. Having the moral and financial support of the Association is a great honour.

I was also happy to meet some of the members of the LAA Board of Directors over lunch at the School of Library and Information Studies and very much appreciated the invitation to do so.

Yours truly,  
Kenneth D. Gariepy  
MLIS Candidate  
School of Library and Information  
Studies  
University of Alberta

## IF on the Net: Quick Hits from LAA's Intellectual Freedom Committee

**The OpenNet Initiative** at <http://www.opennetinitiative.net> sheds some much needed light on Internet censorship and surveillance as it happens around the globe. The project is the result of partnerships between institutions like Harvard Law School, University of Cambridge and Canada's University of Toronto. "*The ONI mission is to investigate and challenge state filtration and surveillance practices. Our approach applies methodological rigor to the study of filtration and surveillance blending empirical case studies with sophisticated means for technical verification. Our aim is to generate a credible picture of these practices at a national, regional and corporate level, and to excavate their impact on state sovereignty, security, human rights, international law, and global governance.*" Sign up for their news bulletins to stay current with the project.

More information on world censorship can be found at **Human Rights Watch (HRW)** <http://www.hrw.org/>. Sections of the site related to **academic freedom** <http://www.hrw.org/advocacy/academic/index.htm>, **free expression on the Internet** <http://www.hrw.org/advocacy/internet/index.htm> and **press freedom** [http://hrw.org/doc/?t=press\\_freedom](http://hrw.org/doc/?t=press_freedom) are excellent starting points for educating ourselves about the challenges faced by people around the world.

Closer to home, the website of **Canada's Book and Periodical Council (BCP)** <http://www.bookandperiodicalcouncil.ca/> is one of the best one-stop shops when it comes to finding information about censorship and Canada. **The Freedom of Expression Committee** [http://www.freedomtoread.ca/who\\_we\\_are/index.asp](http://www.freedomtoread.ca/who_we_are/index.asp) is a committee of the BCP, monitoring censorship issues across Canada, and organizing the annual **Freedom to Read Week** <http://www.freedomtoread.ca/default.asp>. An excellent

intellectual freedom information kit is created each year – a worthy resource for helping to plan events in your local communities.

Fresh off the press is the **Fall 2004 list of Banned Books** <http://www.ala.org/ala/oif/bannedbooksweek/bannedbooks.pdf> from the Independent booksellers with **Book Sense** <http://www.booksense.com/>, created in preparation for the American celebration of Banned Books Week. Does your public library offer all of the titles? For more information, check out the **American Booksellers Foundation for Free Expression** <http://www.abffe.com/>.

Have you read the journal **Information for Social Change** <http://www.libr.org/ISC/TOC.html>? It is one of several interesting links located on the **Libr.org** site <http://www.libr.org/>. "Libr.org exists to provide communication services to librarians and library workers, individually and in groups, who believe in libraries as a social good and as an ideal pattern for the exchange of knowledge and ideas, and who wish to promote progressive thought and action and a concept of social responsibility within the library world and in the world at large." Other resources hosted on the Libr.org site are the biweekly online magazine **Library Juice** <http://www.libr.org/Juice/> and the digital home for **ALA's Social Responsibility Round Table (SRRT)**, <http://www.libr.org/SRRT/> just to name a few.

The Intellectual Freedom column will be a regular feature of the Letter of the LAA. The 2004/05 committee members are: Jody Crilly, Chris Hammond-Thrasher, Steven Joyce, Karen Labuik, Toni Samek, Maggie Shane, Mike Perry, and Geoff Harder (Chair). Please forward any links or suggestions for future columns to: [geoffrey.harder@ualberta.ca](mailto:geoffrey.harder@ualberta.ca).

The following books were the most frequently challenged in 2003:

Alice series, for sexual content, using offensive language, and being unsuited to age group.  
Harry Potter series, for its focus on wizardry and magic.  
"Of Mice and Men" by John Steinbeck, for using offensive language.  
"Arming America: The Origins of a National Gun Culture" by Michael A. Bellesiles, for inaccuracy.

"Fallen Angels" by Walter Dean Myers, for racism, sexual content, offensive language, drugs and violence.

"Go Ask Alice" by Anonymous, for drugs.

"It's Perfectly Normal" by Robie Harris, for homosexuality, nudity, sexual content and sex education.

"We All Fall Down" by Robert Cormier, for offensive language and sexual content.

"King and King" by Linda de Haan, for homosexuality.

"Bridge to Terabithia" by Katherine Paterson, for offensive language and occult/satanism.

# AROUND THE PROVINCE

## Taking the Library to the People

*Peggy McKenzie  
Olds College Library*

There is an old saying that goes, "You can lead a horse to water, but you can't make him drink." A little known addendum to that is, "but if you force him to have a taste, you'll be off to the races."

This occurred to me this summer as I was pondering the low usage statistics on our databases. I knew that if our faculty and students would just "taste the water", they would be impressed enough with the easy access to a wealth of information we have available to them from their desktops, to use it on a regular basis.

The addition of new databases from TAL, to our collection, has given rise to an ideal opportunity for our Library to approach campus staff to introduce, or re-introduce, Library services.

I have contacted faculty and staff as they have arrived back from their summer vacations with an invitation to visit them in their offices and show them "our stuff". Upon arrival, the first thing I did was to set up a direct link on their desktops that, after the visit, they could use to quickly access our Library Webpage. I then opened it

up, and showed them how to use it to directly access our NEOS catalogue, request items, check their accounts, and view what has been put aside on the reserve shelves. Next I took them into our database collection and showed them what types of databases are available, how to search them, pull up full text, and request articles. I followed this with a quick tour of other links we have set up for all staff and students to useful web resources and tools.

I concluded each visit by outlining the Information Literacy classes we offer for students and extended an invitation to them to schedule their classes in for one or more session.

The response has been very positive. Most said they had not had time to explore on their own and were very excited about the easy availability and scope of these resources. Some suggested other staff they felt I should visit and others set up times for me to orientate their department as a whole. It has also been a great opportunity to promote our services to those who do not normally use the Library. We have already seen signs that our services are being used by some who hadn't used them in the past. So I guess you really can make a horse drink that water!

## Strategic Alliance for Library Advocacy (SALA)

*TAL Tales  
October/November 2004*

The Strategic Alliance for Library Advocacy is comprised of five of the library organizations in Alberta with province-wide mandates: AACL, AALT, ALTA, LAA and TAL. An invitation to participate has also been extended to the Learning Resources Council, which includes school library staff.

Current representatives on SALA are: Rowena Lunn, Chair, TAL, Judy Moore, LAA, Shaunna Mireau, AALT, Donna Campbell, ALTA, Nora Robinson, AACL. TAL provides staff support to SALA: Lucy Pana, TAL Executive Director, is an ex officio member and Sharon Hawrelak, Communications Director, is the staff liaison, while the Meetings Coordinator provides administrative support. Each organization supports its own representative's participation: time, travel costs, etc.

In its first year, SALA has held four meetings and two teleconferences. Another meeting is scheduled in December.

Besides finalizing its mandate statement and procedures, SALA has spearheaded an initiative on BSE and government information (check out *Hot Topics in the News* at [www.visityourlibrary.net](http://www.visityourlibrary.net), led Library Week in Alberta, participated in a focus group facilitated by KPMG for the APLEN Environmental Scan and much more.

SALA is another exemplary example of how well the library community in Alberta works together for the betterment of libraries and more coordinated advocacy on behalf of library staff, boards, services and programs across the province.

# Graphic Novels Attract Teens Into City Libraries

Eva Ferguson

"Calgary Herald"

Sunday, September 26, 2004

For most teens these days, social lives, school work and competitive sports all take priority over recreational reading. But a mini-craze is sweeping local libraries, drawing more teens to a unique book genre -- and they probably don't even know that it's good for them.

Graphic novels -- books that look like a novel on the outside but are filled with comics, colourful animation and balloons of dialogue on the inside -- are filling shelves in city libraries. And more teens are coming to sign them out.

"They're a very big trend right now," says Jean Ludlam, manager of youth services at the W.R. Castell public library branch downtown [Calgary].

"And it's really important to find things for teens to read because so many of them tend to drop off, and turn away from reading at that point in their lives."

Ludlam estimates the public library has increased its city-wide inventory of graphic novels by about 4,250 titles over the past few years, stressing that their popularity stems from the bright animation and the action-oriented storyline.

"That in particular appeals to boys, who in general, are hard enough as it is to get into reading. So we need to offer them what they want through these novels -- the fantasy, the superheroes, the action. Many boys aren't attracted by the feelings and emotions you find in a lot of novels. They are engaged in a different way, through action."

The comic book structure, which follows a story frame-by-frame, also slows the story down for readers who may enjoy a less challenging, less narrative book.

Ludlam, who has worked in libraries for more than 25 years, is thrilled because graphic novels are finally bringing a teen audience back to reading at a time when the written word is more important than ever.

"In order to participate well in a democratic society, we have to be literate. We have to be able to think in a critical way. And any information that has any depth comes to us in literature, not 30-second sound bites."

Ludlam adds that Canadians in particular, have a unique culture based on stories of their land and the independence and courage it took to thrive in its harshness.



CREDIT: Dean Bicknell, Calgary Herald  
Jean Ludlam shows some of the new-style books that are encouraging young people to read.

"Stories are our fundamental way of communicating, they link us to our culture and our way of life."

Even graphic novels transcend that cultural heritage for teens, through super heroes, fantasy, and quest stories, searching for something and in the process finding yourself.

Too many teens, Ludlam argues, are wrapped up in celebrity heroes with perfect faces, perfect bodies and large bank accounts but not a lot of admirable qualities.

"Wouldn't it be nice if some of our children's heroes came from books, and they were ordinary people caught in extraordinary circumstances, and they demonstrated important values like courage, resourcefulness and stoicism."

Emma Villeneuve, a 14-year-old student at Sir Winston Churchill High School, says many kids in her classes are all very interested in graphic novels.

"They're very easy to follow, you know exactly what the author means because you can see it in the drawings. I think a lot of kids that aren't even into reading that much really like that. These books are becoming very popular."

# Librarians Have Left the Building

Susan Platt

As a recipient of a Library Association of Alberta Continuing Education Grant, I would like to thank the Association for the opportunity to attend the Canadian Library Association Conference in Victoria, B.C. in June of this year.

Throughout my career, I have always been interested in the best ways to provide accurate and effective reference service to customers.

There is the ongoing issue of approachability and how we can make customers feel confident in coming to the reference and asking for assistance. We are hearing more of reference service 'without desks', where staff roam and approach customers rather than waiting for customers to approach the staff.

For this reason, I was attracted to the CLA session entitled *Librarians Have Left the Building: Ask us Here!* This session discussed the mobile reference service trial at the Burnaby Campus of Simon Fraser University (SFU). With the idea that if students will not come to the library, then the library staff will go to them.

Equipped with a mobile workstation (cart), a wireless enabled laptop, signs, folding chairs and a cell phone, the reference staff set up shop where the students could be found – in the hallways! The presenters discussed the importance of mapping the wireless coverage of the campus and speaking with stakeholders in order to find out the best days and locations for the mobile reference service.

It is important to use locations with high traffic areas, such as cafeterias, labs and study areas. The reference librarians can provide assistance with search strategies, access to electronic products and answer general questions.

Initially, the mobile reference service was set up in the science and business faculty areas. This service was provided for four hours per week. There was positive

patron reaction to the service, and an interesting profile of the patrons developed. A large portion of the patrons were aged 20 to 25, in their 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> undergraduate years and were already heavy users of the library and of the electronic products. Unfortunately, this service did not attract non-library users and first year undergraduate students.

As we know that it is always important for all types of libraries to demonstrate their value to management, and the SFU library staff were able to accomplish this with this project.

The President of SFU included highlights of this library initiative in his annual review.

Other Academic libraries in the United States have been experimenting with this type of service, including Harvard University with their 'Roving Librarian' pilot project and the University of Texas at Dallas with their "Librarians on the Loose" initiative.

While it is an excellent way to attract and promote the services and collections of the library, there is still the concern of approachability. In the SFU project, reference staff sit on chairs and do work on the computer when they are not helping students.

All reference staff are busy with many responsibilities but if I was a student and I was not comfortable approaching reference staff at a desk in the library, would I be anymore inclined to approach a reference librarian working on his/her computer in the hallway?

I asked the presenters if they use the mobile station within their library building to reach students on library floors not serviced by the main reference desk and their answer was no.

This pilot project demonstrates that with technology and ingenuity, there are many ways that we can better assist our customers with their information and research needs.

*"Intellectual Freedom is the right of every individual to both seek and receive information from all points of view without restriction. It provides for free access to all expressions of ideas through which any and all sides of a question, cause or movement may be explored. Intellectual freedom encompasses the freedom to hold, receive and disseminate ideas."*

-- Intellectual Freedom and Censorship Q & A

# News and Notes from the School at the U of A

*Alvin M. Schrader, SLIS*

Welcome to news from the School of Library & Information Studies (SLIS) at the University of Alberta. We encourage feedback from our alumni and the community at large (we're just naturally curious!), and invite you to learn more about us by visiting our web site at <<http://www.slis.ualberta.ca>>.

## **Profile of New Students in the U of A MLIS Program, September 2004**

There are 39 new students entering the Master of Library and Information Studies (MLIS) program at the University of Alberta this fall, three of whom will be working towards a 3-year joint Master's Degree with Humanities Computing ("HuCo") and the School. We had 169 applicants this past year, an all-time record!

Our new students have very diverse academic backgrounds, covering a wide range of subjects and specialties, including anthropology, biology, classics, education, English, environmental science, French, history, music, pharmacy, philosophy, political science, psychology, religious studies, sociology, and theatre arts. While all 39 of them have undergraduate degrees, 8 also hold graduate degrees.

The new students also have diverse origins, coming to SLIS from post-secondary institutions across the country and around the world. Many attended Canadian universities, including Athabasca, Carlton, Concordia, Memorial, Simon Fraser, Trent, Alberta, British Columbia, Calgary, Ottawa, Regina, Saskatchewan, and Waterloo. Canadian colleges on the list include Capilano, Grant MacEwan, and Mount Royal, with two students hailing from the Canadian university colleges of Augustana and Okanagan, as well as from Taylor University College & Seminary and The King's University College.

The international institutions represented by new students include schools in the USA, such as Boston and Dordt colleges and the universities of New York and Georgia. There are also students with alma maters from even further afield — Beijing and Tianjin Universities in China, the Brazilian Pontificia Universit e Catolica, the University Erlangen-Nurnberg in Austria, the University of the Philippines, and the University of Concepcion in Chile.

And, although now living in Canada as permanent residents, some students were until recently calling Brazil, China, Chile, Germany, and the Philippines home. Given this international flavour, it is not surprising that so many speak several languages besides English

— Chinese, Filipino, French, German, Japanese, Portuguese and Spanish. Some other interesting figures about our new class: their average age is thirty, four out of five are female, and five students are beginning their MLIS programs on a part-time basis.

## **Faculty Conference Travels**

*Anna Altmann* spent a busy summer completing an almost-final draft of her book *The Seven Swabians and Other German Folktales* for publication by Libraries Unlimited. (Margaret Mackey says we'll have to tie weights to Anna's feet to hold her down when it's actually sent off!)

*Jennifer Branch* says she is "sticking close to home this fall and winter" as she is co-teaching a new course across the curriculum for all 342 Elementary Education students, *Introduction to Language and Learning*. Jennifer co-presented, with Marlene Asselin, Margaret Mackey, and Pat Jobb, at the CLA/BCLA annual conference in Victoria this past June.

*Lisa Given* spoke at the Canadian Association for Information Science annual conference in Winnipeg, gave three (!) workshops at Thinking Qualitatively 2004: An Introduction to Qualitative Inquiry held at the University of Alberta in Edmonton, and presented a paper at the Information Seeking in Context annual conference this year held in Dublin. She has also been involved in research ethics training sessions for the National Council on Ethics in Human Research (NCEHR) in both Vancouver and at the University of Northern British Columbia in Prince George. She will speak later this fall at the Library Research Seminar III: Learning and Growing, Inquiry into Librarianship in Kansas City.

*Heidi Julien* has given papers over the past few months at ALC in Jasper, at the Canadian Association for Information Science annual conference in Winnipeg, at WILU, the 33<sup>rd</sup> Annual Workshop on Instruction in Library Use, in Victoria, at a CLA/BCLA pre-conference workshop in Victoria, at the Information Seeking in Context conference in Dublin, and joins Toni Samek and Lisa Given at the Library Research Seminar III conference in Kansas City this fall.

*Margaret Mackey* has spoken, while on sabbatical, at several prestigious conferences in recent months — the International Reading Association in Reno, the Canadian Library Association annual conference in Victoria, the United Kingdom Literacy Association in Manchester, a special conference on Digital Generations convened by the Centre for the Study of Children, Youth and Media

at the University of London Institute of Education, and the International Society for the Empirical Study of Literature in Edmonton. She will also talk to librarians at the Edmonton Public Library about Teen Literacies Today.

*Toni Samek* spoke last spring at ALC in Jasper and the CLA/BCLA annual conference in Victoria, and presents papers this fall at a symposium in Karlsruhe sponsored by the International Center for Information Ethics (ICIE), at the 3rd Library Research Seminar in Kansas City, and at an International Conference on Education for Human Rights and Global Citizenship at the University of Alberta.

*Alvin Schrader* was also on sabbatical last year, and gave papers at ALC in Jasper, at the annual conference of the Corporation of Professional Librarians of Quebec (affectionately called "Corpo") in Montreal, and at the CLA/BCLA annual conference in Victoria. Like Jennifer, he is sticking close to home this year, teaching for the first time this fall the School's required MLIS course on

leadership and management principles for library and information services.

*Ali Shiri* has been busy with his family establishing their permanent residency in Canada after several years in Glasgow (and enjoying the great Alberta sunshine!), setting up their new home here, and preparing course offerings for the current academic year.

*Dangzhi Zhao* has also been busy preparing MLIS courses. Like Lisa and Heidi, Dangzhi presented a paper at the Canadian Association for Information Science annual conference in Winnipeg last spring. She will give a paper this fall at the annual conference of the American Society for Information Science and Technology in Providence, Rhode Island.

*(Many thanks to Joanne Hilger, Student Services Administrator, for compiling the new student stats.)*



*Continuing students in the Master of Library and Information Studies program at the U of A, staff and faculty welcome new MLIS students to the School on Tuesday, September 7, 2004 for our annual Orientation, campus tours and lunch. Pictured here are students and faculty, enjoying lunch together and getting to know one another.*



# The COOLing of Books: Making the Library Attractive and Relevant to Teens

Jac MacDonald  
"The Edmonton Journal"  
Friday, September 24, 2004

With her pink hair, leopard print capris and red-striped socks, Wendy Gronnestad-Damur is an unlikely librarian with an unlikely task: reshaping the library to make it cool for teens.

"I don't look like a librarian. I don't have a bun," she quips.

Gronnestad-Damur is the first ever teen services librarian at the Edmonton Public Library, and she appears to be a perfect fit, even if she is over 30.

But she's a teen at heart whose mandate is to make the library more relevant and appealing to teens.

Her personal style doesn't hurt, according to Jessica Pabst, a 13-year-old Grade 8 student in the Nelly McClung program at Oliver School.

"The way she dresses and does her hair helps teens realize the library is not a nerdy place, like her. She's definitely not nerdy," Jessica says.

Gronnestad-Damur set up a teen advisory board in February to collect teen views on new purchases and a teen-friendly way of setting this up. It's attracted 30 kids like Jessica, with 10 to 15 showing up at monthly meetings.

"It was important to provide better services for teens because they have been neglected in the past," she says.

Until fairly recently, libraries failed to see teens as different from younger kids and adults.

In Edmonton they do now. A teen area was set up at the downtown library last fall. With teens in the driver's seat, 30 new items have been ordered in, including more CDs, DVDs, and graphic novels (books with more pictures than text).

Gronnestad-Damur has also spearheaded special events like an open mike day at the downtown library where teens could act, sing, recite poetry and read their own thoughts.

That was followed by an expansion of an on-line teen summer reading program called Teen Survivor. There was a play staged at the Fringe Theatre Festival, and teens joined Gronnestad-Damur and her brother who played bagpipes in the parade.

Teens also built two giant murals out of big puzzle pieces, each piece representing a book or story they liked.

Jessica crafted a couple of pieces: one of a green lizard with yellow and red dots to illustrate a poem she loved about Australia and another piece with artificial leaves and plastic stems to represent a childhood story she liked about a boy walking through the forest with his grandfather.

At first, signing up for the teen advisory board was a way for her to make up 12 community volunteer hours required at her school last year. Not now.

"I want to do more because I really enjoy it. It's not about the hours anymore. I like to go there and have fun," she says.

***"It was important to provide better services for teens because they have been neglected in the past."***

For teens as a whole, research is not clear about how much reading they do, says Margaret Mackey, a professor at the University of Alberta's School of Library and Information Studies.

The last information on teen reading in a Statistics Canada survey in 1998 showed teens read substantially more magazines and books than adults. On the other hand, a more recent American National Endowment for the Arts survey shows both teen and adult reading dropping off, with teen reading dropping off faster.

Still, it's important to focus on teens in the public library, Mackey says.

"They do have special needs and they are tomorrow's users, so it is prudent for the library to keep them interested," Mackey says.

Some of those special needs include being seen and recognized as valuable. Often when groups of teens gather elsewhere, they are ignored or seen as annoying

or threatening, just because they are gangly and very often noisy, she says.

What is clear about teen reading is the controversy about who defines reading and what constitutes reading. That's because certain kinds of reading are invisible to some people, Mackey says.

For example, teens play computer games reading subtitles on the screen, reading and writing in chat rooms with other players, reading rule books, and reading background information.

Then somebody looks at them and only sees them playing a computer game.

"Sometimes that person will say they're not reading and they should be reading, when in fact they are reading a great deal, they're just not reading a conventional book," she says.

Because so many adults are not great gamers, it's easy to miss the actual amount of reading and writing that goes on in many games, she says. Internet strategy conversations can draw on a very sophisticated understanding of the game.

"If somebody was having that kind of conversation about a novel, everybody would be dazzled and regard it as a sign of advanced literacy. But because it's a computer game, you don't even see it, let alone respect it," she says.

Then there are whole areas where teens are doing more reading and writing than they did 15 or 20 years ago, for example on-line correspondence about TV programs.

For example, the program *Buffy the Vampire Slayer* is no longer produced but still captures the imagination of millions of teens worldwide with almost a million websites devoted to the show. She advises parents and teachers not to be overly concerned if kids are fixed on reading a particular genre, such as science fiction or fantasy.

"There's every chance they will broaden out, but you don't want to make a big fight over it if they are reading with enthusiasm now," she says.

"A way to reach teens who have done little reading at all in their lives, is by reading to them in an unpatronizing environment. If that doesn't work, book tapes might appeal, so you get them to listen to at least the start of a story. Somebody reading out loud makes the voices come to life," she says.

As well, short books often have more appeal to someone who doesn't do a lot of reading. For teens who are doing little or no reading, suggest or make enticing materials available to them, but don't harass them, Mackey says.

"Draw their attention to things they might like, but don't make a big deal of it," she says.

Adults, especially teachers, can also create a community where talking about books and reading is something that is valued, and not in a book report way.

Attracting teens to the library the way Grønnestad-Damur is doing also creates some of the best ambassadors the library could ever want for teens.

Sarah Giesbrecht, a 15-year-old Grade 10 student on the advisory board, says not enough teens see reading as a good time. But books can be every bit as thrilling as electronic distractions, Giesbrecht says.

"If teens find the right novels, it could be as exciting as any video game, maybe more so," she says.

Jessica Pabst encouraged a friend to join a reading program over the summer and was surprised when her friend actually read the book.

"Peers will do a better job of getting teenagers to read than most adults can do," Mackey says.

Grønnestad-Damur says keeping teens in the loop is important because it helps create life-long learning. "If they stop, they are not likely to return. Then they have children, and they are not likely to pass on a love of reading to their children," she says.

Mackey quotes the book *Better than Life*, by Daniel Pennac. Pennac writes about the joy of reading, which features the Reader's Bill of Rights.

The first right is the right to not read. Everything else is second to that. If you're being forced to read, you're not reading as a true reader reads, and a true reader reads from choice.

"He is saying if you want people to read, if you want teens to read, you have to let them be in charge," Mackey says.

***"A way to reach teens who have done little reading at all in their lives, is by reading to them in an unpatronizing environment."***

# Open Access: Basics and Benefits

*Andrew Waller, University of Calgary Library  
Heather Morrison, BC Electronic Library Network*

“Open Access” has emerged in recent years as a major development in the world of scholarly communication. It may have the potential to greatly alter the university publishing environment and change the ways in which everyone accesses research material, particularly scholarly journals. This article will take a look at the basics of Open Access (or OA) as well as some direct and indirect benefits of OA inside and outside of academe.

## What Is Open Access?

First, let’s look at the traditional “restricted access” publishing: Generally-speaking, university researchers (professors) carry out research and report their findings in articles which appear in peer-reviewed journals which are published by commercial publishers. These journals are then sold as subscriptions to libraries, frequently at high and regularly-increasing prices. There are a number of problems with this situation. For example, access to these journals is essentially restricted to users of university libraries (mostly faculty, staff, and students). As well, library budgets are tight and often can’t accommodate growing journal costs; this has often led to journal cancellations which, in turn, has led publishers to increase prices even more to compensate for loss of revenue (journal price increases have mitigated in the last few years but they are usually still above inflation). In addition, authors usually have to sign away copyright on their articles, relinquishing control of their writings to the publisher.

Open Access is much different. In an OA environment, articles are available over the World Wide Web free of charge to all readers. Scholarly works are no longer restricted to the institutions and individuals who can afford journal subscriptions and are available widely. Also, OA publishers normally allow authors to retain copyright.

It has been estimated that roughly 5% of scholarly publishing is presently of an Open Access nature. Much of this publishing is made up of articles published in journals and many of these journals follow an OA model. It should be noted that OA journals can retain many of the same features as non-OA journals, such as peer-review. A list of many OA journals can be found in the Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ) at [www.doaj.org](http://www.doaj.org).

## Repositories

It is also possible to separate the article from the journal, so to speak, and make the article available via interoperable repositories. Articles can be published in any sort of journal, Open Access or non-Open Access but, as long as the author does not surrender the right to other

uses, an article can also be placed in one of these repositories (as can many other types of scholarly publication including theses, dissertations, technical reports, audio-visual material, and e-books. Repositories range from discipline-specific databases such as the long-standing physics pre-print server, arXiv ([arxiv.org](http://arxiv.org)), to the growing number of institutional repositories, many of which are located at Canadian universities, which are designed to manage the scholarly digital output of an institution.

## Benefits of Open Access

So, what benefits does Open Access bring? For the academic world, as noted, it could help libraries better cope with subscription costs and provide more stability to budgeting, give researchers more control over their works, and also allow for wider distribution of those works, something most academics desire. What about the “general public”? There are both direct and indirect benefits for the general public.

Direct benefits occur when the public reads the primary research literature. At first glance, it might not seem intuitive that the public would be interested in reading this material. Perhaps this is because there is a tendency to view “the general public” as if it were some homogenous, average group of people. In reality, “the general public” is all of us. Here in Western Canada, “the public” includes a significant percentage of the population with university degrees; graduate degrees are not uncommon. Even academic researchers are members of “the public” outside of their areas of specialty.

The most popular notion of the direct benefits to the general public, and an important one, is the ability of patients and families to directly read the literature relating to medical conditions. The need for this access is perhaps most poignantly felt when someone is diagnosed with a rare, genetic condition, one that doctors know little about and which might well affect many members of a family.

Another example of a direct benefit is the ability of students outside the research universities to read the primary research literature. Students who begin their studies at smaller colleges or university colleges, and high school students, could have the same access to the literature as students at research universities. This, in turn, would make it easier for educators and librarians at these institutions to help these students develop information literacy skills.

There are also people who are serious hobbyists who are quite capable of following the scholarly literature, and, in some cases, these people are assisting in the advancement of scientific knowledge. One example is

astronomy; apparently there are so many serious amateur astronomers in the world, that whenever a new event in the heavens occurs, it is more likely to be reported by an amateur first, rather than a professional.

Indirect benefits to the public could come through the mediation of others. In an OA world, journalists and freelance writers would have ready access to the latest in the research literature. As one example, it could be easier for a journalist to investigate an environmental problem, as well as possible solutions. It could be easier for journalists to translate the latest medical discoveries, to help "the public" understand issues like SARS and AIDS, what causes common diseases (and how they might be prevented), what kinds of treatments might someday be available when we, or our loved ones, need it, and so on.

Finally, the increased exposure to results of the research of our universities can only enhance the value of the universities themselves in the eyes of the public and politicians. Scholars giving away the fruits of their labours can only result in greater support (definitely moral and hopefully financial) for future endeavours.

### **Paying for Open Access**

Everything costs and OA publishing is no exception; how Open Access is paid for is a vital question. With traditional journal publishing, up-front subscription fees cover costs but this is precisely the situation that the Open Access movement seeks to avoid. One method of dealing with costs is to charge authors a submission fee. The Public Library of Science (<http://www.plos.org/>), publisher of the journals PLoS Biology and PLoS Medicine, charges \$1,500 US per submission while BioMed Central ([www.biomedcentral.com](http://www.biomedcentral.com)), publisher of many OA journals, normally charges \$525 US. The difficulty here is that some authors do not have the money to pay such tolls; this is particularly true in the humanities and the arts, where scholars generally do not have the large research grants that their counterparts in the sciences and medicine do (social scientists are traditionally somewhere in between). Fortunately, methods are being developed to get around this problem; for example, some OA publishers have institutional memberships that allow all scholars at a member university to submit articles free of charge. As well, granting agencies are looking more at including publication costs in grants and grant-writers are also increasingly incorporating publication costs into their funding requests.

Other options also exist. For instance, based at Athabasca University, the International Association for the Advancement of Academic Publication (ICAAP)

requests donations of approximately \$3,000 CAN per year to publish an OA scholarly journal, much less than most traditional commercial publishers. ICAAP presently publishes or hosts dozens of journals, most of which can be considered Open Access (<http://www.icaap.org/>).

### **Recent Developments**

Open Access continues to attract interest and appears to be a growing concern. Funding agencies, such as the National Institutes of Health (NIH) in the United States, are looking at requiring that the results of the research that they fund (with tax dollars) be made OA-compliant. At a higher level, legislative bodies are working to make this taxpayer-supported research output publicly-accessible; the House Appropriations Committee in the US and a parliamentary committee in the UK have both recently made recommendations to this effect. Many societies and associations that publish journals are investigating Open Access options for their publications. Lastly, even some for-profit publishers are wading into the OA environment in some small ways; many journals are now freely accessible prior to the last 6-12 months and a few commercial-produced journals have been made completely open.

### **Libraries and Librarians in an Open Access World**

Libraries and librarians might be wondering what their roles will be in an open access world. With even more available for free over the internet, will there still be a need for libraries and librarians? The answer is certainly "yes, more than ever". The electronic medium, and the potential of open access, does make it much easier to publish and make much more information available. Few people, however, seem to be much concerned about archiving and preserving this information, with the exception of librarians and archivists.

There will be a need for libraries to revisit and strengthen their roles as preservers and safekeepers of the store of the world's knowledge. With more information on hand, quite likely in a variety of versions of various authenticities, the need for professional to help find the *right* information will be greater than ever.

### **Conclusion**

As it has grown, the Open Access movement has attracted more interest and more debate. The definitions of OA have become more complex. However, most importantly, more OA content has emerged, which is the aim of the movement.

Open Access may well be the way of the future (or one of the ways of the future) in terms of scholarly communication and publishing. As such, it merits watching, investigating, and, in the eyes of many in the library world, it merits supporting.

# Girls AND Boys Equally Interested in Reading

*Sarah Chapman, Calgary Herald  
Wednesday, September 29, 2004*

Boys will be boys, but they still need to learn how to read. The key to unlocking their interest may be as simple as ditching stereotypes and asking boys what they really want.

"I know the common myth is that boys have more problems learning to read and more problems becoming interested in reading than girls, but I don't believe that to be true, based on my work here," said Kama Truch, assistant director of the Reading Foundation in Calgary. "That's a stereotype that's been very well-embedded in our society over the last 40 years."

Truch said she believes boys can be easily labelled because they are often rambunctious and parents may just encourage them to play outside rather than bury themselves in a book. When girls are bored, it is often suggested they read.

"I think boys and girls are equally as interested in reading, but I think there's lots of factors that contribute to it," she said, adding boys may be more likely to pick up a comic book than a novel.

Garry Jones, a specialist in language arts with the Calgary Board of Education, agrees that the content of reading material can have a significant impact on boys' reading.

"You need to figure out their interests," Jones said. "Boys seem to be more responsive to non-fiction."

While multiple studies suggest boys tend to develop language skills later in life, Jones said, that doesn't mean all boys have a tough time reading.

"I don't think we know boys have more difficulty. I think it's more how reading is viewed by boys," he explained.

"It's been suggested reading is viewed by many boys as something girls do, and so it starts to become less appealing."

Jones said boys may not be as likely to read pages and pages of text.

"They love to read comic books and books with lots of graphics, lots of maps and graphs and photographs."

Jones added once boys grow older, they may be more likely to read books with a purpose, like a book on how to fix a car.



*CREDIT: Jenelle Schneider, Calgary Herald  
Five-year-old Tobin Langendoen, left, prefers non-fiction while his sister, Shekinah, 3, favours Franklin the Turtle.*

Another factor contributing to reading levels is quality time spent reading with others.

Boys may not be as likely to read with their parents when they are young.

"It's another cultural myth that boys need to be on their own away from their parents. I think boys need to read with their parents, not just be sent off to their room to read," he said.

A father of three boys, Jones said he reads with his children frequently.

"I've got three boys who love to read. They have read lots of those fantasy and adventure books and we didn't worry about the (books) being creepy," he joked.

At the Village Square Public Library, Breana Langendoen's children, including her five-year-old son, feel right at home.

"My daughter likes storybooks and my son likes books that are informational, like books on pirates," she said.

And her children prove her right.

The stroller in tow holds two piles of books, one pile of fiction her daughter picked out and one pile of non-fiction books chosen by her son.

"If I have the right books, they're both fine, and they love to read."

# Retired Librarians Celebrate in Edmonton

John G. Wright

Those of us who are members of *Ex Libris* read about our colleagues in central Canada with interest and appreciation, and it is for them, as well as for our colleagues in Alberta, that we share news of the following events. In July of 1999 a committee of five organized the first retired librarians' reception at the Faculty Club of the University of Alberta with an attendance of just under 60 persons.

There being no one roster of retirees available, the organizing committee had to rely on word of mouth, snail-mail, and telephone. The organizers were Heather-Belle Dowling, former Director of the Strathcona County Public Library in Sherwood Park, and former President of the Library Association of Alberta, Blanche Friderichsen, former provincial supervisor of school libraries for the Alberta Department of Education, Alma Webster, former supervisor of school libraries for the Edmonton Public School Board, and John and Shirley Wright, retired professors of the then Faculty of Library and Information Studies.

The occasion was very well received with requests for another which, unfortunately for a variety of reasons, did not occur until five years later in September of 2004.

This event was organized by Sheila Bertram, retired Director of the School of Library and Information Studies, Sieglinde Rooney, retired Associate Director of the

University of Alberta Libraries, and John and Shirley Wright, even longer retired professors from the library school.

There now being more retired librarians in the Edmonton area, the old contact system plus e-mail rounded up over 160 names, some 80 of whom turned up for another successful event.

This time non-academic and library support staff were included in the round-up. For practical reasons the event was focused on the Edmonton area, although there were attendees from the southern Alberta communities of Medicine Hat and Calgary. Two of the retirees in attendance had just recently returned from participating in the Canada Seniors' Games in Whitehorse, where gold medals were earned. Retirees do continue to live active lives!

On both occasions, Heather-Belle Dowling gave the formal welcoming address in her own inimitable style.

We also were profoundly grateful to Ernie Ingles, Director of Libraries at the University of Alberta, who generously helped to underwrite the reception in order to keep the costs to a minimum.

It is abundantly evident that retirees welcome these events, and the Committee is planning to continue them at least every two years.

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## Getting your ducks in a row



You really, really want to know all about your library before you talk about libraries during an election campaign — candidates may ask for details. Do your homework now. Your librarian can help with the statistics.

- number of memberships ...
- circulation ...
- number of children's programs ...
- number of other programs ...
- size of the collection ... (the answer is 2,907,000\*, with     items in our library)

You will also want to have clear in your mind — the collective mind of the board — what the library does best and what help your library needs in the next 3 to 5 years to achieve its goals. You will want to have a question ready to ask a candidate — a question that must be answered with more than a “yes”.

\* The Regional Automation Consortium (TRAC) has 2,907,000 items in TRACpac (778,000 titles)

\* Marigold has 425,000 items in TRACpac

## Context, context, context

The Readalot Library has 312 members.

So what?

69% of Readalot residents have a library card.

That's great — that's more than 2/3 of the people.

Yeah — the library serves everyone, from babies to students to residents of the Pioneer Lodge.

Babies? You aren't saying that babies use the library, are you?

Actually, yes. There are five or six toddlers and their moms coming to *Stories with Babies* every week. We want to start a *Pajama Stories* program on Monday evening, as soon as our budget can handle it.

Hmm ...

You can see the potential for this kind of conversation. It started with a number in context — a number that said that 2 out of 3 people in Readalot belonged to the library.

Residents of Readalot borrow an average of 1¼ library items a month. That's nearly 2 items a month for library members.

If the kids who participated in summer reading stood arm to arm, they would stretch from the library to ...

- Advertising:** exposure you pay for
- Public Relations:** exposure you pray for
- Marketing:** ensures your prayers are answered (sometimes for a price)

... to this quotation, heard at the PLA conference, we would add

**Lobbying:** political understanding you work constantly for



## Lifelong learning @ your library

Lifelong learning is all about acquiring and using knowledge and skills throughout life to help reach employment goals, enjoy a high quality of life, and be active and responsible citizens. Where do adults acquire knowledge and skills? Often it's @ your library! Resources for formal classes and for informal learning are plentiful in your library or through your library at [www.talonline.ca](http://www.talonline.ca).

Talk to politicians about resources for lifelong learning whenever you can, and particularly during election campaigns. Talk to instructors. Talk to people. Write a letter to the editor. Share your personal stories about how the library's resources helped you learn ... Spanish, before you went to Mexico; how to keep your 1962 Chevy Nova running; more about your latest prescription. Lobby for funding to maintain and expand resources for lifelong learners.

## Outside the library — use public relations to support your board's lobbying

### make a poster that reminds the public how library resources support lifelong learning

tools used for this sample poster . . .

√ 8 ½ x 11 paper

√ creative features used in WORD:

- text boxes
- word art
- lines (for arrow) — colour the arrow with felts
- Microsoft Clip Art online

picture is from *Microsoft clips online* - enlarge to 8 x 10

### Put up your poster at

- ◆ service stations
  - ◆ grocery stores
  - ◆ post office
  - ◆ doctors office
  - ◆ hockey rink . . .
- anywhere in your town!



## Tips for writing effective letters to politicians

- √ keep letters to politicians short (one page is good)
- √ write rather than type or word process
- √ make it personal
- √ introduce yourself in the first paragraph and tell him/her why you're writing
- √ support your reason for writing — a few well-chosen numbers, a personal story
- √ ask for ...
- √ thank him/her
- √ sign your name clearly and be sure to include your address and phone number

## Advocacy! @ your library\*

- focuses on advocacy, marketing, public relations and promotion for libraries
- targeted to Marigold Board, member library boards and staff
- issued six times a year
- invites your ideas, questions, comments and success stories

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1-800-332-1077



## After an Election

### Write congratulatory letters

In the first paragraph, acknowledge their election or re-election — say something about their successful campaign. If it's "election" by acclamation, acknowledge their commitment to the community. In the second paragraph, briefly introduce the library and one issue of importance. In the last paragraph thank him or her for past support, if appropriate, and invite her or him to visit the library. Include your hours bookmark or library brochure.

### Plan a meeting

Invite your MP, MLA, mayor, reeve or councillors to meet with the library board and staff. Plan what you want to tell the politicians(s) and name one or two people to be primary spokespeople. Be sure he/she has a library card. Give a tour, coffee, cookies and a package of brochures to take away. Write a thank you note the next day.

### Keep in touch with politicians, especially municipal and provincial ones

Give them bragging rights by telling them about the wonderful things your library does or has, all made possible by their support, and by the library's membership in Marigold which gives you TRAC and TAL services. Be prepared to explain The Regional Automation Consortium and The Alberta Library in one or two concise sentences.

### Invite politicians to programs and events held in the library

Recognize their presence and invite them "to say a few words."

**Advocacy is** turning passive support into educated action by stakeholders. That's the good working definition we've adopted, but advocacy is an umbrella that includes public relations, public awareness, intellectual freedom and virtually every key ... area.

~ Patricia Glass Schuman, ALA

### Annual Reports — telling your story

Need a New Year's resolution for your library? How about ... making the decision to create an annual report to distribute to your community. An annual report is the story of what happened in your library during the past year. Of course, it's also an opportunity to communicate to the community your library's commitment to being financially responsible.

Today's annual reports are more than financial data, statistics, names of the board and staff. In addition to that important information, annual reports can be used to convey the value of library and information services to the residents (stakeholders) of your community.

use a photo of Summer Reading Program activities, with a caption such as "23 children maintained their reading levels while having fun learning about ..."

a photo taken at a computer with a caption such as "the world of information is a mouse click away. Library staff helped customers find reliable information on a wide range of topics, including ..."

use meaningful quotes from customers to support pictures or text about programs and events

And when you use statistics, try to compare them to last year or 5 years ago or to the provincial average — see Public Library Statistics published by Community Development. Watch for updates at [http://www.cd.gov.ab.ca/building\\_communities/public\\_library/statistics/satistics/index.asp](http://www.cd.gov.ab.ca/building_communities/public_library/statistics/satistics/index.asp)

## **Tips** for creating your report

Create your annual report using Microsoft Word. Include a message from your board chair. Include your mission statement. Make sure the name of your library is prominent and that it says “Annual Report and year” on the front.

Keep your design simple. Group information into headings such as

- Connecting to the Community — library display, summer reading, adopt a subscription, other programs, ...
- Productivity Achievements — for interlibrary loans stats, program attendance, ...
- Educational Initiatives — workshops, training for staff and customers, ...
- Creative Use of Technology — signage project, posters for displays, internet classes for seniors, ...
- Challenges — fundraising, handling increased mail, ...
- Opportunities — membership drives, online databases, ...
- Partnerships — with Marigold, businesses, schools, ...
- Celebrations — library anniversary, completion of a project, volunteer appreciation, ...

Borrow ideas! Look at the annual reports of other libraries—large and small.



**Your annual report is a public relations tool — telling your story means tooting your own horn!**

Maximize every opportunity to let others know the great things you are doing! For example...

**Council meeting:** the annual report is a perfect PR tool to take to a council meeting. Your report reinforces the library’s credibility. Don’t be afraid to mention a worthwhile project that was somewhat ineffective—especially if the reason was a financial shortfall. Balance that with a discussion about successful activities that had an impact on the community and library. Talk about future endeavours, too.

**Potential customers:** the annual report is an easy way to inform potential customers about the value of the library in their community. Take your report to community events such as sports registrations, town celebrations, and fall fairs. Have a copy available at the circ desk. Take time to discuss the report with new customers—point out the highlights.

## **SoundBite to use in letters, annual reports or when speaking**

Libraries are an investment in a more literate, productive and globally competitive nation.

- Barbara J. Ford, ALA

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### **Advocacy! @ your library\***

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# ACROSS CANADA AND BEYOND

## ACLU Challenges Hawaii Law Allowing Ban on Visiting Public Places

B.J. Reyes  
Associated Press  
Sept. 7, 2004

A new law allowing police and other authorities to ban people from public property for up to a year without a specific reason is unconstitutional, the American Civil Liberties Union said in a federal lawsuit filed Tuesday.

The law could potentially be used to keep voters out of polling places or bar groups such as Native Hawaiians from the grounds of the state Capitol, thereby chilling their constitutional rights to free speech, the ACLU said.

The law, known as Act 50, prohibits an individual or group from entering a public building, park or other public place for up to one year after a warning or request to leave the premises has been issued. It does not state specifically who can be warned or for what reason, except that actions protected under federal labor laws are allowed.

In its lawsuit, the ACLU of Hawaii said Act 50 is too broad and is being used by authorities to restrict free speech by banning people from public places.

The lawsuit asks the U.S. District Court in Honolulu to strike down the law and prevent officials from further enforcing the act.

Gov. Linda Lingle and Attorney General Mark Bennett, in their official capacities, were the only defendants. Lingle was out of her office Tuesday, and Bennett did not immediately return a telephone message seeking comment.

The legislation was passed 47-0 in the House and 21-0 in the Senate this year and signed into law by Lingle on May 4. It was aimed at removing squatters from public campgrounds, parks, beaches and other public places where they illegally put up tents and other shelters.

The ACLU contends that because there are no standards or procedures and no way for someone to appeal a

warning, the law potentially could be applied to almost any situation.

For example, the lawsuit said, a police officer could stop someone from filing a lawsuit in court, a lifeguard could ban environmentalists from a beach, elections officials could prevent Democrats from entering voting areas such as public schools, and government officials could bar Native Hawaiians from the state Capitol and Iolani Palace.

Under the law, "it is enough that the police officer or authorized person finds the individual to be unsavory or disagrees with the content or message of the individual's speech or activity," the lawsuit said.

Lois Perrin, legal director for the ACLU of Hawaii, called the law "blatantly unconstitutional."

"It's a dangerous law and it should be stricken," she said.

The lawsuit was filed on behalf of Carlos Hernandez, a Honolulu man who said he was banned from the Hawaii State Library for a year for using its computers to access a gay and lesbian Web site; and The Center, a nonprofit organization that provides programs and services for the local gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender communities.

Hernandez was using a computer at the library on May 18 when a security guard issued a written warning telling him he was being banned for one year because he was viewing a pornographic Web site, according to the lawsuit.

Hernandez and the Center say the Web site, [www.gayhawaii.com](http://www.gayhawaii.com), is not a pornographic site, but a resource with information on events, travel, real estate and other services for the gay community.

The Center complained, and was told by a library official that the security guard issued the warning because the Web site contained photos of men without shirts, the lawsuit said.

*"Librarians know the importance of reading in every situation. Typically we do not make an issue of what is read, but place emphasis on reading to improve skills, broaden horizons and ultimately attain a better quality of life."*

-- Carol Brey-Casiano, President, ALA

# Radical Librarian Believes "Information Wants to Be Free"

Adam L. Penenberg, Assistant Professor  
Assistant Director of the Business and Economic Reporting Program, Department of Journalism  
New York University

Jessamyn West is a 36-year-old librarian living in central Vermont. She's a "radical librarian" who has embraced the hacker credo that "information wants to be free." As a result, West and many of her colleagues are on the front lines in battling the USA Patriot Act, which a harried Congress passed a month after 9/11 even though most representatives hadn't even read the 300-page bill. It gave the government sweeping powers to pursue the "war on terror" but at a price: the loss of certain types of privacy we have long taken for granted.

What got many librarians' dander up was Section 215 of the law, which stipulates that government prosecutors and FBI agents can seek permission from a secret court created under the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act to access personal records — everything from medical histories to reading habits. They don't need a subpoena. In fact, they don't need to show that a crime has even been committed. And librarians, stymied by a gag order, are forbidden to tell anyone (except a lawyer).

Naturally, this hasn't sat well with West, a self-described anti-capitalist blogger who was invited to the Democratic National Convention, and who has posted a page with links and photos that might best be described as library soft-core porn. She worries that a researcher could check out a book on Islam and suddenly end up on the no-fly list, forced to take the Greyhound with Teddy Kennedy for the rest of her life. Or an HIV-positive teen living in a conservative community could be outed after reading about the disease. If this sounds far-fetched, two years ago, in Punta Gorda, Florida, a British man was arrested in a public library after visiting websites that posted material on mineral supplements and the world's first chemical generator of electricity, the Baghdad Battery.

"In a democracy, citizens can access information they view as important," West said, "and traditionally we as librarians have kept it private. We are in favor of free speech and against censorship, and believe in the right to research material without the government looking over your shoulder."

While mainstream media have blandly stood by as the free flow of information is threatened, some librarians have been agitating. They have been collecting signatures — close to a million of them — to petition the government to amend portions of the Patriot Act. They have purged circulation records. They have pushed elected officials to propose legislation to exempt libraries

from government snoops, and have worked with more than 300 cities across the country to adopt measures to weaken the most extreme aspects of the law. West, for her part, has created a series of popular, quasi-legal signs to warn users. One — "The FBI has not been here. (Watch closely for the removal of this sign)" — was provided to every library in the state by the Vermont Library Association. Others include:

- "We're sorry! Due to national security concerns we are unable to tell you if your internet surfing habits, passwords and e-mail content are being monitored by federal agents; please act appropriately."
- "Q. How can you tell when the FBI has been in your library? A. You can't."
- "The Patriot Act makes it illegal for us to tell you if our computers are monitored; be aware."

After the American Library Association, or ALA, came out against the Patriot Act, Attorney General John Ashcroft called librarians' resistance "baseless hysteria." He ridiculed the organization, claiming that "some have convinced (it) ... that the FBI is not fighting terrorism; instead, agents are checking how far you've gotten in the latest Tom Clancy novel."

The ALA challenged Ashcroft to reveal the number of times law enforcement had requested library records. In response, the Department of Justice released a declassified memo that claimed the number was zero, which was contradicted by a University of Illinois Library Research Center study that found more than a dozen libraries had received visits and requests for information from law enforcement.

"That's the problem," West said. "The government wants us to trust them, but how can we without greater transparency?"

She believes that you have to be somewhat radical to become a librarian in the first place. In addition to a good education, you need to devote yourself to low-to-middle-paying jobs where even your friends make jokes about you, and fear that one day you will be replaced by a computer. And she's not the only one trying to recast her profession's image. For instance, at the *Modified Librarian*, users relate stories of their tattoos and piercings. The Anarchist Librarians Web posts links to radical book fairs and information on anti-filtering software. At the Librarian Avengers, the battle cry is "Thwart not the Librarian."

What does the irascible West say to people who tease her by asking if she has taken classes on holding her finger up to her lips and saying shush?

"I'm pretty good with this finger already," she replied.

# Virtual Reference Canada: Get Connected

*Nicolas Savard, Virtual Reference Canada  
Library and Archives Canada*

Virtual Reference Canada (VRC) is a free bilingual Internet-based reference network, whose goal is to connect the resources and expertise of information specialists across Canada in order to meet the information needs of Canadians.

Member institutions login to VRC and submit questions, along with other pertinent information such as the subject area, language and educational level of the questions, on behalf of their clients. The questions are then matched with the institutions in the VRC database that are best equipped to provide an answer, based on their collection strengths, hours of service, etc.

Information specialists from across Canada are welcome to join the network (libraries, archives, museums, information/research centres). Members can participate with only an email account and Internet access. Since Library and Archives Canada launched VRC in February 2003, over 300 organizations across Canada have become members. VRC has helped answer questions ranging from wood panelling in the Edmonton Court House to railway tracks in Alberta.

In an era of shrinking budgets for collections and staff, VRC has tremendous potential as a tool that effectively expands the resources available to smaller libraries,

archives, museums and other information centres while providing larger institutions with access to specialized collections. One of the greatest advantages of the service is its flexibility.

Member institutions specify when and how they want to be involved in the VRC network. Very busy, or short staffed? Become a member that asks but does not answer questions. Worried about being inundated with questions through VRC? State how many questions you are willing to receive per week and during which hours you are available to answer them. If your situation changes you can always modify your VRC profile to reflect your needs.

You can also join VRC as a guest member to try the service out before deciding to commit as a full member. The purpose of VRC is to foster professional cooperation among peers when resources aren't readily available. You determine your level of involvement in VRC. It is completely up to you! Try it out and get connected!

For more information about Virtual Reference Canada or to register, please consult the website at <http://www.collectionscanada.ca/vrc-rvc/index-e.html>.

You can also contact us by telephone at 1-866-722-5557 (toll free in Canada) or by email at [vrc-rvc@lac-bac.gc.ca](mailto:vrc-rvc@lac-bac.gc.ca). Members of the VRC team would be pleased to discuss the service with you.

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## FAQ

### **Who can become a member of VRC ?**

All types of libraries, archives, museums, and other information centres can become members of VRC. Also, depending on the circumstances, individuals researchers can become members of VRC.

### **Is VRC available to the general public ?**

No. VRC is only available to institutions that offer reference services to the Canadian population. Via their libraries, archives and other information centres, Canadians will benefit from VRC.

### **What subjects are covered by VRC ?**

The strength of VRC lies in the number of members who participate in it. The more members there are, the greater the variety of questions VRC will be able to answer. We are recruiting members with all types of collections : social sciences, humanities, arts, technology, medicine, genealogy, etc.

### **Should I only submit quick and easy questions to VRC ?**

No, all types of questions could be submitted to VRC. They can vary simple questions to ones that need more in depth research.

### **What technology do I need to participate in VRC ?**

You just need a computer, Internet access and an email account.

### **Will I get inundated with questions after I register to VRC ?**

It is impossible to get inundated with questions using VRC. As a member, you decide on the maximum number of questions you wish to receive per week. Once you reach that weekly maximum number of questions, the algorithm will not assign you another question until the start of the next week.

### **As a VRC member, do I need to be available during all of my institution's regular opening hours ?**

No. You decide on the number of hours you wish to be available to participate in VRC.

### **I have heard that VRC is studying the possibility of establishing a knowledgebase of questions and answers. Is this true ?**

Yes, we are studying the possibility of establishing a knowledgebase. This would permit members to view question / answer sets before answering their own questions. The establishment of this knowledgebase is one of our long term goals.



Nearly 25% of library users are young adults between the ages of 12 and 18 years. Don't miss this opportunity to hear one of North America's top authors on YA!

Patrick Jones is recognized as the guru of young adult library services.

He runs ConnectingYA.com, a consulting firm and website dedicated to training, coaching, and consulting with YA librarians. He has authored key books on YA services, including *Do it Right! Best Practices for Serving Young Adults in School and Public Libraries* and *Connecting Young Adults and Libraries* (now in its 3rd edition). He has recently authored a novel for teen readers, *Things Change*.

A self-described "road warrior" for young adult services, Patrick is an advocate and a visionary for developing quality services for the teens of our communities. Known as an infectious and inspiring presenter, he has spoken on young adult services in all 50 states. The Edmonton Public Library is pleased to present his first-ever

**As part of its Visiting Speakers Program, Edmonton Public Library is pleased to host author **Patrick Jones:****

# **Connecting with Young Adults**

**9 a.m. - 12 p.m.**

**Monday, December 6**

**or**

**1:30 - 4:30 p.m.**

**Theatre**

**Whitemud Crossing Branch**

**145 Whitemud Crossing Shopping Centre**

**4211- 106 Street, Edmonton**

**Registration fee: \$25 per session**

**\$10 per session for students**

**Registration deadline: November 30**

**Please contact Kathy McDonald to register at [kmcdonald@epl.ca](mailto:kmcdonald@epl.ca) or 780-496-7069**

# WHAT'S IN AN ACRONYM

AACL	Alberta Association of College Librarians
AALT	Alberta Association of Library Technicians
AGM	Annual General Meeting
ALA	American Library Association
ALC	Alberta Library Conference
ALTA	Alberta Library Trustees Association
APLEN	Alberta Public Library Electronic Network
BBLA	Bright and Beautiful Librarians of Alberta
BCLA	British Columbia Library Association
CALL	Canadian Association of Law Libraries
CAP	Community Access Program
CAPL	Canadian Association of Public Libraries
CARL	Canadian Association of Research Libraries
CLA	Canadian Library Association
CPL	Calgary Public Library
EPL	Edmonton Public Library
ESL	English as a Second Language
FLA	Foothills Library Association
GELA	Greater Edmonton Library Association
GMC	Grant McEwan College
IFLA	International Federation of Library Associations
ILL	Interlibrary Loan
JPL	Jasper Park Lodge
JSI	Joint Study Institute
LAA	Library Association of Alberta
LAAD	Library Aerobatics and Aromatic Department
LHLLP	Lois Hole Library Legacy Program
LISAA	Library and Information Studies Alumni Association
LISSA	Library and Information Studies Student Association
LSP	Legal Studies Program
NEL	Northern Exposure to Leadership
NLLS	Northern Lights Library System
OPP	Older People Playing
PLA	Public Library Association
PNLA	Pacific Northwest Library Association
SAIT	Southern Alberta Institute of Technology
SALA	Strategic Alliance for Library Advocacy
SFU	Simon Fraser University
SLAA	Sarcastic Library Antics Association
SLIS	School of Library and Information Studies (U of A)
SRP	Summer Reading Program
TAB	Teen Advisory Board
TAL	The Alberta Library
TRAC	The Regional Automation Consortium
U of A	University of Alberta
U of C	University of Calgary
URL	Universal Resource Locator
VPL	Vancouver Public Library
VRD	Virtual Reference Desk
WLA	Washington Library Association

**Untangle Acronyms @ your library®**

# FORTHCOMING EVENTS

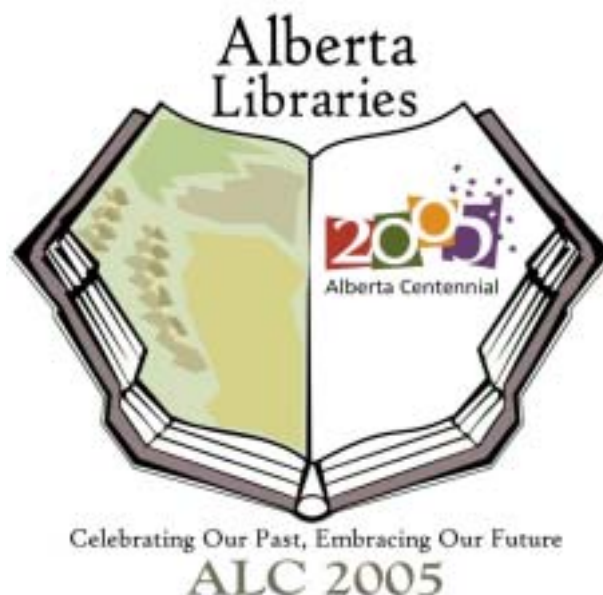
Do you have a workshop or special event coming up? Contact [christine.sheppard@shaw.ca](mailto:christine.sheppard@shaw.ca) with details.

## 2004

- Nov. 7-10 **VRD 2004 Conference.** Cincinnati, Ohio. The VRD 2004 Conference is presented by the Virtual Reference Desk, a project of the U.S. Department of Education, and operated by the Information Institute of Syracuse at Syracuse University. The conference is sponsored by OCLC Member Services Division, ALA's Reference and User Services Association and Syracuse University's School of Information Studies. For information, visit <http://www.vrd.org>
- Nov. 19 **NEOS 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration.** For information, visit [www.neoslibraries.ca](http://www.neoslibraries.ca).
- Nov. 24 **NEOS Collections Workshop: E-books Etcetera.** For information, visit [www.neoslibraries.ca](http://www.neoslibraries.ca).

## 2005

- Feb. 3-5 **OLA Super Conference.** Metro Toronto Convention Centre. Toronto, ON. For information, visit <http://www.accessola.com>.
- April 21-23 **British Columbia Library Association Conference.** Hilton Vancouver Metrotown. Burnaby, BC. For information, visit <http://www.bcla.bc.ca>.
- April 21-23 **Saskatchewan Library Association Conference.** Saskatoon, SK. For information, visit <http://www.lib.sk.ca/sla/>
- April 28-May 1 **Alberta Library Conference '05.** "Alberta Libraries: Celebrating our Past, Embracing Our Future". Jasper, AB. For information, visit <http://freenet.edmonton.ab.ca/alconf/>
- June 15-18 **Canadian Library Association Conference.** Calgary, AB. For information, visit <http://www.cla.ca/conference/conf.htm>
- Aug. 3-5 **Pacific Northwest Library Association Conference.** Sitka, AK. "The Stories We Share". For information, visit <http://pnla.org>.





# LETTER OF THE LAA

## EDITORIAL POLICY EXCERPTS

The *Letter of the LAA* is the official newsletter of the Library Association of Alberta and is distributed by the 15th of January, April, July and October. Its purpose is to serve as a publicity and informational tool; as a forum for provincial library issues; as an information link between associations and types of libraries; and to report on the activities of the Board of Directors.

Submissions to the *Letter of the LAA* are solicited from the LAA Board and its Committees, affiliated associations and LAA members. The Editor reserves the right to edit any submission for grammatical and spelling errors and length. The Editor also reserves the right not to include a submission for reasons of accuracy, appropriateness or currency. Items such as bibliographies or articles containing thinly-disguised product advertising will not normally be included. Submissions are due by the 15th of March, June, September and December.

The *Letter of the LAA* is distributed in January, April, July, and October, as part of the membership services of the LAA. In addition to LAA members, complimentary copies may be sent to other provincial and regional library associations and to other groups and individuals as deemed appropriate by the LAA Board.

The complete editorial policy is available by request from the Editor or the Executive Director of LAA.

The opinions expressed by the contributors to *Letter of the LAA* do not necessarily reflect the position or policy of the Library Association of Alberta.

## LETTER OF THE LAA

### Advertising Rates Effective January 1, 2004

*Next deadline for  
newsletter submissions  
is December 15, 2004.*

*The editor welcomes  
articles and letters  
as well as your  
comments and  
suggestions.*

*Please mail, fax  
or email to:  
Christine Sheppard  
Newsletter Editor  
80 Baker Cres. NW  
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Phone 403/284-5818  
FAX 403/282-6646  
christine.sheppard@shaw.ca*

Advertising rates are as follows, based on four issues per year:

Back Cover	\$300 per issue or \$1080/year
Inside front cover	\$270 per issue or \$972/year
Inside back cover	\$240 per issue or \$864/year
Full page ad 7" by 10"	\$195 per issue or \$702/year
Half page ad 7" by 5" or 3 1/4" by 10"	\$105 per issue or \$378/year
Quarter page ad 3 1/4" by 5"	\$ 60 per issue or \$216/year
Business card standard size	\$ 40 per issue or \$144/year

First measurement is width. GST will be added to the above rates.

Ads that are other sizes are charged at the rate for the next larger ad.

LAA members (personal, commercial or institutional) receive a 10% discount on single issue advertisements. Business card ads and annual rates are not discounted.

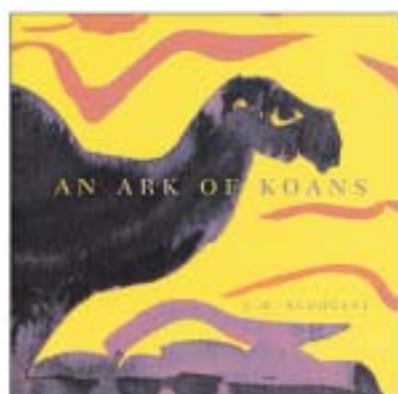
Advertising copy deadlines: March 15, June 15, September 15 and December 15

Camera-ready or electronic ads accepted. Back cover and inside front and back covers may be full colour. Inside page ads are black and white. The newsletter is printed on 80lb. Luna Matte paper.

Conference exhibitors may, with their exhibit application, have a business card ad in the January or April issue for \$25.

*The editor gratefully acknowledges the following proofreaders for  
Letter of the LAA: Linda Cook, Edmonton Public Library; Della Paradis,  
Edmonton Public Library; Karen Labuik, Marigold Library System;  
and Pam Ryan, University of Alberta Libraries.*

# Alberta **BOOK AWARDS** in publishing **2004**



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by E.D. Blodgett

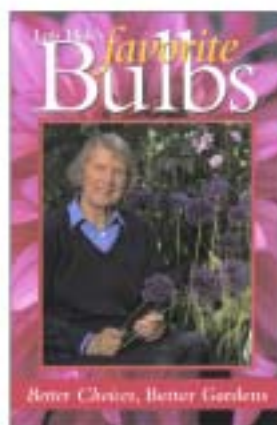
Illustrations by Jacques Brault

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The University of Alberta Press

ISBN 0-88864-404-3 • \$19.95



## TRADE NON-FICTION BOOK

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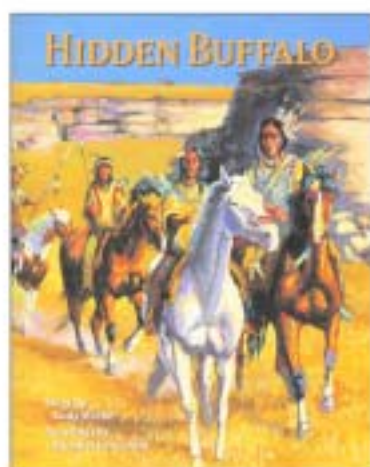
#### *Lois Hole's Favorite Bulbs:*

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ISBN 1-894728-00-9 • \$24.95



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#### *Hidden Buffalo*

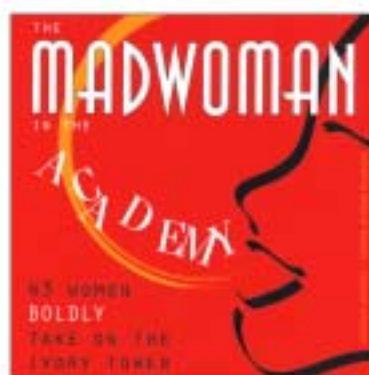
Story by Rudy Wiebe

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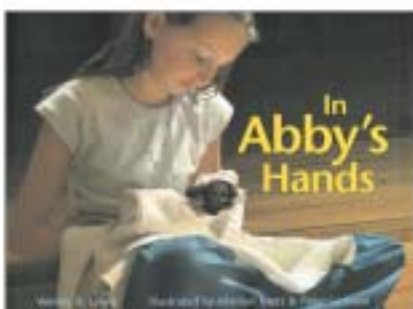
#### *The Madwoman in the Academy:* *43 Women Boldly Take on the Ivory Tower*

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#### *In Abby's Hands*

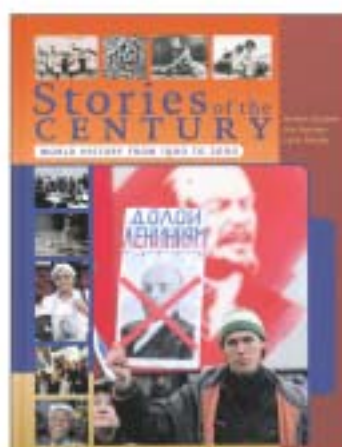
by Wendy A. Lewis

Illustrated by

Marilyn Mets & Peter Ledwon

Red Deer Press

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